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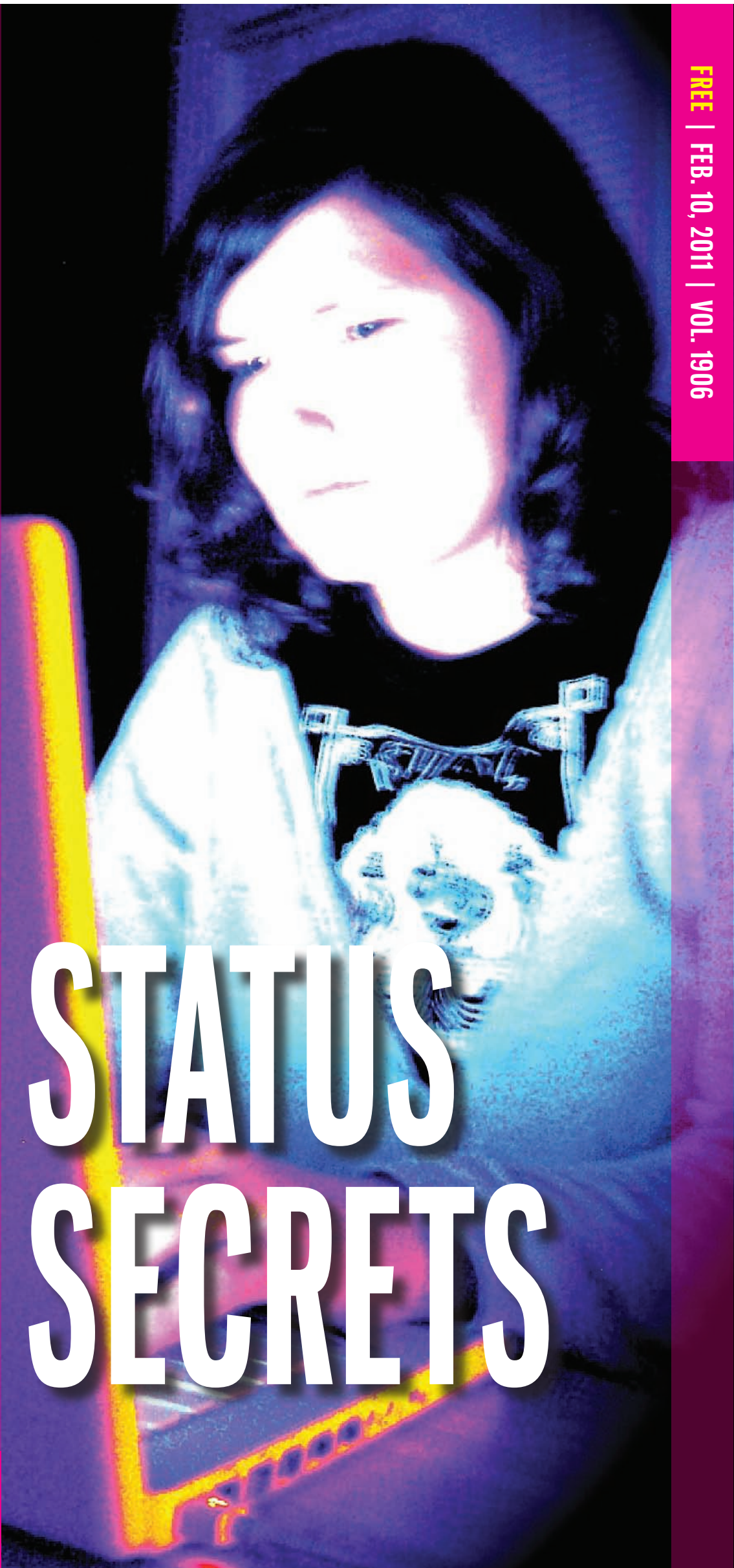
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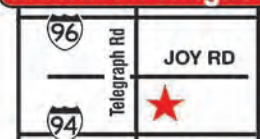
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Schubert String Quartet in a minor, D. 804
("Rosamunde") (1824)
Schubert String Quartet in G Major,
D. 887 (1826)



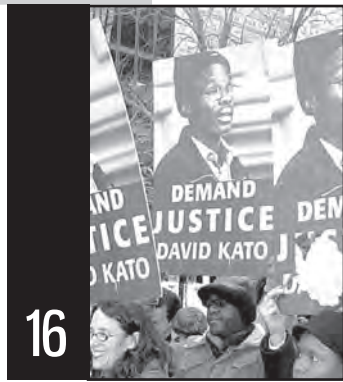
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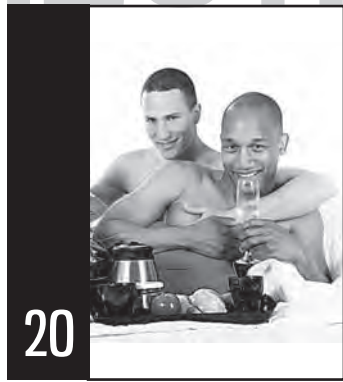
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2010 saw too many LGBT suicides
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Under DOMA same sexes can't marry
LGBT students are still verbally physically harassed
31 states have blocked same-sex marriage

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Brian Malkowski, age 67, is a retired teacher who has volunteered at AIDS Partnership Michigan for more than 20 years.



1 What different roles have you played?

Mainly the hotline but over the years I've done a number of things. They used to have the buddy program. They no longer have it but they had it for a while. You'd get paired up with someone who's HIV-positive and you'd work to make sure they were doing things, get out, take in a movie, just spend time with them so they would know they're not alone, not shunned or anything. I did that for a number of years. Now it's mainly phones. We get calls you wouldn't believe. Sometimes it's prank calls, but it's usually serious calls.

2 What kind of help do people need when they call?

Generally they want to find out where to get testing. But then you start talking and they say, 'This is what happened, am I in danger, what do you think?' Very often there's no reason to go get tested. Sometimes someone was just touched by an HIV-positive person. Sometimes people just want to talk - they call when they know I'm there. They need a release, someone to talk to that's not going to judge.

APM has wonderful people to call when you need help. Even if it's just talking. We direct them to testing and counseling and we work with people who have HIV. There are groups that you can associate with. We have programs to help them get food, lodging and that type of thing. And we give directions to other places; there are excellent groups in metro Detroit that we work with. The best thing is they can be with people who don't judge them or shun them.

3 Why have you volunteered for APM for so long?

I knew nothing about this 20 years ago, and a friend of mine from college was sick and I

went to see him at the hospital and he had tubes everywhere and the (hospital staff) said not to go by him. In two weeks he was dead. It was HIV.

I looked it up, I didn't know much about it, started studying it and called APM. I just thought, Oh, I can help out somehow.

And I liked it. There's wonderful people down there. I've been retired 17 years now, and I have time. I just continued it.

4 How has the HIV/AIDS problem improved since you've been volunteering?

Drastically. Pills help and knowledge helps and prevention helps. The information that's out there, it's more positive and the

stigma isn't there. Yes, HIV is still out there and people still suffer and die, but you can at least lead a normal life if you take care of yourself and see the right doctors.

5 What's the most effective thing to do to stop the spread of AIDS?

Education. Knowledge. And you have to start young. When you're young nothing affects you. You think, 'I'm not going to catch this,' 'I can go outside without a coat and not get cold.' Education, education, education. Let them know it's out there. Don't hide it. Don't say 'I don't want to talk about it, because my kid's not like that.' You don't know what your kids are doing. Kids don't tell mom and dad everything. And sometimes they're getting information from their friends that's not true. So make sure the information is there.

Learn more about AIDS Partnership Michigan at www.aidspartnership.org

When you're young nothing affects you. You think, 'I'm not going to catch this,' 'I can go outside without a coat and not get cold.' Education, education, education. Let them know it's out there. Don't hide it.

Between Ourselves is a bi-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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Between THE Lines

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Just find the ad in this issue and enter online. See p. 28 for details.

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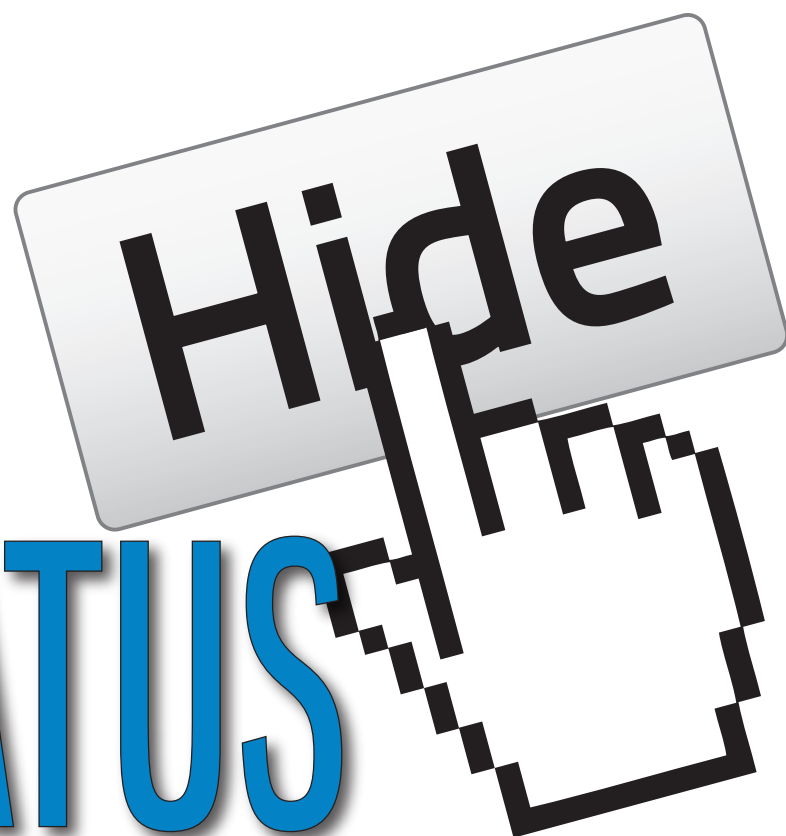
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Chrissy Grochowski, left, kisses her girlfriend in a Facebook photo.



STATUS SECRETS

Why some stay closeted on Facebook

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Somewhere in Michigan, a young man in his twenties – let’s call him Mike – is working hard for the betterment of youth as a leader in the kind of organization that does that sort of thing. It’s work he believes in, and work that demands certain sacrifices. He made one of those sacrifices when he first got the job, by going straight back into the closet – sort of.

“As long as I work for the organization that I do and they have the politics they do I won’t be out on Facebook,” Mike said. “My personal and professional life are very much integrated.”

Mike is quick to note that he’s been out since he was 14, so it’s not like he told his friends and family he’s no longer gay. But on Facebook, which he uses almost constantly to keep up with the youth he serves and his employees, he’s completely mum about it. He has hundreds of friends on the website, including the people who hired him.

“They clearly say that I can’t be a homo and work for them,” Mike said. Some of his colleagues have been fired based on suspicions about their sexuality. So he works with a high level of paranoia: “Certainly when you’re in this kind of organization you’re always hiding,

worrying about something,” he said. “You don’t trust anyone.”

As long as Mike has his job, his Facebook page will stay straight. Even if he isn’t.

The Facebook effect

For some LGBTs like Mike, the Facebook profile is a separate identity to be managed. For those who decide to wear their sexuality on their profile, the reaction from hundreds of acquaintances can be a personal and professional disaster.

Tobey Brock, a 49-year-old from Flint, used to be closeted on Facebook. He came out late in life, after growing up in a religious family, teaching at a religious school and getting married and divorced twice.

He was relieved when his family took his coming out surprisingly quietly four years ago. (He thinks they may have been too stunned to fully come to grips with it.) But he remained closeted on Facebook for another year, because of the parents and former students he was friends with.

“I wanted to be careful about doing it, but I felt I just needed to do it for my own peace of mind,” he said. “I just got to the point where I was

As long as Mike has his job, his Facebook page will stay straight. Even if he isn’t.

tired of hiding it all.” Coming out on Facebook wasn’t an impulsive decision; he considered it for a while and tried to prepare himself because “once you push the button, it goes out.”

Brock quickly discovered that he wasn’t prepared for the e-mails and Facebook messages that followed his declaration of being in a relationship with a man. Although some of his friends were OK with it, the ones who were upset left quite the sting. Brock tried to explain himself, but some wouldn’t even engage him in conversation.

“Some parents said it was the worst thing I could do,” he said. “It was as if my being gay changed everything.”

In a way, it did: Brock lost his job as a teacher at the Christian school, which he said was the result of coming out online and in real life.

He was “laid off” and told that the school was cutting back because of budget problems – but it hired two new teachers that fall.

“People need to think this out carefully ... a private employer can fire you for any reason,” said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project. Being out on Facebook is “basically making a public declaration,” he said.

There are no explicit federal or state protections for LGBT employees of private companies. Some state legislators have tried to amend the state’s Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and identity as protected classes, but they’ve been unsuccessful, Kaplan said.

Some companies and cities have non-discrimination policies or human rights ordinances that protect LGBTs. But many companies don’t have such policies, and they can fire someone for a photo or a relationship status that suggests the person is LGBT, Kaplan explained.

On the federal level, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act has languished in committees since 1994. If passed, it would “(extend) federal employment discrimination protections currently provided based on race, religion, sex, national



“People need to think this out carefully ... a private employer can fire you for any reason.”

– Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project

origin, age and disability to sexual orientation and gender identity.”

These failed legislative attempts means that Brock's being “laid off” can't be challenged. It also gives Mike a good reason to stay closeted on Facebook.

‘Not a big deal’

Brock thinks his age played a big role in how his Facebook friends reacted. “If I had been in my twenties, things would have been different,” he said.

For Chrissy Growchowski, a spunky 19-year-old, coming out on Facebook wasn't a big deal at all. When she first signed up for Facebook while attending a small-town Michigan high school, she identified as straight. When she came out as a lesbian, she decided to tell the “important people” in her life in person first. A few months later, she posted online that she was “in a relationship” with her girlfriend.

And the reaction she got from making that change? “I don't think anybody really said anything. Everybody who was close to me (already knew),” she said, and even though she

“It was as if my being gay changed everything.”

– Tobey Brock

was talking to BTL on a cell phone in Nebraska, her nonchalance was crystal clear. “It really wasn't a big deal at all.”

