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Cover credit: Kim Cattrall walks the red carpet for the local premiere of "Meet Monica Velour" on April 12 at the Birmingham 8. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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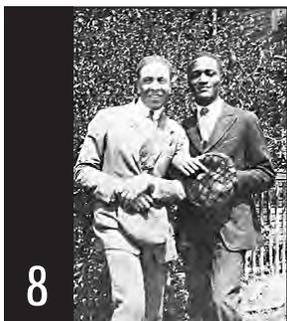
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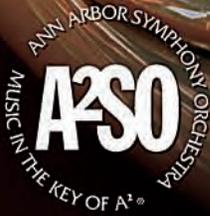
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Between Ourselves

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Emily Dievendorf joined Equality Michigan as Director of Policy in 2010. Before that, she worked in the Michigan House of Representatives for two Democratic lawmakers.

1 You're a lobbyist and director of policy at Equality Michigan. Describe your two roles. What's a typical day for you?

An overwhelming amount of my time is dedicated to ensuring that legislation that fights for the inclusion and equal treatment of the LGBTQ

community is introduced and moved through the legislature. Finding success through policy change requires that I educate legislators on the concerns of our community, familiarize myself with our legislative leaders and their priorities, and negotiate the terms of legislation in a

way that demonstrates an acknowledgement of our shared goals and concerns.

I am grateful to have already had the opportunity to create direct positive change in the Michigan Department of Community Health for HIV-positive individuals, in the Michigan Attorney General's Office with the firing of Andrew Shirvell, as well as for the partners of state employees through Equality Michigan's support and then defense of the Michigan Civil Service Commission's extension of other eligible individual health benefits to the families of state employees.

2 What kinds of laws do you lobby for in Lansing?

Equality Michigan is focused on efforts to amend Michigan's non-discrimination statute, the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act, to add "sexual orientation, gender identity and expression" to its list of protected categories. Even within the LGBTQ community, a shocking number of people don't know that in Michigan we can still be legally fired or denied housing, with no recourse, simply because we are gay, perceived to be gay, or don't fit a gender norm. My legislative priorities also include the passage of an enumerated anti-bullying bill, the extension of second parent adoption rights, and passage of a comprehensive hate crimes bill package tailored to Michigan.

3 What difficulties do you face when lobbying?

Clearly, Michigan has experienced a shift in our political climate, but my frustrations in lobbying are not limited to the goals and values of the more conservative legislature. Yes, there are stereotypes and prejudices to combat, but advocates have the data and experiences to educate our leaders as to what a day in our lives looks like, the basic rights

and access we are lacking, and the tools that can be put in place to resolve the conflicts and strengthen the state as a whole. I like to emphasize that social justice wins the argument every time regardless of the frame opponents use to discuss our issues and concerns.



I love that legislators most often appreciate a good argument, and by that I mean an informed argument.

4 We talk a lot about the negative aspects of lawmaking – what have you encountered on the job that's been inspiring or positive?

I love that legislators most often appreciate a good argument, and by that I mean an informed argument. Because politics can be steered so easily by rhetoric I notice that legislators are excited when they have facts, figures, and can tie the sometimes tedious language of a bill to the support they can

offer their community. The best argument for social and economic reform is that "everybody does better when everybody does better." I don't necessarily suggest you use this bumper sticker verbiage, but the lesson is essentially that a community does not consist of thousands of islands, it is a living and breathing organism. When one fraction of that organism is denied the support and access it needs to thrive, or even just survive, the entire community suffers.

5 Sometimes, people have no clue what goes on in Lansing or how it affects them. How can citizens get involved and be aware of what happens in the legislature?

Everything the legislature does affects Michigan residents! With no additional tax revenue being generated we all need to remember that government is left to merely shift funding around or eliminate it. When we don't pay attention to the legislative initiatives being considered by the state and federal governments it means that our leaders can quickly, and without input from the voters, question the very programs and resources we consider our bread and butter. I encourage all Michiganders to get on the email lists of legislative leadership, join Facebook pages for updates, and sign up for Equality Michigan Action Alerts on our website so that we can loop you into the latest battles and actions you can take to support or defeat legislative activity that affects our communities. In your communities organize, organize, and organize. And let us help!

Check out the full version of this interview online at pridesource.com. Learn more about Equality Michigan at equalitymi.org

Between Ourselves is a bi-weekly feature that highlights those who work on behalf of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for *Between Ourselves*, email our news editor Tara Cavanaugh at tara@pridesource.com.

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April 22-23

Local activist to speak at national NAACP forum

DETROIT—Curtis Lipscomb, the new executive director of KICK, the agency for LGBT African-Americans, will speak as a panelist at a national NAACP forum in Detroit on Saturday, April 30.



Curtis Lipscomb

Speakers and participants at the event will discuss racism, political rhetoric and discrimination. Attendees include U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, David Victor, chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, speaking for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department and Imam Dawud Walid, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

In a press release, the NAACP said it hopes the event provides “a moment for transformation and rededication to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: ‘Do not judge each other by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character.’”

The event, titled “From Symbols of Hate to Portraits of Understanding,” takes place at 200 Walker Street from 2-4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Gay rodeo gears up for July

The Michigan International Gay Rodeo Association will again produce the Greater Motown International Rodeo July 22-24 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Belleville, Michigan. It is an amateur gay rodeo run under the guidelines of the International Gay Rodeo Association that is designed to raise money for local charities like the Southeast Michigan Food Gleaners, the Ruth Ellis Center and the Mr. Friendly Project of CARES in Kalamazoo. The rodeo is also straight-friendly.

MIGRA is seeking sponsors, advertisers, entertainers and vendors – including food and services, non-profit agencies and businesses that do not discriminate based on gender, sexual orientation or transgender lifestyle. New this year will be a craft fair for homemade and artistic crafts, western art or country crafts with booth space costing \$25. Also new will be a community food drive for the Southeast Michigan Gleaners with the goal to gather 2,011 pounds of food for area food banks. With a donation of five food items, the donor will receive \$5 off the regular \$15 admission. To be part of the rodeo, please submit a letter of interest to MIGRA, 3319 Greenfield Rd., Box 264, Dearborn, MI 48120 or email your interest to president@michiganrodeo.org or secretary@michiganrodeo.org. For more information, call 616-735-4521 or go online to www.michiganrodeo.org.

Day of Silence speaks volumes

Victims, supporters talk bullying, resources at Ruth Ellis Center

BY RUCHI NARESH

DETROIT—Observed across the nation since 1996, the April 15 Day of Silence brings attention to the issue of bullying. Participants take a daylong vow of silence to highlight the bullying victims who usually remain unnoticed.

