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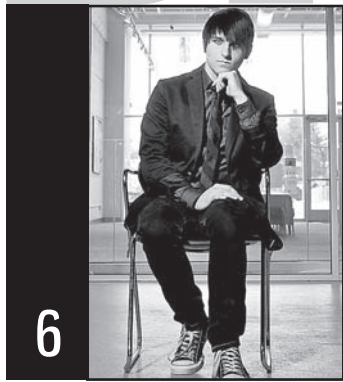
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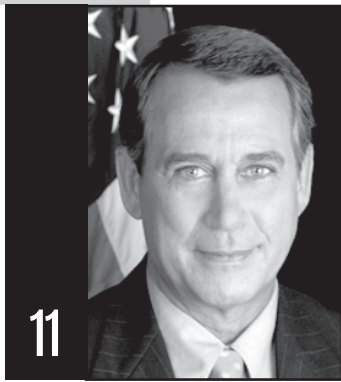
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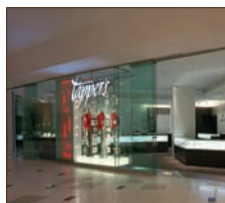
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Death to DOMA!

We must encourage legislators to get rid of the Defense of Marriage Act

Since President Obama took office 25 months ago, some in the LGBT community have complained about his administration's slow progress in fulfilling his campaign pledges on issues of equality. The president, however, did use his executive powers to extend legal protections to LGBTs during his first two years in office. He also has named a number of openly gay and lesbian individuals to positions of influence at the White House. Just last week, the administration announced that Jeremy Bernard will be the first man and first openly-gay person to serve as White House Social Secretary, the position responsible for organizing state dinners and other social events at the executive mansion.

However, many people have pointed to slow progress on other substantive concerns and have suggested that the president should move more aggressively to protect LGBTs from discrimination.

Over the past several months, President Obama has taken a number of steps to indicate that he truly does believe in equality for our

community. First, in late December as the Democrats' majority in the U.S. House of Representatives was nearing its end, the president and Congress repealed the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law on military service. Now, the Obama administration is moving more quickly on another priority of the LGBT community and one of the president's promises during the 2008 campaign: Repeal of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act."

This highly discriminatory law was passed by a Republican Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton during the presidential election year of 1996. The legislation was approved when same-sex marriage was not legal in any state, though Hawaii was considering a gay marriage measure at the time. Now five states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage, and other states have civil union laws in place. DOMA prevents the federal government from offering legal benefits to the same-sex spouses or partners of federal employees, allows states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in other states, and denies federal tax benefits to same-sex couples, and contains other discriminatory provisions.

During his 2008 campaign for president, Obama proclaimed his desire to see DOMA repealed. However, Congress did not take action on this issue during the president's first two years in office. At the same time, federal lawsuits challenging the law were working their way through the courts. Last year, a district court in Massachusetts struck down DOMA as a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Obama administration defended the law in court on the grounds that it has a legal responsibility to defend federal statutes, even when the president himself opposes them. In the Massachusetts

case, the court used a standard of review that simply required the president's lawyers to justify passage of the original DOMA legislation as a reasonable use of congressional power, though the court found that DOMA violated even this minimal test of equality. In more recent lawsuits, the Obama administration had to decide on a legal strategy to use in federal courts where no established standard of review existed for classifications based on sexual orientation. This left the president in the position of having to support a law in court that he knew discriminated unjustly against a specific category of citizens.

Last week, President Obama ordered his legal team to stop defending DOMA. The president has now officially stated his view that the law is unconstitutional, and that courts should use a tough legal test known as "strict scrutiny" when reviewing laws that classify people based on sexual orientation. This standard would place gays and lesbians in a protected category under equal protection analysis, akin to the status of women

and racial and ethnic minorities in other civil rights cases. Obama's decision is a huge development for the LGBT community, because the president now regards sexual orientation (and we would hope gender identity, too) as deserving of federal legal protection.

Now that the Obama administration has stopped defending DOMA, some members of Congress may try to step into the legal void. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other Republican leaders spoke out against Obama's decision last week and may try to mount a constitutional defense of discrimination. It is important that those who support President Obama's decision make themselves heard on this issue. DOMA is constitutionally indefensible, as the president has now recognized. In 2011, a majority of the American people and our president believe in equality for all people, including LGBTs. It is now time for Republicans to stop using gay marriage as a wedge issue and let DOMA die.

It is now time for Republicans to stop using gay marriage as a wedge issue and let DOMA die.



SPEAK OUT

HRC page with letter to send your member of Congress about DOMA:


<http://tinyurl.com/49umrzm>

Find your House member:

<http://www.house.gov>

Justice Department press release on the president's DOMA decision:

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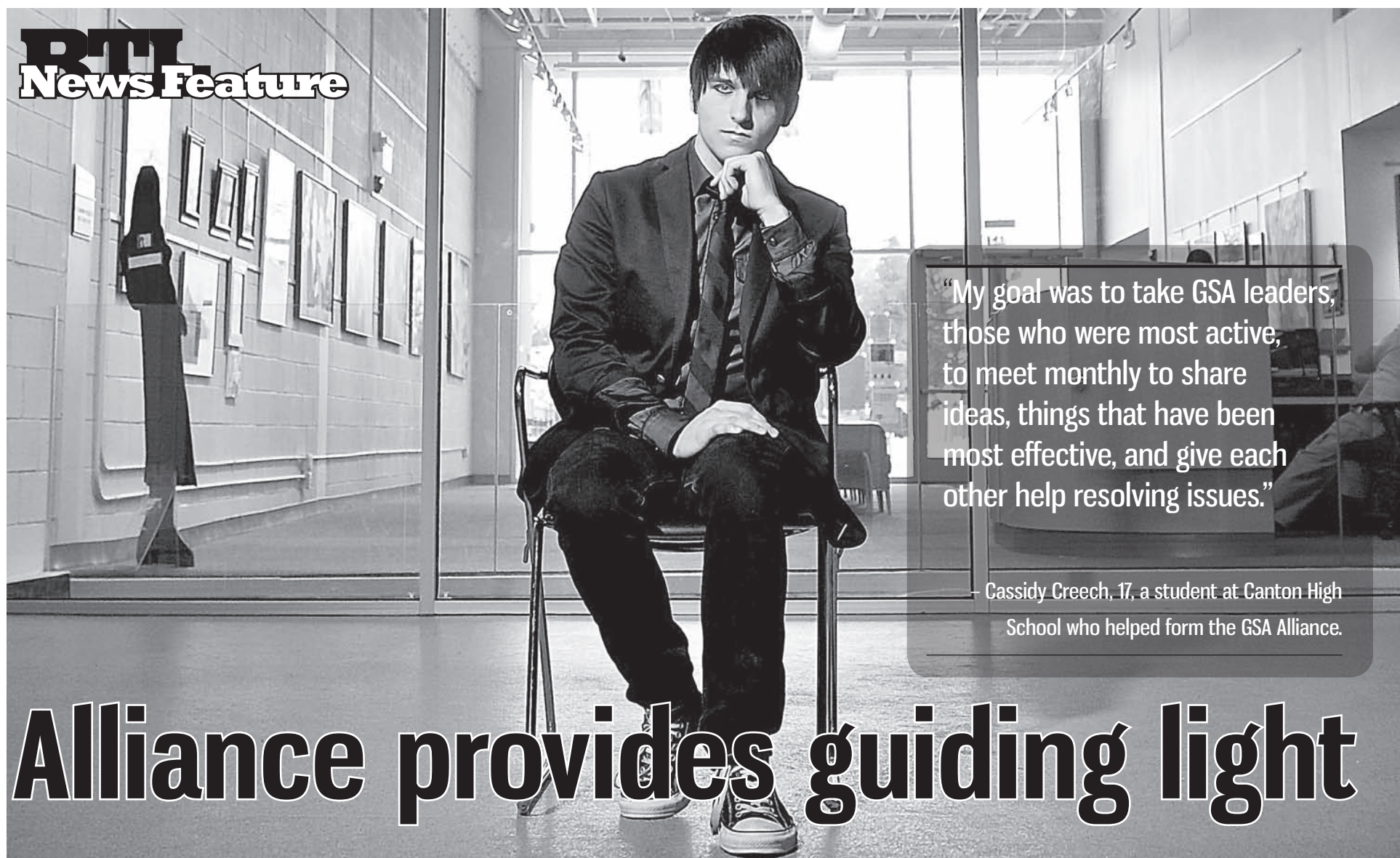
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“My goal was to take GSA leaders, those who were most active, to meet monthly to share ideas, things that have been most effective, and give each other help resolving issues.”

— Cassidy Creech, 17, a student at Canton High School who helped form the GSA Alliance.

Alliance provides guiding light

Cassidy Creech, 17, a student at Canton High School, founded the GSA Alliance. Creech saw his own GSA fall apart when a key member was killed in a car accident last spring. The Alliance was born out of that tragic experience. Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale helped by providing a meeting space for the group. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

Metro Detroit GSAs create support network

BY ALEXA STANARD

In a year of news reports about suicides by LGBT youth and the bullying that targets them, metro Detroit LGBT teens are banding together to support each other, educate their communities and push for concrete change.

Gay-Straight Alliance groups have popped up at high schools and colleges all around the region, providing peer support, adult resources and an entry point into community activism for LGBT and allied youth. They're actively pushing the adults in their lives to form and enforce policies that protect and support them. And they're finding strength in numbers by networking with each other and forming a region-wide alliance of their individual groups.

“My goal was to take GSA leaders, those who were most active, to meet monthly to share ideas, things that have been most effective, and give each other help resolving issues,” said Cassidy Creech, 17, a student at Canton High School who helped form the GSA Alliance. “We basically get a stronger team for GSAs in schools and make our GSA stronger.”

The drive to form the regional alliance came after the loss of a key member of Canton's GSA. Marie Friedow, a senior and native of Germany, was “someone the GSA relied on for emotional support,” Creech said. “She was

someone everyone went to with their problems. If she knew someone was being bullied, she would miss part of her class and would walk with them to stop it.”

Last April, Friedow was killed in a car accident. Students already worn out by the school year fractured apart after the loss of their friend.

“We all changed and matured a lot, but at the same time felt distant from each other,” Creech said. “It was difficult to hold meetings because no one wanted to be there any more. I started to feel like my GSA was falling apart.”

Creech had been attending meetings of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Southeast Michigan, and he spoke with Jane Kelley, GLSEN's co-chair, about the lack of a forum for metro Detroit LGBT students to connect with each other. GLSEN connected Creech with staff at Affirmations; the organization offered him a meeting space, and the call went out to GSA leaders from around the region.

The first meeting, held last November, drew more than 45 attendees from a dozen schools and “was fantastic,” Creech said. “Everyone had this amazing energy that we wanted to get stuff done and work together.”

The GSAA meets every month. The alliance's goal is to be a support system for new GSAs and LGBT teens in high schools that lack such groups. For example, Rochester High School lacks a GSA because the school requires a payment and a minimum number of members; Creech's GSA, through its work in the GSAA, is going to pay for them to get started. And Creech, fellow GSA students, Canton High teachers and administration are working to meet with the administration of a school in Jackson County to smooth the path for a group of students who

want to start an alliance there.

“They're really enthusiastic and energetic,” Kelley said of the GSAA students. “They really know who they are and they're willing to express that. They're bright kids. They work hard. This is something they're doing on top of school.”

Area schools vary widely in support of their LGBT students; by bringing students from across the region together, the GSAA gives students the chance to compare notes about what works and what doesn't.

At Canton High School, for example, the GSA met with the administration regarding the school's policy on public displays of affection. The existing policy was not being equally enforced, Creech said.

“Straight couples were given a voucher to do whatever they like, but as soon as you see an LGBT couple (showing affection), they'd get written up,” he said. “We had our members draw up a possible replacement for the policy. They turned it down because they said it created loopholes, which I don't understand because right now the whole thing's a loophole and serves no purpose. We're going to keep pushing it.”

At Groves High School in Beverly Hills, bullying is not a major issue – which Groves sophomore Chase Stein attributes to a progressive anti-bullying policy that includes gender identity and sexual orientation.

“A lot of schools don't have that,” Stein said. “I've noticed that at schools who don't have a strong policy, bullying is at a greater level.”

Stein is a member of Groves's GSA and represents his group at the GSAA. He said participation in the GSAA “exposes me to the entire LGBT community and allows me to get involved at the highest level I can. It's one of the best ways as a teen to get involved in the

civil rights front that's developing in America right now.”

The students are hoping to make an Alliance-wide contribution to that civil rights effort through a summit for LGBT youth, parents and teachers, to be held March 26 at Groves. Stein said the Alliance is hoping for more than 100 attendees, and expects to be able to offer a professional development credit for teachers. Trainers from GLSEN will host a workshop for parents and educators, while students will attend seminars on topics like religion and being LGBT, event planning and political rights. Creative workshops and film screenings are also on the agenda.

“A lot of students, a lot of teachers really want to know about (the summit), and I think that's really cool,” Stein said. “I definitely think the summit is going to increase visibility across southeast Michigan. Parents and teachers will see what kids really are facing at schools, and I think that's a great thing.”

The GSAA hopes to continue to expand its outreach beyond the summit, Creech said, and help GSAs form statewide.

“We're just southeast Michigan. Maybe we could have a statewide connection,” he said. “We'd also like to have more influence on policies affecting LGBT kids. I just feel the LGBT movement has been dead in Michigan for a long time. We want to show other teens they're not alone. They're growing up with no positive role models.”

“If we present ourselves as a statewide organization, that will show LGBT teens that there are role models,” Creech added. “That you don't have to worry about your future because you're gay.”

Visit www.lgbtsummit.weebly.com for more details.

Conference promotes student activism

More than 1,500 from the Midwest attend three-day event at U-M

BY LUCY HOUGH

ANN ARBOR – This year’s Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference, which took place at the University of Michigan from Feb. 25-27, attracted 1,500 attendees. The conference theme, “justice or just us,” was promoted through workshops and keynote speakers, encouraging the audience of mostly college students to act on change.

The activities of the conference provided a safe place for attendees, according to Mandy Klein, a coordinator for the Alliance of Queer and Ally Students at Michigan State University. She said that students who attended the conference for the first time were enthusiastic about the opportunity to be themselves.

“They really appreciated what it might feel like to be in a world where we didn’t feel any prejudice anymore, and I felt that was a really awesome experience for them to have,” Klein said.

Klein, on her third MBLGTACC conference, said she appreciated the political emphasis of the “justice or just us” theme.

“It was nice that this time there were a lot of workshops that focused on achieving equality for all and sometimes in alternative ways, not ways that we think of right away,” Klein said.

Conference speakers stressed the importance of activism. Mara Keisling, founder of the National Center for Transgender Equality

in Washington, D.C., said that people are most effective toward change if they act for equality, rather than just talk about it.

The final speaker at the closing ceremony, Kris Hayashi, co-executive director of the Audre Lorde Project in Brooklyn, New York, spoke about the project’s work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, transgender, and non-conforming people of color. He addressed the fact that the injustices to all minorities are a part of the same fight.

“It’s particularly exciting to be here in the Midwest in such a historic moment, when tens of thousands of people in Wisconsin are fighting for the right to work, to organize and to survive in this critical time. It’s a historic moment for anyone who believes in liberation, justice and the power of organizing.”

The conference featured not just workshops and speakers, but also social events, including a

“The minority got to be the majority.”

– Randy Brown



Conference attendees, many wearing MBLGTACC conference bags, meet and mingle at U-M Ann Arbor campus last weekend. BTL photo: Tara Cavanaugh.

dance and movie screenings the first night. Attendees used Facebook and Twitter to make new friendships last beyond the three-day event.

“I liked the openness of it, the fact that it drew so many people of this minority, and the minority got to be the majority,” said Randy Brown, a psychology student at Eastern Michigan University. “I liked getting to know people who I can relate to ... we’ve all been through a similar journey together.”

Brown said the conference left him feeling

“energized and hopeful,” and that he, like Klein, benefited from the focus on politics and what’s happening in the LGBT movement.

“I’m not very (knowledgeable) about the current politics or some of the current issues, so it’s nice to be presented with those facts. I think that in itself is a big motivator for change.”

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that MSU would host MBLGTACC in 2013. Next year’s conference will be held at Iowa State University.

EMU: Protecting LGBTQ students and faculty?

Policy grants, then takes back, non-discrimination promises

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

Eastern Michigan University is one of the few state universities that include sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity in its equal opportunity and non-discrimination policy. But its policy also includes some ambiguous language that calls into question just how much protection it truly offers LGBTQ students and faculty.