Growchowski said many of her fellow students and co-workers are gay, so she's comfortable being out, even though she knows that not all jobs are as welcoming. “It's really awful how (an employer) can use your Facebook against you, but personally I wouldn't want a job that was like that,” she said. “It was important to have every aspect of my life accept me ... and it was like why would I have to worry about the Internet then? I'm not going to hide myself.”

Lauren Anthony, a 19-year-old University of Michigan student, can't even remember exactly when she came out on Facebook. She said people don't often look at the “Information” section of a Facebook profile, where relationship status and romantic preferences are displayed. “I did an experiment once and changed my religion

to Amish,” she said, “just to see if anyone would notice.” One friend did notice – six months later.

Risky, but hopeful

Mike acknowledges that his Facebook charade sets “a certain level of risk.” He once went on a rant about gay marriage on his profile, and he heard rumors that it flagged the attention of his superiors. He hasn't posted any pro-gay rants since then.

Even though he has many more Facebook friends than the average person – some who do know he's gay – he said he's selective about those friends, so he trusts them, and thus far his charade is working. “Thankfully, I have a Facebook app for my (phone), so I can see what's posted and delete it right away if necessary,” Mike said. “It's worked out for six years.”

If he's in a relationship, is it hard to keep that hidden from his online profile? No, because his partners tend to understand: His past three relationships have been with co-workers.

“If I didn't love (my job) I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. I wouldn't really stay and subject myself to this mental and personal strain. It adds five extra steps to the already complicated process of forming relationships,” Mike said.

On the job, Mike has helped stop three kids from committing suicide – one who wanted to die because he was gay – and you just don't have that kind of influence elsewhere, he said.

Mike hopes to stay at this job, move up the ladder, and become the kind of leader that brings about change on a company level, maybe even making it more gay-friendly. “At one point I know I want to come out,” he said, “because it's a powerful thing for people to see a leader and realize he's gay.”

It's a heartwarming statement, and a slightly strange one too, because Mike is already out. Just not completely.



Lauren Anthony, middle, in a Facebook photo.



Lea Brown seated on left, with her COLAGE family. Photo courtesy of Lea Brown.

Birthday wish: raise money for COLAGE

Group gives support to children of gay parents

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Lea Brown is the daughter of a lesbian.

“I know first hand what it's like to be treated differently because of my family,” she said.

“Before COLAGE, I was always proud of my family, but not sure how and where I could articulate this pride. I grew up in a conservative suburb, thinking I was the only kid in the world with a lesbian mom. I had a loving, nurturing home but constantly lived in fear of bullying or harassment. COLAGE helped me find my voice as a proud advocate for our families.”

COLAGE is for children of any age, from youth to adults, who have LGBT parents. Its goal is to encourage people to share their experiences, and to sponsor family activities that can be enjoyed without the fear of feeling different. It focuses on two groups, one for children ages 8-12, and another for those 21 and older.

“We've done everything from potlucks, game nights, to field trips and holiday parties. COLAGE can be whatever you need it to be,” Brown said.

Brown, a 24-year-old from Southfield, founded the Detroit Chapter of COLAGE in April 2010 after completing an internship at the COLAGE National Office in San Francisco during her senior year at Central Michigan University. “After those three amazing months in California, I wanted to bring the movement home and make sure that the LGBT families in Metro Detroit had access to COLAGE programming.”

The groups meet at Affirmations, a community center in Ferndale. Events are posted online at www.goaffirmations.org.

Brown hopes to raise \$250 by her 25th birthday on Feb. 12 to go towards the program. Through the Cause application on Facebook, anyone who wants to contribute can do so by going to Brown's Birthday Wish page at <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/activists/1839233> and making a donation.

“COLAGE gave me the community I'd been searching for. I don't know how I ever lived without it!”

– Lea Brown

“I still get tears in my eyes when I think about my first time at COLAGE Family Week in Provincetown, Mass.,” she said. “I was surrounded by at least 30 other 20-somethings with LGBT parents. When we sat around and shared stories, I felt as though we were stealing the words right out of each other's mouths ... Kids all over the country were experiencing the same thoughts, fears, and emotions I'd been having. It was so incredibly validating. COLAGE gave me the community I'd been searching for. I don't know how I ever lived without it!”

 **Heard on Facebook**



“Everyone should have the right to marry the person they love.”

– Barbara Bush says in video for the Human Rights Campaign.

What do you think of Barbara Bush (daughter of W) and her support for gay marriage?

Better late than never.

– Todd Erickson

I’m loving it. See that some of her namesake’s spunk rubbed off on her.

– Michelle Elizabeth Brown

I will take support on this issue from anyone! We need it in order to wake up minds.

– Christine Schinker

Hope it’s sincere.

– Lori Mello

Me too. And to all these fools who are still stuck in a time warp, if they think non-gay “lifestyles” are the only way to exist then I invite these born-again to watch “Teen Mom” and “Teen Mom 2” on MTV. If you’re straight, fix what’s wrong with your fellow straight people before telling us anything!

– Jonathan Lund

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

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**S/he said
LGBT History, Coming out**

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Steve Buckley

“My mother said, ‘I think you should go ahead and do that story you’ve been talking about. Just go ahead and do it.’ She was talking about the story in which I would say that I am gay. My mother and I had already had the gay talk, during which she had told me that nothing had changed, that she loved me, asked if I was seeing anybody, and so on. What she didn’t like was the idea of me coming out publicly; she was of the opinion that it was really nobody’s business, and she worried that prejudice might disrupt my career. But like an NFL referee, she had overturned the original call. ‘Do it,’ she said.”

– Steve Buckley, longtime Boston Herald sports columnist and a regular on Boston’s sports talk radio station, in his coming out column titled “Welcome to my coming-out party,” wglb-tv.blogspot.com, Jan. 06.



Paul V.

“Some of the pix here feature gay boys with feminine traits, and some gay girls with masculine traits. And even more gay kids with NONE of those traits. Just like real life, these gay kids come in all shades and layers of masculine and feminine. This project is not about furthering stereotypes. It is, simply: ‘This is me and this is my story’ – in living color and black & white. They just are – who they are! It’s their nature and their truth.”

– Paul V. in his recently launched “Born This Way Blog,” showing snapshots of individual LGBT people as a kids, borngaybornthisway.blogspot.com, Jan. 09.



Vanessa Selbst

“I love the fact that I can be totally out in poker and not worry about any repercussions. Because poker is a game of individual merit, there are very few people that can get in my way out of bias or bigotry. At the end of the day, the cards speak. I think it’s important that there are openly gay role models for people and I feel lucky that I get to be the subject of media coverage and be a good example for lots of people who may be struggling with their sexuality.”

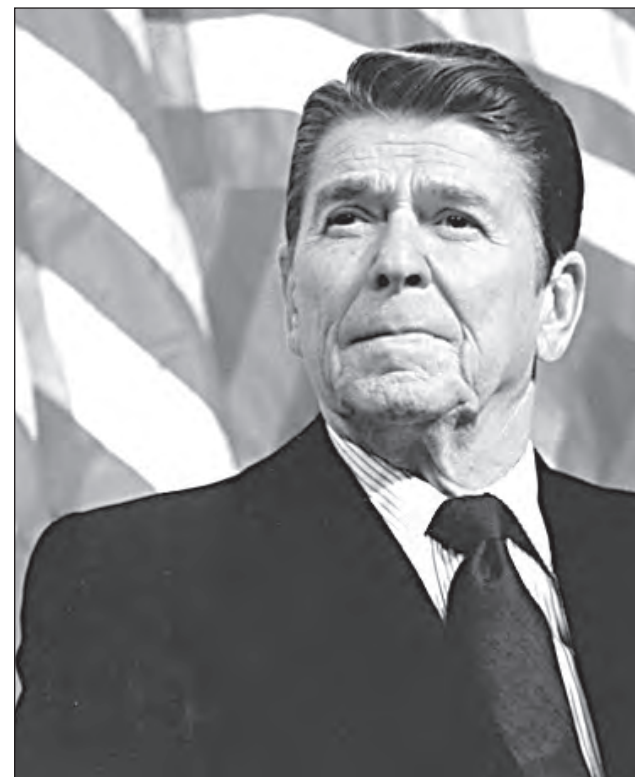
– Vanessa Selbst, international poker champion and Yale Law School student, echelonmagazine.com, Feb/Mar 2011 issue.



Bob Witeck

“With the repeal of the military’s ban on openly gay service members, with time we should see more ambitious, well-qualified and capable gay Americans achieving distinction at our service academies, in command positions, and in later life careers. Many of these leaders will no longer feel the need to mask their identities, decline promotions or avoid visible positions because of whom they choose to love and with whom they live.”

– Bob Witeck, in his column titled “What Repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ Means to All of Us – Seismic Ripples In America’s Economy and Workforce,” echelonmagazine.com, Feb/Mar 2011 issue.



“America is gushing Sunday over former President Ronald Reagan in recognition of what would have been his 100th birthday. Most historians and political pundits will look at the ripple effect Reagan’s two terms in office continues to have on American politics. But for many LGBTs, myself included, I cannot hear the man’s name without thinking of so many other names now effectively wiped from the collective memory. So many names – and with each name, memories of joy and rage and a kind of spirituality in confronting death with dignity – in spite of the government’s disgusting deliberate neglect.”

– Karen Ocamb, in her column titled “Ronald Reagan’s Real Legacy: Death, Heartache and Silence Over AIDS,” lgtpov.com, Feb.06.



Parting Glances

Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

How rapid's your nightly EM?

The lifelong dream of recording dreams for replay may soon become reality predicts "How It's Made," a British monthly magazine devoted to explaining working details of the world we live in.

Apparently the nano technology/brain scanning techniques are now such that translating neural impulses from brain neurons and retina imaging to recording and screen instrumentation is almost a fete accompli. (Nightmares anyone?)

Question: Are the dreams of gay persons significantly different than those of straights in that there are marked differences in respective brain hemispheres? Recording dreams would likely provide answers.

I once kept a dream journal. I recorded over 50 dreams over a six month period, which is pretty good considering that dreams are like exotic butterflies – occasionally darksome moths – unless netted quickly they flutter back into the twilight zone, vanishing forever in minutes.

(Everyone dreams – cats, dogs, parrots, even Sarah Palin – tea-bagging scenarios. Dreams occur usually every 90 minutes, and are evidenced by REMs, Rapid Eye Movements, and up-and-down fluttering behind the eyelids.)

Are the dreams of gay persons significantly different than those of straights?

The secret to keeping a dream journal is to tell yourself at bedtime that you will remember your dreams upon awakening, and to have pencil and paper at hand to jot down details while they are vivid and fresh. You may not get back to sleep, but you've got something to show for time spent as that once-popular comic book favorite, Little Nemo in Dreamland.

I reread my dream journal, neglected over the years. It was fascinating. Embarrassing. Shock theater. And, to be expected of an eccentric artist like myself, wacky. No wonder psychoanalysts find their couch such fun. (My appointment's next week. Pillow and nightshirt in hand.)

Here's a sample, dated July 19, 2001. Feel free to free associate. Your couch. Or mine. "I'm riding in a cab with two other passengers wearing wigs, none of whom speak English. We are in a foreign country at night. I get off at the stop light. The cab driver rolls down his window. "You left your beaded bag, Monsignor!" I wake up. No tip.

Modesty precludes further of my dream journal entries. (One including an erotic encounter with two movie stars, an acrobat, three outfielders, and a blind piano tuner.)

Although dreams can be crazy – the second half of the last entry – they keep us from going temporarily insane. If you go without sleep for more than 48 hours (say at a weekend circuit party) you can expect to experience hallucinations or psychosis, without taking drugs.

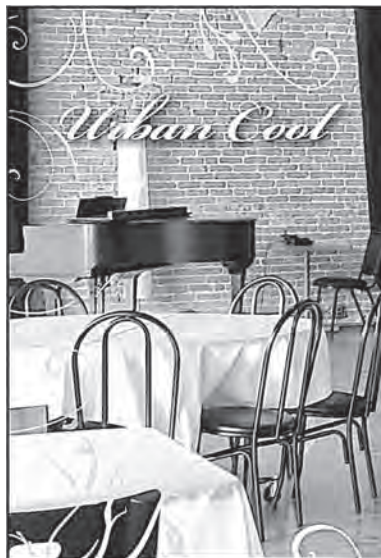
The world's record for going without zzzzs is 264 hours and 11 minutes, held by a straight but really bent DJ, who never fully recovered from nonstop lack of REMs.

Of all the sweet dreams I've had none compares to a Lucid Dream. It's a real mind trip, and for 60 seconds or so that it lasts it's life (and sometimes love) in the 4th Dimension. No question about it: the mind has a mind of its own. (Lucid Dreams, like dreaming in color, are said by psychologists to be indices of reasonably high intelligence. Smile.)

You can fly, touch your "solid" surroundings, ask questions of dream people (like being awake, you may not get intelligent answers), and have a sexual fling. I encountered one dream partner – no, not the piano tuner – who, when refusing to fling, was told he had no choice but to be flung. It was my dream. Get with it. He did. It was mind blowing, though we haven't spoke since.

It's a fact. More lesbians dream of U-Hauls than do gay men. More gay men dream of basket weaving. Neither dream of elephants in their bedroom. And, as Freud might have said, "Sometimes a cucumber is just a cucumber." Happy REMS!

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BTL EDITORIAL

Facebook freedom and job protection for all

This is the Facebook age. And because Facebook is used by just about everyone in just about any place, we deal with new privacy problems. Due to Facebook's public nature, LGBTs may be unwittingly outed on the job, although their sexuality should only be the business of whomever they would like to disclose it to. Other LGBTs choose to stay "in the closet" on the social networking site, adapting a sort of fake identity. While this is an alternative to the risk of being out on Facebook, it's not the solution: Ideally, being out on Facebook shouldn't be a risk at all. You should be free to disclose an important part of your identity in an online profile. But the lack of state and federal protections to LGBT employees means that a photo, status update, or relationship proclamation can mean the loss of livelihood.

Because of Facebook, our culture is shifting toward a more public sense of self. Very little is private anymore. An increasingly open and public culture, one that feels not much need for privacy, should also be one that respects that people are anything but homogenous. Gone are the days when we assume everyone is white, middle-class, Christian and straight. It's now taboo to be racist or sexist in public, partly because there are now laws that recognize race and gender as protected classes.

Now is the time to make being homophobic in public a taboo, too, and one thing that will help us get there is some laws to back us up. This means our legislators – on the state

A photo, status update or relationship proclamation can mean the loss of livelihood.

and national level – need to wake up and realize that not only do gay people exist, but they also have jobs and leadership positions, and they need to be recognized and protected.