At an event at the Ruth Ellis Center last Saturday to honor the Day of Silence, a mostly teenage audience of 30 members gathered to learn about bullying and participate in group activities. Attendees, who spent part of the event with their mouths taped shut and covered with bullying messages written on paper, were later encouraged to break their silence by sharing their personal stories in a supportive environment.

Denise Brogan-Kator, the executive director at Equality Michigan, explained the significance of holding the event at the Ruth Ellis Center, which is one of the three centers for homeless LGBT youth in the country. “This provides an opportunity for them to have a support system and realize that they are not the only ones that are silenced,” Brogan-Kator said. “This shines a light on that issue in a way it would not necessarily be seen.”

Brogan-Kator also stated that an estimated 40 percent of homeless youth in the country are LGBT. She also pointed out that bullying exists in a variety of forms, in every socio-economic class and in every school across the state.

Bernard Emanuel Norris, 22, said hearing bullying stories of other participants “was very empowering. Seeing them stand up there gave me a bit of courage for me to stand up.”

Norris said in his experience, “the biggest thing (that) silenced me is people using the Bible to justify discrimination.”

Nusrat Ventimiglia, director of victim services at Equality Michigan, said observing silence meant bringing awareness to the people



Jay Theden, 20, participated in the April 15 Day of Silence. She said after losing her best friend, she was silenced by death. BTL photo: Ruchi Naresh

who are silenced every day.

While speakers and activities explained resources available to bullying victims, one question arose: How to prevent bullying from happening in the first place?

Brogan-Kator said media, the home environment and television could play a big role in creating bullies. “There are books written and research done surrounding why bullying happens,” she said. “Some bullies feel themselves to be bullied, so this is the way they defend themselves. And some bullies are just part of a group.”

“I think it’s the environment,” Ventimiglia said. “When you talk schools, you are talking

about teachers. They sometimes overlook it by saying ‘it’ll pass’ or ‘boys will be boys,’ and make excuses and allow it to happen. That escalates into something worse.”

The solution, Ventimiglia concluded, is that “it’s important to look at the climate and to make sure that every person, every child deserves a safe space, a fair shot at a good education and it’s everyone’s responsibility to do that.

“It’s also important to remember that you are not alone. There is support and love out there for you even if it’s not at home.”

Access bullying resources for youth at ruthelliscenter.org and equalitymi.org.

House Republicans fail again to reverse domestic partner benefits for state employees

‘Other Eligible Adult’ benefits take effect in October

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

LANSING—Republican lawmakers in the Michigan House made a second attempt on April 14 to reverse benefits for live-in partners of state employees. Republicans gained 3 Democratic supporters for a total of 66 votes, but they needed 74 in order to have the two-thirds majority needed to overturn the benefits.

The benefits were negotiated between state

labor unions and the independent Michigan Civil Service Commission in January. In order to reverse the decision, both the state Senate and state House needed to vote with a two-thirds majority. Republicans were able to achieve that majority in the Senate in March. But when the House voted in March, Republicans were unable to muster enough votes.

So instead of labeling the measure as defeated, Republicans decided to “pass it

temporarily,” which meant the vote wasn’t recorded and the House could vote on it again. The April 14 vote was the second vote.

House Republicans had until April 18 to vote on overturning the benefits, but the House was not scheduled to meet again until April 21.

Republican response to the failure to overturn the benefits reflected concern over the cost.

See House Republicans, page 11

A vulnerable triple threat: Senior, black, gay

HUD attempts to address housing discrimination

BY RUCHI NARESH

There is a triple threat facing the elder African American LGBT population in the Detroit area. Even though small in number, this particular group of people encounters difficulties in finding retirement homes, safety, recognition and financial security. Dr. Raphael Bostic, the assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development, attended an April 16 summit organized by KICK (an agency for LGBT African Americans) to address such concerns. Dr. Bostic spoke to BTL about discrimination and other issues faced by these elders.

What were the common concerns discussed at the KICK summit?

The elder LGBT population has significant challenges. They don't have children who can offer them help and support. If they are with a partner they often don't have access to their (partner's) pension funds, so they can become extremely vulnerable rather quickly. This is a really important conversation, and a lot of the gay and lesbian elder population has not been a (focus) of that conversation. Somehow they are a hidden population.

Elders in African American communities have difficulties, elders in general have difficulties and LGBT elders have difficulties, so this really overlays three types of groups. We don't really know much about the challenges that this group faces and they are forced to be invisible because sexual orientation and gender identity are not protected classes, so landlords can and do discriminate against these (people). So sometimes they have to go back into the closet. One of the things we are trying work on is how often these issues arise so we can talk about it in an informed way and hopefully get to a place where that kind of discrimination

happens a lot less frequently.

What has HUD done so far to rectify this issue?

So, we've done a couple of things. I think it's 30 percent of all people who live in public housing are elderly and 40 percent of people who live in project-based Section 8 are also elderly. In terms of the LGBT population this



"A lot of the gay and lesbian elder population has not been a focus of the conversation. Somehow they are a hidden population." — Dr. Raphael Bostic

is a new thing for us and (HUD) secretary Shaun Donovan has been at the forefront of being inclusive. We have changed the policy around the Federal Housing Administration to make it clear that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is not acceptable and it's against our regulations.

In terms of public housing we have issued a rule to change the definition of family to allow same sex couples to be eligible and included in all assistance. Because sexual orientation and gender identity are not protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, we don't have explicit jurisdiction to be able to enforce anti-discrimination statutes. But there is an anti-discrimination statute at a local level where you are bound to comply with housing law. We try to empower these anti-discrimination statutes.

What are the areas in Detroit that are senior and gay friendly to some extent?

From listening to people at the summit it seems there are some people who are starting

to think about this and perhaps acquire properties and rehab them to make it more senior and gay friendly. To my knowledge this is the first summit that has been held on this topic and it makes it clear on the type of information that we have to really work hard to get better at, to make these people included in our conversations and that we

create an environment that allows them to live however they wish.

In cases of discrimination against this specific group, what is the right way to seek help?

Right now we don't have jurisdiction. But let me say that, first thing you can do is report that this has happened, and my department has an Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity led by Assistant Secretary John Trasviña, and we get complaints on discrimination as a regular course of our business. So I'd encourage people who face these challenges to call us. Secretary Trasviña has done a great job in revising the policies that we have and he has directed our department to closely track on what's happening in LGBT housing discrimination.