The language in question is found in the second paragraph of the school’s Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Civil Rights policy (Chapter 3.1.3 of the Employment/Affirmative Action section):

“The sexual orientation, gender identity or expression provision of this policy shall not prohibit the University from maintaining relationships with agencies of the federal government and shall not be applied to conflict with any provisions of the Michigan Constitution. Further, except where approved by separate action of the Board of Regents, the sexual orientation provisions of this policy shall not apply to employment benefits, family housing, financial aid packages and student residency status.”

The first sentence of the policy is one that many state universities have to include, as long

as they offer more protections to LGBT students than the federal government mandates.

But the second sentence of the policy brings up a critical question: Does EMU allow LGBTQ students and faculty to be discriminated against when it comes to employee benefits, housing, financial aid and residency?

BTL talked with EMU’s human resources department over the phone, and exchanged e-mails with the school’s office of legal affairs. Neither HR nor legal affairs explained the effects or intent of the second sentence of the policy.

BTL also provided a copy of EMU’s policy to Judy Hudson, a lawyer from Plymouth, Mich. Hudson said that the second sentence of the policy appears to remove many of the protections provided by the anti-discrimination policy.

“It seems that employees and students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, except in these four ways,” Hudson said. “The right hand seems to be taking away what the left just gave you.”

Hudson said that it is likely that the policy was written in an attempt to comply with the Michigan Supreme Court’s 2008 ruling that made it illegal for state employees to be provided with domestic partner benefits. “It became illegal for public universities to treat same-sex partnerships as marriages, and many universities

“The right hand seems to be taking away what the left just gave you.”

– Judy Hudson

likely scrambled to protect themselves,” Hudson said. Many universities now offer benefits to one “other eligible adult” who shares a household with an employee, instead of a “domestic partner,” because the state Supreme Court says “domestic partner” benefits sound too much like marriage benefits, and marriage in Michigan is restricted to one man and one woman. EMU’s policy was revised to include the language in question on Sept. 22, 2009.

“Although I cannot possibly know what the university’s intentions were,” Hudson said, “my guess is they had no ill intent, but were attempting to comply with the Supreme Court’s ruling. The (court’s) decision likely put them in a quandary.”

But Hudson also noted: “As written,

(EMU’s) policy appears to go further than the state Supreme Court decision would require it to.”

Implications and intents aside, EMU’s advisory board to the president of Student Affairs has started to question the policy. The advisory board is responsible for many progressive changes in policy and was responsible for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression in the non-discrimination policy in the first place. Advisory board member and LGBT program coordinator Mary Larkin said she hopes to have the policy revised.

John Palladino, chairman of the advisory board, is trying to figure out the policy’s implications and intent. “Suffice to say, it is going to be a possible upcoming agenda item at an administrative meeting at the university,” he said, “for some further clarity about what is, at best, being termed the spirit of the law.”

“(The board) doesn’t feel that sentence is even necessary,” Larkin said, “and this is right up our alley.”

“It was likely intended to be benign,” Hudson said. “I just don’t think it ended up that way.”

For more information on EMU from an LGBT perspective, check out BTL’s University Project at www.pridesource.com.

Statussexy.com campaign turns heads

Interactive website encourages HIV/AIDS testing, awareness

BY JACK VANHECKE

The website statussexy.com launched on Valentine's Day this year – but it's not what you'd think.

The website is part of AIDS Partnership Michigan's and the HIV/AIDS Resource Center's latest campaign for combating and treating HIV/AIDS. Instead of posters and PSAs, the campaign is using sex to sell an important message: Get tested.

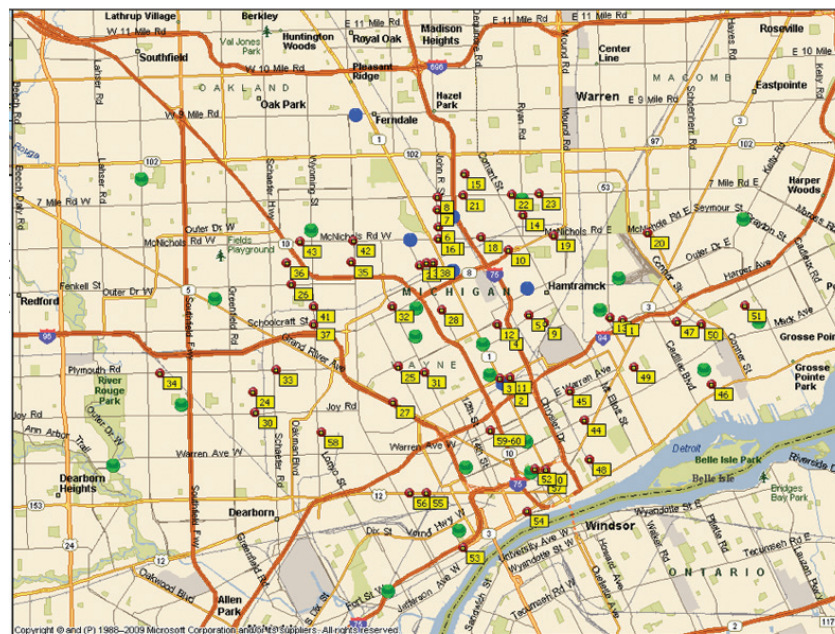
"This is a new-school way of addressing the stigma around HIV/AIDS testing," said Wil Bowen, a community mobilization associate at APM. The campaign will use billboards, online ads, radio ads and an interactive website to capture the attention of the state's highest at-risk population for HIV/AIDS: young African American men who have sex with men.

"This generation is an online generation, so the focus has to be online," said Bowen. Along with listing testing sites, statussexy.com will allow visitors to ask questions in a safe, mediated space. The site will also let visitors tell their own stories by providing space for users' photos, poems, short stories and YouTube videos on the "In Your Own Words" section of the website. Statussexy.com also has its own Facebook page (search for "statussexy.com") and Twitter account (twitter.com/statussexy).

The campaign is funded by a one-year grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health. HARC and APM worked with members of high-risk populations and the professionals who understand them to design a strategy that would mobilize the community to get tested, Bowen said. The focus groups helped design the ad copy, website content and radio scripts to be authentic and appeal directly to the target audience. Bowen said the campaign focuses on risk behaviors rather than identity labels, because not all members of the potential audience may self-identify as gay, same-gender-loving, or bi-attractual.

The campaign's images are intentionally provocative, echo high-fashion, and the website mimics the look of a hook-up site. The supporting billboards and radio spots will run until the end of March.

The attention-grabbing images caused some controversy in Ann Arbor, where the Ann Arbor Transit Authority refused to run the ads on its busses. Dawn Gabay, the deputy CEO of the Ann Arbor Transit Authority, explained the AATA's ad agency, not the authority itself, decided not to run



There are 60 billboards in the Detroit area, strategically located in high HIV-rate zip codes. The billboards selected are near high schools (green dots) and gay bars (blue dots). The billboards are funded by MDCH and the billboard credits read "Photos are for illustrative purposes and do not indicate anyone's health status or sexual orientation." All graphics are courtesy of APM/HARC.

"This is a new-school way of addressing the stigma around HIV/AIDS testing."

– Wil Bowen, AIDS Partnership Michigan

the ads because it was concerned that the ads clashed with AATA's images policy. Gabay also said at the time the ads were proposed, the website wasn't active. She said AATA's ad agency asked APM and HARC for alternative creative content, but did not receive a response.

Jimena Loveluck, president/CEO of HARC, said although she was not

contacted by anyone from the AATA regarding changes, "I know that those of us who are working on this project feel pretty strongly that we didn't want to change the photos or images, because they were specifically chosen by the target population," she said. "It was developed

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Continued from p. 8

in a community-driven way with input from community members – including Washtenaw County – so it seemed really detrimental to the impact of the campaign to change it.”

Advertising is flooded with sexual images, Loveluck said, so why not use those images to promote public health? “We wanted it to be a tasteful campaign, but at the same time we’re talking about sexual transmission of HIV. It’s a fact of life, part of our health and we wanted to do something to impact a population that is disproportionately affected.”

Bowen said so far, reaction from members of the planning groups has been very favorable. On the day of

statussexy.com’s launch, the site had 158 visitors, and has averaged 100 visitors a day since then.

Although funding from the MDCH is for one year, the website and its social networking

sites will continue into the future. Bowen said that as the campaign evolves, the emphasis will not only be on encouraging testing, but also on investigating how the site can be used to motivate those who are positive to access care through APM and HARC. The site’s content is being managed by APM staff, so as the campaign evolves any necessary modifications can be made “in house” and on a timely basis.

Bowen also said that the campaign includes street outreach activities by both APM and HARC staff. The outreach will target clubs and community events selected with input from the

Advertising is flooded with sexual images, Jimena Loveluck (HARC) said, so why not use those images to promote public health?

planning groups. The agencies plans activities for the Prevention Ball at Affirmations and the Pride Prom held at Eastern Michigan University later this year.



NATIONAL: Queer Rising shuts down Manhattan traffic

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

NEW YORK – Queer Rising, an LGBTQ activist organization in New York, staged a protest at the intersection of 42nd Street and 6th Avenue in Manhattan on Tuesday morning, holding a 75-foot banner that read “NY DEMANDS MARRIAGE EQUALITY NOW!”

“It’s a sad thing that I have to go to such extreme lengths for rights that others were born with,” said Frostie Flakes, one of the three arrested drag queens. Flakes was one of the eight who held the banner; all were arrested after refusing to move.

“We do not enjoy inconveniencing drivers on their hectic morning commute,” said Jake Goodman, a member of Queer Rising and another arrestee, “but we less enjoy living

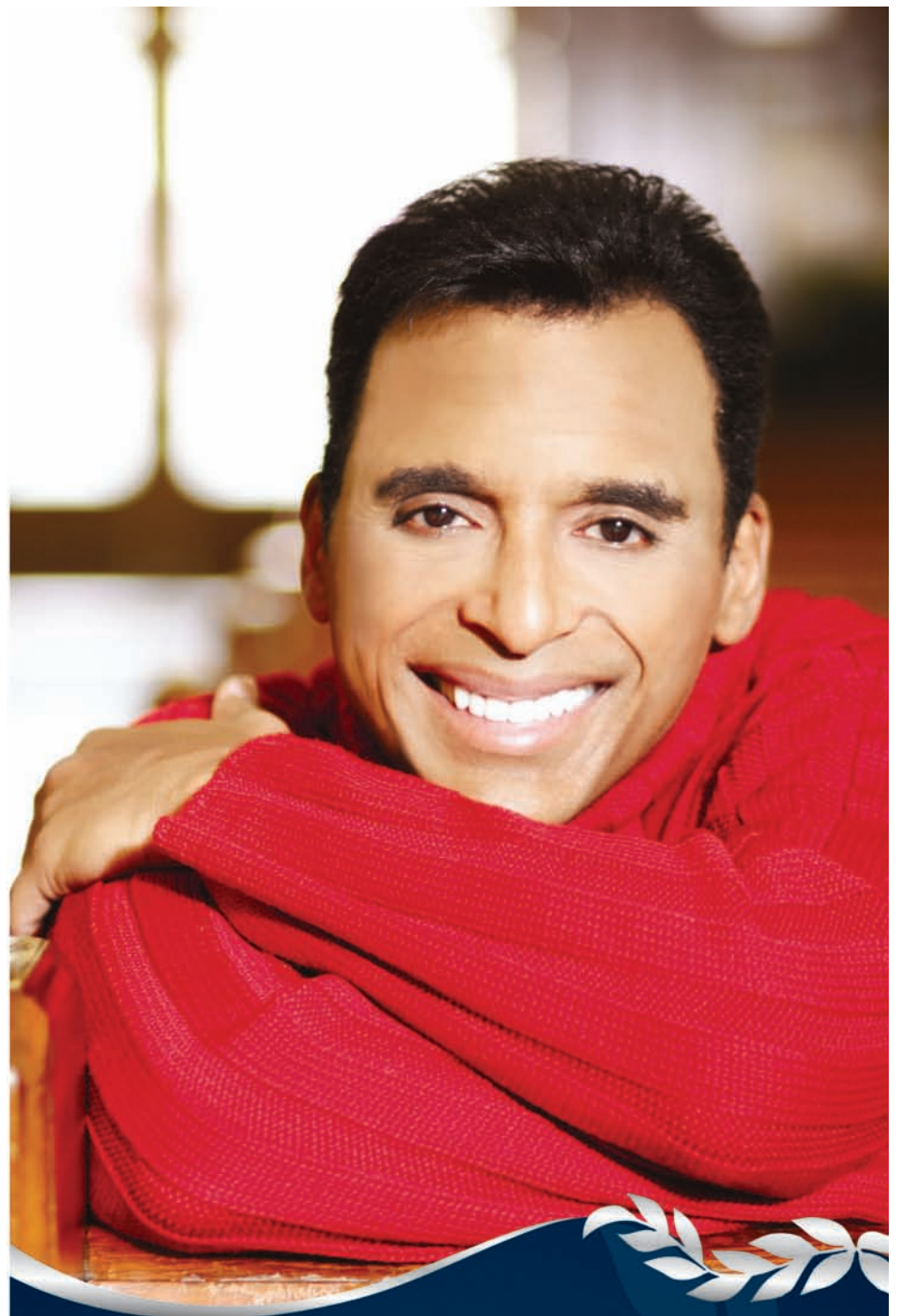
without the 1,324 protections and rights granted by state-recognized marriage. We only hope others stop the routine of their everyday lives to join us and demand marriage equality now.”

Queer Rising points to a recent poll distributed by Quinnipiac University, which shows that 56 percent of New Yorkers support same-sex marriage and only 37 percent oppose.

Those arrested were: Kevin Beauchamp, blind gay activist; Nora Camp, queer activist; Natasha Dillon, lesbian activist; Frostie Flakes (Adam Siciliano), drag queen activist; Jake Goodman, queer activist; Honey LaBronx (Ben Strothmann), drag queen activist; Eugene Lovendusky, gay activist; Kitten Withuip (Caldwell) drag queen activist.

For more information on Queer Rising, visit www.QueerRising.org.

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VIEWPOINT



From Tahrir Square to Hart Plaza

Let's put some motion in our movement at this year's Motor City Pride celebration

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Like the rest of the world, I was glued to the television watching the events in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. The 18-day protest against the rule of former President Hosni Mubarak ultimately led to Mubarak's resignation and put the people of Egypt on the pathway to democracy.

Each day, the number of demonstrators grew, from 50,000 people on Jan. 25 to an estimated million-plus protesters on Feb. 1. Although it was led by the young people, the crowd grew to include Egyptians of all ages, classes and genders. That's right – even women.

They all came out of the closet of repression to demand democracy and the resignation of Mubarak. Even after Mubarak made a speech in an attempt to placate the masses, the protesters stayed in the square demanding that conditions in Egypt get better now, refusing to wait any longer.

They came out by the thousands, day by day. Although there were some reports of violence, it was amazing to see that the mood for the most part was determined, hopeful and even joyous.

When Mubarak finally stepped down, Tahrir Square erupted in a celebration, with shouts such as "Lift your head up high, you're Egyptian." In the days following, Egyptians returned with brooms and paint to clean up the square – men, women and children who loved Egypt, coming together to rebuild.

I was blown away by what I was seeing. In the face of overwhelming odds, possible violence and a myriad of challenges, the Egyptian people said "Enough!" and there was no going back. It was that moment in movement, that tipping point that must occur if there is to be change.

We've seen it before. In 1955 when, sparked by the arrest of Rosa Parks, the Montgomery bus boycott went on for thirteen months that ended with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

The massive bombing campaign against North Vietnam in 1965 gave rise to the anti-war movement with protests and marches that continued until the peace pact between the United States, South and North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in 1973.

But it wasn't just in the past or in Egypt that the winds of change were sweeping the landscape. People were saying "enough" and demanding change throughout the Middle East. It was even making its way to the Midwest, right here in the good old US of A, in Wisconsin where protesters descended upon the state capitol in protest against anti-union legislation proposed by the state's governor, Scott Walker. This action sparked similar protests in state capitols across the country.

The common thread in these protests and others resulting in real change seems to be that moment when people are no longer satisfied to wait for it to get better but take a firm, unwavering, immovable stance that "It gets better now!"

Interestingly, about the same time that the events in Egypt were reaching the high point, the announcement came that Motor City Pride was moving from Ferndale to Hart Plaza.

Still reeling from the rash of suicides from bullying among LGBT youth and the infamous "It Gets Better" media campaign, I had to wonder if our expanded Motor City Pride on June 4 and 5 might provide our community a chance to do something bigger, to stake our claim on equality here in Michigan and say loudly and proudly – "It gets better now!"

Crazy?

Perhaps. But imagine if, from the Detroit Electronic Festival the weekend before, to Motor City Pride and then to the Downtown Hoedown the following weekend,

LGBTQIA doesn't spell separate or special. It spells Detroit in all its diversity, in all its greatness.

we make Hart Plaza ours. I'm not talking raising rainbow flags everywhere, or changing the name from Hart Plaza to Queer Plaza. What I'm talking about is showing up and showing OUT – as OUT and proud members of the metro-Detroit community.