Some laws have been proposed. On the state level, legislators have tried to amend the Eliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual and gender identity for more than ten years. On the national level, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would include sexual and gender identity along with gender, religion and race as protected classes, has been shuffled around committees in Congress since 1994. The fact that these laws have been proposed is promising, but the lack of action on them shows just how far we have to go.

LGBTs must be protected from unfair treatment, harassment and firing on the job. It is perfectly ridiculous, shocking and disheartening that someone has to hide his true self on his Facebook page. While we don't all necessarily disclose everything on Facebook, no one should be afraid that disclosing a relationship status will put one's paycheck at risk.

VIEWPOINT



View from the mountaintop sees clearly into today

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

At last February! The holidays are over. I've lost those five pounds that found their way to my thighs. I've stopped writing 2010 on my checks and I've started the countdown to Valentine's Day. But the most important thing of all is that February is Black History Month.

I first became aware of Black History Month in the late 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its peak. Not just me, but my neighbors, parents and relatives were all celebrating being black and proud. Our accomplishments were an integral part of the American experience and transcended the dark shadow of slavery.

Black History Month helped me become a proud African American, knowing I had been opened endless doors for where I could go, what I could accomplish and who I could be. As I became aware that I was a lesbian I looked into my black history and again found myself.

So you see, there has never been a question in my mind that the civil rights/human rights movement was inclusive of everyone – my black family as well as my gay family.

Gay African Americans were active in the church, active in the community, neighbors and relatives sitting around the Thanksgiving dinner table. We were community.

Needless to say, the recent wave of homophobia flowing through the African American community, especially in black churches, has been disturbing. How can we honor African Americans while denying the influence, leadership and greatness of those within our community who happen to be gay?

This homophobic derangement has found a home in the doctrine of conservatives both black and white, who use any reference of the gay civil rights movement to the black civil rights movement and Rev. Martin L. King Jr.'s philosophy of equality for all as fodder for hate speak and divisiveness between blacks and the gay community at the expense of African American LGBTs.

In a recent interview, Gary Glenn, head of the American Family Association of Michigan, said Dr. King, "having been a conservative, southern Baptist pastor in the '50s and '60s, whose view from a biblical standpoint on the question of homosexual behavior would've been unquestionable, would have opposed it."

No one could speak for Dr. King, especially a narrow-minded bigot like Glenn. I could not find any specific reference in Dr. King's speeches and writings directly referring to homosexuality, but I did find the following quote that might

answer the question.

Dr. King said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

At times of challenge and controversy, Dr. King stood with the likes of Andrew Young, Julian Bond, Jesse Jackson and Bayard Rustin: Men of honor, committed to fighting for equality for all Americans.

Andrew Young is a politician, diplomat and pastor. He is the president of the National Council of Churches USA, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a lifelong United Church of Christ member. He has said the denomination's affirmation of the full civil and religious equality of same-gender marriage would be a continuation of its historic witness for justice and equality.

Julian Bond is a social activist and leader in the civil rights movement, politician, professor and writer, co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and past chairman of the NAACP. He said

No one could speak for Dr. King, especially a narrow-minded bigot like AFA's Gary Glenn.

before the New Jersey Senate and on several other occasions that "Gay rights are civil rights."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., another civil rights activist, Baptist minister and former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said, "Marriage is based on love and commitment – not on sexual orientation. I support the right for any person to marry the person of their choosing."

And Bayard Rustin, a civil rights activist, was the prime architect of the civil rights movement. He organized the Freedom Rides and organized the 1963 March on Washington. He counseled Dr. King on the techniques of nonviolent resistance and was an openly gay man.

When not with these men, Dr. King sought the counsel of his wife Coretta Scott King, who with her daughter Yolanda, his first-born, carried on his work. Both were proponents for civil rights for the LGBT community.

No one can predict what Martin Luther King Jr. would have said had he not been shot on that Memphis balcony in 1968.

During Black History Month, I believe Dr. King would want me to remember the struggle, the beauty, the perseverance of the African American community, and all its members, gay and straight.

A Southern Baptist minister, contrary to Glenn's opinion, would understand the real message hidden in the pages of the Bible, forgotten by many who preach hate in the name of God. The message is simple – "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

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APRIL 1, 2011
SAVE THIS DATE

Creep OF THE Week

Scott Lively

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Scott Lively

a-hammer bad.

Gay rights advocate David Kato was killed last month after his photo appeared on the cover of Ugandan tabloid "Rolling Stone" (not to be confused with the American music magazine) that proclaimed in huge block letters across its cover: "100 Pictures of Uganda's Top Homos Leak." Next to the headline is a little yellow banner reading, "Hang them."

Kato wasn't hung, but he was beaten to death with a hammer. The cops say it was just a robbery. But gay

I don't know if you've been paying attention to what's been going on in Uganda lately, but you should know that it's really, really bad for gays there. Like, get-

murdered-with-

And while Lively has said he doesn't support the "kill" part, he does think that making homosexuality illegal is a "step in the right direction" for Uganda.

After Kato's murder, Lively went on the defensive, denying any culpability and basically saying that Kato's murder was no big deal in light of the real murder in Uganda: the murder of the whole country by gay activists.

In a Feb. 5 rant, Lively claims that "Uganda is being murdered" by a Western-led "army of agitators ... who now seek to re-homosexualize Ugandan culture" and the only logical response to such an attack is violence.

"And that is, of course, the strategy: the agents provocateur are goading unsophisticated natives into over-reacting, while the 'gay' media lie in wait to catch the images and spin the propaganda that is even now poisoning the gullible against the Ugandans," he writes.

Wait, what? People who are horrified by the "kill the gays" bill are

Lively and two other American evangelical Christians went around Uganda giving talks about homosexuality.

advocates in Uganda aren't buying it. Considering the level of anti-gay hatred in Uganda – the country is considering a bill that would call for the execution of gays – you can hardly blame them for not taking the police's word for it.

According to a statement by Val Kalende, chairwoman of gay rights group Freedom and Roam Uganda, "David's death is a result of the hatred planted in Uganda by U.S. evangelicals in 2009. The Ugandan government and the so-called U.S. evangelicals must take responsibility for David's blood."

One of those "U.S. evangelicals" Kalende is referring to is Scott Lively, president of Abiding Truth Ministries and the author of a book that claims the Nazis were all gay. Back in 2009 Lively and two other American evangelical Christians went around Uganda giving talks about homosexuality.

According to The New York Times, "thousands of Ugandans, including police officers, teachers and national politicians, listened raptly to the Americans, who were presented as experts on homosexuality. The visitors discussed how to make gay people straight, how gay men often sodomized teenage boys" and how gays are evil and want to destroy marriage and replace it with free-for-all orgies.

A month later the "kill the gays" bill was introduced.

Coincidence? Well, no.

all a bunch of suckers? Right. And, yes. The "gay media" just loves it when gays get murdered. Anything for a good story. Building the gay revolution one body bag at a time.

"These very media have rushed eagerly to judge (Kato's murder) a hate crime and to blame those, like me, who have spoken against homosexuality in Uganda," Lively continues. "It is the central (but patently false) narrative of the left that all criticism of homosexuality leads inevitably to violence and murder."

Um, no. *All* criticism of homosexuality doesn't "inevitably to violence and murder." Duh. The kid who calls you a dyke in gym class because you tagged him out in dodge ball doesn't "inevitably" punch you in the face, nor does your grandmother "inevitably" stab you and your partner to death after refusing to come to your commitment ceremony.

But what's happening in Uganda goes beyond "criticism of homosexuality." LGBT Ugandans are the subject of constant harassment and state-sanctioned violence. That Lively holds up a country that is seriously considering a law to literally kill gay people just for being gay as an example of a place where people can respectfully disagree about homosexuality shows a serious, and dangerous, disconnect with reality.

Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day encourages testing

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is Feb. 7, but events across the state will take place during the month of February to promote awareness and testing.

In Kalamazoo, Sigma Gamma Ro Sorority and Community AIDS Resource and Education Services will host the third annual Black Love Event: Preserving Future Generations at FIRE, 1249 Portage St. The event will start at 7 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12. The evening is a planned social outing for teens and their supporters of the greater Kalamazoo area to be educated about HIV/AIDS. In addition, there will be presentations and discussions

about teen pregnancy, STDs and making healthy choices. Teens will also be able to showcase their talents through dance, poetry and singing with a focus on HIV/AIDS education, awareness and treatment. Nathan Moore and The Neon Tetriz will headline the performances.

For more information, please contact Jan de la Torre by phone at 269-381-2437 ext. 26 or e-mail at jdellatorre@caresSWM.org.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, AIDS Partnership Michigan joins the effort by hosting its second annual Gospel & AIDS Concert at St. Matthew's & St. Joseph Episcopal Church, located at 8850 Woodward Ave. The church is the second oldest

African American congregation in Detroit and located in one of five zip codes in Detroit with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

The event begins at 4 p.m., is free to the public and features several local gospel choirs and performers.

The Gospel & AIDS Concert is a partnership between AIDS Partnership Michigan, APM's The R.E.C. Boyz Mpowerment Program, Affirmations Community Center and KICK – The Agency for LGBT African-Americans. Free HIV rapid testing will be offered along with light refreshments following the concert.

Affirmations hosts open house

FERNDALE – Affirmations will host an open house on Sunday Feb. 13 at 1 p.m. for supporters of the center who have been center partners in the past but are not center partners at this time. Agenda items will include an overview of operating changes in response to economic challenges, an update on capital structure/debt challenges, plans and progress related to Campaign for the

Future, reflections on the candidate profile for next executive director, executive director search process and timing, plans for community engagement around strategic planning, and board expansion and growth.

"I realize the last few years have been challenging economically and people have had to make tough choices about how to allocate their

charitable dollars," Board President Mary Rose MacMillan wrote in a press release. "But I also realize that some people have withdrawn their support of the Center for reasons that are more operationally based. In either case, I hope that you will take the time to join us that afternoon for an open dialogue about our Center."

Congressman Dingell hosts transgender equality fundraiser



John Dingell

ANNARBOR – Congressman John Dingell will host a fundraiser for the National Center for Transgender Equality at the Arbor Brewing Company on Feb. 23 from 5 - 7 p.m. Mara Keisling, NCTE's founder and executive director, will attend the event.

Donations of \$35 (\$20 for students/low-income) can be made at the door or in advance online at www.transequality.org/donate.html. A cash bar and appetizers will be provided.

New MAC site opens in Detroit

DETROIT – The Michigan AIDS Coalition has a new site in Detroit, located at 18 Bethune St. near West Grand Boulevard and Woodward Ave.

The new site will house several of MAC's programs, including Young Brothers United, MPowerment Detroit, food distribution and general

HIV counseling and testing.

"We are extremely excited about our new Detroit space," said MAC CEO Helen Hicks. "Conveniently located near major bus lines, we are hopeful that more young gay men will be able to access our facility. We are anxious to reach out to all who need a safe space

and whose interests lie in becoming leaders in the community." The new space is also strategically situated near Youthville and several Detroit High Schools.

The funding for the Detroit space comes primarily from the State of Michigan and the Arcus Fund.

Illinois civil union bill signed into law

BY REX WOCKNER

Gov. Pat Quinn signed Illinois' comprehensive civil-union bill into law Jan. 31. It will take effect June 1.

"This is the moment that I think long after we're gone, people will remember us, on the 31st of January in the year 2011 that we came together here in Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, and made history," Quinn said.

The governor used 97 different pens to sign the bill, so that many of the people who worked on it could have a souvenir. It took him 7 minutes and 25 seconds to affix his signature to the document.

When he finished, he stood, thrust the signed bill in the air, and looked extremely satisfied but also humble.

Under the law, gay and straight couples in a civil union will receive the same state-level benefits, protections and responsibilities provided to married people.

The law also recognizes other states' same-sex marriages – but only as civil unions.

"This new law reflects the triumph of hope and fairness over distortion and division," said Jill Metz, board president

of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

In all, 13 states and Washington, D.C., now have expansive civil-union laws, allow same-sex marriage, or recognize same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C. In addition, New York and Maryland recognize same-sex marriages from elsewhere in the nation or world. Civil-union or domestic-partnership laws that grant all state-level rights of marriage are also in place in California, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington.

In addition, there are laws that grant same-sex couples some of the rights of marriage in Colorado, Hawaii, Maine and Wisconsin.

California is a further case unto itself. Same-sex marriage was legal from June to November 2008, when voters amended the state constitution via Proposition 8 to put a stop to it. The couples who married then are still legally married, as are other same-sex couples who live in California and got married anywhere in the world before Prop 8 passed. Gay couples who married somewhere else after Prop 8 passed, or who marry elsewhere in the future, receive every state-level right and obligation of marriage in California except for the legal right to call their marriage a "marriage" when they are in California. They are not recognized under the state's domestic partnership law, but rather are married couples who are denied use of the word "marriage."

"This new law reflects the triumph of hope and fairness over distortion and division"

– Jill Metz, Illinois ACLU

GOP takes another shot at gay marriage amendment

BY DEANNA MARTIN

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – Republican lawmakers in Indiana have resumed their push for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

A GOP-ruled House committee voted 8-4 along party lines Monday to advance the proposal, which now moves to the full House for consideration.

Indiana law already bans same-sex marriage, but amendment supporters say changing the constitution would add another layer of protection to traditional marriage.

The proposed amendment states that only marriage between one man and one woman is valid in Indiana, and prohibits civil unions by stating that a legal status "substantially similar" to marriage for unmarried people is not valid.

Constitutional amendments must go through two separate Legislatures before being put to a public vote, and an amendment banning gay marriage passed the General Assembly in 2005 when Republicans controlled the House and Senate. But in 2006, Democrats won control of the House and the proposal never cleared that chamber again, although some Democrats support

the amendment.

This year – with Republicans back in control of the House and Senate – the amendment is back. And the arguments the House committee heard Monday were largely the same as in previous years.

Amendment supporters said traditional heterosexual marriage is best for raising children, and stress that the amendment is needed to prevent courts from overturning the Indiana state law that already forbids gay marriage.

Rep. Dave Cheatham, a Democrat from North Vernon who is one of the sponsors of the amendment, said marriage is so important that the state's constitution should be amended to protect it.

"This is a foundational, fundamental issue," he said.