Check out the full interview with Dr. Bostic online at pridesource.com.

Support local GLSEN at June fundraiser

GLSEN of Southeast Michigan is planning a fundraising event on June 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Detroit Yacht Club. The evening will include appetizers, a cash bar, and a raffle along with a presentation by chapter youth members dramatizing their experiences in school. Tickets for the event are \$50 and can be purchased by contacting GLSEN Southeast Michigan's Co-Chair Jane Kelley at 248-203-0191 or jekphd@gmail.com. There are opportunities for event sponsorship starting at \$100; individuals interested in more information about sponsorship should also contact Kelley.

Toronto hosts international gay bowl-fest in May

Torontonians are ready to host the 2011 International Gay Bowling Organization's annual bowling event that will take place in their city from May 25-30 this year.

The early bird registration fee, which closes on April 15, has already attracted many registrations. Space is limited to 600 bowlers or 150 teams, so all interested individual bowlers and teams are urged to register prior to the final deadline date of May 11. Aside from the fun of competition and camaraderie, funds will be raised for two local charities, The Teresa Group and the LGBT Youth Line.

Time will be available for participants to not only explore the nearby Gay Village but also the many other multi-cultural communities around the city.

For more details regarding the annual tournament, including information on special room rates at the host hotel and travel discounts on airline and bus fares, visit www.igbo2011.org or www.igbo.org.

ACLU seeks records about state police searches

Portable devices can secretly extract personal information from cellphones

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT— The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan urged the Michigan State Police to release information regarding the use of portable devices, which can be used to secretly extract personal information from cell phones during routine stops. For nearly three years, the ACLU has repeatedly asked for this information through dozens of Freedom of Information Act requests, but to date it has not been provided.

"Transparency and government accountability are the bedrocks of our

democracy," said Mark P. Fancher, ACLU of Michigan Racial Justice Project staff attorney. "Through these many requests for information we have tried to establish whether these devices are being used legally. It's telling that Michigan State Police would rather play this stalling game than respect the public's right to know."

Several years ago, MSP acquired portable

devices that have the potential to quickly download data from cell phones without the owner of the cellphone knowing. The ACLU of Michigan expressed concern about the possible constitutional implications of using these devices to conduct suspicionless searches without consent or a search warrant.

In August 2008, the ACLU of Michigan

filed its first FOIA request to acquire records, reports and logs of actual use. Documents provided in response confirmed the existence of these devices, but MSP claimed that the cost of retrieving and assembling the documents that disclose how five of the devices are being used is \$544,680. The ACLU was then asked to pay a \$272,340 deposit before the organization could receive a single document. In order to reduce the cost, the ACLU of Michigan narrowed the scope of its request. However, each time the ACLU submitted more narrow requests, MSP claimed that no documents exist for that time period and

The use of such devices may violate Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches if a warrant is not issued.

See ACLU, page 11

Kobe Bryant throws an anti-gay slur at a referee during a game and gets slapped with a \$100,000 fine from the N.B.A. Was his punishment enough?

Only \$100K?!? For being a hate monger it should have been more. Can't stand this guy.
-Darren Cardinal

I love how he says it was "in the moment" and does not reflect his feelings. I wonder if he would accept that explanation from a white player mouthing the N word at a black referee.
-Jason Vorva

He got off cheap.
-Leo Evans

He was lucky. Arrogant S.O.B. Why do we continue to allow this?
-Lori Mello

Well, Lori, he is allowed to say what he wants. But until enough of the fan base stops spending money on these turds, they will never behave.
-Jason Vorva

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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Health, humor, history



Joanne Herman

"What's significant is that both reports don't include transgender people as an afterthought, something other LGBT reports had been guilty of in the past. With this increased national focus on LGBT health, one can be hopeful that additional tools for medical providers serving transgender patients will soon be available."

- Joanne Herman, transgender advocate, in her column titled "A New Tool for Treating Transgender People," about the release of an important new online resource for medical providers serving transsexual and gender-variant patients, titled the "Primary Care Protocol for Transgender Patient Care," in the same week as the Institute of Medicine released a report titled "The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People," that addresses the health care disparities in medical treatment for LGBT people in the U.S., huffingtonpost.com, April 17.



Carrie

"Some straight people over-compensate in their effort to prove their love for the gays. I had a co-worker high-five me when I told him I was gay. While arguably silly and odd, it was also conceivably the best possible reaction to my gay declaration. High fives are a universal gesture of positive reinforcement and are really fun to give, so it was definitely a reaction I could get down with. In fact, I loved it so much that I started high-fiving him all the time. You have table 3? High-five! You have curly hair? High-five! You have to take a piss? High-five! A little positive reinforcement never hurt anyone, so the next time someone shares something about themselves, just throw up your hand, yell 'high five!' at the top of your lungs, and continue on your way."

- By Carrie, in her commentary titled "Baby's First Gay," about the experience of straight people meeting "their first gay," thenewgay.net, April 14.



Susan Cochran

"Access may be equal, but we know that quality of care for LGBs often isn't. Attitudes are changing, but we still have to continue to push to eliminate discrimination and increase understanding of the rich and diverse life experiences of these individuals to improve the quality of the care they receive."

- Susan Cochran, professor of epidemiology and a co-author of a new study titled "The Health of Aging Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults in California," conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, based on a large survey of California's aging LGB population, offering insights about broader health conditions of aging LGB people, healthpolicy.ucla.edu, March 29.



Photo of gay couple from Trent Kelley collection

"It is important for Afro American and African Diasporic gay men to understand that they have a history of loving and desiring one another that is worth acknowledging and celebrating in whatever form. They, we, have a history of just being. That is important."

- Trent Kelley, historian and poet, in his blog titled "Hidden in the Open: A Photographic Essay," about an online collection of photos he has assembled showing same gender affection among black men dating from the 1860s onward, flickr.com/photos/hidden-in-the-open, March 26.



Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A petrifying fairy tale

Once upon a time there was a forest. It was a small forest with only twelve trees. Over the years – perhaps a hundred or two – the forest sheltered both foreign born and native as well.

Gradually the natives were excluded because it was thought that natives did not know how to plant trees, nor how to care for them. (Even though they could magically tell directions east, west, north, south, from green, soft telltale moss markings.)

And the forest grew. Yes, it grew. And how! And as it grew the natives were, well, disposed of. One by one they disappeared. One by one they were not really missed. No not at all. (The moss messages were ignored, as of no importance.)