I know it's kind of a scary move to go to downtown Detroit. Like most, I was comfortable in Ferndale. It was safe. Each June we were here, we were queer and they were used to it. But staying safe and comfortable for one day hasn't gotten us very far the other 364 days of the year. We can still be fired for being gay. We are still fighting for an anti-bullying bill with enumerated teeth. We can't get married and our adoption rights are under fire. Need I say more – it's tough being gay in Michigan.

So maybe it's time. It's time that we stand up and tell Michigan that LGBTQIA doesn't spell separate or special. It spells community. It spells neighbor. It spells Detroit in all its diversity, in all its greatness.

This might just be our moment to catch the winds of change in our sails and put some motion in our movement. So come on down to Hart Plaza. Make some new friends while dancing and enjoying the music at the Detroit Electronic Festival and invite them to Motor City Pride. Then show up in your best western hook up the following weekend 'cause we're here, we're queer and everyone needs to just get used to it.

Michelle E. Brown is a community activist, an authentic speaker, a dynamic leader, and a true voice for the African-American LGBT community. Visit her at www.michelleelizabethbrown.com

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BTL EDITORIAL

The kids aren't all right

There's something up with the youth nowadays. The kids aren't all right, and they aren't all right with not feeling all right. Get what we mean? These kids know the world they're growing up in isn't LGBTQ-friendly, and they're decidedly pissed off about it.

But they're more than pissed: they're positive. In this issue of BTL alone, you'll read about Cassidy Creech, the 17-year-old who organized a support group for high school gay/straight alliances, in order to help them influence change in their schools. You'll read about the fifteen-hundred-plus students who attended last weekend's Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference at the University of Michigan. And you'll read about the controversial statussexy.com campaign, an attention-grabbing attempt to get young people tested for HIV/AIDS. It was largely planned with the input of young people, because campaign sponsors knew that youth would have the most effective and provocative ideas to make it go.

This generation is often ridiculed for having a sense of entitlement. But these kids show us that they feel entitled to basic human rights. And if those rights aren't there, they're going to organize, ask, demand and fight to have them.

They're kicking the stereotype of the lazy, indulgent kid to the curb. They're standing up to school boards, teachers, professors and college administrators. They're getting recognition. They're changing the rules. They're gaining acceptance, understanding and love from their parents and peers.

This generation knows life is much different now than it was for their parents. These kids relax by watching sitcoms and

dramas that show gay parents and teens. And they're obsessed with Facebook and Twitter, especially as tools to connect with one another. For them, isolation is a problem of the past. But they also know things could be much better.

They're pissed, they're positive, and they're banding together so that they're no longer powerless. And half these kids still have a curfew. If this is the kind of push they're giving now, as they're growing up, imagine what kind of world they'll create when they are grownups. Imagine what kinds of policies, rules and laws they'll create when they're CEOs, national lawmakers or university presidents.

Something tells us that when that time comes, things will be more than all right.

This generation is often ridiculed for having a sense of entitlement. But these kids show us that they feel entitled to basic human rights. And if those rights aren't there, they're going to organize, ask, demand and fight to have them.

On Motor City Pride's move to Detroit

BY DAVID WAIT, CHAIR OF THE MOTOR CITY PRIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Yes, Motor City Pride is moving to Detroit's Hart Plaza this June. You may have heard a lot about it – we sure have. We want to let readers know that the decision to move took significant deliberation over the past couple of years. After nine years of working with the city of Ferndale to produce the event, our planning committee started exploring the idea of making the festival a larger and more significant occasion. Hart Plaza quickly became the top choice. It is a beautiful, well-known, and popular destination for many. It's a common place for people from across southeast Michigan to celebrate and have fun at festivals throughout the summer. And, it's the perfect place to grow Motor City Pride into an event that is even more inclusive and welcoming.

We understand the considerable implications of the move. Some businesses in Ferndale may not earn as much as in the past. The neighborhood feel will evolve into a big-city feel. But we must remember that this festival isn't about money. It's about celebrating who we are and building an empowering community of LGBT people and allies in our region.

Behind all of this is one goal – to build a strong movement for equality in Michigan. This is simply one event along the way. Our state's political reality is not supportive of LGBT people. The real hard work and debate ahead of us is around changing hearts, minds, and laws. Motor City Pride is a way for us to connect, celebrate, and build community.

will the ever-popular Beer Garden. The Family Area will expand and have grassy areas to allow families the opportunity to relax and take a break during the festival. Hart Plaza also provides us with unique space to have an art exhibit, spaces to empower our youth and an area for us to offer programs and discussions on topics related to advancing LGBT equality. Stay

This festival isn't about money. It's about building an empowering community of LGBT people and allies in our region.

Ultimately, it is through expanding our community that will lead to ending discrimination and hate in Michigan.

Hart Plaza has demonstrated great success as a festival site that draws crowds from throughout southeast Michigan and across the state. Motor City Pride will become a more diverse destination festival. We have confidence that our new location will enhance the event's long-term sustainability while welcoming more individuals into the celebration.

Motor City Pride this year will be a two-day event with a broader lineup of activities. Time devoted to music and stage acts will more than double, the Dance Pavilion will increase in size, as

tuned over the next couple of weeks as we confirm and announce festival details.

We value the input that so many have shared with us directly and indirectly. We are energized by the positive comments, and we are reviewing the criticisms to be sure that the festival provides activities for our diverse community. We're confident that this is an event everyone in the region can be proud of. The planning committee is always open to suggestions and potential collaborations. If you haven't been to an event at Hart Plaza yet, please join us at the riverfront on June 4 and 5 this year. Help us make an incredible atmosphere that inspires and engages our community. We invite you to get involved at www.motorcitypride.org.

BY KIMBERLY JONES, PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK PRIDE SOCIETY

As President of the Black Pride Society, producers of the Midwest's oldest black LGBT pride celebration, Detroit's Hotter Than July, I have to question the motivation behind Equality Michigan and the planning committee of Motor City Pride as they made the announcement regarding the move from Ferndale to Detroit's Hart Plaza. I question its motives because this decision took most area leaders by surprise with many being concerned. I too am concerned about what this means for both pride celebrations especially the pride celebration whose roots have been embedded into Detroit's history: Hotter Than July.

Detroit's Hotter Than July was founded in 1996, feeding the need of the African American LGBT community for self-identity. This black pride celebration mimicked our own cultural celebrations, replicating the Kwanzaa celebration and nurturing our community through the celebration of black culture, self-identity and empowerment. Nationally, there are over thirty official black pride celebrations supported by the International Federation of Black Prides (www.IFBPrides.org). BPS is a proud charter member and each of these independent organizations is purposed with empowering the voice of African American LGBT people across the country.

Building bridges has always been a core value of BPS, providing us the opportunity to strengthen relationships with LGBT and ally constituents

across the region. We have maintained solid relationships with groups such as Affirmations, Ruth Ellis Center, Michigan AIDS Coalition, and Equality Michigan; so, imagine our surprise when the announcement was made that Motor City Pride was moving to downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza. It's unfortunate that the leaders of Equality Michigan chose not to reach out to us before the announcement. It lacked the transparency

moving to Detroit. Unfortunately, the lack of forethought and consideration of the announcement has created confusion and BPS has been fielding these concerns through both telephone and e-mail contacts. Many believe that Hotter Than July has made a major change, though we would never make such a move without our community's input. The community is our lifeblood and purpose.

BPS and our supporters strongly

Why were so many stakeholders left in the dark?

that Equality Michigan claims as one of its core values. The necessary outreach did not occur and do they even care?

As stewards of Detroit's Hotter Than July and in the interest of African American LGBT people in the region, we have many questions and concerns. This decision impacts not just the dynamic between the region's two pride celebrations; it places us on the defense with our sponsors to justify the community's need for two separate pride celebrations. So, what's the real motivation for this change in venue? Why were so many stakeholders left in the dark? Is Equality Michigan sensitive to issues concerning people of color in the region? Is Equality Michigan a genuine ally in improving the quality of life for African American LGBT people in Detroit?

In 2011, Hotter than July turns sixteen and it's easy to think we would have little concern with Motor City Pride

believe that Hotter Than July should remain independently focused on the interest of African American LGBT's in southeast Michigan. We look forward to the opportunity to have this discussion with the organizers of Motor City Pride. We believe it benefits our entire community when leaders and organizers of both prides work together. We are open to rebuilding these bridges so we can all advance equality for all LGBT Michiganders.

This year, BPS will launch "In Our Own Image," a campaign to promote positive images of the city's African American LGBT community and preliminary planning for Hotter Than July has already begun. As we continue our efforts to celebrate and uplift our community we look forward to the community's continued support with all that we do and look forward to seeing you showing your PRIDE.

John Boehner

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Well, he did it. President Barack Obama announced his administration will no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court, essentially firing up the big Gay Bat Signal over America, letting gays know that it's finally safe to come out and wrest marriage away from the poor defenseless heterosexuals.

That DOMA is unconstitutional is really a no-brainer, but for too long the only people willing to say so were people with no power to do anything about it. Finally, there's someone in charge who isn't willing to let his justice department put on an anti-gay dog and pony show just to placate some right-wing assholes. The fact is, pro-DOMA folk already thought Obama was doing a shitty job of defending DOMA.

It's true, Obama just wasn't that into the whole thing. Probably because fighting to keep a law in place that discriminates against a specific minority in this country is kind of the antithesis of everything he campaigned on. Or maybe it's just because things are really messed up right now (Hey there, unemployment rate! Hi, rising gas prices. Afghanistan, how's it going? Hello budget deficit. Global warming, give your mom a kiss for me.) and the prez has priorities.



John Boehner

Thankfully, Congress also has priorities. And under the firm leadership of House Speaker John Boehner, we can rest assured that defending the unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act is likely soon to be priority number one.

"I'm really disappointed in the President and the Department of Justice in the fact that they're not going to defend a law that Congress passed overwhelmingly. It's their responsibility to do that," Boehner told the Christian Broadcasting Network. "Now, it's happened before where administrations have decided they weren't going to go out and vigorously defend a law that Congress passed, but I really am disappointed in the President in his actions, but if the President won't lead, if the President won't defend DOMA then you'll see the House of Representatives defend our actions in passing a bill that frankly passed overwhelmingly."

I was unaware that in order for a law to be constitutional it just needed to be passed "overwhelmingly." I think that over the years the constitutionality of various laws has been decided on other criteria that's, you know, actually based on the Constitution. But those were probably activist judges.

Also, Boehner claims that Obama "won't lead," but isn't that exactly what the president is doing here? Doesn't being a leader sometimes entail making choices that run the risk of being unpopular because of one's own conviction? My guess is that's something pretty foreign to Boehner.

"It strikes me as something that's just as raw politics as anything I've seen," Boehner said. "Knowing that a lot of people who believe in DOMA are probably not likely to vote for him and, uh, pandering to the other side on this issue."

Yeah, that's got to be it. When in doubt, throw the gays a crumb so they keep votin' for ya.

Because Congress can choose to step in and defend DOMA without Obama, Boehner assures CBN viewers, "There are a lot of options on the table."

One of those options is that the House of Reps get their own attorney and defend DOMA in court themselves, an option that Rick "I have a messy Google problem" Santorum favors.

That's something Boehner has already considered. "I'd be very surprised if the House didn't decide that they were going to defend the law," he said.

As would anyone. I mean, how could we possibly expect a Republican-controlled House not to take this super juicy anti-gay bait? I mean, economy-schmonomy. Who cares about people out of work if the specter of two ladies getting hitched looms over our heads.

And who knows? Maybe DOMA is the only thing keeping our economy together. Perhaps Marriage Defending is a much larger sector of the economy than anyone realizes.

Heard on Facebook

What do you think about Facebook's addition of "civil union" and "domestic partnership" to its relationship options?

Kinda legal sounding. Not bad, but glad I don't have to put those down. I personally like the "it's complicated" option.
– Betty Jean Cassidy

"Separate but equal." Hmm. Not sure I like the sound of it.
– Pamela Richards

I love it! We have already changed our status. It lets us show when something is more serious than just in a relationship. Great addition!
– Michelle Fernandez

I think it is a great idea, giving recognition to people in these situations.
– Tobey Brock

I really think it would be nice just to say that I'm married and really be able to have the license to back it up. My partner and I (18 years together) can't get married, so I'm really not concerned what Facebook calls our relationship. I say that I'm in a relationship and that I'm in it with Frank. That's all I need. Don't really have to fit in to any more labels. My marriage is doing quite well and I don't need to have it called something else.
– John N. Gibbs III

LIKE. I look forward to the day when Facebook can take these new additions away and just have "Married." Odd that they didn't add "Common Law" to the choices. That relationship descriptor still exists in the "Divided States of America."
– Court-in Session

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

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

– *First Amendment, U.S. Constitution*

S/he said Law and LGBT rights

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Jon W. Davidson

"This is a monumental turning point in the history of the quest for equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The President and the Attorney General recognized today what we have been saying in court since the day we opened our doors: Discriminating against people on the basis of sexual orientation should be presumed to be unconstitutional and unconstitutional laws should not be defended. It is past time for DOMA to become only an ugly part of our nation's history."

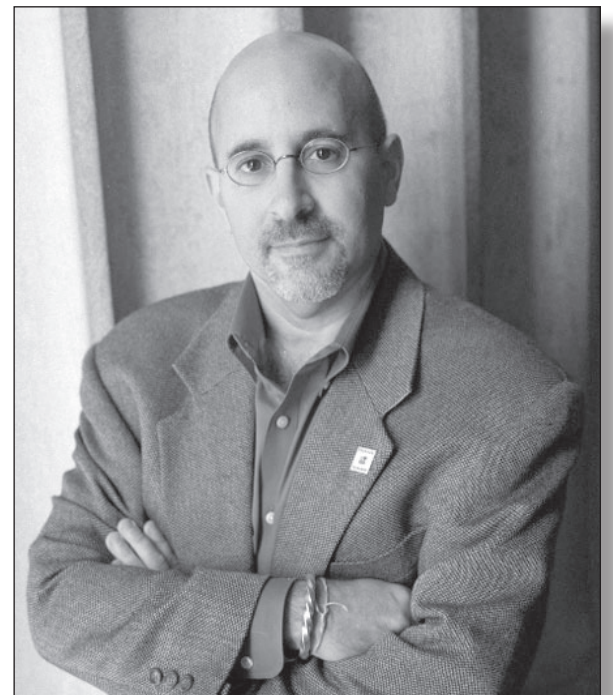
– Jon W. Davidson, legal director of Lambda Legal, in a press release titled Lambda Legal Applauds DOJ Announcement that it Will No Longer Defend Defense of Marriage Act, lambdalegal.org, Feb. 23.

"I feel like the lives and the experiences of LGBT folks goes unrecognized and is often misrepresented. I thought it was important to get an explanation and their stories out so we could have a fuller understanding of race-based prosecution and punishment in the U.S. Many of the LGBT people who we see ensnared in the system are LGBT people of color."

– Joey L. Mogul, attorney, co-author of "Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States," a groundbreaking book about the harsh experiences of LGBT and sexual and gender nonconforming people, and LGBT youth in the criminal legal system, nytimes.com, Feb. 17.

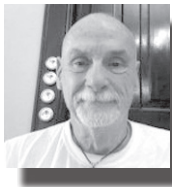
"I'm not religious. I don't especially care if other people are. But let's be clear: anti-discrimination measures are not my attempt to force an atheist-liberal-homosexual agenda on an unsuspecting populace. It's an attempt to create and maintain a pluralistic society, where everyone has equal dignity and rights under the law. Believe it or not, those who fight for equality are fighting for YOU, dear religious people of the world. By ensuring the rights of the most persecuted, we ensure that YOU cannot be fired for being a particular race or religion or sex or whatever else. Because that's how we do things here. We brook no foolishness. Are you a nice person? Are you doing your job? Are you peacefully living your life? Great. Because that's all that's supposed to matter."

– Mindy Townsend, in her column titled "Will Kansas Be Known as a Haven for Anti-LGBT Discrimination?," about the backlash by "family values czars" in Kansas who are pushing a bill that would stop progress toward LGBT equality, news.change.org, Feb. 18.



"You can't say you are for equality and yet acquiesce in exclusion from the central social and legal institution of this and virtually every society. All prejudice, all discrimination, is painful and wrong, but as Dr. King knew, the worst kind of discrimination, the most intolerable, is discrimination by the government itself against any group of us. The denial of the freedom to marry is state-sponsored discrimination against gay people, and we must end it."

– Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, in his speech titled "Is the Freedom to Marry Inevitable?," given at University of Michigan Law School's 25th MLK Symposium, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, freedomtomarry.org, Jan. 17.