Micah Clark, a director with the American Family Association of Indiana, said homosexuals are the minority and shouldn't have the right to redefine marriage for the people of Indiana.

"If any two people can marry, then marriage does not mean much," he said.

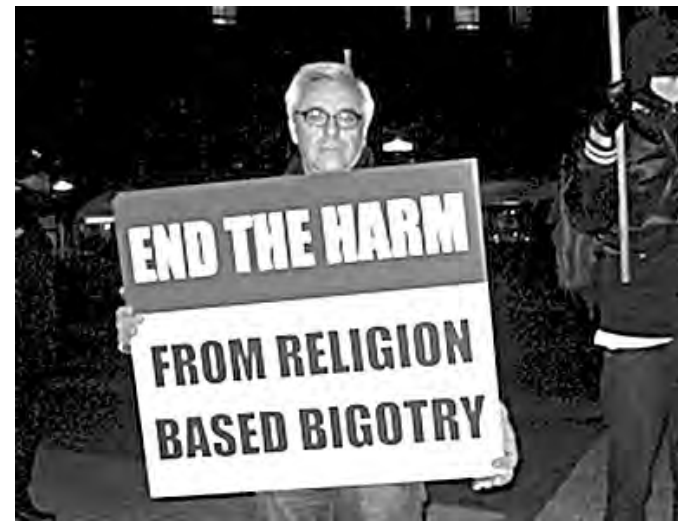
Opponents said the amendment seeks to write discrimination into the state's constitution.

Jessica Wilch, the president of Indiana Equality, said the resolution's provision barring civil unions would strip any hope of recognition of committed couples to enjoy some of the rights that married couples take for granted.

Cynthia Conley, an assistant professor at Ball State University, said state lawmakers were wasting time by debating an amendment to forbid something that is already forbidden by state law. Conley, who said she married her partner in Canada, said she and her wife shouldn't have to explain to her 11-year-old daughter that legislative leaders are placing intolerance at the top of their agenda.

"She, no less than any other Hoosier child, represents our future," Conley said of her daughter. "She deserves to have parents who are not treated like second class citizens."

If the full House approves the proposed amendment as expected, it would move to the Republican-led Senate, where it has met little resistance in previous years. If both chambers pass the proposal, it would have to pass again in 2013 or 2014 in order to get on the ballot in 2014.



Faith in America founder Mitchell Gold protests outside the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3.

National Prayer Breakfast prompts protests

The sponsor of the breakfast is accused of influencing anti-gay violence in Uganda

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Prayer Breakfast was met with protests because the main sponsor of the breakfast, The Family, is accused of sponsoring anti-gay legislation in Uganda, reported the New York Times Feb. 3.

David Kato, a prominent gay-rights activist in Uganda, was murdered Jan. 26. He recently led a successful suit against a local

"We must learn from this history and speak out against the misuse of religion to harm LGBT people."

– Mitchell Gold

magazine that published photographs and addresses of 100 people, accused them of being gay, and encouraged readers to "Hang them."

The Times said the breakfast is usually a "prime networking event," but "Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group, sent a letter this week to the president and Congressional leaders urging them to skip the prayer breakfast. They have also called on C-SPAN not to televise it this year."

Competing prayer events were organized in 17

cities by religious and gay rights groups.

"We can no longer allow the anti-gay religious industry operating here or abroad to place a devastating stamp of religious and moral disapproval on the innocent lives of LGBT people, especially our youth," Mitchell Gold, founder of Faith in America, said. Faith in America led a protest in Washington, D.C. against the prayer breakfast this morning.

"In the past, religion-based bigotry was used to justify discrimination against women, African Americans, and other groups. We must learn from this history and speak out against the misuse of religion to harm LGBT people," Gold said.

The New York Times reported that the president, his wife and the secretary of state attended the event.

French Court upholds same-sex marriage ban

France's Constitutional Court upheld the nation's same-sex marriage ban Jan. 28.

It said gay and straight couples find themselves in a "different situation" that justifies differing treatment under family law.

Parliament, however, can legalize same-sex marriage if it wants to, the court said.

Polls suggest that nearly 60 percent of French people support letting same-sex couples marry.

The nation has offered civil unions for gay couples for more than a decade, but the unions lack many legal benefits of marriage.

German court blocks trans sterilization requirement

Germany's Constitutional Court ruled Jan. 28 that it is unconstitutional to require transgender people to undergo sterilization or gender-reassignment surgery before they can be legally recognized as a member of the other sex.

The decision came in the case of a transsexual woman who was denied the right to enter a same-sex civil partnership with her female partner.

The court said such requirements are incompatible with rights to sexual self-determination, physical integrity and privacy.

In response, Berlin's TransInterQueer called on the German government to immediately bring federal law into line with the ruling.

According to Transgender Europe, a majority of European nations have laws similar to Germany's, which the group said violates international human rights law.

Christians to appeal hotel case

A Christian couple in Cornwall, England, who were ordered by the Bristol County Court to pay more than \$5,700 in damages to a gay couple to whom they refused to rent a double room at their bed-and-breakfast likely will take their case to the Court of Appeal with backing from the Christian Institute.

Peter and Hazelmary Bull were found guilty of violating the United Kingdom's ban on sexual-orientation discrimination in public accommodations when they told civil partners Martyn Hall and Steven Preddy that they would not be allowed to sleep together.

In their defense, the Bulls claimed they apply the same policy to unmarried heterosexual couples who seek to check into their lodging.

Chaos at Kato's funeral

At Kato's funeral, the Anglican official conducting the service started bashing gays

Even in death, there was no peace for David Kato, the prominent Ugandan activist bashed to death with a hammer in his home Jan. 26 after a tabloid newspaper published his picture and the pictures of other gay people with the caption "Kill Them" – and just 23 days after he won a lawsuit against the newspaper over the article.

At Kato's funeral, the Anglican official conducting the service, Thomas Musoke, started bashing gays, saying that "admiring a fellow man" is "ungodly," that even animals can distinguish male from female, and that "gays ... should repent."

Kato's gay friends rushed the pulpit and seized the microphone.

Then people at the funeral who apparently agreed with the celebrant got into physical skirmishes with the gay people. After that, the residents who would have carried the casket to the cemetery refused to do so, and Kato's friends had to do it.

On Feb. 2, police told local media that a "thief" Kato had bailed out of prison, Nsubuga Enock, confessed to killing Kato because Kato failed to give him a car, house and money that Kato purportedly dangled to coerce him into sodomy.

Numerous gay activists in Uganda and the U.S. said they do not believe the killing was about withheld gifts and are worried that the homophobic government intends to cover up the true motive for the crime to protect itself from foreign criticism and safeguard foreign aid.

Kato was the advocacy officer for the organization Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and had been a leading voice in the fight against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which has been before Uganda's Parliament since October 2009.

The legislation would imprison for life anyone convicted of "the offense of homosexuality," punish "aggravated homosexuality" (repeat offenses, or having gay sex while being HIV-positive) with the death penalty, forbid "promotion of homosexuality" and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals in positions of authority for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people or sympathizers known to them.

Some U.S. and Ugandan activists and reporters have blamed U.S. evangelical visitors to Uganda for inspiring the bill, which, they believe, led to the newspaper article, which, they suspect, led to the murder.

"A March 2009 conference in Kampala ... featured notorious American anti-gay campaigners, who promoted the idea of a sinister global homosexual conspiracy to corrupt Uganda," said Political Research Associates, a nonprofit that studies the U.S. political right. "Conference speakers advocated parliamentary action to thwart this 'international gay agenda' (and) met with Ugandan lawmakers and government officials, some of whom drafted Parliament's infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill."



More than 100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House in New York City on Feb. 3 demanding a proper investigation into the murder of prominent Ugandan gay activist David Kato and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Uganda's Parliament. Photo by Joe Jervis

Val Kalenda, board chair of Freedom and Roam Uganda, said the visitors "planted hatred in Uganda (and) must take responsibility for David's blood."

Scott Long, who headed Human Rights Watch's LGBT Rights Division for several years said, "The foreign Christian leaders who have supported the spread of murderous homophobia in Uganda ... should search their consciences today and beg forgiveness."

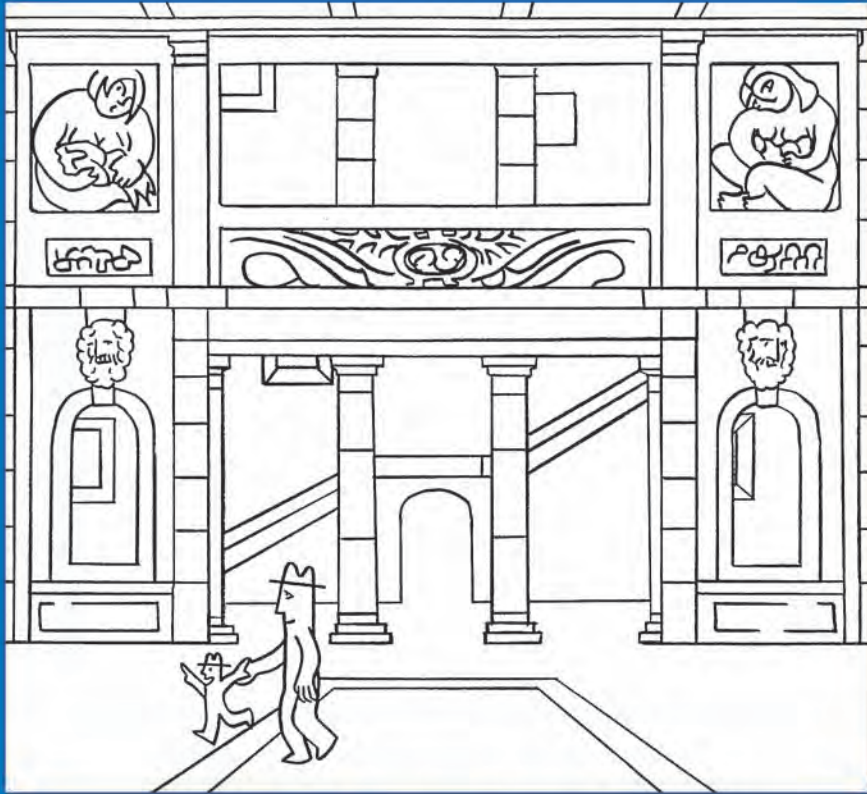
SMUG said that Kato had "been receiving death threats since his face was put on the front page of Rolling Stone magazine, which called for his death and the death of all homosexuals." (The publication is unrelated to the U.S. magazine.)

The newspaper article said, in part: "The mighty Rolling Stone is glad to reveal some of the most horrible secrets in gay community, which is bent on recruiting at least one million members by 2012. Dishearteningly, gays are after young kids, who are easily brainwashed towards bisexual orientation. ... The leaked pictures of Uganda's top homosexuals and lesbians have renewed calls for the strengthening of the war against the rampage that threatens the future of our generation by hanging gays. 'Unless government takes a bold step by hanging dozens of homosexuals, the vice will continue eating up the moral fiber and culture of our great nation,' ... said a radical church leader who preferred anonymity."

On Feb. 3 in New York City, more than

100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House demanding a proper investigation of Kato's murder and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Parliament. A similarly sized action took place in San Francisco's Harvey Milk Plaza.

Some U.S. and Ugandan activists and reporters have blamed U.S. evangelical visitors to Uganda for inspiring the bill, which, they believe, led to the newspaper article, which, they suspect, led to the murder.



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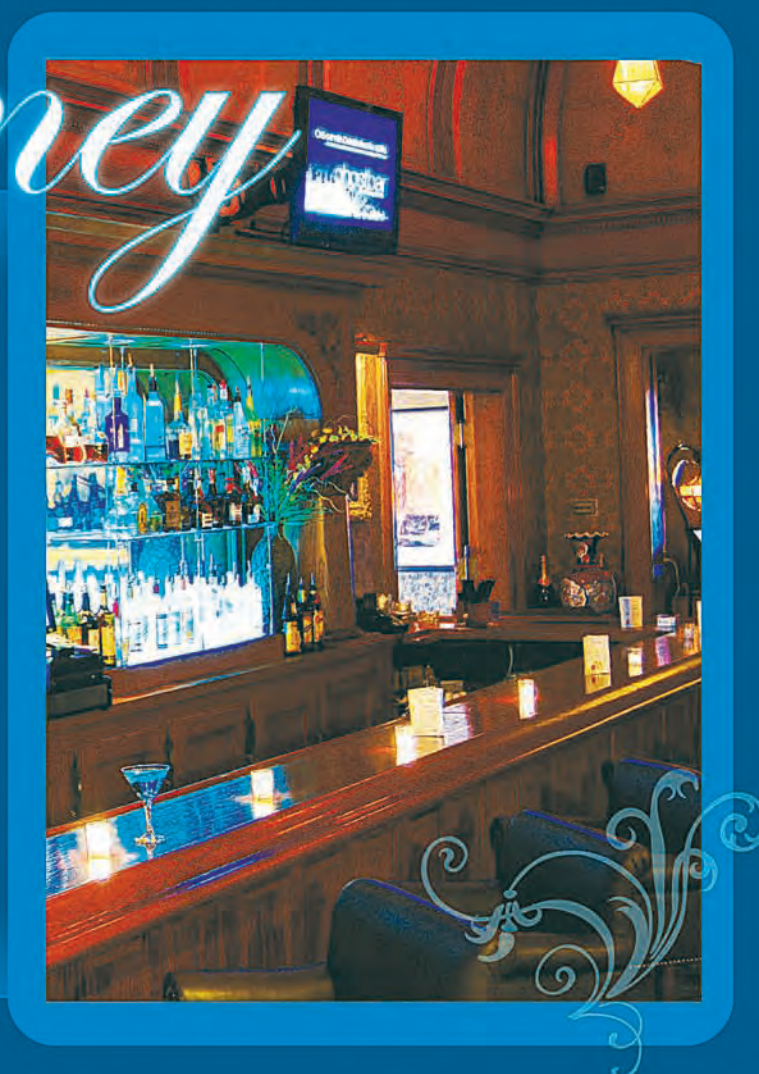
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RICK CASTRO

A DIRTY DEBUT



Rick Castro will display his work and attend this year's Dirty Show from Feb. 11-13. Photo: Dave Naz

He gave up hustlers to be 'sweeter,' but the fetish photographer still turns heads

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"The next time you watch a Lady Gaga video, remember where it started," is how Jerry Vile, the Dirty Show founder, describes the influence of famed photographer Rick Castro. As an artist who spent decades exploring the fetish and fringes of sex culture, Castro – famous for doing wardrobe styling for Annie Leibovitz and Herb Ritts before going "underground" in the mid '80s – has been on Vile's must-nab-now list forever.