Those who lived in the forest were told that the forest was the only – yes the only – place of importance. More important than lakes, mountains, deserts, streams, the plains that surrounded it.

Why go elsewhere? became the watchword printed on every leaf marketed. Why indeed?

Of course with time the small tree acorns grew into mighty oaks. Everyone was pleased. Yes very happy, as they looked up and could just barely see the tops of the forest trees.

“The taller the tree, the more likely the gods above will see the tree tops, and be so very proud to remember that, like our trees, we are a majestic people. Our gods, too, are majestic beings.

“They are strong oaks of concord. Strong sequoia of strength. Spiritual shades to keep us content from the harsh light of the shining sun,” said the Forest Keepers, self-appointed pruners, trimmers of roots, branches, stumps, inspectors of eagle nests.

Speaking of Forest Keepers, as a group they made a good living by gathering leaves, writing wise sayings on them, sewing them together in leafy booklets, and selling them to the many, yes many, forest dwellers.

And because the leaves quickly turned red, then orange, then yellow with the changing seasons, the Forest Keepers each year sold new bundles, which the forest dwellers were eager to buy – actually they had little choice – because the sayings, which changed seasonally, made them feel that the great – greatest ever – forest was, thank the gods, the only place to be.

One spring unexpected transgressions took place in the mighty, mighty, tree forest. How it happened no one could say with certainty. (The Forest Keepers made up reasons later, reasons to castigate and decry the culprits. Saying, “Who would do such an unnatural thing? Yea verily!”)

The change – the defiant act – to tell truth now – probably seemed harmless enough to those unthinkingly risking it. But it was a dastardly act. (Remember, trees, and trees only, are a sacred, indeed a patriotic tradition. The taller, the holier.)

“The gods know us because of our symbols. From 12 trees we’ve grown to 50, to 100, to 1000. A million’s next. The gods admire power. Mighty like an oak! That’s no jokum.”

It was quickly determined that the only thing to do to please the gods was to arrest the offenders, and as was done with those earlier natives, quickly, quietly, remove them from sight. Out of sight. Out of mind. Out!

The round up began mid-spring. Ten on the dot. A glorious eagle flying overhead was, said the Head Forest Keeper, “An omen of commencement! Show no mercy. Do your duty. E pluribranthus oakum!”

By noon the round up ended. Fortunately the culprits were few in number. Mostly young. Foolish. Obvious. Out of step. But they were guilty without a doubt. Their pockets were filled with – oh, lasting shame! – tiny seedlings of many kinds. Their flower beds were quickly trampled under foot.

Ah, yes. So sad. These flower miscreants can’t see the forest. Or the trees.

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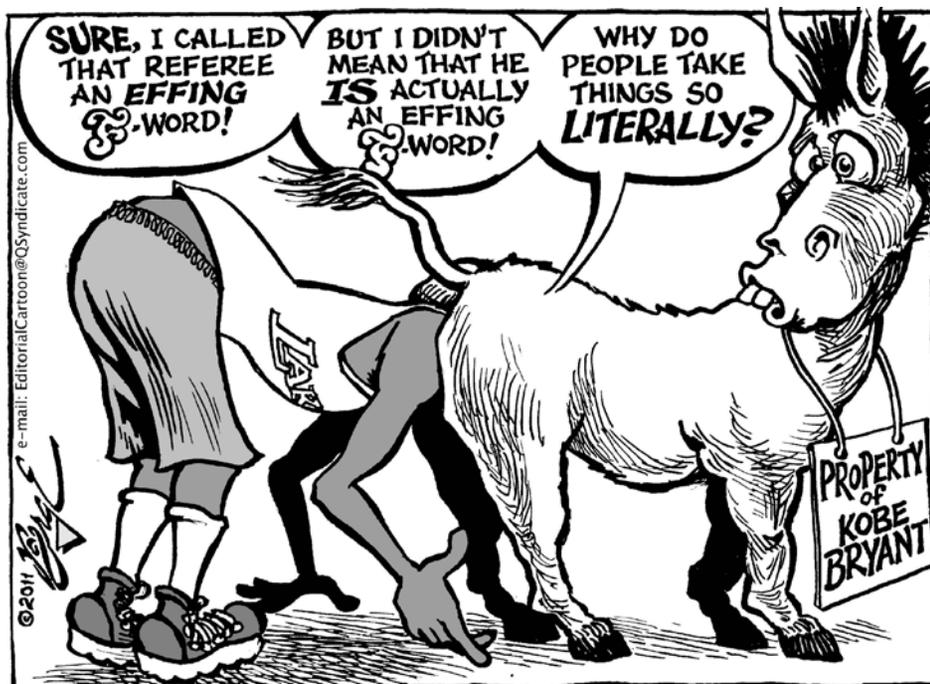
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Editorial

EMU shows us why we need LGBT history taught

Last week, the Detroit Free Press reported that state Republicans are trying to strike back at Eastern Michigan University (“Dismissal of EMU counselor who refused gay student draws GOP fire,” April 15). The school dismissed a graduate student in the counseling program who wouldn’t counsel gays because of her religious beliefs.

EMU says that the student was dismissed because she refused to follow the American Counseling Association’s code of ethics. The student, Julea Ward, says that her First Amendment rights have been violated, and she’s filed suit against the school. A federal court ruled in EMU’s favor last summer. Ward has appealed.

And now state House Republicans are trying to punish EMU, without openly saying so. They’ve pushing an appropriations bill that would, in part, “require universities with accredited counseling programs to report back to lawmakers about how they plan to protect students’ ‘deeply held religious’ beliefs,” the Free Press reported.

Yes, of course, Ms. Ward has the right to express her religious beliefs. And it’s probably not the best idea to force her to counsel gays if she harbors such hate against them – she’d be unlikely to help them to the best of her ability. Ms. Ward has a well-developed vitriol towards gays, and she’s spending her own money on lawyers to defend it. She probably isn’t going to change her mind anytime soon.

The issue that truly needs addressing here? People using religion to defend their hatred. Yes, some lines in the Bible condemn homosexuality. Some lines also condemn wearing clothing of mixed fiber while promoting slavery, and we’ve gotten beyond those, haven’t we?

We can’t change what the Bible says and the (many, many) ways that people interpret it. But we can change the “otherness” of LGBTs by teaching kids about them, in the same way we

Let’s prevent hatred, fear and misunderstanding by promoting a wider understanding of the world.

educate about other minorities.