Parting Glances

Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Leave diapers behind!

It was bound to happen sooner or later. After 40 years of the spearheading Ex-Gay Movement – founded in 1970 during the onset of the so-called Sexual Revolution – heterosexuals are finally demanding equal time to change their sexuality.

Statistically a growing number of American straights say they have had it with being heterosexual and want out – in a new sense of the word.

They've come to question what heterosexuality has done to them, their families, their friends. Many feel that heterosexuality – with its hypocritical denigration of religious principles and traditional sacraments – is a ho-hum, shameful sham. (Only a questionable tax incentive keeps them to task.)

According to The Society for Regional and Urban Coitus Interruptus, as many as ten percent of women and 3 percent of men are unhappy, "mentally, morally, misanthropically" tired of a genetic function they did not actually choose at birth.

"Shocking as these radical statistics are – they include a nationwide sampling bracketed by 983.5 reasonably sane warm bodies, ages 16 to 90, in non-clinical or homeland security settings – this alarming state of affairs should come as no big surprise to anyone," reports Coitus Interruptus straight forwardly.

"Factors contributing to this sexual about face are many, growing, unabating. Fifty percent of marriages end in divorce, an untoward number of fathers are absent, deadbeat, unwilling to pay child support. Spousal abuse is rampant. Sex education or birth control techniques, unavailable or withheld.

"Good role models are few and far between. Sarah Palin, Mel Gibson, the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, Lady Gaga notwithstanding. The crisis, fortunately, is being attended to. Reparative Therapy, long applied to gays exclusively, will now give sincere straights equal, varied, and ongoing opportunities to pursue a quest for personal fulfillment as living, breathing, functional asexuals."

To that end, the innovative RT program, called Impotency Straight, an offshoot of Sexodus International, is being tried in three key cities where straight discontent is greatest: San Francisco, New York City, Salt Lake City.

Once the program is underway, similar RTIS programs will be federally or state funded in suburban venues where hetero unrest is seen as a likely source for future discontent. (Unfortunately in Michigan, newly elected Gov. Snyder's tight budget precludes Lansing funding. Unless, of course, the problem gets democratically out of hand, so to speak.)

According to Impotency therapist Dr. James-Luke Twelvetees III, "Heterosexuals who in the past have had unsatisfactory encounters with unloving, too hastily, unpowdered, diaper changes by alternating non-religious, unbiblically versed parents, siblings – or, worse, teen rapper babysitters – are candidates for sexual alienation, anger (and reoccurring boom box induced anxiety rashes).

"While there's no simple cure – if you're not happy with who you are, change takes time: unhappy weeks, months, years, maybe a lifetime. We at Impotency Straight have found that attending three, four, or, if need be, five, six or seven group, three-hour therapy sessions a week can be helpful. And habit forming.

"Through prayer, same gender hugging, same gender association during RT meetings, and once-a-month (or weekly) one-on-one, mentored diaper-and-talc, free association, shared biblical dream analysis, the goal of sustained asexuality can be a viable option, a fully respectable alternative to active heterosexual engagement."

Does Impotency Straight actually work? Frankly, it's a little too soon to expect statistical verification. If the program is anything like ex-Gay Sexodus, it's questionable. Many in Sexodus discover they're bisexual. Many realize that straight or gay – sadly perhaps – but face it, kiddo! – nobody's interested in them one way or the other.

Most conclude that no matter what they hope, how hard they try, they're still who they think they shouldn't be. Week after week they play the waiting game for the big change that rarely comes. (Life is what it isn't, when it was what it wasn't.) Straight or gay, get on with it. Be yourself. Live a little. Live a lot! Self-loathing comes with a price very few can afford.



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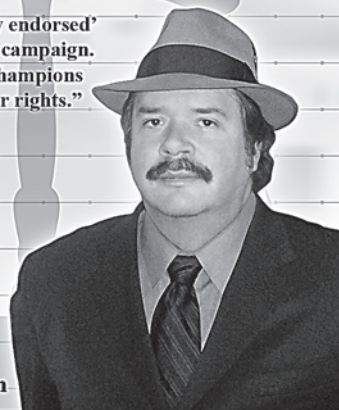
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Olson & Boies: Let Calif. gays marry right now

Lawyers file motion to lift ban on marriage

BY REX WOCKNER

American Foundation for Equal Rights lawyers Ted Olson and David Boies filed a motion with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Feb. 23 asking that it immediately lift its order preventing same-sex marriages in California.

That order, issued in August 2010, temporarily blocked an injunction from U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker that barred further enforcement of Proposition 8.

“It’s unreasonable and decidedly unjust to expect California’s gay and lesbian couples to put their lives on hold.”

– Ted Olson

analysis by the California Supreme Court, substantial additional, indefinite and unanticipated delays lie ahead. It’s unreasonable and decidedly unjust to expect California’s gay and lesbian couples to put their lives on hold and suffer daily discrimination as second-class citizens while their U.S. District Court victory is debated further.”

The huge delay was introduced into the case Feb. 16 when the California Supreme Court agreed to answer a question sent to it by the 9th Circuit. The federal court asked the state court if the people who put Proposition 8 on the ballot have any legal right, under California law, to be in court arguing to overturn Walker’s decision.

The California Supreme Court’s answer would be taken into consideration by the 9th Circuit judges when they decide whether to grant the Proposition 8 supporters federal “standing” to appeal. Those proponents need standing because everyone who was sued in the federal Proposition 8 case, including California’s governor and attorney general, have refused to defend it.

The problem in all this, for Olson, Boies and AFER, is that in agreeing to answer the 9th Circuit’s question, the California Supreme Court indicated that it won’t even hear oral arguments on the issue until September at the earliest. AFER also has filed documents asking the California Supreme Court to speed up its process for answering the question.

If the Proposition 8 supporters ultimately are found to have no standing to appeal Walker’s ruling, then the 9th Circuit won’t hear the case. That would most likely allow Walker’s ruling to take effect and same-sex couples to marry again in California.

The federal standing question, however, could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. So could a decision by the 9th Circuit to grant Olson and Boies’ request that it lift the stay on Walker’s injunction.

It has been 203 days since Proposition 8 was found to violate the U.S. Constitution -- and yet not one same-sex couple has been allowed to marry in California in those 203 days because of actions by 9th Circuit judges.

“After a full trial, the U.S. District Court ruled unequivocally that Proposition 8 violates the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law and harms thousands of gay and lesbian couples and their families,” said AFER Board President Chad Griffin. “While the courts determine procedural questions, gay and lesbian families will continue to suffer. Life is not eternal -- sometimes it is tragically short -- and courts should not act as if it were otherwise. Today we are requesting the California Supreme Court to quickly resolve the issue of standing, and the 9th Circuit to allow marriages to resume.”

Obama stops defending DOMA

Announcement called ‘beginning of the end’ of discriminatory laws

BY LISA KEEN

The Obama administration made a blockbuster announcement Feb. 23, saying it has concluded that one part of the Defense of Marriage Act will not be able to pass constitutional muster in the 2nd Circuit and that the Department of Justice would not defend that part of the law in two pending cases in that circuit.

It was a dramatic, unexpected, and significant move by the Obama administration and one that could trigger maneuvers by DOMA supporters to appoint an intervenor to defend the law. But beyond the eventual legal consequences of the announcement, the political impact was characterized by most LGBT leaders as historic.

“This is a monumental turning point in the history of the quest for equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people,” said Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell put it even more strongly.

“The President’s leadership on this issue has forever changed the landscape for LGBT people in this country,” said Kendell. “For the first time, the President and the Department of Justice have recognized that laws that harm same-sex couples cannot be justified. This is the beginning of the end, not just for the mean-spirited and indefensible Defense of Marriage Act, but for the entire panoply of laws that discriminate against same-sex couples.”

Attorney General Eric Holder announced Feb. 23 that the DOJ would not defend the constitutionality of Section 3 of DOMA in two of the four cases where that section of the law is currently under challenge. Those two cases are Pedersen v. OPM, filed by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and Windsor v. United States, filed by the ACLU.

Two other cases in the First Circuit also challenge Section 3, which prohibits federal recognition of any same-sex marriage, as does a more narrow case, Golinski v. OPM, in the 9th Circuit, at the district court level.

DOMA Section 2, which enables states to ignore valid marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples from other states, has not yet been challenged in court and Holder made no reference to it.

Since entering the White House, Obama has said that DOMA should be repealed, but his administration continued to defend the law, saying, through various spokespersons, that Obama was concerned about setting a precedent that would make it easier for some future administration to pick and choose which laws it would defend.

Last summer, asked whether there isn’t a difference between enforcing

existing laws and defending them in court, his domestic policy chief, Melody Barnes, said the president believed DOMA and “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to be “discriminatory” but that he had not yet “made an argument” concerning their constitutionality.

“[W]e believe we have an obligation to defend the law if Congress had a rational basis for passing the law,” said Barnes.

In his announcement, Attorney General Holder noted that the administration would still defend DOMA Section 3 in the two First Circuit cases because the First Circuit has ruled that rational basis is sufficient justification for treating people differently based on their sexual orientation. (He was apparently referring to the unsuccessful class action case challenging “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”). But Holder also noted that DOJ attorneys would argue that the court should, instead, apply a stricter test for DOMA.

Lambda Marriage Project Director Jenny Pizer said the First Circuit would make its own decision about whether to adopt Holder’s view.

“Any court is going to make its own determination about what the law requires,” said Pizer. “The government is usually given particular credence, but it is always the court’s job to decide what the law requires.” But Pizer noted that the increasing volume of voices declaring the injustice of DOMA can have an influence, particularly given that the arguments made in support of DOMA “are not even coherent.”

It is possible – just as happened in California with Proposition 8 – that some other entity might attempt to mount its own defense of DOMA in the pending cases. Last October, U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, filed a motion in the two First Circuit cases, seeking to be named intervenor-defendant. Smith,

aided by the right-wing Alliance Defense Fund, said at the time that the DOJ was providing “no defense at all” for DOMA. He withdrew his motion a few weeks later, without comment.

Lambda’s Pizer said she thinks it is “very likely” someone will ask the First Circuit for permission to serve as a defendant-intervenor in the DOMA cases. And she noted Congress has the authority to appoint its own counsel to defend the law. Such was the development in the California same-sex marriage case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*. The federal district court allowed the group that sought passage of Proposition 8, *Yes on 8*, to defend the law at trial. The 9th Circuit recently asked the California Supreme Court to determine whether any state law gives *Yes on 8* the authority to appeal that district court decision in the federal appeals court.

A three-judge panel of the First Circuit is currently receiving written briefs from both sides in the DOMA cases and, presumably, will now receive a written brief from DOJ arguing that DOMA Section 3 should meet a heightened standard of review.

NCLR’s Minter said he believes the law “can’t survive” that standard.

ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU, which has filed one of the Second Circuit cases, praised President Obama for doing “the right thing.” Romero said President Obama’s action has “just propelled gay rights into the 21st century, where it belongs. Our government finally recognizes what we knew 14 years ago – that the so-called ‘Defense of Marriage Act’ is a gross violation of the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection before the law. DOMA betrays core American values of fairness, justice and dignity for all, and has no place in America.”

Maryland Senate passes same-sex marriage bill

BY REX WOCKNER

Maryland’s Senate passed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage Feb. 24. The vote was 25-21.

“This is a historic and proud moment in Maryland’s history,” said lead sponsor Sen. Rob Garagiola. “I am confident that the Free State will realize full marriage equality in 2011.”

The bill now goes to the House of Delegates, where the vote could be close. Gov. Martin O’Malley has vowed to sign the bill if it arrives on his desk. Maryland has a law similar to the one that was used in Maine to overturn the legislature’s legalization of same-sex marriage there in 2009. If enough voter signatures are collected, a recently passed law can be subjected to a voter referendum and canceled out. The earliest that such a measure could appear on the ballot in Maryland is November 2012.

Same-sex marriage is legal in five states: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, and also Washington, D.C.



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Irish support same-sex marriage

Sixty-one percent of the Irish support legalization of same-sex marriage, according to a new Irish Independent/Millward Brown Lansdowne survey. Only 27 percent oppose it.

Support is strongest among young people, women, Labour voters and Dubliners. It is weakest among people over 65 and farmers.

Ireland has a civil-partnership law that provides same-sex couples with many of the rights and obligations of marriage, but gay campaigners say separate is not equal.

Trinidad and Tobago debates same-sex unions

The Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago is in the midst of a debate about recognition of same-sex unions.

The matter arose when some senators objected to the fact that same-sex couples are excluded from proposed amendments to a law that pays a month's salary to the next of kin of a civil servant who passes away.

The amendments reportedly will add unmarried opposite-sex partners and children born out of wedlock.

The local group Coalition Advocating for the Inclusion of Sexual Orientation said it was surprised by the political debate and had not considered proposing recognition of same-sex unions at this juncture, given that local LGBT people have more basic concerns.

The organization suggested that the government decriminalize gay sex, address anti-gay discrimination, deal with hate crimes and homelessness, train homophobic police officers, and make schools safer for LGBT people.

Gay guesthouses investigated

Following the recent case in which a straight Christian couple were fined because they refused to rent a room in their bed-and-breakfast to a gay couple, the United Kingdom government now will investigate whether gay hotels and guesthouses have violated the same ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations.

Although there have been no complaints against any gay venue, the Equality and Human Rights Commission said gay-only lodgings would be subject to similar legal action if they were found to be violating the law.

Belarus president told German foreign minister to turn straight

Last November in Minsk, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko suggested to German Minister of Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle that he should cease being gay.

Lukashenko recently acknowledged the incident, telling reporters that he dislikes "faggots" and confirming he told Westerwelle "it is necessary to live a normal life."

Russian gay activist Nikolai Alekseev expressed surprise that there was little reaction to the incident from German gay activists or the German government.

"To leave without reaction what Lukashenko said is nothing else than setting a dangerous precedent," Alekseev said. "If he can bash verbally a German minister on his sexual orientation, then why he would not do it with all Belarusian LGBT people. People have to understand that their absence of reaction can have some negative side effects to others."

Portugal approves pro-trans policies

Portugal's Parliament on Feb. 17 approved a law making life easier for transsexuals.

Within a couple of weeks, those who want to change their name or legal sex can go to a civil registry office with medical proof of "gender identity disorder" and officials must process the

changes within eight days.

There is no requirement of sex-reassignment surgery as a prerequisite to making the changes.

Alterations in the Marriage Registry, however, can be made only with written consent of the spouse or ex-spouse, and changes to a birth certificate of an individual's adult child require the child's approval.

Jamaican gay bar raided

Police raided the only gay bar on the touristy Hip Strip in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on Feb. 20, according to the Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays, or J-FLAG.

Around 20 officers kicked in doors, shouted anti-gay slurs, beat and pistol-whipped patrons and made everyone leave, J-FLAG said.

As the customers fled, patrons of nearby straight clubs pelted

On Feb. 25, Jamaican gay rights activist Maurice Tomlinson received an e-mailed death threat after his letter to the editor about the raids was published in a local newspaper.

them with bottles and rocks, J-FLAG said.

Ten of the raid's victims sought medical treatment for injuries sustained in the attack, according to J-FLAG.

There was a similar raid in early February at a gay club in Kingston, the capital.

Officials have provided no explanation for either incident.

On Feb. 25, Jamaican gay rights activist Maurice Tomlinson received an e-mailed death threat after his letter to the editor about the raids was published in a local newspaper.

The signed e-mail said: "listen battyman we in jamaica wont endorse r accept you faggots no matter what the fuck u guys try 2 say r do....get that through ur thick skulls!!!!!!!!!!!!!! we have different culture n upbringing fr north americans or whomever else....you should consider moving sumwhere there.....in the meantime shut the fuck up r you will fucking die!!!!!!!!!!"

Tomlinson reported the e-mail to police and an official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He requested that the threat be publicized "just in case anything happens to me."

Tomlinson is a legal adviser for the organization AIDS-Free World and also works with J-FLAG.

Slovenian government proposes legalization of same-sex marriage

Human Rights Watch on Feb. 25 urged Slovenia's Parliament to adopt a new Family Code proposed by the government that includes legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption.

"In recent years many European states have extended civil marriage and adoption rights to same-sex couples," said Boris Dittrich, acting head of HRW's LGBT Rights Program. "The proposed Family Code is Slovenia's chance to join others in Europe in enabling same-sex couples to participate fully in family life."

Brazilian government launches homophobia helpline

Brazil's government launched a homophobia helpline Feb. 19 to deal with complaints of anti-gay discrimination and violence. Brazilians can dial 100 from any phone.