"We have been trying to land Rick Castro for years – just his work," Vile says. "And to get him and his work makes it worth the wait. Castro is a legend, one of the most influential and important photographers there is. He pioneered fetish. The Dirty Show wouldn't be the same."

Recently, Castro spoke to BTL about his Dirty pieces (see sidebar), giving up hustlers and the evolution of erotic art.

What kind of reaction do you want to elicit from admirers of the work that's in this show?

I have no preconceived expectations; any kind of reaction would be great. And if viewers are so moved to purchase the photos, that's always a plus.

How have people's views of erotic art evolved since you began your career in it?

I hope it's becoming more accepting. I think it is. When I first presented my photos to the public, the response was hostile. I was too erotic for the art world and too arty for the erotic world. The lines have blurred a great deal since then. I think fetish is actually mainstream now; gay is most definitely mainstream.

I remember when I was in New York City back in the late

See Dirty Debut, page 28

Cupid Ain't Stupid: Valentine's gifts that'll getcha some

BY MIKEY ROX

PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE

Cupid's holiday calls for cocktails, especially if you've got a cutie to claim as your own (but probably more so if you don't), and Stirrings all-natural mixers and rimmers (mind outta the gutter!) get the party started. Just choose your favorite spirit, add a festive Stirrings flavor – like blood orange or pomegranate – and sip your way to satisfaction. To help you along, Carlo, the

Naked Bartender – who's a dead ringer for Timothy Olyphant's younger,



hotter brother – offers recipes and interactive video greetings when you become a fan of Stirrings on Facebook. Hands on the keys, please. (\$7; Stirrings.com)

PUBLIC SPEAKER

Nobody keeps wallet photos anymore. Except maybe your dad, and he probably hid yours behind his Moose Lodge membership after you came out. Such is life. Since you're not an easily embarrassed old curmudgeon, you likely want a better way to show off your sweetie. Enter Doodle from OrigAudio, a portable speaker that you can customize with personal pics (but not too personal), artwork, logos, graphics and more.

Powered by two AA batteries, Doodle is compatible with any audio device that has a standard headphone jack,

and it fits in your back pocket. Right next to his heartstrings. (\$39.99; OrigAudio.com)

SEXUAL DELIVERY

What goes on behind closed doors is nobody's business but yours. Well, unless you count the FedEx guy who delivers your shipment of Collective Wellbeing sex toys. Then again, he's knows all your naughty secrets, doesn't he? Now he'll have something new to talk about it. We Vibe II – the first vibrator that can be used during intercourse and allows for simultaneous internal and external stimulation – is perfect for deepening intimacy and recharging passions, while Naughtibod by OhMiBod plugs into an iPod or other portable music player to send good vibrations to your erogenous zones in time with your favorite tunes. That's right – a dildo that elevates your ecstasy to the sounds of Melissa Etheridge. Lesbian heaven. (\$69; CollectiveWellbeing.com)

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See Gift Guide, page 26



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— Calix Martinez.



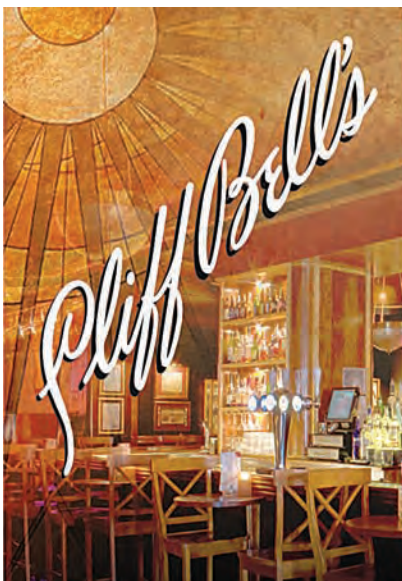
Steve, you are funny and cute. My grumpy bear always cheering me up.
— Love u, Frank

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Til we meet again, my love.

— T.

B.: 10 years, each one better than the previous. I luvva you and this life we have created together. Our daughter will be so lucky to call you mom!

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Hey, Metro Detroiters, 'Step Inside The Box'

Event to raise awareness, monies for HIV/AIDS

ROYAL OAK – Back in September 2009, we called Step Inside The Box, the first of its kind, “a scene out of Andy Warhol’s factory parties.” On Feb. 19 the event returns to ZMC Pharmacy in Royal Oak, where artists, food aficionados and Steppin’ Out supporters will gather and try to outdo themselves.

The event is hosted by HIV/AIDS non-profit Steppin’ Out, which has been holding their annual AIDS Walk Detroit in Royal Oak for over 20 years.

Expect some great dance club music from a live DJ and a spectacular sunset view of Royal Oak and Detroit. The event is held on the third floor of the pharmacy. Steppin’ Out Board President Bill Thomas explained that the building used to serve as a car dealership in the early 1900s. The space features almost wall-to-wall windows.

Step Inside The Box features black shoeboxes decorated and filled with goodies by local and national businesses and notables, all up for auction.

The first event drew in an estimated 200 people and raised over \$10,000 for Steppin’ Out, which provides financial support to direct care HIV/AIDS services and education in the metro Detroit area. It’s a signature event for the organization, Thomas told us in 2009.

In a recent e-mail, he also said, “The evening will include a

‘Taste of Royal Oak’ and a complimentary bar and valet parking. Each ticket is \$50 and trust me, this event is not a stuffy and boring fundraiser. It is full of interesting auction items, cool music and great food!”

To learn more, visit www.stepinsidethebox.org.



A box designed by a local artist. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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Mundane Monday

How to celebrate Valentine's Day with a splash when it falls on, like, the most boring day of the week

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

You don't need to listen to the Bangles' panicked "Manic Monday" or the Mamas and the Papas' forlorn "Monday, Monday" to get the hint that it's the worst of the seven days. The whole week looms ahead of you with its deadlines and commutes. Wednesday is Hump Day, Thursdays get thirsty, even Tuesday was proclaimed "Boozeday" by Kathie Lee Gifford, but there's no getting around Monday: It is a day for work, and it is lame.

So what to do with the wistful holiday when it falls on the worst day of the week? Celebrate Valentine's Day the simple way this year: While getting shit done.

Do the laundry

Monday is statistically proven to be the day when you are most likely to realize that you don't have any clean undies left. So that means after a hasty dinner, you rush to the basement or the laundromat or wherever you clean stuff and

you wait impatiently as the evening is sectioned off in loads.

Instead of pouting, challenge your guy or gal to a quickie before the buzzer goes off. If you have your own washer and dryer to desecrate, there is no better place to perform this quickie than atop your own vibrating machine, hard at work getting your clothes clean and you and your partner very, very dirty.

Go to bed early

Who wants to deal with the hassle of foreplay and romance when you have a 6 a.m. alarm? Sex on weeknights can be rushed, distracted and downright vanilla. That is, unless you hop in bed in the early evening... and stay there. An early bedtime means plenty of time to romp, cuddle and get a full night's rest (which you'll probably need).

So get into bed after dinner. Hell, you can even get into bed during dinner. Which leads us to our next tip...



Eat a heart-healthy dinner

Yes, heart-shaped food has been done: Pancakes. Brownies. Pizzas. Burgers (yes, really). But who cares? Make an entire heart-shaped meal. Mold your mashed potatoes into bursting organs of love. Make a hearty omelet to accompany heart-shaped French toast. All you need is a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Go crazy.

Sure, it's cheesy. Did we mention that cheesy is always better when covered with real cheese? Better double the cheddar on those burger patties.

Get the mail

This one takes a bit of planning, but it works whether you're in a casual or committed

relationship. Send your loved one a classic, handwritten loveletter that'll be delivered right on that Monday. Whether you want to pen a simple note, a sonnet, or a lengthy proclamation of love, it's a thoughtful way to say, "Hey, I care about you so much I probably wasn't checking my e-mail while writing this."

Take out the trash

This is particularly relevant if you're in a committed relationship and this is your least favorite chore. For that day, just do it, and don't make a big stink about it. Not every romantic gesture has to be stamped with hearts. Whatever the chore is that you hate doing – that you tend to leave to your partner – just do it.



► Gift Guide

Continued from p. 21

SEALED WITH A KISS

Known the world over for its indulgent outlook on decadent confections, Godiva recently launched a line of Chocolate Infused Vodka, a five-times distilled, ultra-premium spirit, the taste of which will speak for itself. So here's a recipe: Combine one ounce of Godiva Chocolate Raspberry Infused Vodka with a half-ounce of Crème de Cassis in a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake well and strain into a champagne flute. Top off with chilled

bubbly. Serve with a smooch. (\$29.99)

CHEEKY VALENTINE

There's no shortage (pun totally intended) in this year's V-Day selection from aussieBum. Whether your guy's a hipster in the streets but a freak in the sheets, prefers boxers of briefs, or needs a little help from underneath, there's a pair of 'wear from Down Under sure to please his package. Styles include WJ Pro, which will give his nethers the ultimate upgrade; boxers adorned with amorous rabbits; Classics available in 14 different colors; and a sporty tank to help him sop up all that sweat – in and out of the bedroom. (\$19.25-\$40; aussieBum.com)

HEAVY HEARTED

Business meets pleasure with the Museum of Craft and Design's set of paperweights from master craftswoman Judy Vilmain. At two inches, her Square Heart is cast in pewter with a small enameled red heart nestled inside to keep your love safe. For the even older fashioned, the pewter Love Letters is just right for that special someone who prefers handwritten forget-me-nots to fleeting sexts. Simply designed, both pieces embody the whimsy, inspiration and function with which we should all conduct our relationships. (\$40; shop.sfmcd.org)



BARELY THERE

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checkout to receive a 20-percent discount. (\$20; SmartAssGifts.com)

Mikey Rox's gift guides – which include Mikey Rox's Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving at holiday time – are the only such guides syndicated in LGBT publications across the country. If you have a product that you'd like to see featured in the future, contact Mikey at mikey@paperroxcissors.com.

The Dating Diet Dude: An interview with...me

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Since winning over the hearts of LGBT readers over the last few years with the Dating Diet (check out the latest edition on page 36), which has been syndicated in more than 13 LGBT papers and online outlets across the U.S., we thought we'd learn more about its columnist, Anthony Paull. So here we present you a Q&A with Anthony, by Anthony.

Pardon my asking, but why do you do it?

Well, I need the money, and I enjoy sharing my stories so readers will feel less alone when facing similar problems in their love lives. I find it therapeutic, really. So I gather a new story each month, and I work through the pain the one way I know how – by placing one word in front of another.

Yes, but why?

Because writing is what I do.

Why?

I don't know. It's in my DNA. At least, that's what my agent says, but he also told me to rewrite my latest manuscript, so I'm kind of getting mixed messages from him. But then again, I'm used to mixed messages. I mean, I date men.

Why?

Because they're sexy.

Why?

I don't know. I like the texture.

Why?

You know, you're starting to sound like my father, and if that's going to be the case, we might need to end this interview. I thought we were going to talk about my writing.

Why?

Because I'd like to plug my first short film, "The Green, Green Heart."

Why?

Well, because it's been online for a week now, and it's only received 100 hits.

Why?

That's what I'd like to know. I mean, it's poignant and heartfelt, but in a gritty, new-wave, John Waters' kind of way.

How?

Wow, a new question. But to answer, the film is a parallel lives story, about two people saving each other



from abusive relationships, yet there's a twist. To lure a woman to his home, the lead uses his mother's bowel movements to make the lawn bright green. His plan is to sell himself along with his house to escape his mother. It's based on a short story I had written titled "Love for Sale." It's a rather quirky story, but filled with such hope. I like to give my audience a happy ending, even if it's a whisper of one.

Why?

Because everyone is battling some sort of loss, and they need stories to remind them that there is "love" and "good" in the world. That's what the Dating Diet is really about. It shows progress. Twenty years ago, I would have been banished for writing a gay dating column. We were never told it was OK to date. Now, gay and straight readers alike can see that though their sexual orientation is different, the stories remain the same. To me, that's hope – that's why we must continue to trudge on.

For more information on Anthony Paull, please visit www.anthonypaull.com.

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Rick Castro: Behind-the-art

Photographer shares dirt on Dirty Show work

Caligula's House Party (1988)

Shot during a Mr. Drummer contest in San Francisco. All the slaves were ordered to do a unison roll-over. For me this image embodies the golden era of the leather man.

Carravaggio on Santa Monica Blvd (1989)

This is a signature piece, a portrait of a street hustler off Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood. He's just waking up, or he's high, or both. The lighting is morning sun from the window. I think it's romantic and classic, also combined with a hard, modern reality.

The Goddess Bunny (1990)

A pre-op transsexual quadriplegic, "she" was an unusual fixture in the Hollywood scene. At the time of this shoot she was living with a friend of mine who did her hair and makeup. I purchased her lingerie at Playmates in Hollywood for \$1! She was in Marilyn Manson's "Dope Show" video, and danced for him live at the 1999 MTV Video Music Awards. She was supposed to go on tour with



The Goddess Bunny

Marilyn, but he couldn't deal with her high maintenance and changed his mind.

Left-Handed (1994)

When I originally asked my amputee friend, Greg, to model nude he was taken aback and said no. He eventually changed his mind and decided it would be a challenge. I did the hair; Greg did his own makeup. At the time, he was a window dresser for the Gap; he's now a very successful makeup artist in NYC. When he saw the finished image he burst out in tears. "What's the matter?" I asked. "Don't you like it?" "I don't have an arm," he responded. "I didn't know it was so obvious."

► Dirty Debut

Continued from p. 19

'80s a friend of a friend hooked me up with editor Annie Flanders, the founder of Details magazine. She viewed my portfolio in complete silence, closed it and said to her secretary, "Must I be subjected to this?"

Ten years later, Flaunt magazine contacted me and asked me to photograph Dior men.

What about hustlers intrigued you enough to pursue them as a career muse?

I liked how they brazenly promoted themselves as sex objects during mid-day commutes, but if you weren't hip to it, you would have no idea. I also found hustlers to be better models than mainstream models from agencies. They would do anything.

I saw street hustling as the last American frontier. A young man with no means could come to Hollywood and sell the only thing he had: his body. Keep in mind this was then; I have no interest in photographing hustlers now. The scene is over. The end of an era.