If you’ve read “Lies My Teacher Told Me” by James W. Loewen, you know that our educational system has used social studies and history to teach morality and self-esteem. Problem is, history is mostly a story of who has power, written by those with that power. And that exchange of power often occurs in the least moral of ways. So the watered-down version of history that kids are spoon-fed often leaves them with the idea that our current world was only shaped by European and American white guys who were heroes. This is not true.

The California Senate recently passed a bill that would mandate the teaching of LGBT history in schools. Now, we know there’s very little chance of that happening in our state, at least for now. But teaching LGBT history (and current quest for civil rights) in schools would help students understand the history of the problem – and that history doesn’t only belong to those with power. Students could see that LGBTs seeking equality are not much different from blacks and women who have done the same.

Hate is often born from fear. Fear is often born from what we don’t understand. Let’s prevent hatred, fear and misunderstanding by promoting a wider understanding of the world. This is what school is supposed to do in the first place, right?



The Gay Moralist

BY JOHN CORVINO

Will gay marriage undermine monogamy?

Recently I received the following inquiry via my website:

“As a single older closeted gay man, I don’t understand how we can ask for marriage rights when so many gay couples don’t even understand monogamy. Care to explain?”

My first reaction was, “No, not really.”

That reaction stemmed partly from the fact that, in my own experience, people often bring up monogamy when they want to berate the non-monogamous. Moreover, open relationships are a rhetorical hot potato, the sort of thing marriage-equality opponents love to pounce on. And the writer’s “Care to explain?” struck me as terse, maybe even bitter.

My second reaction was to write back, albeit concisely:

“Many straight couples don’t understand monogamy either, and yet they’ve been getting married for thousands of years (including cultures where monogamy is very much NOT the norm).”

What I wrote was true, as far as it goes, but it left me with a nagging feeling that I hadn’t gone far enough.

Then a few days later I read Ross Douthat’s New York Times op-ed “Why Monogamy Matters.” Douthat distinguishes between pre-marital sex that is truly pre-marital – involving couples on the path to matrimony – and sex that is “casual and promiscuous, or just premature and ill considered.” (I smell a false dilemma here, but let’s plow on.)

He then highlights some recent research suggesting “a significant correlation between sexual restraint and emotional well-being, between monogamy and happiness – and between promiscuity and depression.”

I haven’t yet looked at the research, and I won’t comment on it further except to raise the obvious concern that correlation does not equal causation. I’m curious about the confounding variables: Who are these unhappy promiscuous folks? What are their family backgrounds, their worldviews, their economic situations and so on? How are we defining promiscuity? And how are we measuring (un)happiness?

But two things jumped out at me in Douthat’s discussion.

One was his quick statement that this correlation “is much stronger for women than for men.” (More on this in a moment.)

The other was the absence of any mention of same-sex marriage. As I’ve discussed before, Douthat has argued against marriage equality on the grounds that extending marriage to gays and lesbians would render the institution less able to address heterosexual challenges.

Douthat’s rationale for this assertion is vague, but it’s not difficult to put two and two together and form an argument:

(1) Monogamy is hard, and people usually aren’t monogamous unless given good reason to be. (2) Same-sex couples have less reason to be monogamous than heterosexual couples do, because gay sex doesn’t make babies. (Note: “less reason” does not mean “no reason.”) (3) And gay men in particular have less reason to be monogamous, because non-monogamy doesn’t correlate with male unhappiness the way it correlates with female unhappiness (according to Douthat’s cited research). (4) Therefore, we should expect gay couples – especially gay male couples – to be less monogamous than straight couples. (5) Letting gays marry would thus undermine the norm of monogamy for everyone. (6) This effect would be bad for society generally, because of more out-of-wedlock births, unhappy

We might as well regard nudists as the trendsetters for fashion

women, etc.

Perhaps my single, older, closeted gay male correspondent has a similar worry.

There’s more than one place to attack this argument, but the weakest point, in my view, is at (5): letting gays marry would undermine the norm of monogamy for everyone.

It should go without saying, but letting gays marry will not change the fact that straight sex makes babies or that straight relationships contain women.

It also won’t change the fact that at least half of same-sex couples ARE women.

Finally, it won’t change straight people’s ability to think for themselves, notwithstanding social conservatives’ apparent pessimism on this point.

While monogamy may be hard, it’s not so hard that a monogamous couple (straight or gay) can’t look at a non-monogamous couple (straight or gay) and conclude, “Nope, that’s not right for us.” After all, people read the Bible without deciding to acquire concubines.

More generally (and realistically), people encounter neighbors with different cultural mores while still preferring – and sometimes having good reason to prefer – their own.

As our opponents are fond of reminding us, gays and lesbians make up a relatively small minority of the population. Coupled gays and lesbians make up a smaller minority, coupled gay

See Monogamy, page 11

► **House Republicans**

Continued from p. 6

“The Civil Service Commission has been incredibly irresponsible, saddling taxpayers with \$11 million in additional spending at time when we are dealing with a huge deficit,” said House Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, in a press release. “We have a duty as a state legislature to stand up for taxpayers when this kind of absurd spending spree occurs, and yet, today not even a handful of Democrats were willing to do that.”

State Senator Rebekah Warren, D-18, told BTL last month that she had heard estimates that the benefits could cost up to \$6 million, but “it all depends on how many of our workers choose to participate. We just don’t know.”

The benefits will take effect for state employees in October. Each state employee will be able to allow one “Other Eligible Adult” to access his or her state health benefits, provided that the OEA has lived with the state employee for more than one year and is not a tenant. The OEA’s dependents are also eligible.

Prior to the MCSC’s decision in January, former Gov. Jennifer Granholm negotiated same-sex partner benefits with the state employee unions. But in 2008, the state Supreme Court ruled that such benefits, called “domestic



House Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall called benefits “absurd spending.”

partner benefits” or “same-sex partner benefits,” were illegal because marriage and any benefits attached to it are restricted to one man and one woman, due to Proposition 2, voted on by Michigan citizens in 2004.



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► **ACLU**

Continued from p. 7

then it refused to reveal when the devices were used so a proper request could be made.

“We should not have to go on expensive fishing expeditions in order to discover whether police are violating the rights of residents they have resolved to protect and serve,” said Fancher.

According to CelleBrite, the manufacturer of at least some of the devices acquired by MSP, the product can extract a wide variety of data from cellphones including contacts, text messages, deleted text messages, call history, pictures, audio and video recordings, phone details including the phone number and

complete memory file dumps on some handsets.

In its three-page letter, the ACLU of Michigan explained that the use of such devices may violate Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches if a warrant is not issued. In addition, the organization would like to determine if MSP is disproportionately downloading the personal information of people of color.