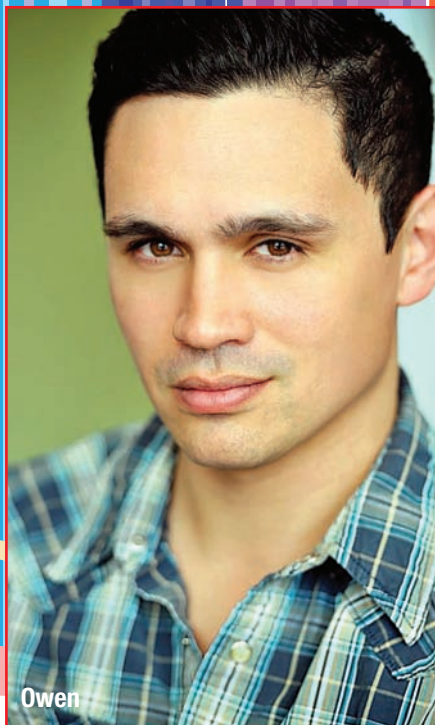
The launch ceremony featured an official from the nation's Human Rights Secretariat, the Senate first vice president, Sao Paulo's human rights secretary, and a federal congressman, among others.

The celebration ended with a March Against Homophobia along Sao Paulo's Avenida Paulista. About 1,000 people joined in.

BORN THIS WAY



Carlease



Owen



Poppy



Sandra



Getting to know the ComedyFest stand-ups – and their love for Lady Gaga

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Imagine all the gay jokes told in the last 15 years of Michigan's Lesbian and Gay ComedyFest, Equality Michigan's annual laugh-out-loud event. Get ready for more at 6 and 9:30 p.m. March 5 at Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center when another funny foursome deliver their own brand of queered-up comedy.

They're all from California, but otherwise Carlease Burke, Sandra Valls, Owen Alabado and past ComedyFest performer Poppy Champlin have a different story to tell. Folks, meet this year's comedians:

How old are you?

OWEN: 31. I know I look like I am a lot younger; thanks for saying that. My mom had me with a Filipino.

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CARLEASE: If I told you, you wouldn't believe me.

POPPY: I've hit the big 50, but I say 50 is the new 30. Yeah, right – just like middle class is the new poverty. Ha!

SANDRA: Juvenile.

What was your first stand-up gig like?

OWEN: I auditioned for The Comedy Store (in

L.A.) and they booked me the next day. It was probably the most nervous I have ever been.

CARLEASE: The first time I ever did stand-up was the end result of taking a comedy class. Everyone showcased at a comedy club, and it was filled with friends, family and other classmates. It was the safest environment a comic could ever have.

POPPY: I was going to play at Paco's Tacos in Wakefield, R.I., and I was booked to do it and when I got there it was closed, so I did my show outside under a street light. I got a standing ovation... because there were no chairs.

SANDRA: It was in Harvard Square in Cambridge, Mass., above a Chinese restaurant at a club called The Comedy Studio. I was so nervous that I memorized my whole set word for word, like a monologue. I can't eat Kung

Pao Chicken without thinking of comedy!

What do other people often say about you?

OWEN: I am the best gay they know.

CARLEASE: Delightful. Crazy.

POPPY: Dynamic, witty, intelligent, talented and high-energy. Like a hurricane of laughter.

SANDRA: My friends say I'm the most loyal person in the world, plus ADD and anal. My girlfriend says I'm ADD and OCD, but an amazing girlfriend and lover. My fans say I'm fucking brilliant!

If I had a million dollars, I would...

OWEN: Buy my friend, Joel, a personality.

See ComedyFest, page 18

► **ComedyFest**

Continued from p. 17

CARLEASE: Do anything I damn well pleased.

POPPY: Get a place in the Caribbean.

SANDRA: Pay Stevie Nicks to let me sing a duet with her.

Lady Gaga or Britney Spears?

OWEN: Lady Gaga, because she wears things only a crazy person would wear. And she sings a lot better. Though she stole my idea for a song about a telephone, I still love her.

CARLEASE: Lady Gaga. She's fierce, fearless and outrageous.

POPPY: I wouldn't do either one of 'em. But if I had to choose which one I liked best I would go Gaga cause she is more my age and way off. Ya gotta respect people that are out there and making their mark.

SANDRA: Stevie Nicks.

I'm so gay, I...

OWEN: Cried when I watched every episode of the first season of "Glee" on DVD. Oh, and I just bought the entire DVD set of "The Golden Girls."

CARLEASE: Have a bisexual boyfriend.

POPPY: Moved from Los Angeles to Rhode Island to be closer to my girlfriend.

SANDRA: I clean the garage religiously. I actually look forward to it.

Scissor Sisters: Fun... and filthy/gorgeous

"I Don't Feel Like Dancin'," the Scissor Sisters encore at their Feb. 27 show at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, wasn't how the nearly sold-out crowd felt when the glam-pop band played for a brisk hour and 45 minutes. The band, headed by the beefier-than-ever Jake Shears, sprinkled fan favorites like "Filthy/Gorgeous" and "Tits on the Radio" into their setlist, which leaned heavily on songs from their latest album, "Night Work." Flamboyant costume changes that'd make Cher weep (including Shears in a catsuit) and off-the-wall banter aside, groupie Ana Matronic tearing into the venue's security for not noticing a drunk girl down in the front was a definite highlight. Two days later, on March 1, the band opened for Lady Gaga at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. BTL photos: Andrew Potter





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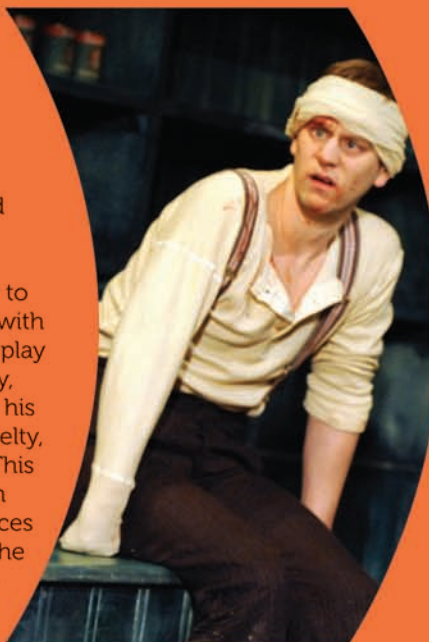
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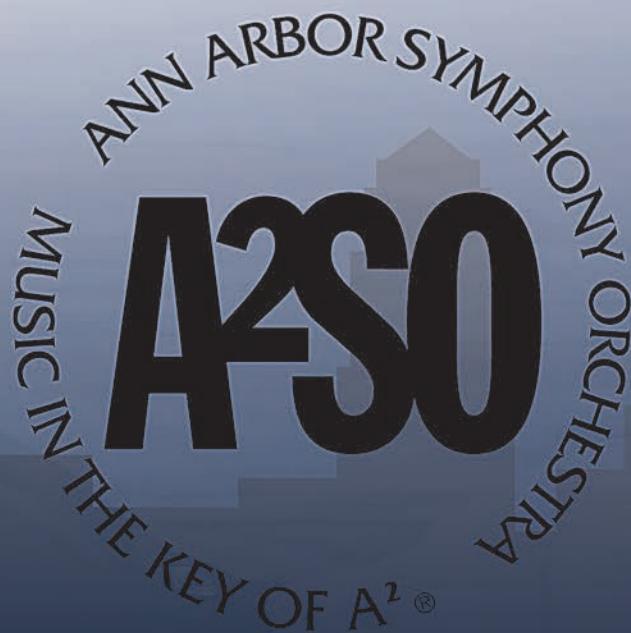
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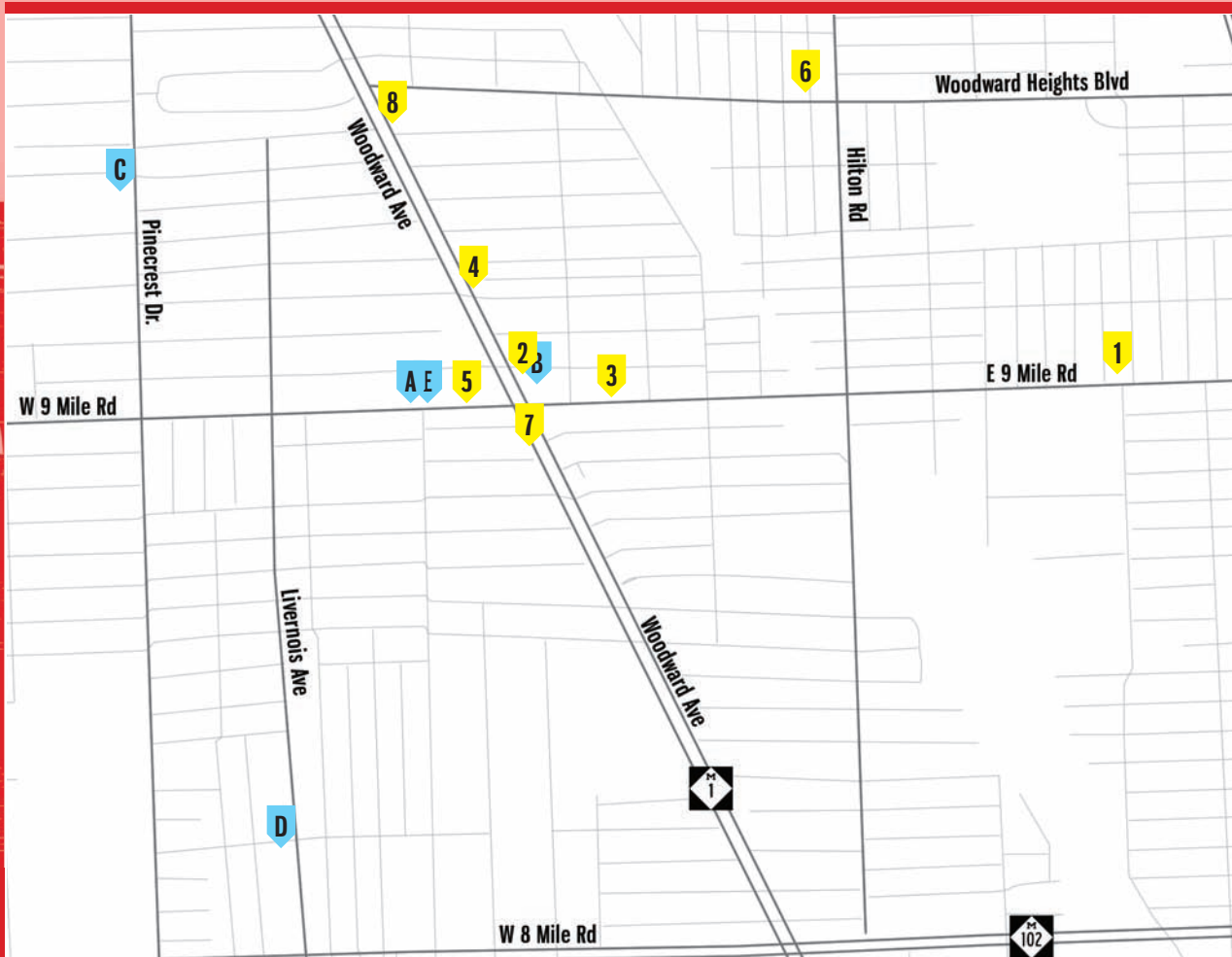
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Bites benefit nonprofits with Taste of Ferndale

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

It all started back in 2003, when a resident donated a house to Ferndale with the proceeds to be used for local charities. City leaders at the time hired longtime Ferndale resident and Real Estate broker Judy Palmer to assist them with the sale, while others formed The Ferndale Community Foundation to encourage more community giving. "That was the 'seed money' to help establish our endowment," Palmer said. "From that, I was asked to join the board; I graciously accepted."

Palmer is one of a dozen citizens who serve on the Board of the Community Foundation as they prepare for their grand annual fundraising spectacular The Taste of Ferndale. The taste-fest, from 6-9 p.m. March 8 at Via Nove Restaurant, includes samples from many local businesses, live music from The Metro Jazz Voices, and a large silent auction for \$30. The event is presented this year by Garden Fresh Gourmet, whose generosity ensures that this year's event will be even better than ever.

Some of the participating samplers include Anita's Kitchen, B. Nektar, Christine's Cuisine, Cantina Diablo's, The Emory, WAB (Woodward Avenue Brewers), Hilton Road Café, Howe's Bayou, Inyo, MiChigo, Pete's Place, Rosie O'Grady's, Treat Dreams, Via Nove and Western Market.

"Our endowment has allowed us to give back to the community over \$35,000 in grant funds to many nonprofit organizations in our area," Palmer said. "I am honored and proud



Judy Palmer with Community Foundation president Daniel Martin. Photo: Crystal A. Proxmire

to give back to my community. Remember: It's not just Ferndale, it's Fabulous, Friendly, Fashionable Ferndale, the 'Cool City'!"

Community Foundation Board president Dan Martin said he is looking forward to this year's fundraiser because of the way it brings

people together. "At least half of the people who come aren't from Ferndale. It's such a great way to show the restaurants off, and what we do, to people outside of the city. It gives such a broad view of the community."

After the event, board members will work

on ways to support local nonprofits in other ways as well. "There are over 120 nonprofits in Ferndale," he said, noting that the number included churches as well as other groups. "We need to really focus on the sustainability of nonprofits in Ferndale as the economy worsens. Hopefully we can come up with projects that will help multiple nonprofits, and maybe find ways to share resources."

Julia Music, who joined the board last month, said she is excited to be part of the Community Foundation. "I became involved because I feel that nonprofit organizations enhance our community. FCF gives me the chance to help these organizations grow, which will lead to Ferndale's continued growth. My family and I have chosen Ferndale as our home. We want all who live here to feel that they have a chance to make a difference through working or volunteering for some of our outstanding nonprofits."

A member for over a year, Matt Nowaczok said, "I got involved as this organization serves the broader good for Ferndale. It touches so many lives and provides a solid foundation for all start-up nonprofits in the community."

For more information on The Ferndale Community Foundation, visit ferndalecommunityfoundation.org. To see a list of charities that have benefitted from FCF grants, see ferndalecommunityfoundation.org/grants.

This story originally appeared Ferndale 115 (www.ferndale115.com).

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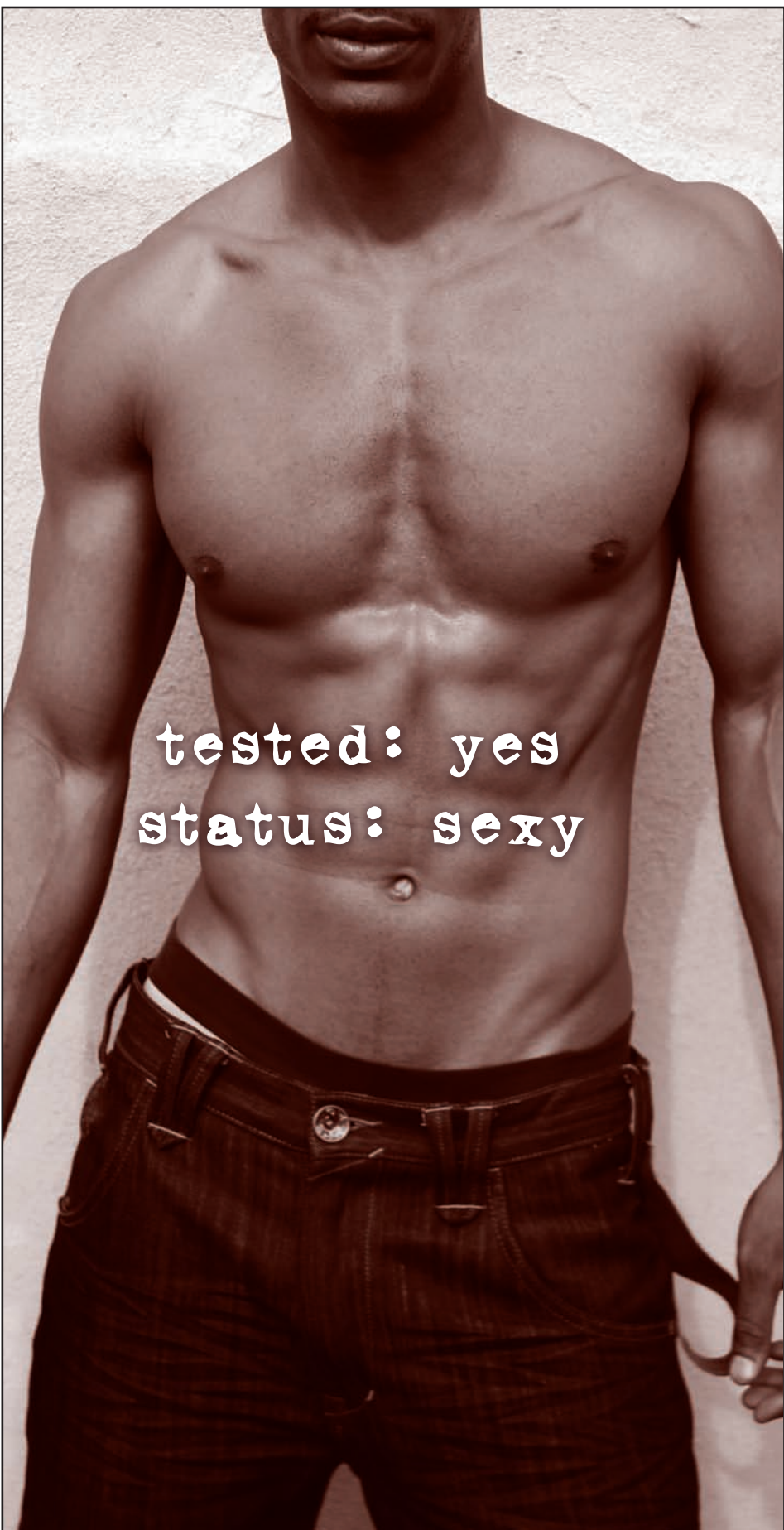
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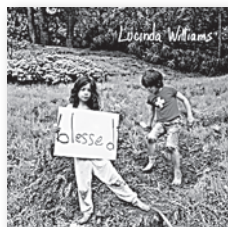
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Adele dodges sophomore slump on '21.' Plus: Lucinda Williams' 'Blessed' 10th album