When you look back at your older work, what's different about that work – either historically or artistically – compared to what you're doing currently?

I do want to emphasize the historical context. I specifically chose this collection to show fetish has an artistic history and how much times have indeed changed. The work has a very stationary, claustrophobic feel to it – like a dark dream, but it's real. Currently my work is sweeter, and in color.

"Hustler White" will screen at 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Burton Theatre in Detroit, which you'll attend. It's been 15 years since the film was released. How do people respond to it differently now than they did when it was first released? And how do you see the film now?

I'm very proud of "Hustler White." It has dated

The Dirty Show

featuring Rick Castro
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Bert's Warehouse Theater
2739 Russell St., Detroit
The Dirty Show Presents: 'Hustler White'
6 p.m. Feb. 12
Burton Theatre, Detroit
www.dirtyshow.org

well. I love the look of the film and the way Hollywood looked back then. It is definitely a period piece. It will become a classic. In the future I think it will be recognized as an American work of art. It was already declared a work of art by the French minister of culture, Jack Lang, way back in 1998. The film was listed in the Los Angeles Times' 100 Best Independent Films of All Time, and is now archived at UCLA's Legacy Project. It is also archived at the Alfred Kinsey Institute of Sexuality.

What do you remember most about the shoot?

That I did a lot of work in a very short amount of time. It was a very concentrated 10 days.

Would you do another movie?

If someone finances it, sure. I did direct a documentary in 2001 called "Plushies & Furrries." It aired on MTV and scored No. 2 in the ratings.

I was surprised to read that you run the only fetish gallery in the world. Why do you think there aren't any more?

There will be many more soon. For now, though, Rick Castro brings fetish to the mainstream.

For more information on Rick Castro, visit www.rickcastro.com.



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"I saw street hustling as the last American frontier. A young man with no means could come to Hollywood and sell the only thing he had: his body. Keep in mind this was then; I have no interest in photographing hustlers now. The scene is over."

Beloved novel comes to life at The Encore

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

The last time I saw the musical “Little Women,” I sat in a cavernous theater and wondered why I was rather unimpressed and ambivalent about the show. But it wasn’t until after seeing the thoroughly enjoyable opening night performance at The Encore Musical Theatre in Dexter that my long-standing questions were answered.

The plot is based on the beloved semi-autobiographical novel by Louisa May Alcott, which tells the story of the four March sisters whose father is away serving as a chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War. While Allan Knee’s adaptation strings together many of the book’s major plotlines, there’s little drama or conflict to move the story forward. (Or hold your attention.) Rather, the heart of the story rests in the relationships that exist among its many characters – and that’s what got lost in that big-theater production I attended

REVIEW

‘Little Women’

The Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Thursday-Sunday through Feb. 27. \$25-\$28. 734-268-6200
<http://theencoretheatre.org>



“Little Women” continues at The Encore Musical Theatre through Feb. 27. Photo: The Encore Musical Theatre

to those many moons ago.

But in his directorial debut at The Encore, local favorite Steve DeBruyne understood the material’s strength and crafted an intimate production that transcends the script and the serviceable, yet mostly forgettable tunes that accompany it.

The plot’s central character is the eldest March sister, Jo, a strong-willed pre-feminist who “yearns to travel and write great books.” The opening finds her as a 19-year-old pursuing her dreams in New York City, while flashbacks in the first act take her back home to Concord,

Massachusetts three years earlier. It’s a role that requires an actress who can convincingly play both a youthful tomboy and, later, a more mature woman – and Katie Hardy accomplishes both exceedingly well. Her transition from child to adult is well defined, and her interactions with her sisters are thoroughly believable.

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

Farmers Alley mines laughs in ‘Escanaba’

BY JUDITH COOKIS RUBENS

It’s February, with a recent blizzard to prove it, but inside Farmers Alley Theatre, you’d swear it was November, on the eve of deer hunting season in the U.P.

The Kalamazoo theater has transformed into the rustic Soady Deer Camp, just north of Escanaba, the setting for Jeff Daniels’ comedy, “Escanaba in Da Moonlight.” It was the spark that ignited a trilogy (prequels include “Escanaba in Love” and “Escanaba”) to skewer and honor Yooper culture.

For “fudge sucking trolls” (those of us in the Lower Peninsula) who don’t get what all the fuss is about, the Soady men are more than happy to explain hunting rituals: the whiskey, the Euchre, the pasty pies, the anticipation of the hunt. “It’s like Christmas. With guns.” ‘Nuff said.

Skillfully narrated by the elder Albert

REVIEW

‘Escanaba in Da Moonlight’

Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Thursday-Sunday through Feb. 27 (except no performance Feb. 24). \$21-\$25. 239-343-2727.
www.farmersalleytheatre.com



Farmers Alley Theatre’s production of “Escanaba in Da Moonlight” continues through Feb. 27. Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

Soady (Mike Helms), we meet brothers Reuben (Ben Gougeon) and Remnar (Mitch Voss). At 35, Reuben’s feeling cursed, considering he’s about to go down in family record books as the oldest Soady to never bag a buck. His American Indian wife, Wolf Moon Dance (Anna Mundo), is a better shot, he laments. Desperate to change his luck, and against the pleas of his superstitious comrades, he alters camp rituals.

Then things get weird. The men start seeing visions of weird creatures; pal Jimmer’s Impala bursts into flames; the sweet sap whiskey curdles into syrup; a ranger from the hated Department of Natural Resources claims he’s seen God in a flash of light. Then Reuben himself is awakened by the light.

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

Ring ‘La Ronde’ the Rosie at The Abreact

BY JOHN QUINN

“Sex is natural - sex is fun / Sex is best when it’s one on one.” And who am I to contradict that great philosopher George Michael? Yet there was a time when craving for sex was not mentioned, much less a subject for Billboard’s pop hits. Austrian playwright Arthur Schnitzler wrote “Reigen” in 1897, published it in 1900 and distributed it among friends and acquaintances with the express warning that it never be performed. The secret lasted all of two decades. When the play actually hit the stage the outcry was so great Schnitzler barely escaped conviction for obscenity. I bet I have your attention now, don’t I?

“Reigen,” better known now in French as “La Ronde,” is telling dirty little secrets at The Abreact Performance Space. Both words refer to a “round dance” in the spirit of “Ring Around the Rosie,” and

REVIEW

‘La Ronde’

The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Ave., #113, Detroit. Friday-Saturday through Feb. 26, plus Sunday, Feb. 20. Admission by donation; cash or check only. 313-285-0217.
www.theabreact.com



“La Ronde” continues through Feb. 26. Photo: The Abreact Performance Space

the concept neatly sums up the fascinating structure of the play. There are 10 dialogues between Man and Woman, one character from the preceding scene going on to the next situation – and sex partner – until the pairings come full circle. Characters move up and down the social ladder in an obsessive search of gratification.

Gratification? Oh yes, this play has sex – loud, boisterous sex chastely covered by blackouts because The Abreact lacks MTV’s infra-red cameras. Our characters

will say or do anything to woo a partner into bed, and yet will just as quickly drop them. The play blatantly trumpets the leveling nature of the sex drive, exposing dark motivations and selfish behavior like an unbandaged sore – here, that’s probably syphilis.

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

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BTL Happenings

Editor's Picks



Outings

Celebrate Valentine's Day stress-free this year at the Phoenix Center in Ann Arbor with an afternoon of Partner Yoga: A Romantic Workshop for Couples. Instructors and life partners Leigh Ann and Kim have over 20 years experience between them.

No yoga experience is necessary. Diversity of couples is celebrated and people of all ages, physical abilities and skill levels are welcome.

Session is at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main St. in Ann Arbor. Register by calling 248-981-6858.



Theater

The Farmington Players will present the third installment of the "Tuna" series, "Red, White and Tuna," on the Barn stage from Feb. 11 through March 5. Written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard, the uproarious comedy features two men playing 20 different parts - both male and female - and focuses on the people of the third smallest city in Texas as they assemble for their high school reunion and Independence Day festivities.

"I'm excited to finally have the opportunity to direct this show," said Margaret Gilkes. "We contacted the licensing agency, the authors, everyone we could think of - for years - because we wanted to get this show onto the Barn stage."

Tickets are available at both farmingtonplayers.org and the box office at 248-553-2955.

Community

Valentine's Day is a day for love - and this year, BTL loves Avalon International Breads! Ten percent of all proceeds from their "Gifts from the Hearth" cookie and brownie gift boxes will be going to Alternatives For Girls, a Detroit-based nonprofit that serves homeless high-risk girls and young women.

Also, on Monday, Feb. 14, Avalon will donate 10 percent of the day's proceeds to AFG. Affordable, organic deliciousness from a wholesome local business supporting a local nonprofit for young women in need. It's a win-win-win.

Call 313-832-0008 or visit www.avalonbreads.net for more info.



OUTINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 9

TransCend, 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18+. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. kgllrc.org

Thursday, Feb. 10

Detroit Area Womyns Network (DAWN) Gathering, 5 p.m. Social group for professional women 30+. Dining and socializing. 27843 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. dawn.web.officelive.com

The Caregiver Support Group, 6 p.m. For more information please call or E-mail. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. kgllrc.org

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. the20somethings.org

Friday, Feb. 11

Letters of Longing: The Voicing and Circumscription of Affect in Indian Lesbian Politics, 4 p.m. Naisargi Dave's research concerns emergent forms of politics and relationality in contemporary urban India. Project concerns queer activism in India and explores the relationship of activism, ethics, and affect. Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan, 1080 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-615-4059. il.umich.edu/csas

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: The Black American Experience: Famous Public Figures Mary McLeod Bethune & Shirley Chisholm. Documentaries celebrate a crusading 20th-century educator and the first black women in the U.S. Congress. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Feb. 12

Partnerships in Parenting, 1 p.m. Promoting the importance of relationship and family development for LGBTQ parents and their children. Seeking to build a stronger connection between parents and children through social networking and community outreach. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 734-574-5953. GoAffirmations.org

Partner Yoga: A Romantic Workshop for Couples to Celebrate Valentine's Day, 2:30 p.m. No Yoga experience necessary. Diversity honored: all couples, ages & skill levels welcomed. Fee: \$60 per couple; Register by phone or e-mail. 220 S Main St, Ann Arbor. 248-981-6858. annarbortnaryoga@gmail.com

Harmie's Army 2nd Annual Bash, 6 p.m. Support the Harmie's Army fight for partners parental rights through this fundraiser-now at the Supreme Court level. Entertainment, food, drinks, silent auction. Tickets: \$25 available by phone or e-mail. Harmie's Army, 2401 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 249-339-6192. mmbarboni@yahoo.com

Dessert & A Movie, 9 p.m. A substance-free Valentine's Day dance/fundraiser for Together We Can. Suggested donation: \$5. Games, 50/50 raffle, Coffee & snacks free. 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. twcdetroit.org

Sunday, Feb. 13

2nd Annual Gospel and AIDS Awareness Concert, 3 p.m. Partnership effort to raise awareness. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 8850 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-446-9811. aidspartnership.org

ICON Detroit 18th Anniversary, 9 p.m. Dedicated to portraying a positive image of the leather community. ICON Detroit, 8070 Greenfield Road, Detroit. icondetroit.net

Tuesday Feb. 15

Transgender Partner Support Group, 6 p.m. A support group for partners. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. kgllrc.org

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Ties Like Me Professional Networking, 4:30 p.m. Making connections in the community. Call for more information. 22740 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. 248-379-9527. tieslikeme.org

Thursday, Feb. 17

UMD-GSA: Laura Hughes, 6:30 p.m. Ruth Ellis Center director Laura Hughes discusses the center, her role in its function, and how Michiganders can get involved. Gender & Sexuality Alliance of University of Michigan Dearborn, 1225 University Center, Dearborn. 734-776-8104. umdgsa.weebly.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Bert's Warehouse Theatre "Dirty Show 2011" The annual international erotic art exhibition, with live performances. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Bert's Warehouse Theatre, 2739 Russell Street, Detroit. Feb. 12-Feb. 19. 313-393-3233. dirtyshow.org

HerStories Project "HerStories Project's "Embodying Our Words" Dialogue, workshops, and performance around the theme of embodied writing. Locations available online. Lansing. 9 a.m. Feb. 18, 9 a.m. Feb. 19. 517-374-6474. deyofthephoenix.com/herstories

CONCERTS

Washtenaw Community Concert Band "Women in Music" Featuring Nan Raphael, world-renowned piccolo performer. Towsley Auditorium, Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17. 734-255-9664. ypsicommiband.org

The Whiting "Dee Dee Bridgewater: To Billie with Love" Dee Dee Bridgewater To Billie with Love-A Celebration of "Lady Day" February 20, 2011 at 3pm Ticket Prices: \$45 & \$53 The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Feb. 20. 810-237-7333. TheWhiting.com

The Whiting "Pink Floyd Experience" Pink Floyd Experience March 10, 2011 at 8pm Ticket Prices: \$18-\$49 The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. March 10. 810-237-7333. TheWhiting.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "2011 Hemy Keyboard Series" Roger MacNaughton brings fresh, smooth sounds of classical fused with jazz to the Bob & Bobbie Lobby. Tickets: \$10 400 Culver St, Saugatuck. 2 p.m. Feb. 13. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Olympia Entertainment "Soul 70's Super Jam" The Stylistics, The Dramatics, The Manhattans, Harold Melvin's Bluenotes, The Emotions and The Floaters. Tickets: \$49-\$79 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 26. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Motor City Casino "Rick Springfield" A performance by the hit Grammy Award-winning singer of "Jessie's Girl." Tickets: \$44-49.50. Sound Board Theater, Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 18. motorcitycasino.com

Motor City Casino "Aaron Lewis" An acoustic, solo set by the lead singer of Staind. Tickets: \$34-37. Sound Board Theater, Detroit. 8 p.m. March 6, 8 p.m. March 3. motorcitycasino.com

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts "Black Violin" Innovative and amazing hybrid of Classical and Hip-Hop music. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. 4 p.m. Feb. 13. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings

"Mighty Horns" Tickets \$10-\$25. First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham. 3 p.m. Feb. 20. 248-559-2095. detroitchamberwinds.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Bartok and Beyond" Kalamazoo Symphony principle cellist David Peshlakai and Hungarian violist Csaba Erdelyi present an evening of Eastern European folk music. Tickets: \$10-25 general, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 10. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Oblivion Project" The sultry, darkly beautiful dance music of Argentina brought to the Northern Hemisphere by the Midwest's foremost tango band. Tickets: \$15-30 general, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 11. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Available Jelly" A five-piece group featuring some of the Netherlands top improvisers on the scene today. Ticket price to be posted online. 415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 18. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

FESTIVALS

Traverse City Comedy Festival "Traverse City Comedy Festival" Performers at the festival include Patton Oswalt, Caroline Rhea, and "roast master" Jeffrey Ross. Various Venues, Traverse City. Feb. 10-Feb. 13. 231-392-1134. comedyartsfest.org

Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Big Top Revue II" Benefit for the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Food, wine and song featuring a blend of old-time vaudeville, circus arts and variety entertainment. Tickets: \$150/person, \$1500 for corporate table. Gratz, 326 South Main St., Ann Arbor. 6 p.m. Feb. 22. 734-994-5999. annarborsummerfestival.org

FILM & VIDEO

The Arab American National Museum "Advance Screening-"Freedom Riders"" Followed by a panel discussion featuring a Freedom Ride participant. Tickets: \$7. 13624 Michigan Ave, Dearborn. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. 313-582-2266. arabamericanmuseum.org

The Majestic "Star Slinger" Cover: \$7 Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 9 p.m. Feb. 18. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

OTHER

Detroit Derby Girls Tickets \$15-20 Cobo Arena, 301 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Dec. 18-April 16. 313-471-6606. detroitderbygirls.com

Out Loud Chorus "New Member Night" For the spring concert season. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Feb. 14. olcinline.org

Wharton Center "Ballet Hispanico" This dance company explores, preserves and celebrates Latin culture through dance. Tickets: \$15-\$38 Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

SHOWS

Kerrytown Club Series "Mr. B's Birthday Bounce" Jazz, boogie woogie and blues pianist Mark Lincoln Braun returns to Kerrytown for his annual birthday performance. Tickets: \$15-30 general, \$10 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 12. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Olympia Entertainment "Cirque du Soleil Dralion" Thrilling more than 8 million people worldwide since the show premiered in 1999, Dralion is the fusion of ancient Chinese circus traditions and the avant-garde style of Cirque du Soleil. Tickets \$31-103 Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Feb. 16-Feb. 20. 313-471-6606. olympiaentertainment.com

Wharton Center "42nd Annual Spartan Stampedo Rodeo Show" Riders from the International Professional Rodeo Association will test their skills against some of Lansing's best livestock in the area at the MSU Pavilion. Tickets: \$15-\$20. MSU student discount offered. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 18, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Feb. 19. 2 p.m. Feb. 20. 1-800-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Always Patsy Cline Twenty-seven of Patsy's greatest hits! Very funny! You'll laugh, then cry, then laugh again. \$10. The Downriver Actors Guild at Out of The Box Theatre Complex, 1165 Ford Ave., Wyandotte. Feb. 11-20. 313-303-5269.

Pro Bono The Public Offenders and the All American Funk Parade present comedy from dark and twisted takes on social issues to riffs on single parenthood, and every day and college life. Themes are sometimes veering toward an R-rating. To raise funds for theater scholarships. \$5. LCC Performing Arts at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 11. 517-483-1488. lcc.edu/hpa/events

The Vagina Monologues Proceeds will benefit Alternatives for Girls, Michigan Women's Justice and the Clemency Project. \$10-\$20. The Smith Theatre, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. 313-993-3270. vd.org

Void Where Prohibited A fast paced, family-friendly improv show in the style of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" to raise funds to restore Gray's Opera House. \$10. Gray's Opera House, 231 N. Main St., Romeo. Through Feb. 18. 810-305-3221. pjimprov.com

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Black Comedy \$14-\$16. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. Feb. 11-27. 734-560-1493. justgobarefoot.com

Collage 2010 \$5-\$10. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Feb. 11-20. 313-967-0599. matrixtheatre.org

Hairspray \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Feb. 17-27. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Harvey \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Feb. 18-27. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

Leading Ladies \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Through Feb. 12. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Marilyn & Marc \$10-\$15. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Burdick St., Kalamazoo. Feb. 11-20. 269-598-4130. fancypantstheater.webs.com

Red, White, and Tuna \$13-\$15. The Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Feb. 11-March 5. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

The Play's the Thing Free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 18-20. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Wait Until Dark \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Feb. 18-March 5. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Arabian Nights \$5-\$20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre Complex, 1903 West Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Feb. 10-20. 269-387-6222. wmtheatre.com

Endgame \$10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. Feb. 18-26. 517-483-1012. lcc.edu/hpa/events

Flow \$15. Wayne State University, Bonstelle Theatre, 3434 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Feb. 18-27. 313-577-2960. bonstelle.com

Rhinoceros \$12. WSU Studio Theatre at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4605 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 12. 313-577-2972. wsushows.com

The Rocky Horror Show \$15. EMU Theatre at Quirk Theatre, East Circle Dr. & Best Hall, Ypsilanti. Feb. 11-19. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

A Lesson Before Dying \$17-\$20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 20. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

A Life in the Theatre \$18. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Through Feb. 20. 313-993-3270. theatre.udmercy.edu

Affluenza! A staged reading. \$15. What A Do Theatre at First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek. Feb. 11-26. whatado.org

B-I-N-G-O Spells Murder A dinner theater production; meal served an hour before show time. \$30; price includes dinner, dessert, tax, tip & show. TNT Productions at The Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte. Through Feb. 26. 734-626-8395.

Bard on the Run "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will play on Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and "Twelfth Night" will perform on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. \$10 for one show, \$15 for both. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. dogstorytheater.com/

Blast from the Past \$39.95. The Williamsburg Showcase Dinner Theatre & Conference Center, 4230 M-72 East, Williamsburg. Through March 26. 231-938-2181. cateringbykellys.com/dinner-theater

Cats \$45-\$75. Chatham Capitol Theatre, 238 King Street West, Chatham, Ontario. Feb. 16-17. 1-866-807-7770. chathamcapitoltheatre.com

Corktown \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 5. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Dralion \$35-\$100. Cirque du Soleil at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Feb. 16-20. 1-800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com/DrumlineLive \$30-\$50. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. Feb. 10-11. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

Escanaba In Da Moonlight \$21-\$25. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Feb. 27. 239-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Feb. 18-March 14. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

In The Heights \$34-\$84. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Feb. 13. 1-800-982-2787. BroadwayinDetroit.com

Jersey Show-Season 1 (Abridged) Every Thursday. \$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Feb. 10. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

La Ronde Admission by donation; cash or check only. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Ave., #113, Detroit. Through Feb. 26. 313-285-0217. theabreact.com

Late Nite Catechism 3: 'Til Death Do Us Part \$29.50-\$34.50. The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. Through March 6. 313-963-9800. GemTheatre.com

Lines ala Mode Includes a three-course dinner. \$40. Mixed Company Troupe at Portage Yacht Club, 8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd., Pinckney. 7 p.m. Feb. 12. 734-426-4155. mixedcompanytroupe.com/

Little Women \$25-\$28. The Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Feb. 20. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Men Fake Foreplay \$30-\$35; dinner packages \$79.95-\$89.95. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Feb. 9-Feb. 20. 248-348-4448. ticketmaster.com

Modern Orthodox \$32-\$41. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through Feb. 13. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Motown Magic Tribute \$35-49. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Michael A. Guido Theater, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 8 p.m. Feb. 18. 313-943-2354. dearborntheater.com

New Shanghai Circus \$15. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15. 1-800-745-3000. ticketmaster.com

Oedipus \$18-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through Feb. 20. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

On The Golden Pond Includes buffet-style menu served at 6:30 p.m.; reservations required. \$30; \$18 show only. AP Theatrical Productions at Baker Lofts, 533 Columbia Ave., Holland. Feb. 11-26. 616-772-5697. aptheatrical.com

Proof \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Through March 5. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Reunion: A Musical Epic in Miniature \$24-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Feb. 9-March 6. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Richard III Plays in rotating repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 25. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Romeo and Juliet \$25-\$30. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Feb. 13. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

Romeo and Juliet \$15-\$35. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

Shrek the Musical \$32.50-\$67.50. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Bogue St. & Wilson, East Lansing. Feb. 8-13. 1-800-942-7866. whartoncenter.com

The Broadway Onstage Murders \$14 opening night; \$16 all others. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Feb. 18-March 19. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

The Bulldog Bar Liquidation Mystery \$17; Mar. 5 performance is buffet dinner and show (\$36); doors open at 6 p.m., buffet at 6:30 p.m., and show at 7 p.m. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N. Van Buren St., Bay City. Feb. 11-March 5. 989-893-9399. vanburenstreettheatre.com

The Comedy of Errors \$15-\$35. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. & Wilson, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 11. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

The Dance of the Seven Veils \$10-\$15. The New Theatre Project at Pot & Box, 220 Felch St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 11-28. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

The Misanthrope Plays in rotating repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 5. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The War Since Eve \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 20. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Yankee Tavern \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project at The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd Street, Detroit. Feb. 11-27. 248-982-4121. BreatheArtTheatre.com

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn \$10. Center Stage Jackson at The Middle School at Parkside, 2400 Fourth St., Jackson. Feb. 11-20. 517-782-8473. centerstagejackson.org

Fables Galore and More \$10 adults, \$7. Children's Theatre Network at Performance Network Theatre, 120 East Huron St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. Feb. 12. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

The Great Gilly Hopkins \$16-\$18 adult, \$14-16 teen & senior. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 11-26. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Pinkalicious \$7. Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center at Trenton Village Theatre, 2447 West Jefferson, Trenton. Feb. 19-20. 734 671-2202. dypac.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit Institute of Arts "An Intuitive Eye: Andre Kertesz Photographs, 1914-1969" This exhibition celebrates the photographic achievements of Andre Kertesz, whose groundbreaking work achieved a delicate balance between technical perfection and lyrical beauty. Combines the "snapshot" compositions of photojournalism with the aesthetic sensibilities of early twentieth-century modernism. 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Nov. 24-April 10. 313-833-7900. dia.org

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

Sky Production "Concert/Open Jam with Sky Covington & Friends" Weekly concert with Sky Covington, Alina Morr, Ibrahim Jones & Djallo Djakate Harbor House, 440 Clinton, Detroit. Jan. 26-April 27.

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

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

UMMA "Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living" Synthesizes painting and sculpture, literature, design, craft, film, and performance to conjure an imaginary alternate history of twentieth-century. 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor. Dec. 18-March 13. 734-763-UMMA. umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Live Coverage 2011" Showcasing more than fifty of West Michigan's most exciting visual artists, features one-of-a-kind works of art, created right before your eyes. Music, food, drink and silent auction. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids. 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19. 616-454-7000. uica.org

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Oops, forgot to tell you...

Q. I have so fallen in love! The woman, "Maria," that I've been hoping for has finally shown up in my life. We have been seeing each other for almost a year. She is wonderful and I feel so lucky to have found her. Last night, she asked me to make our love a more permanent situation by having a ceremony and moving in together.

I think that I am ready for this move, but I have a few secrets that I haven't disclosed to Maria, and this worries me.

When I was little, my teeth were not well taken care of, and even though I'm only in my mid-forties, I have dentures. They look really good but it won't be something I'll be able to hide when we are living together, or at least it would be very difficult.

Another thing that I have not told her is that several years ago, I had a little work done on my face. I have always been a very outdoorsy person, causing the sun to do a number on my skin. I had just broken up with my partner at the time and I wanted to do something for myself, so I had some plastic surgery done. I worry that if Maria, someday, looks at pictures of me in the past, she'll begin to wonder how it is that I look younger today than I did five years ago, or even think that a picture of me is really one of my older sister, not me.

I also color my hair to cover up the gray. Maria thinks my hair color is natural. She told me early on how beautiful my hair was and I let her think – by not saying anything – that it was my natural color. My natural colors is "mouse" brown, but now, a lot of it is gray – not even the pretty gray that some women get.

Then, the final thing is that I have a fake nipple. I had a nipple reconstructed after some breast surgery that I had years back. (This wasn't my trying to fix something with plastic surgery; it had to be done because of the surgery.) To tell her about this would be very hard and humiliating because Maria doesn't know that the reconstructed nipple has no feeling in it, since I've been "faking it."

Up until now, I could hide all this from her, but if I live with Maria, I'm afraid she's going to figure these things out, eventually – if not immediately, somewhere down the line. Maria is

in her thirties and I'm not sure how this will go over with her. She is so beautiful and everything about her is natural, no fake or reconstructed parts like I have.

Do you think I should tell her now or hope that she doesn't find out – or, at least, not find out everything? I love her dearly and don't want to lose her.

Fearing Exposure

A. I have some questions for you to think about to help you decide what to do: Do you want to constantly have to hide parts of your life, and worry that she'll find out about the things you've told me? Wouldn't that seem pretty stressful? Do you really want to have a relationship with her if these things really did bother her? Wouldn't that make her a pretty shallow person? Do you want to start out your life together, based on dishonesty? What other things will you keep from her? How will you build trust, if you're keeping secrets?

P.S. I have a few links on Facebook about keeping secrets in relationships that might be helpful. I must say, none of the alterations to your body strike me as a big deal. And it seems such a minor failing on your part regarding letting her think your hair color was natural and "faking it" when it comes to feelings in your nipple. If she's half the person you think she is, she'll be understanding and forgiving. Who knows, your confession may bring on a few admissions from her.

Jody Valley is on Facebook! Search "Dear Jody Valley."

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

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Go for it, Taurus!

BY JACK FERTIG

Sun and Mars are in a long dance together through Aquarius. Dissonance from Venus and Pluto, both in Capricorn, can turn that into a war dance. It's too easy to build up resentments over nothing. Strive for clarity and self-awareness. If you feel wronged, own your part of it and move on.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Consider social demands before agreeing to any. You really need to focus on challenges at work. Reexamine your goals and your strategies. Are they realistic? Even the best plans need an occasional tweak.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): You usually prefer safer paths, but are now too easily goaded to big gambles. Stop and think just a bit. Some risk-taking is good and necessary; exercise foresight, good sense and moderation. Then if it looks good, go for it!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): New sexual adventures can take you to places you'd never dreamed of. Be careful so the clinic isn't on that list. Bragging about your new erotic adventures is also fine, but be careful about "the time and place for everything."