Recently, the national ACLU took on a similar issue challenging a federal policy of searching, copying and detaining travelers’ laptops, cell phones and other electronic devices at airports and the border without suspicion of wrongdoing.

To read the letter, go to: <http://www.aclumich.org/sites/default/files/CellebriteLettertoMSP.pdf>

► **Monogomy**

Continued from p. 10

males an even smaller minority, and coupled gay males in open relationships a smaller minority still. As Jonathan Rauch has written in his excellent book “Gay Marriage: Why it is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America,” “We might as well regard nudists as the trendsetters for fashion.”

So why do conservatives think that this tiny

minority will undermine the norms of the vast majority, rather than vice versa?

It’s hard to escape the answer: because that view fits their preconceived objections better, evidence and common sense be damned.

John Corvino, Ph.D. is a writer, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column “The Gay Moralist” appears Fridays at 365gay.com. Read more or watch clips from his talks at www.johncorvino.com.

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William Donohue

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Are all Catholic priests child molesters? No, of course not. Are some Catholic priests child molesters? Yes, indeed. But you know what? There are child molesters in schools and in other religious organizations and stuff, so we should



William Donohue

really just forget the whole thing with the priests and leave them alone already.

Or so says Catholic League President William

Donohue in an April 18 piece on the Catholic League's website.

The gist of the piece is that everyone's being too hard on priests over this whole abuse thing, and anyway it all happened a long time ago and the fact that most priests aren't molesters is proof enough that this is no big deal. And anyway, Donohue writes, "(M)ost of the abuse occurred during the heyday of the sexual revolution, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s." You know, "sexual revolution," when everyone was way cooler about child molestation.

Oh, yeah, and that it's a gay problem, not a pedophile problem.

Donohue writes, "The refrain that child rape is a reality in the Church is twice wrong: let's get it straight – they weren't children and they weren't raped. We know from the (2004 sexual abuse study commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) that most of the victims have been adolescents, and that the most common abuse has been inappropriate touching (inexcusable though this is, it is not rape)."

Wow. These weren't kids, huh? Interesting because adolescence begins at age 12. Call me crazy, but I consider a 12-year-old a child. My guess is that it's not uncommon to consider 12 to 15 pretty solid child territory. In fact, I bet that Donohue would be pretty quick to call two 12 to 15-year-olds having sex with *each other* children. But if they're being sexually assaulted by a priest then they're all grown up, I guess. Whether they want to be or not.

Oh, and just because the most common type of abuse was "inappropriate touching" that doesn't mean that no children were raped. I'm not sure how many child rapes it takes

for Donohue to count them as real or significant, but I'm going to out on a limb here and say that even one is way too many.

Donohue goes on to say, "The Boston Globe correctly said of the (2004 report) that 'more than three-quarters of the victims were post pubescent, meaning the abuse did not meet the clinical definition of pedophilia.' In other words, the issue is homosexuality, not pedophilia."

Woah, wait a minute. Considering puberty begins between 8 and 13 for girls and 9 and 14 for boys, Donohue's claim that it's all good in the hood just because the abuse doesn't meet the "clinical definition of pedophilia" is not only misleading, it's pretty sick. Because that certainly meets the criminal definition of pedophilia, something that Donohue never acknowledges. He just blames it on the gays.

This is, of course, not new

Donohue isn't the first to blame the abuse scandal on a few bad homo priest apples.

territory. Donohue isn't the first to blame the abuse scandal on a few bad homo priest apples. And if you think homosexuality and pedophilia are the same thing, it's a pretty convenient conclusion to come to. One that tidily assigns blame and allows you to avoid answering some very difficult questions. It's pretty easy to see why folks like Donohue cling to it.

Donohue bemoans the "assault on priests as child abusers" and says that the Catholic Church did nothing wrong with how it handled the abuse scandal because they were just trying to be compassionate, rehabilitating molester priests and then sending them off to new dioceses. What others call a massive cover up, Donohue calls a "therapeutic approach."

"What accounts for the relentless attacks on the Church?" Donohue asks. "Let's face it: if its teachings were pro-abortion, pro-gay marriage and pro-women clergy, the dogs would have been called off years ago."

Right. Because anyone who is bothered by clergy abuse obviously just has a wacky liberal agenda.

Delaware approves civil unions

Couples will have same protections, rights as married couples

BY BTL STAFF

DOVER— Delaware is now the seventh state to allow same-sex civil unions after winning approval in the House of Representatives April 14. The bill now goes to the governor to sign.

After a two-hour hearing, lawmakers voted 26-15 in favor of Senate Bill 30, which also makes Delaware the 15th state to fully recognize same-sex relationships. Couples who enter into a civil union would enjoy the same rights, protections and obligations that exist for married spouses.

"Who are we to judge that same-sex couples are any less deserving of the same recognition and benefits as opposite-sex couples?" said Rep. George, D-Bear. "Our government stands for liberty and justice for all. We haven't always gotten it right, but we have worked to correct those missteps. Today, we corrected an inequity and injustice by passing this legislation."

Supporters of the legislation noted that civil unions offer Delawareans equal protection and equal treatment under the

law. Couples in a civil union would have the same protections, rights and obligations as a married couple, such as hospital visitation rights, property and last will and testament transfers, the ability to live together in nursing homes and joint adoption.

Also under the bill, Delaware would recognize legal relationships that same-sex couples enter into in another jurisdiction – whether it is a civil union or same-sex marriage – and treat the relationship as a civil union.

Equality Delaware released a poll recently showing 62 percent of likely Delaware voters support civil unions for same-sex couples, twice the number that oppose civil unions. Poll results showed that more people in all three counties and nearly every demographic – men, women, seniors, residents ages 50 to 64 and younger than 50 – favor civil unions than oppose them.

"Research has shown that children living in loving and committed families – no matter their makeup – are going to thrive," said Rep. Schooley, D-Newark. "What we have seen through testimony is that families with same-sex couples are struggling because our laws don't allow them to be recognized. We are rectifying things

so families with same-sex couples can stand just as strongly as families with opposite-sex couples."

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, six states have passed civil union legislation – Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont. Colorado is currently considering a civil union law. Seven other states allow domestic partnerships.

Gov. Jack A. Markell has said he will sign the bill into law.

"When it came to this legislation, it was clear that it was about rights, it was about opportunity and it was about time. It makes clear that if you've committed yourself to someone, and you've made that pledge to spend your life together in partnership, when life or death decisions come, we will respect your right to make those decisions together," Markell said. "It makes clear to children raised since birth in a homes of love, hope and help that just because both of your parents happen to be men or women, if one of those parents dies, you will not be torn apart from the other parent. I congratulate everyone who worked so hard to make these rights real and look forward to signing this bill into law."