Adele, '21'

So much has been said about the big British music boom, but Duffy's drab sophomore album was D.O.A. and Amy Winehouse drank herself into oblivion. But Adele Adkins, with the wowing voice and girl-everyone-likes appeal, sings like she's here to stay on her post-"19" release. Taking off two years after delivering her debut (the title represents the age at which she wrote it), "21" reflects a tumultuous split that left her with a broken heart and 11 songs, all done-up by a slick team of Top-40 producers. The blitzing first, "Rolling in the Deep," has thunderous bite as its acoustic guitar bursts into a surging old-school soul song with some mad vocals ripping into her ex-lover: "Go ahead and sell me out and I'll lay your shit bare." Tell us how you really feel, Adele. And, well, she does, either trying to shake love's memories on "Set Fire to the Rain" or, with "Turning Tables," walking away from a wrecking relationship. Wronged-woman balladry is the album's primary pursuit, with numbers like "Take It All," featuring a stunning bridge and choir; an intimate bossa nova cover of the Cure's "Lovesong"; and showstopper "Someone Like You," a wrenching, repeat-worthy torch song with enough conviction penetrating her colossal wail to crush you into itty-bitty pieces. It's the voice of a classic in the making. *Grade: A-*



Lucinda Williams, 'Blessed'

Three decades in and Lucinda Williams still isn't letting you down easy. 2007's self-reflective "West" grieved her mother's death, and though its aggressive follow-up, "Little Honey," served as a nice breather, she's back to ripping into you with her 10th album. Suicide is the subject of "Seeing Black," but it doesn't sound as sad as it should. It's confused and inquisitive, asking why and how over Elvis Costello's driving guitar licks. Hauntingly portraying the familial horrors of war, "Soldier's Song," however, shoots right through you. Both are among her best work, up there with tracks off her career benchmark "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road." "Kiss Like Your Kiss" is too with the transcendent beauty of its romantic evocation, one rich with imagery and a sweetly restrained Williams singing as if she's not drunk. That husky slur, however, is still one of the Americana legend's finest assets, and it works well when she snarls on "Buttercup," a blistering bluesy rocker, and while piping over a grungy guitar rollick on "Convince Me." She doesn't have to convince us; the songs, from "Don't Know How You're

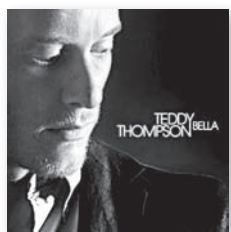
Livin'" to the powerful "Copenhagen," do so on their own, as Williams sounds wiser, like she's finally ready to look out instead of in. Years of heartbreak will do that to you. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Lykke Li, 'Wounded Rhymes'

"Dance while you can" is the lyrical creed off one of the best cuts, "Love Out of Lust," from the Swedish chanteuse's follow-up to 2008's "Youth Novels." But these aren't foot-shuffling songs. Even if they are electro-retro, they're chilly as ice – achy, wallowing and absolutely mesmerizing, much like her haunting, career-powering "Possibility" from the "Twilight" soundtrack. "Unrequited Love" is a girl-group song in slo-mo whose sadness mounts because of her little-girl singing; it's a brilliant bummer. On "Wounded Rhymes," Lykke Li makes a breakup sound beautiful, especially with the ditty Duffy would kill for, "Sadness is a Blessing" – something you'd believe if you heard this album.



Teddy Thompson, 'Bella'

It's a voice you've heard before. On the "Brokeback Mountain" soundtrack. In Rufus Wainwright's band. But the offspring of legends Linda and Richard Thompson is still flying under the radar despite his genius, which is potent on his fifth album – one that employs delicate strings that push out into his rock-country-folk underbelly. His songwriting, about being in and out of love, is spot-on, but the real sell is his billowy pipes. They blow in rich caresses, showering over heartbreakers like the goodbye-lover lament "Take Care of Yourself" and the ode-to-hopeless-romantics "Gotta Have Someone." That someone is Teddy Thompson.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

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Mindy Cohn

Proud to be a 'fag hag'

'Facts of Life' actress on being one in new film – and in real life

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Infamous for her role as Natalie Green, the fresh-faced teen of the 1980s sitcom "The Facts of Life," Mindy Cohn is best known as the bubbly Tootie-sidesick, generally pleasing television audiences with a G-rated joke on her tongue. Now, she's returning to the Hollywood game with a bit more kick and lot more pizzazz, portraying

'Violet Tendencies'

6 p.m. March 13
Burton Theatre
3420 Cass Ave., Detroit
detroitiff.com

the feisty lead role in "Violet Tendencies," a Casper Andreas-directed film screening at 6 p.m. March 13 at the Burton Theatre as part of the Detroit Independent Film Festival.

Penned by Jesse Archer, "Tendencies" follows the life of a 40-year-old fruit fly named Violet (Cohn) who devotes her nights to queer men, but ultimately flounders when it comes to finding a man of her own. Taking a friend's advice, Violet abandons her gay family on a spiritual quest to find true love, sparking hilarity, romance and mayhem as she attempts to change the woman she is to find the man she wants.

Recently, Cohn chatted about her career and shared further insight into the film.



"Facts of Life" actress Mindy Cohn stars in "Violet Tendencies," which will screen at 6 p.m. March 13 as part of the Detroit Independent Film Festival.

Tell us, career-wise, what have you been up to since leaving "The Facts of Life"?

Gatefully, for the last 25 years, I've been able to find work to support myself in a lifestyle to which I've become accustomed. I have to say, it's been an amazing ride.

Yes, and a full one as well. I hear you graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a degree in anthropology.

Yes, but since that time, I've also received a master's in education, so there's been a ton of other stuff, too.

Are you still in contact with your "Facts of Life" family? Which cast member are you closest with?

I'm close to all of them. We live in different cities so we don't see each other all the time, but we're still in contact.

What attracted you to the lead role in "Tendencies"?

The script by Jesse Archer. It won me over. After talking with him, I just really wanted to work with him.

What part of Violet do you see most in yourself?

Just the fact that she's created this family of friends. I'm blessed to have come from a very close family. I have an amazing model of a family with a mom, dad and sister with whom I've very tight. I've recreated that in my friend circle. Whether they be male, female, gay, straight, I have a close family of friends, and I really identify with Violet in the fact that "you are who you love." Friends are the most important people. They define you.

In the film, Violet is labeled a "fag hag" for her close friendships with gay men. It's a term that some LGBT community members find cruel and offensive. What are your thoughts?

For me, probably due to my age and upbringing in the 1980s, I feel I've earned that name! I'm proud to be a card-carrying fag hag! I don't find it derogatory. Actually, I find fruit-fly a little

more cheeky. They used to call us divas, but that was taken over by singers. Now, it's fag hag. I think I'm in incredibly good company with the history of that name.

At the same time, I hope that because you're a fag hag, it doesn't mean you don't have straight friends or that you want to have sex with gay men and/or live like a gay man. I think that's the most amazing thing with Violet. Finally, a fag hag is not some stereotype or ancillary character in a film. She's very three-dimensional, and I appreciate that.

Why do you think certain women find gay men so appealing?

Actually, I think it's mutual. I always say, "If I like who I am around you, you're in." Gay men and straight women, if paired correctly, can really be a tremendous source of fun, comfort and intimacy for each other, like no other relationship.

On several occasions, "Tendencies" raises the question of the social stigma attached to HIV. Do you feel we've advanced as a society in regard to our views of the virus?

The good news is people have gone from dying of AIDS to living with AIDS. It's good and bad, actually. I think it's good that the stigma, while still alive and kicking, is not as prevalent. But in turn, the focus to finding a cure has been taken away because so many people have been living and thriving with meds and treatment. It's a double-edged sword.

What type of projects do you expect to work on in the near future?

I wouldn't know what's next if it bit me in the butt. That's the most exciting part of being an actor. You don't know what's coming down the pike. The only thing you can do is be ready, and I'm just really grateful that the parts that I've been waiting for have been finally coming to me.

Read the full interview at www.pridesource.com.

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An astonishing 'Equus' at the Blackbird

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

One of the highlights of many seasons occurred last night, the opening night of Peter Shaffer's compassionate and challenging "Equus" at the tiny Blackbird Theatre in Ann Arbor.

Making her directorial debut, Sarah Lucas is tested by fire: a play containing actors in multiple roles, actors imitating horses, total male nudity and the pathology of a lead character who blinds six helpless animals. Yet she keeps the universal and the specific themes locked together in a beautiful dance of drama, serving the playwright's intentions.

In the 1970s, English, Jewish playwright Peter Shaffer read a news story about a young boy of 17 who blinded six horses. "Equus" is his imagining the source of the conflict, the distortion of reason, the passion that could lead to such an act – and

REVIEW

'Equus'

Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor.
Thursday-Sunday through March 19. \$25.
734-332 3848.
www.blackbirdtheatre.org



"Equus" continues at the Blackbird Theatre through March 19. Photo: Blackbird Theatre

also challenging the hegemony of Freudian therapy, just then coming under attack from many directions.

These are the specifics of the play, the plot on which hangs the universal ideas that Shaffer enacts through his characters: Seventeen-year-old Alan Strang (Evan Mann) is sentenced for the blinding of six horses; the magistrate asks psychiatrist Martin Dysart (Lee Stille) to take him into the mental hospital, treat him, rather than sentence him to prison: "He is in pain," she tells him. And Dysart treats children

successfully in his career.

Strang's mother is a former schoolteacher who inculcates him into the rituals and adoration of Christianity while his father is a rigid, uptight man, a non-believer.

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

Potentialities realized at Planet Ant

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

While science and math nerds might not always be the most exciting people to hang out and have a beer with, they do make for some fascinating plays. In Michael Frayn's "Copenhagen," for example, physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg meet in 1941 to discuss the moral and technical ramifications of the atomic bomb. In David Auburn's "Proof," the originator of a mathematical equation is at the center of the show's mystery. And now metaphysicists and geologists get their due in the world premiere of Maggie Smith's absurdist comedy "Hylomorph" that opened Feb. 25 at Hamtramck's Planet Ant Theatre.

The plot explores Aristotle's philosophical theory of hylomorphism – the concept that all natural bodies consist of two principles, form and matter – and in particular, his argument that if the

REVIEW

'Hylomorph'

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Friday-Saturday through March 19, with additional performances March 6, 8 & 13. \$20. 313-365-4948.
www.planetant.com



The cast of "Hylomorph" is open to the potentialities at Planet Ant Theatre. Photo: Planet Ant

particles making up one entity were replaced with particles making up another, that would be a process of destruction rather than change. (Thank you, New World Encyclopedia.) So as you can imagine, his argument is teeming with possibilities for an imaginative playwright – or "potentialities," as playwright Smith describes it in her script. And she does so through the chance meeting of two women who seemingly couldn't be more different: Mrs. Wilson, who can't make mistakes; and Mrs. Nara, an agoraphobic.

The two are thrust together thanks to a newspaper ad placed by Mr. Nara (the metaphysicist) seeking a woman to teach his Japanese wife to speak English. Mr. Wilson (the geologist) believes it's a perfect fit for his wife, and so the husbands arrange a meeting. Little do they suspect what's in store for them all.

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

Not strictly ballroom at the Fisher

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

"Burn the Floor" opened at the Fisher Theatre Feb. 22 and I am still exhausted from just watching the 20 young, fit, lithe dancers: They must burn up enough calories for a roomful of weight watchers at each performance – we do know from the "Fast Facts" sheet in the press kit that "90 liters of water are consumed backstage at every performance."

So, this show, which is loosely modeled on the traditional form of dance known as ballroom – as seen in the terrific Baz Luhrmann film of 1992, "Strictly Ballroom" – updates the dances such as the samba, foxtrot, waltz, jive, Lindy Hop, quickstep, into a high energy style I would call Brute Ballroom.

Now, hold on, that is NOT pejorative, just as the art movement labeled Brute Art is not. But the style, blended furiously and imaginatively out of the rigors of ballroom

REVIEW

'Burn the Floor'

Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Tuesday-Sunday through March 6. \$29-\$69.
313-872-1000.
www.broadwayindetroit.com



"Burn the Floor" continues at Detroit's Fisher Theatre through March 6. Photo: Beyton Erkman

into a potpourri of high energy dance works, calls to mind the post modern dance that began, I think, with the Broadway show "Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk."

In that show, the brilliant Savion Glover took the traditions of tap, soft shoe and theatrical tap and embellished them, polished them to a hard edge, like razor blades and stilettos, and I don't mean heels. The influence of brute tap has gone far and wide in the commercial dance world.

Similarly, choreographer/director Jason Gilkison has found the hard edge

in ballroom, then surpassed it: If it is jive, the dancers feet and legs are like pistons; if it is a samba, the bodies are stretched like rubber bands; if it is a foxtrot, the fox is furiously running from pursuing dogs.

To read the complete review, log on to ...
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by Maripat Donovan

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Outings

This year, Clover Lanes is hosting one of Higher Ground's largest fundraisers, the 12th Annual Red Ribbon Bowl.

Higher Ground has also put together a number of fun games and competitions to raise money and give out prizes to tournament contestants. The Red Ribbon Bowl offers a Prize Fund, 50/50s, Mystery Pot, Prize Raffles, Bowling Ball Raffle, Strike Ball Jackpot and the game Pot of Gold. This three-hour bowling tournament will raise funds for Higher Ground, a Royal Oak-based organization that empowers people living with HIV/AIDS, and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network, a nonprofit dedicated to the rescue and adoption of pets in the Metro Detroit area.

The Red Ribbon Bowl is from 1-4 p.m. March 5 at Clover Lanes on Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. As entries are limited to 32 lanes, pre-registration is advised. For more information, call Bob Bretz at 734-564-1953.



Music

If you enjoyed "Spinal Tap," you'll love this. Doyle and Debbie are bringing their riotous self-titled show to Michigan this March.

The duo, Bruce Arnston and Jenny Littleton, perform what can only be described as a hysterical parodic performance. "Doyle and Debbie," as they are known during their performance, light-heartedly hyperbolize the ever-charming mannerisms and musical talents of the American country singer and were seen earlier this year at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival.

The duo performs again at 8 p.m. March 5 at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Tickets are available online at theark.org.

Theater

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will present John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Doubt," directed by Matt Martello, March 10-13 at the University of Michigan's Arthur Miller Theatre.

"I saw 'Doubt' twice on Broadway," said director Matt Martello. "After each performance, the audiences were divided about the essential mystery of the play. I love the artful ambiguity of this drama, and how even the littlest choices the actors make can make such a difference in the audience's perceptions."

Performances are 8 p.m. March 10-12 and 2 p.m. March 13. Tickets Friday through Sunday are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students; all tickets on Thursday are \$15. For more information, visit www.a2ct.org.