CANCER (June 21- July 22): You and your partner need some "spice" in your love life, but agreeing on what's needed could be tough. Take turns granting each other's desires. You'll be surprised! Be careful where you discuss this. Where it gets out could also be a surprise.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Your efforts on teamwork are admirable, but remember that teamwork is not necessarily what "you" say it is! Work at taking orders and suggestions, then show how well you can carry those out.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Sports injuries and other accidents are out to get you. Whatever you do to relax, stay focused on developing technique and keep your eyes open to usual risks. If worse comes to worst, you'll look sexy in a cast.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Fun and games at home could start more fights than they would prevent. Or guide that heat to something more sexy. Strip Parcheesi?

The best application for rough competitive energy could be wrestling to see who gets on top.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Family fights break out way too easily. Discussing those problems with a close friend can be more helpful than putting it in the face of your folks. Work helps you relieve some tension. It could even help you get some perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): "Retail therapy" is just a euphemism for compulsive spending. In your heart you know it's counterproductive. Better to sit down and analyze your finances. Learning a new game or creative outlet is helpful – if it doesn't get expensive!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Trying a new look can either get expensive or challenge your resourcefulness – and that's your kind of challenge! Go for something radical and dramatic, even if it's just for "those special occasions."

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Some bee in your bonnet has you agitated and touchy. What's at the bottom of this? Who are you really angry at? Yourself? Talk with someone who knows your BS better than to fall for it.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): One of your "friends" is out to double-cross you. Keep your radar up. Standing with one foot in the future and one in the past can blind you to the present. Focus on the now and what matters at the moment.

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 34

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W	I	S	H		A	L	P	O		C	I	A	O			
A	G	E	E		S	M	A	L		L	A	R	M	S		
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S	T	A	L	E						E	N	L	I	S	T	
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O	W	N			D	O	O	R	S		T	A	D	A		
F	A	I	R	Y		G	O	D	F	A	T	H	E	R		
W	I	P	E		O	N	E	P	M		O	R	S			
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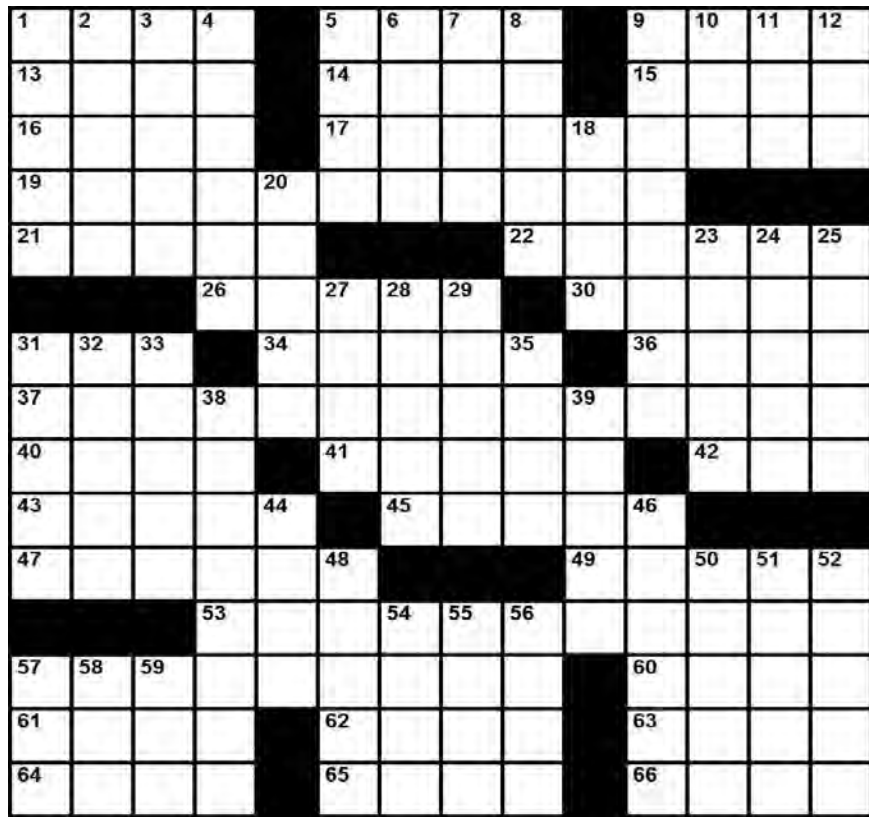
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Solution on 33

Q U I Z

Glee Club

Across

- 1 Blows away
- 5 Pussy sound
- 9 Suckers
- 13 Request by a well
- 14 Meat that goes in your boxers
- 15 "See ya!"
- 16 "The African Queen" author
- 17 They're little but they still can shoot off
- 19 Actor who won a 53-Across for "Glee"
- 21 Cliché-ridden
- 22 Join the service
- 26 Prudential rival
- 30 "Fiddle-___!" (phrase of 9-Down)
- 31 Former TV host's new channel
- 34 Places for hinges
- 36 Cry of pride

- 37 What 19-Across in his acceptance speech called director Ryan Murphy
- 40 Use a trick towel
- 41 1300 hrs., to Col. Cammermeyer
- 42 Common correlatives
- 43 "___ told by an idiot" (Shakespeare)
- 45 Give a large bosom, e.g.
- 47 Layer of some balls
- 49 More like nelly?
- 53 Award won by 19-Across
- 57 "Tales of the City" author Maupin
- 60 Gulp of medicine
- 61 Fair-to-middling
- 62 Non-speaking part in "Born Free"
- 63 Barely makes, with "out"
- 64 Use your hands instead of your mouth
- 65 Stink up the place
- 66 Actor Auberjonois

Down

- 1 Aerial defense acronym
- 2 Isle of Auden's land
- 3 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 4 Zelda portrayer in an old sitcom
- 5 Fem. opposite
- 6 Sailor's saint
- 7 Milk-colored gem
- 8 "The Right Stuff" author
- 9 Tara heroine
- 10 BB propellant
- 11 Cager Parsons
- 12 Plea at sea
- 20 Like a nocturnal emission?
- 23 Potato source
- 24 Memorial of coming out of Egypt
- 25 Discharge on one's face
- 27 Take-out words
- 28 Peter of Herman's Hermits

- 29 Shakespearean forest
- 31 Words after tug or man
- 32 Geer's son, on "The Waltons"
- 33 Try to bite, doggy-style
- 35 Bay Area bulls (abbr.)
- 38 Field of Gene Robinson
- 39 In the midst of
- 44 NASA chimp
- 46 "Our Town" playwright Thornton
- 48 Take in, perhaps
- 50 "Chain Gang" singer Sam
- 51 "The Wizard of Oz" dropout Buddy
- 52 Witherspoon of "Vanity Fair"
- 54 Cut
- 55 "___ On Down the Road"
- 56 Neighbor of Minn.
- 57 Pompous fool
- 58 Lyon king
- 59 Where the NY Liberty plays

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Ghetto Fabulous

This month, I'm not writing about myself. I don't want to come off as conceited, even though I have nothing to be conceited about. I mean, hello, I live with my dad, and that's not cool after the age of 30, especially when your dad goes in your room without permission, only to stumble upon your spankerchief. Mind you, it was an accident, he states. He wasn't snooping. He was merely vacuuming the sheets on my bed.

"Please, Dad. I'm not shedding."

"No, but you sure are staining things," he replies. And if that's not mortifying enough, he begins a speed round of 21 questions, beginning with, "Anthony, are you having enough sex?" "Of course not. I have a boyfriend...."

But seriously, who stops jacking off even if they are having enough sex? I mean, yes, masturbating can seem a tad superfluous in between consistent, sexual encounters, but it's super fun. I have nothing for which to be ashamed. In fact, my efforts should be applauded. Masturbating keeps me smiling and disease-free. Plus, it's convenient, and I can avoid petty banter afterward. But that isn't enough for Dad. No, he thinks I'm sick – that I'm isolating, building up walls in order to keep from getting hurt in my relationship. Therefore, he wants me to start doing that sort of dirty thing outside of the home. Then maybe, I'll have to screw my boyfriend. The problem is: my boyfriend and I are trying to find other things to base our relationship on other than sex. Too bad, he's out of town.

So fine! I'm taking Dad's advice, and I'm going out. Of course, I don't know where I'm going, but I'm going somewhere. So I call my friend Doug, and at midnight, he agrees to see a movie as long as we agree to skip the movie and get drunk, which seems like a splendid idea. That is, until we opt to attend a keg party in the ghetto instead.

Granted, it's one of those "bring your own drink, because no one can afford to share" parties. But it seriously rocks, because we're already drunk, and we don't know better. I figure that's why I tell him about my dad finding my handkerchief; my inhibitions are down. Still, he fails to react. Why? Well, you see, he's the calm, collected type, and he's already had his fair share of drama for the night. It appears, he was in a fight with a love interest earlier. According to Doug, the guy was insensitive; he didn't care that Doug had just found out his best friend had been in a car accident. Instead, he got angry at Doug for being sad about it. Therefore, Doug broke up with him. No big deal. There's already another guy texting.

"Want to get pile-driven tonight?" Mr. Text writes.

"Not really," Doug replies. You see, he's too consumed with hanging out with me, and according to him, the key to having a lot of sex is to completely ignore the person who wants to have sex with you. The problem is, lately, Doug seems to be ignoring most everything, including important things, like the fact there's a gang of men charging at us from the darkness as we drunkenly sway along the road in search of the party.

Seriously, who stops jacking off even if they are having enough sex? I mean, yes, masturbating can seem a tad superfluous in between consistent, sexual encounters, but it's super fun. I have nothing for which to be ashamed. In fact, my efforts should be applauded.

"Oh god, we're going to get killed," I mutter.

Doug is nonchalant, sipping his vodka from a stadium cup as if it were chamomile tea. "What?" he questions – his blue eyes, so serene.

"Um, hello. We're about to get jumped," I say. Yet, he acts as if he doesn't care if he dies, or about anything else.

Luckily, the gang bypasses us to vandalize the Christmas decorations on a nearby yard, consisting of plastic, glowing elves and blow-up snowmen. Pop, pop, pop, that's all I hear. Meanwhile the party is nowhere to be found, and Doug is verbally listing off the things Mr. Text plans to do to him later tonight. "He's going to slam me in a wall. He's going to choke me with his snake. Oh, and he's going to disrespect me orally and anally. Reading the list, Doug yawns as we trek to my house. "Damn, I just don't know if I want to have sex tonight."

"WHAT?" I question. "Don't you want sex, like all the time?"

"No," he says. "Do you?"

And I think normally, no. Yet, since I've reunited with my boyfriend, sex seems to be my primary focus. At work, I'm typing, and voila, I'm hard. At the market, I spy a ripe banana, and boom, my mind wanders. It's all-consuming, every second of every day, and it only seems to be getting worse, to the point where I feel guilty for being a slut.

"Yes, I want it all the time," I admit.

To which, Doug downs additional vodka. "That's because you're with someone you trust," he says. "I forgot how to trust when my ex fiancée cheated on me two weeks before our wedding."

I can't help but fall silent, since this is the first I've heard of this. "Sorry to hear," I finally manage.

"No problem," he says, trudging along. "It helps to hear there are guys out there like you, guys with handkerchiefs who feel slutty even if they're only cheating with themselves."

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Chris Colfer. Photo: Justin Lubin/Fox

Chris Colfer strikes with 'Lightning'

Actors' shelf-lives can be short, so it's never wrong to take advantage of any window of career heat. That's the wisdom "Glee" cast member and recent Golden Globe-winner Chris Colfer is living by these days; he's all set to make his first film, a comedy titled "Struck by Lightning." And by "his," that means he wrote it in addition to planning to star. Director Brian

Dannelly ("Saved!" "United States of Tara") will take the helm this summer while Colfer makes good use of his small-screen hiatus. The project is reported to be a John Hughes-like high school outing, a welcome thing, since Hughes never included gay characters in his '80s classics. (No, Duckie doesn't count. Neither does Mary Stuart Masteron in "Some Kind of Wonderful.") And if the film turns out to be gay teen classic, then all the better. "Beautiful Thing" could use some company in that category.

Almodovar directing biopic of singer you've never heard of

Italian pop star Mina was a very big deal in Europe in the 1960s and '70s. Think of her as the Madonna of her moment, courting controversy and shaking her body on TV when proper young women didn't do that sort of thing. And in 1963 she made a decision that caused outrage across Italy: she had a baby with a married man. But in keeping with her liberated persona, she kept her head held high and remained a beloved figure to her fans. Sounds like a movie, right? It's going to be, thanks to Pedro Almodovar, a man whose powerful female-centric stories have made him one of the world's most acclaimed directors. At the moment Marisa Paredes, one of Almodovar's go-to actresses, is set to star and production should go into full swing as promotion for his latest feature, the Antonio Banderas-starring "The Skin That I Inhabit," winds down.

Finally: A lesbian sitcom on a major network. Maybe.

As NBC ushers in a new network chief, Bob Greenblatt, another change is possibly in the air. "I Hate That I Love You," from former "Will & Grace" producer Jhoni Marchenko, is going to pilot. That's typical news at this time of year, but what makes "Hate" different is that if it goes to series it will be the first primetime, major network sitcom about lesbians. Here's the logline: "A straight couple introduces two of its lesbian friends to one another and what results is both instant attraction and a pregnancy." There's

no casting news yet, but it's still an exciting development, one that's long overdue in this post "L-Word" world. Suggestion for the creators: If they didn't both have to be white bread safe and super-lipsticky that would give you even more cred among actual lesbians, but then again they'll be sure to tell you that themselves should you wind up making that error in judgment.

MTV gets better with Dan Savage

MTV might be feeling the heat of advertiser disapproval right now with its decision to air the sexually charged teen series "Skins," but that isn't stopping them from moving forward with a pilot from "Savage Love"'s Dan Savage, the longtime sex advice columnist from Seattle's "The Stranger" and The Onion's AV Club. The man who created the "It Gets Better" campaign that saw gay adults making videos to encourage younger gay and lesbian people not to give up hope for a better future, Savage will pattern the show's pilot on his college campus lecture tour in which he fielded questions from the post-adolescent audience. And if you've seen him speak publicly or read his column, you know that his brand of sex advice is unflinchingly honest and almost always graphic. Makes you wonder how much language bleeping MTV is prepared to do in the name of authenticity. No news on when the show may air, but brace yourself when it does.

Romeo San Vicente gives out free sex advice but it's always hands-on, never hypothetical. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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