ENDA, immigration bills introduced in Congress

BY REX WOCKNER

Two recurring LGBT-rights measures were introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in April – the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Uniting American Families Act.

ENDA would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in workplaces that have 15 or more employees.

UAFA would give U.S. citizens and permanent residents the right to sponsor a same-sex permanent partner for U.S. residence – a right that is available to opposite-sex binational spouses.

"Thousands of committed same-sex couples are needlessly suffering because of unequal treatment under our immigration laws, and this is an outrage," U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said in announcing UAFA's introduction.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said: "Our nation's discriminatory immigration laws force binational same-sex families to decide between breaking up or living in exile. No American family should face this decision."

According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, at least 25 nations allow residents to sponsor same-sex permanent partners for legal immigration, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

ENDA and UAFA may face a tough road in Congress, in part because Republicans control the House of Representatives.

Laws similar to ENDA exist in 21 states and Washington, D.C. for sexual orientation and in 12 states and D.C. for gender identity.

Judge responds to gay marriage foes over tapes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— The now-retired federal judge who declared Proposition 8 unconstitutional is responding to a motion by the sponsors of California's same-sex marriage to have him surrender videotapes of the trial that led to his ruling.

In a motion filed with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on April 13, lawyers for supporters of the voter-approved ban also asked the court to prohibit former Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker from playing the recordings for anyone else.

The motion came in response to a talk Walker gave in February at the University of Arizona and rebroadcast on C-Span. During his presentation, the judge showed a clip from the trial.

The lawyers say that violated a U.S. Supreme Court order and assurances from Walker.

In a letter to the court on April 14, Walker said that he would abide by whatever the court determines, but noted the trial was a public trial.

'Defending marriage' hearing held

Democrats defend Obama decision to stop defending DOMA

BY LISA KEEN

Democrats came out swinging Friday, April 15, during a House subcommittee hearing titled "Defending Marriage," about the Department of Justice announcement that it would curtail its defense of the federal ban on recognition of same-sex marriages.

The hearing was called by Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., the new Republican chairman of the subcommittee. Franks called only three witnesses – two of which have taken high-profile stances against same-sex marriage and the DOJ decision to limit its defense of the Defense of Marriage Act.

One witness, Ed Whelan, head of a religious conservative think tank called the Ethics and Public Policy Center, claimed the Obama administration's decision to limit its defense of DOMA was the culmination of a long-standing strategy by Obama to promote same-sex marriage.

"I think one would have to be very naïve to think anything other than that (through) a stealth strategy, step-by-step, the administration is doing whatever it can to promote same-sex marriage and to induce the courts to adopt that approach."

Whelan said the fact that President Obama was once a professor of constitutional law "makes all the more implausible that he suddenly discovered" that DOMA is unconstitutional. Whelan did not mention, nor did anyone else, that the DOJ made clear it would continue enforcing DOMA, that it would defend DOMA as meeting the simplest of judicial standards at least in the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals,

and that it would assist Congress in its defense of the law.

Ranking Democrat Jerrold Nadler addressed witness Maggie Gallagher, president of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy and former president of the National Organization for Marriage. Nadler pointed out two children in the hearing room who had same-sex parents.

"How would you explain to children like McKinley and Brianna who are here with us with their parents today that their family is not deserving and should be excluded from the protections and benefits of marriage, including the important confirmation that the federal government considers them a family," asked Nadler. "Or do you consider these children expendable?"

Gallagher said no child is expendable and defended her position against same-sex marriage, saying she was an unwed mother and understands what it's like to be in a "non-marital family."

Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., asked Gallagher how people who claim they want government out of their lives could defend DOMA.

"What could be more personal than the decision on who you should love and how to express that love and raising children?" asked Quigley.

"We would agree on so much if we weren't in a hotly contested political arena where it's not in anyone's interest to agree," said Gallagher. "I believe there are gay people who are wonderful parents," she added. "And it's interesting to me that, no matter how hard I try to avoid it, people interpret what I say as a condemnation of gay people and their parenting skills – cause that's

not my intent."

Gallagher said, "the enormous problem in this country" – concerning the survival of marriage – "wasn't caused by gay people and it can't be cured by them."

"But if your concern is to defend marriage, don't you see greater threats being infidelity, domestic violence, alcoholism, drug use?" asked Quigley. "Those are the things that drive families apart."

Gallagher said she still spends some of her time on some of those types of problems, "and if I could wave a magic wand" and eliminate divorce and have gay marriage, "I might wave that wand." But gay marriage, like no-fault divorce, she said, changes the sense that marriage is a permanent commitment.

"Same-sex marriage is eventually going to affect everyone's marriage," said Gallagher, "by changing the public understanding of what this institution is and what it's for."

The third witness, law professor Carlos Ball of Rutgers, got very little time to express his view, defending the Obama administration's decision to curtail its defense of DOMA, saying it was a "careful and thorough" analysis of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Nadler and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., who chaired the Judiciary Committee in the last Congressional session, also admonished Franks for holding a hearing about the DOJ decision without calling a witness from the DOJ. Franks later responded, saying that the House would hold a DOJ oversight hearing in May and invite the DOJ then.

Boehner wants DOJ to pay to defend DOMA

House Republicans have hired former Solicitor General under Bush administration

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, wrote in a letter to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi April 18 that the House "plans to protect taxpayers from any cost associated with the Obama administration's refusal to defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act in court."

Earlier this year, President Obama told the Department of Justice to stop defending DOMA in court, calling it unconstitutional.

"The burden of defending DOMA, and the resulting costs associated with any litigation that would have otherwise been born by DOJ, has fallen to the House," Boehner wrote. "Obviously, DOJ's decision results in DOJ no longer needing the funds it would have otherwise expended defending the constitutionality of DOMA. It is my intent that those funds be diverted to the House for reimbursement of any costs incurred by and associated with the House, and not DOJ, defending DOMA."

House Republicans hired former U.S.

Solicitor General Paul Clement as their lawyer to defend DOMA. Clement served as SG for three years during George W. Bush's presidency.

"Not only are House Republican leaders defending the indefensible, they've brought in a high priced attorney to deny federal recognition

The ACLU alleges that House Republicans want to intervene in a lawsuit filed against the federal government. Edith Windsor, an 81-year-old woman who legally married Thea Spyer in Canada, filed the lawsuit after the government imposed a hefty

"Not only are House Republican leaders defending the indefensible, they've brought in a high priced attorney to deny federal recognition to loving, married couples."