OUTINGS

Wednesday, March 2

"Christianity, Liberal or Conservative?" Discussion, 5 p.m. Discuss and consider the differences between conservative and liberal Christianity. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com

Thursday, March 3

Euchre Tournament, 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw County's original GLBT chorus. Entry: \$10. Cash prizes. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 South Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. 734-973-6084. olconline.org

Friday, March 4

Bisexual Peer Group, 7 p.m. All are welcome. 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. groups.google.com/group/sembi

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Chinese Chocolate. Intimately and honestly exploring for the first time the sexuality of Chinese women living in a foreign culture, this award-winning study of love and relationship makes for a unforgettable treat. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, March 5

12th Annual Red Ribbon Bowl, 11 a.m. Bowling alley fundraiser to support Higher Ground and Michigan Animal Adoption Network. Both charities benefit from this event. Higher Ground, 29800 Schoolcraft, Livonia. 734-354-3331. cjackson0205@yahoo.com

Michigan Lesbian & Gay ComedyFest, 9 p.m. Tickets: \$30. Equality Michigan, 15801 Michigan Avenue at Greenfield, Dearborn. 313-537-7000. comedyfest.org

Sunday, March 6

All Creatures ULC Sunday, 1 p.m. Sunday interfaith spiritual services held at an indoor dog park so that pets are welcome at all services All Creatures ULC, 27911 Five Mile Road, Livonia. 313-563-0162. allcreaturesulc.com

Wednesday, March 9

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

Thursday, March 10

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, March 11

Is it Safe to Tell, 6 p.m. Workshop for getting a sense of knowing if it's safe to open up to someone about being HIV+ and if the time is right. RSVP via phone or e-mail. Aids Partnership Michigan, 2751 East Jefferson Suite 301, Detroit. 313-446-9820. cpeoples@aidspartnership.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Swimming. In this coming-of-age story, Frankie longs to escape from the working-class atmosphere of her South Carolina hometown. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Holland is Ready Film Series, 7:30 p.m. Film: Seven Passages. Stories of Gay Christians. 248 S. River St., Holland. 616-990-5669. rev.jenadams@yahoo.com

MUSIC & MORE

Caesars Windsor "Cheech & Chong, Get It Legal" The legendary comedic duo, Cheech n' Chong, consisting of Richard "Cheech" Marin and Tommy Chong, will be returning to the Colosseum stage at Caesars Windsor to perform their much loved stand-up comedy routine. Tickets: \$29+. The Colosseum, 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor. 9 p.m. March 12. 800-991-7777. caesarswindsor.com

Caesars Windsor "Gretchen Wilson" Recently Grammy Award nominated musician on tour, to perform essentials and newest single. Tickets: \$25+. 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor. 9 p.m. March 5. 800-991-7777. caesarswindsor.com

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

Olympia Entertainment "Daniel Tosh" Stand-up comedian and the star of Comedy Central's Tosh. Tickets: \$38-\$58 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. March 4. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Charlie Wilson" Tickets: \$59-\$89 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. March 12. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Random Reason Productions "Onra" French hip hop beatmaker, Onra and Buddy Sativa from Paris, France for his second Detroit appearance. Tickets: \$7-\$10. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave, Detroit. 10 p.m. March 11. parkbardetroit.com/Park_Bar_Detroit

The Michigan Theater "Kevin Smith's 'Red State' Tour" As one of only 15 cities on the so-called "Red State" tour, director Kevin Smith will bring his bizarre horror thriller to the Michigan Theater along with a Q&A session following the screening. Tickets \$39.50-\$65. The Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty St, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. March 10. 734-668-TIME. michtheater.org

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

CLASSICAL

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings "Back to Classics" Gabrieli, Bolcom, and Mozart. Tickets \$10-\$25. Various Locations, Detroit and Birmingham. 4 p.m. March 6, 3 p.m. March 13. 248-559-2095. detroitchamberwinds.org

Detroit Opera House "A Gershwin Rhapsody" Celebrating the genius of George Gershwin and featuring some of his most beloved standards. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. March 12. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

University Musical Society "Scharoun Ensemble Berlin" The eight musicians express an artistic commitment to both the heritage of the past and the challenges of the present. Tickets: \$24-\$48. Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington St, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 9. 734-763-3333. ums.org

COMEDY

The Ark "The Doyle and Debbie Show" The Doyle and Debbie Show is a revue, fabulous piece of parody simultaneously lampooning and idolizing country music's tradition of iconic duos-and touching the nerve of the battle of the sexes that has always been bubbling under the surface.

Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 5. 734-761-1800. theark.org

CONCERTS

Lansing Symphony Orchestra, "Music of America's 'Greatest Generation'" Infectious tunes of the 1930s and '40s performed by a band of 16 musicians led by John Dale Smith. Big Band will perform standards like "Witchcraft," "Fever," "Paper Moon," and many more. Tickets \$10 for students, \$15 for adults. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing. 3 p.m. March 6. 517-487-5001. lansingsymphony.org

Majestic Theater "Dave Mason" Play with many of the most notable musicians, including Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Russ McLellan and Mama Cass Elliot. Tickets: \$25. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. March 12. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Mosaic Singers "Singsation!" A concert by the local choir, performing an eclectic array of music. Tickets: \$10-30. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 13-March 13. 313-833-4005. mosaicdetroit.org

The Ark "Big Bad Voodoo Daddy" The jazz-blues-and-swing combo that touched off a whole new craze for classic American dance music in the 1990's returns. Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 7. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark, "Ari Heist" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 4. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark, "Munnely" Started by Irish button accordion player David Munnely, who has toured and recorded with the Chieftains and DeDanann, Munnely has been performing Celtic stages from Ireland to the American Midwest. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. March 6. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Marcy Playgroun" Alternative rock band, named for the playground of a school in Minneapolis, had its breakthrough in 1997 with the hit "Sex and Candy." Tickets: \$17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 9. 734-761-1800. theark.org

DANCE

Michigan Opera Theatre "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre" Celebrating the American classic, "Revelations". Tickets starting \$29. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Feb. 12-March 6. 313-237-7464. michiganopera.org

FESTIVALS

International Institute "Irish Fest" A celebration of Irish culture before St. Patrick's Day. Tickets: \$25-\$35. 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. 7 p.m. March 12. 313-871-8600. iimd.org

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Film Theater, "Kawasaki's Rose" Considers the ways in which the past never stops informing the present, especially in societies where secrets are a way of life. 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. March 4-March 20. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Film Theater "The Red Chapel" Denmark launches an assault on North Korea in this documentary that mischievously crosses The Colbert Report with Borat. Tickets: \$6.50-\$7.50. 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 4 p.m. March 5. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Redford Theater "What Ever Happened To Baby Jane?" A chilling tale of two aging sisters who live in a decaying Hollywood mansion where one spends her declining years dreaming of lost fame and tormenting her wheelchair-bound sister with unerring intensity. Tickets \$4: Redford Theater, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit. 8 p.m. March 11, 2 & 8 p.m. March 12. 313-537-2560. redfordtheatre.com

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

A Wine Tasting in Three Acts As part of this one of a kind, not to be missed event, we'll be pairing wines from around the world with savory sensations and first class entertainment, with an opportunity to move from room to room around the beautiful Civic Auditorium, even into areas not often seen by patrons of the theatre. \$40. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. 5:30 p.m. March 10. 269-343-1313. www.kazooicivic.com

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Murder is Announced \$15-show only, \$30 for dinner and show; Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Middle School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. March 11 - 19. 517-243-6040. www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got The Will? \$10-\$12. SRO Productions at The Burgh, 26060 Berg Rd., Southfield. Through March 13. 248-796-4645. www.srotheater.org

Doubt \$10-\$18. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 10 - 13. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Game Night \$15. Port Huron Civic Theatre at McMorrin Theatre, 701 McMorrin Blvd, Port Huron. March 11 - 13. 810-966-4800. www.gamenighttheplay.com

Inherit The Wind \$15. Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. March 11 - 27. 313-561-8587. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

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

Wait Until Dark \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Through March 6. 269-343-1313. www.kazooicivic.com

While the Lights Were Out \$13-\$15. Avon Players, 1185 Washington Rd., Rochester Hills. Through March 5. 248-608-9077. www.avonplayers.org

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

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

An Evening with Scott and Paul \$35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 4 - 6. 517-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Blast From the Past \$39. The Williamsburg Showcase Dinner Theater & Conference Center, 4230 M-72 East, Williamsburg. Through March 26. 231-938-2181. www.cateringbykellys.com/dinner-theater

Burn the Floor \$29-\$69. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through March 6. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

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

Equus \$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through March 19. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

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

Grease \$27.50 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 122 Lyon St. NW, Grand Rapids. March 1 - 6. 1-800-745-3000. www.broadwaygrandrapids.com



"Fatal Attraction"

Hylomorph \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through March 19. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Kimberly Akimbo \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. March 9 - 27. 517-372-0945. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

Last of the Boys \$15-\$18, and pay-what-you-can. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. March 11 - April 2. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.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. www.GemTheatre.com

Lines ala Mode Includes a three-course meal. \$40. Mixed Company Troupe at Wyandotte Yacht Club, 4685 W. Jefferson, Ecorse. 7 p.m. March 5. 313-381-2628. <http://www.mixedcompanytroupe.com/>

My Dull Friend \$5. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 4 - 13. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

Nevermore \$22. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. March 10 - 20. 734-268-6200. www.theencoremusicaltheatre.org

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

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

Satisfaction: A Rolling Stone Experience \$28. The Crowwell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. 8 p.m. March 5. 517-264-7469. www.crowwell.org

The Broadway Onstage Murders \$16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through March 19. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

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

The Cripple of Inishmaan \$18. University Musical Society at Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. March 10 - March 13. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org

The Godfadda Workout \$30-\$35 for show only, \$79.95-\$89.95 per couple for dinner & show. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. March 2 - 20. 248-348-4448. www.andiamonovitheatre.com

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

The Piano Lesson Previews March 3-6 & 10 (\$10-\$24). \$27-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. March 3 - April 3. 734-663-0696. www.performancenetwork.org

The Vagina Monologues \$25. Shawn P. Entertainment at Wayne State Community Arts Auditorium, 450 Reuther Mall, Detroit.

7 p.m. March 5. 313-433-8384.

Yankee Tavern \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project at Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich St., Windsor. March 3 - 6. 519-255-7600. www.BreatheArtTheatre.com

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Dearlly Departed \$6-\$8. Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center, Trenton Village Theatre, 2447 W. Jefferson, Trenton. March 4 - 6. 734-671-2202. www.dypac.com

Madagascar Live \$15-\$35. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. March 8 - March 9. 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

Tom Sawyer \$13-\$15. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. March 10 - 13. 734-394-5300. www.canton-mi.org/villageattheater

Toy Story 3 \$15+. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. March 9 - 13. 1-800-745-3000. www.ticketmaster.com

AUDITIONS

CENTER STAGE JACKSON - auditions for "Miscast III - The Final Frontier (A Cabaret)," March 15-16, www.centerstagejackson.org;

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit Artist's Market "Annual Scholarship Awards and Exhibition"

DAM has a nearly 80 year history of supporting emerging artists, turning the spotlight on the best new artists emerging from the area's stellar arts programs. This year students will be selected from the Cranbrook Art Academy. 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. March 4-April 9. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "An Intuitive Eye: Andre Kertesz Photographs, 1914-1969" Celebrates the photographic achievements of Andre Kertesz whose groundbreaking work achieved a delicate balance between technical perfection and lyrical beauty. 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Nov. 24-April 10. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Fakes, Forgeries and Mysteries" Timed tickets required. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Feb. 25-April 10. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Promises of Freedom" A comprehensive collection of African American art featuring more than 60 works by artists including Charles White, Jacob Lawrence, and Romare Bearden. 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 25-April 17. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Comic Jam II" The Comic Jam, usually held at Green Brain Comics in Dearborn, comes to MOCAD for the second year in a row. Participants are encouraged to partake in the creation of spontaneous, improvised comics and free form drawings with other artists and illustrators. 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. March 4. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Soft Scapes with Annica Cuppetelli" Family Day: Cranbrook graduate Annica Cuppetelli hosts this workshop for children and their parents, creating a dimensional art experience with fabric. 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. March 20. 313-832-4665. mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Contemporary Teapots, Ancient Ancestor" Exhibition shows pots that are both functional and perpetuate the forms their ancient ancestors developed in Asia and Europe. Visitors will see examples of the historic forms in photograph form. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave, Detroit. Feb. 24-March 6. 313-822-0954. pewabic.org

Planterra and Furnace Design Studio: "Botanical Glass Exhibition" Planterra Conservatory, 7315 Drake Rd., West Bloomfield. March 24-March 29. 248-861-1515. planterra.com

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

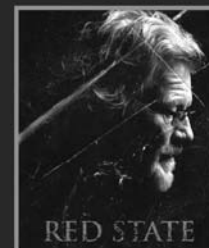
University of Michigan Museum of Arts "Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living" Synthesizes painting sculpture, literature, design, craft, film, and performance to create an imaginary alternate history of twentieth-century art, design, and social activism. 525 South State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 18-March 13. 734-763-UMMA. umma.umich.edu

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I caught him cheating

Q: I am all alone, sitting in a motel room. It's freezing outside, and I can feel the cold air seeping in around the doors and windows. The reason I am sitting here in despair is that my lover threw me out of our house and I have no place to go. I am so alone and dejected. I just don't know what I am to do.

Two nights ago I caught "Tim" with another guy – in bed, naked and having a ball (no pun intended). I was out of town for a couple of days interviewing for a job (which I didn't get); I came home early to surprise Tim and lick my wounds. When I walked up to the front door, I could hear music, laughter and lots of other disgusting noises. I knew what was going on before opening that door. I should have turned around and walked away but I just couldn't help myself. Tim didn't even hear me when I walked in on his "den of pleasure." Tim was, of course, shocked when he saw me.

The crazy thing is that Tim was furious with me for coming home without calling, as if I were in the wrong. He ranted and raved about how inconsiderate I was and then told me to get my things and leave as he never wanted to see me again. I quickly gathered up what I could, found a cheap motel and now here I am. I've only got enough money for a month and then I'm out on the street.

Tim and I have been living together for a couple of months. He invited me to stay with him while I was looking for job, one thing led to another and we started getting it on – you know how it goes. We never really discussed seeing others, but I just thought that because of what we had together, he wouldn't be interested in anyone else.

I don't know whether or not I should beg Tim to let me come back. I think if I apologized he would let me move back in. I really don't want to go back and grovel like a dog – as if I were wrong – but I don't know what my options are. I don't want to be out in the cold freezing to death and I have no income.

What can I do? Should I go back and beg Tim to take me back? What are my options? I'm so stressed and don't know what to do next. I don't deal with stress well.

A: You certainly do have the option of going back to Tim and begging him to let you move back in, but do you really want to be in a situation where a person can turn you out on the street at any time and for any reason?

Given what you have told me, my suggestion would be for you to ask other friends or family if you can move in for a short period of time while you find a job. If family or friends can't help, you can go to a shelter and stay there until you find a job. Some shelters offer help in finding employment.

You didn't ask me, but the situation you found yourself in seems to be because you moved in with Tim without a clear understanding of your relationship with him. Apparently you thought that because the two of you became involved, it meant that the relationship was monogamous, and his home was your home. Tim seemed to believe that having sex with others should not be a problem, and you should always let him know when you are coming back to his home. He obviously didn't think that his house was your home, and that he could tell you to leave at anytime.

Besides finding a job so that you won't find yourself in the same situation again, you need to think before you leap into a relationship that has not been talked about or defined. You would also benefit from some help in learning how to deal with your stress better.

No one is immune from stressful situations. If you want to know how well you deal with stress, find Dear Jody Valley on Facebook and take the test.

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.

Freaking Out

Find the Fake Ad Contest

BTL is Changing it Up!

1. Search this issue of Between The Lines for the one ad that is the fake ad. Here's a clue: the fake ad will include the words: **"Status: Sexy!"**
2. Go to www.Pridesource.com and click on "Click Here to Win!"
3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
4. In the notes field, put the date of the BTL issue, page number where you found the fake ad and the name of the fake advertiser.

Search this issue for the Fake Ad

Between The Lines

Open yourself, Taurus!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus entering Aquarius opens new aesthetic opportunities and challenges. Be daring and adventurous in your own presentation and your choices for entertainment and art. The North Node entering Sagittarius opens new challenges to look past apparently logical details to the fuller picture. Both are leaving Capricorn, so break out of old problems with new perspectives.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Being a bit more charming and innovative are great ways to promote yourself. The energy is there; take advantage of it. Dress for the job you want, not the one you have, but don't shy away from your own sense of style!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Open yourself to new art, new movies, new movies. Ask yourself what's the most beautiful country in the world (besides your own). Do some research and expand your aesthetic vision to open up a much deeper sense of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): New sensual/erotic exploration won't just spice up your sex life but help you understand where your relationship needs to go – or where one should get started. Discuss it with your partner; invite your honey to surprise you in bed.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Start a new conversation with your partner about old challenges. A breakthrough will likely require some risks and experimentation, possibly but not probably sexual. Review how the two of you share or divide tasks.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Redecorate your workplace to make it more efficient. Innovate your beauty and health regimen. Novelty will keep you more involved. Dance classes are fun and would introduce you to new people. Try something very wild and different!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Your creativity is opening up in dazzling new directions. Play with new ideas and images. The urge to be the best or to utilize these expressions professionally should take a backseat to expressing youthful visions and affirming your roots.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Call your mother, grandmother, an aunt or a wise old woman in your community. What starts out as a simple

conversation can reveal a lot about your family and more about yourself. Keep it simple, direct and personal.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Grab keyboard or pen and paper; liberate your mind writing whatever occurs to you. Go for pretty, not logical: poetry, songs, free association. Scrapbooking works. Review it a few days later and see what you can learn about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Set aside some money for a spontaneous indulgence or impulsive whim. Resist the urge to splurge on anyone else. This treat is for you! Get yourself something outré, so wrong that it's right!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Take time out – a long walk or a spiritual retreat – to think about who you really are deep inside and who you want to be. Then consider how best to make your outside match your inside.


AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Liberate your past to get a clearer bead on your future. Old traumas contain lessons, but better yet review your earliest feelings of love and beauty. Sure, age brings disappointments. So what? You can still keep those innocent ideals alive.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Your social instincts are especially sharp. Resist the tendency to fall back into the partying embrace of your home and community. Network! Hang out with people who can help you get ahead.

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 30

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E	B	A	N		S	O	I	R		F	L	E	W
M	Y	S	O	C	A	L	L	E	D	L	I	F	E
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I	M	F		T	A	C	T		A	T	I	L	T
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S	L	O	M	O		W	A	T	E	R			
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			D	E	E	M	S		S	H	O	E	D
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C	H	E	A	P		N	E	R	O		T	I	N
B	E	A	R	D	S		I	R	K		S	C	I
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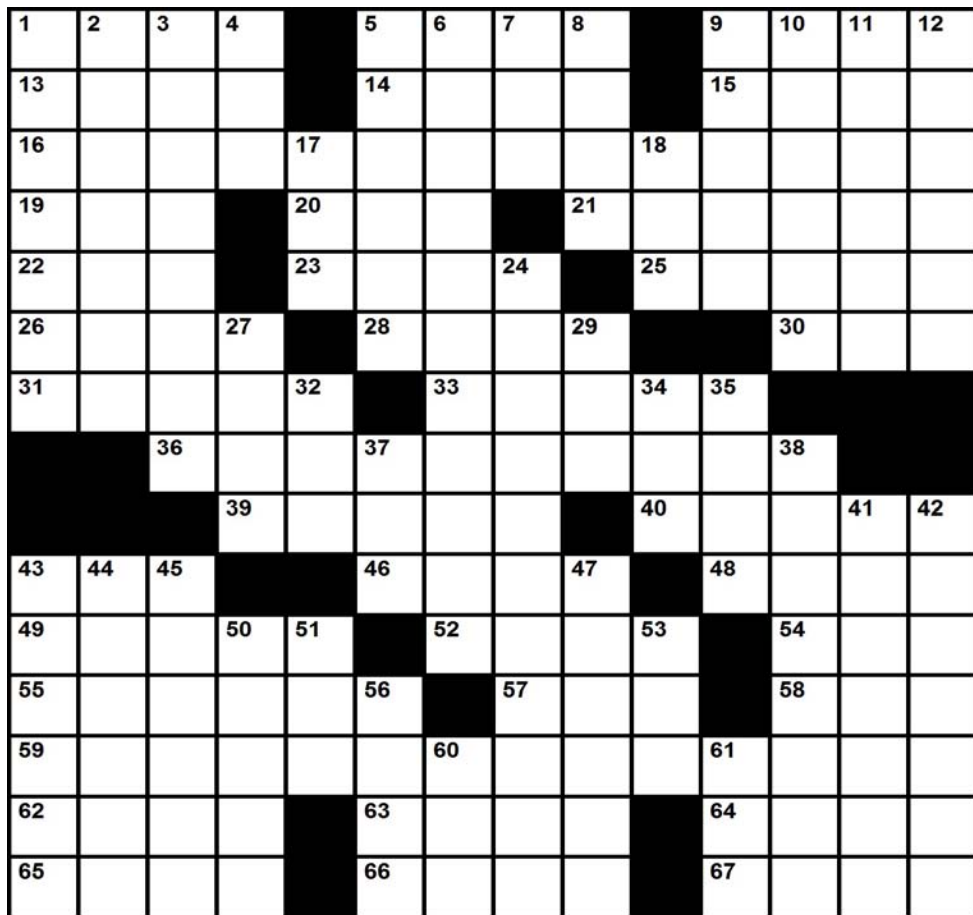
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Gay Youth of Old

Across

- 1 Go lickety-split
- 5 Apple that isn't a fruit
- 9 One way to San Francisco
- 13 Abba of Israel
- 14 Dusk in Dijon
- 15 Took to the air
- 16 '90s teen drama
- 19 It hangs from your butt
- 20 Threesome for Caligula
- 21 Prop for "I have a headache tonight ..."
- 22 Global currency org.
- 23 Grace
- 25 Not quite erect
- 26 Straight female in "The Lion King"
- 28 Gay cable network
- 30 Khan married to Rita
- 31 Replay option
- 33 Need for three men in a tub
- 36 Actor who played
- 39 Judges
- 40 Did a smithy's job
- 43 Da. before Mardi Gras
- 46 How quickly one comes
- 48 Suck (in)
- 49 Like some tricks
- 52 Burning software
- 54 Cup material
- 55 Women who date men who date men
- 57 Put out
- 58 Bio. or chem.
- 59 Gay teen character in 16-Across
- 62 Deity on "Xena"
- 63 Event for George Frenn
- 64 Pitchfork part
- 65 Apollo's plaything
- 66 Craig Claiborne's gumbo pod
- 67 WWII weapon

Down

- 1 Body in "Murder, She Meowed," e.g.
- 2 Really bad
- 3 Bucks on the move
- 4 Rocker Brian
- 5 "Swords into plowshares" book
- 6 Beat female
- 7 Crude material
- 8 De Matteo of "Desperate Housewives"
- 9 A neighbor to Copland?
- 10 Cher's portrayer in "Clueless"
- 11 Coffee-shop freebie, often
- 12 Lincoln's score
- 17 Op. ____
- 18 Crime lab stuff
- 24 Electronic component that goes both ways
- 27 At the center of
- 29 List-shortening letters
- 32 Cheer for Lorca
- 34 Hosp. trauma centers
- 35 Industrial area of Rilke's land
- 37 30-day mo.
- 38 Cool cat's outfit
- 41 Androgynous
- 42 Resident
- 43 "Ally ____"
- 44 Call to author James?
- 45 Less remote
- 47 Periodical boners
- 50 Come to mind
- 51 Immediately, if not sooner
- 53 Says, "Let's do it!"
- 56 Weighty struggle?
- 60 Comics cry
- 61 Milk units (abbr.)

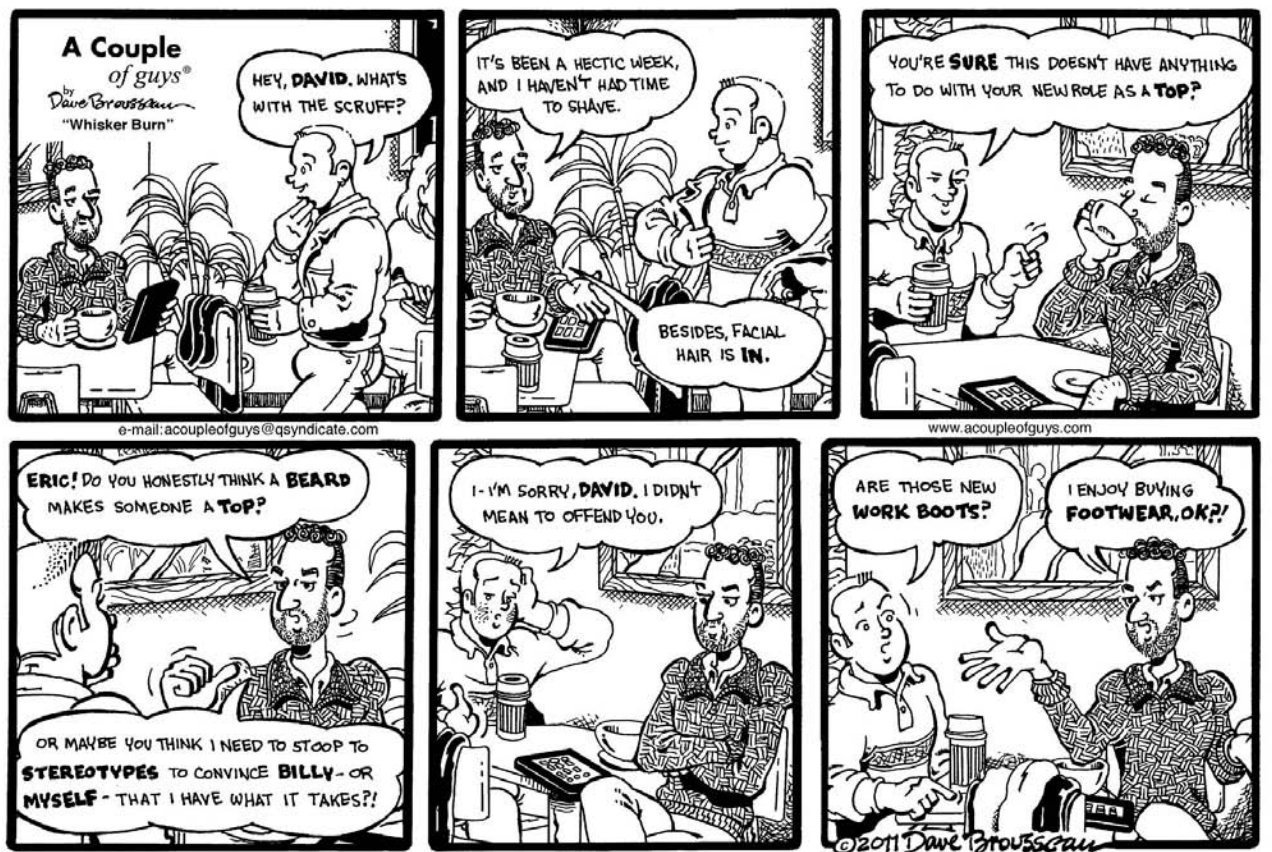
SOLUTION: Page 29

Pet of the Week



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IN 2 WEEKS! BTL SPRING HEALTH & WELLNESS ISSUE

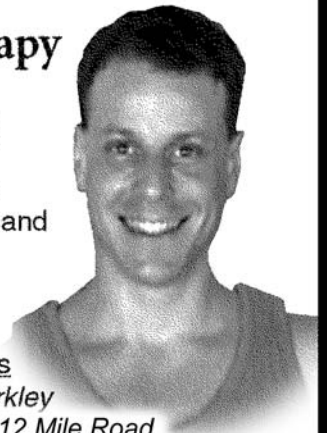
MARCH 17

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The Aviation

"So, *mutatis mutandis*, the LGBT community..." Ted was lecturing about marriage equality from his podium on our living room couch.

"What?" I blurted. Cocktail "hour" was pushing 90 minutes. I should have served the lamb stew and couscous already, but I couldn't get out of the chair.

"The gay community must shift its praxis from the dystopic to the..."

"No, before that. You said 'mucous mucandies.' What the hell does that mean?"

"You have a Ph.D. and you don't know what *mutatis mutandis* means?" He was appalled.

"Fuck you," I explained.

We've been doing this for years. We're all academics or ex-academics. Dan has three degrees – B.A., MBA, and Ph.D. – all from Harvard. I have a Ph.D. from Columbia; Ted has one from Princeton and teaches at NYU; his partner, Eric, has an M.F.A. from Columbia and taught at Wellesley but now writes screenplays that actually get made into movies. You may have caught the farcical *Brainiacs* on cable; Eric wrote it. This dinner party demonstrated where he got his material.

We were flying on Aviations. I was in avast liquor emporium on the Upper East Side last week – I rarely go up there, since I'm deathly allergic to cashmere sweaters and simple strands of pearls – and saw Creme de Violette on the shelf with a little printed recipe for the Aviation. Maraschino, was nearby. I bought both.

By Maraschino, I don't mean the syrup in which innocent cherries are drowned in artificially flavored, carcinogenically colored sugar water so children can have their first drug rushes. I mean the clear cherry liqueur, which Italians make from Marasca cherries and their crushed pits. *Et la Creme de Violette?* Yes, it's really made from violets and thus wins the title of The Gayest Liqueur Ever, there being no Creme de Pansy.

I played around with the recipes I found online at the marvelous blog www.sippety.com, where I learned that the drink has the reputation of being a 1930s cocktail, but it actually dates from 1916, when only a few people ever saw an airplane, let alone flew in one. In those days, flying into the sky in a technological wonder seemed miraculous. The Aviation celebrates that magic. It has by far the loveliest color of any cocktail I've ever seen – watercolor-pale lavender. And it's extraordinarily luscious. Now that air travel is like taking the bus, except that the bus is on time, the aeroplanes's early thrill is long gone. Unless, of course, you make yourself and your smarty-pants friends Aviations, in which case you'll all quickly be even higher than your IQs.

The Aviation (a variation on the classic)


Note: Martini glasses are *much* larger now than they were in the early 20th century. This recipe fills one 2011 glass or two old-style glasses.


Half-cup of Beefeater gin
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon Maraschino
1-and-a-half teaspoon Creme de Violette
Half-teaspoon "really" simple syrup – mix equal parts sugar and water in a jar and shake until the sugar dissolves

Chill the martini glass(es).

Put all ingredients into a cocktail shaker and chill in the freezer for five or 10 minutes.

Take glass(es) and shaker out, add a few ice cubes to the shaker, and shake as though your life depended on it. Strain into the frosty glass(es) and hope that a few shards of ice rise to the top.

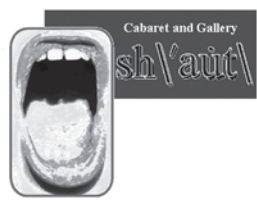




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Blake Lively, Photo: Warner Bros. Pictures

A Blake Lively reboot of 'Sex and the City'?

From the Makes Perfect Sense Department: In the wake of last year's "Sex and the City 2" debacle (horrible reviews, disappointing box office), the people at HBO have decided, for now, to shelve the franchise and focus on a prequel based on Candace Bushnell's 2010 book "The

Carrie Diaries." From the Makes Even More Perfect Sense Department: Writer/director/producer Michael Patrick King has his eye on "Gossip Girl" star/fashion moll Blake Lively. Who wouldn't want the style world's current It Girl to take over as clothes-obsessed Carrie and remind the world what they loved about the character before she got it all and went traipsing through Abu Dhabi? It's all in the talking stages now, but young red-haired actresses who want a

shot at playing Teen Miranda would be wise to get their agents on point right about now.

Kathy Griffin goes Broadway and 'Wants a Tony'

When Kathy Griffin wants something she simply names a product for it. "Official Book Club Selection" and "For Your Consideration" were the titles of her memoir and comedy CD, respectively. So it's in keeping with her self-aware self-marketing campaign that she call her upcoming (and very soon, too – as in next month) Broadway one-woman show, "Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony." For several consecutive nights in March, Griffin will take over Broadway's Belasco Theater and no two nights will be the same, as fresh material is introduced into each performance and Griffin works hard to get a statue-friend to keep her Emmys company. It's worked for other comedians, why not her? But don't come if you're easily offended. The woman takes no prisoners and is advertising the engagement with the following quote: "If you're in the market for an evening of laughter, swearing and negativity, you've found the right show." You've been warned, Tony Award voters.

Ryan Murphy's not especially hard knock life

It's good to be Ryan Murphy right now. Thanks to the insane popularity of "Glee," anyone with any musical project in any form at all wants Murphy to take control. First his name was tossed around for a "Rocky Horror

Picture Show" remake, then for the film version of "Wicked." And now it seems that he's the top choice to direct the 2.0 Willow Smith-starring "Annie." You read that correctly. See, it's also good to be the offspring of Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith right now. They get to remake the "Karate Kid." They get recording contracts. They get to whip their hair back and forth. And now they get to remake "Annie." Look, that's how Hollywood works. Just ask Jeff Bridges and Michael Douglas. But will Murphy accept any of these gigs? All of them? And will there be a role for Jane Lynch somewhere in all this? Stay tuned, Gleeks and Smiths.

Scissor Sister Shears meeting Sandra on stage

Great news for lovers of all things cooler-than-usual: A new musical is coming and it's from the like-minded meeting of Sandra Bernhard, Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters and Justin Bond of deranged cabaret act Kiki & Herb (now known as "Justin Vivian Bond"). The collaborative effort is titled "Arts and Crafts," and it'll have its first readings in March. The story involves cousins whose lives take different directions – one becomes a born-again housewife, the other a sophisticated art world dweller – and a reunion that changes both of their lives for good. Joe's Pub in New York City will host the first staged readings on March 7. Here's hoping its continued development bears Hedwig-sized fruit.

Romeo San Vicente is both artsy and crafty. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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