—HRC President Joe Solmonese>

to loving, married couples," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Speaker Boehner appears ready to go to great lengths, and the great expense of a high-power law firm, to try to score some cheap political points on the backs of same-sex couples."

tax on the estate of Spyer, who died in 2009. Windsor would not have had to pay any tax if she were married to a man, but because of DOMA, she had to pay \$363,000.

Windsor and Spyer were partners for 44 years, and married in 2007.

CA Senate bill mandates gay history in schools

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)— Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people would be added to the lengthy list of social and ethnic groups that public schools must include in social studies lessons under a landmark bill passed April 14 by the California Senate.

If the bill is adopted by the state Assembly and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, California would become the first state to require the teaching of gay history.

Supporters say the move is needed to counter anti-gay stereotypes and beliefs that make children in those groups vulnerable to bullying and suicide.

Opponents counter that such instruction would further burden an already crowded curriculum and expose students to a subject that some parents find objectionable.

The legislation, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Mark Leno of San Francisco, passed on a 23-14 party line vote. It also would add disabled people to the curriculum.

The bill gives school districts flexibility in deciding what to include in the lessons and at what grades students would receive them.

But starting in the 2013-14 school year, it would prohibit districts and the California Board of Education from using textbooks or other instructional materials that reflect adversely on gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

Appealing to colleagues for support, Leno said gay children still struggle routinely with verbal and physical abuse at school, even though society is more accepting than when he was a gay youth in the 1960s.

"We are second-class citizens and children are listening," he said. "When they see their teachers don't step up to the plate when their classmate is being harassed literally to death, they are listening and they get the message that there is something wrong with those people."

Republican Sen. Doug La Malfa of Butte opposed the bill.

"I'm deeply troubled kids would have to contemplate at a very, very early age, when many of us are teaching abstinence ... what is sexuality," he said.

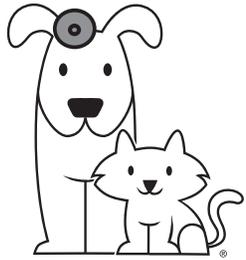
California law already requires schools to cover the contributions to the state and nation of women, African Americans, Mexican Americans, entrepreneurs, Asian Americans, European Americans, American Indians and labor.



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India's Supreme Court considers ruling that legalized gay sex

India's Supreme Court was scheduled on April 19 to begin hearing 15 separate appeals of the Delhi High Court ruling that struck down the nation's ban on gay sex in July 2009.

The appeals were launched by various groups and individuals. Other groups have intervened to support the decision, including famed filmmaker Shyam Benegal, a group of 19 parents with gay children, a group of 16 academics and teachers, and a group of 14 mental health professionals.

"All these have been admitted into the case, which goes a considerable way towards balancing the 15 petitions opposing us, most of them from extremist religious groups," said activist Vikram Doctor.

The government did not appeal the decision.

In striking down the ban nationally, the High Court "read down" Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code so that it no longer applies to the activities of consenting adults. The section bans "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal" under penalty of 10 years to life in prison.

The court said 377 violated a constitutional guarantee of equality under the law, a constitutional ban on discrimination based on sex, and constitutional promises of personal liberty and protection of life.

"Section 377 IPC targets the homosexual community as a class and is motivated by an animus towards this vulnerable class of people," the court wrote. "It has no other purpose than to criminalize conduct which fails to conform with the moral or religious views of a section of society."

Given India's population of 1.2 billion people, the High Court's decision had the effect of decriminalizing 17 percent of all LGB people on the planet.

Given India's population of 1.2 billion people, the High Court's decision had the effect of decriminalizing 17 percent of all LGB people on the planet.

Gay groups denounce draft of Hungarian Constitution

Hungary's Parliament was scheduled to vote April 18 on a new national constitution that LGBT groups say is problematic.

ILGA-Europe – the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association – said the draft defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and omits sexual orientation from an anti-discrimination provision's list of banned grounds of discrimination.

"Such a restrictive definition (of marriage) clearly shows that Hungary wants to institutionalize homophobia in its supreme law," ILGA-Europe said. "While Hungary already has registered-partnership legislation for same-sex partners, such a constitutional provision, if adopted, will mean that same-sex partners will be deprived from enjoying full legal equality as different-sex partners. Additionally, (it) would create serious restrictions in terms of the implementation of the (European Union) free-movement directive as same-sex partners married in other EU countries would not be recognized as married in Hungary."

The co-chair of ILGA-Europe's board, Martin K.I. Christensen, said "the proposed draft signals a worrying sign of Hungary's departure from the EU principles of equality and nondiscrimination for all, and from European legal traditions."

He called on EU institutions "to interfere with what appears to be a conscious move against principles of equality and nondiscrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU freedom of movement directive."

Euro Parliament scolds Macedonia

In adopting its annual report on Macedonia's progress toward joining the European Union, the European Parliament on April 7 told the nation to legally ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Such a ban is a requirement of EU membership.

The parliament called for "the swift alignment of national provisions in this field with (EU law) and for strengthening of the monitoring mechanisms."

MEP Ulrike Lunacek, co-president of the parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights, said: "Nondiscrimination is a fundamental right in the EU. Macedonia must stop averting its eyes from minorities, and provide full protection to all citizens without exception."

Intergroup Co-President Michael Cashman added: "There is literally no way around this. Entering the European Union will require amending the anti-discrimination law."

University gives transgender man new diploma

The president of the executive board of the University of Amsterdam, Karel van der Toorn, presented transgender activist and alumnus Justus Eisfeld with a new diploma reflecting his correct gender April 6 in New York City.

Van der Toorn was in New York, where Eisfeld works for Global Action for Trans Equality, on a business trip.

Eisfeld underwent gender transition after graduation from the university.

Approval to issue the revised diploma came in November via a ruling from the Dutch Equal Treatment Commission.

The decision also applies to other Dutch transgender people.

Moscow Pride: 6th time's the charm?

Gay activists will try again next month to stage a gay pride march in Moscow.

This time, they are armed with a final ruling from the European Court of Human Rights that previous years' bans by the ex-mayor and the city were illegal.

Last October, the ECHR determined that the bans placed Russia in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the areas of freedom of assembly and association, right to an effective remedy and prohibition of discrimination.

The Russian government appealed the ruling to a higher chamber of the court, where the "referral request" was "rejected" April 11, according to the court's website.

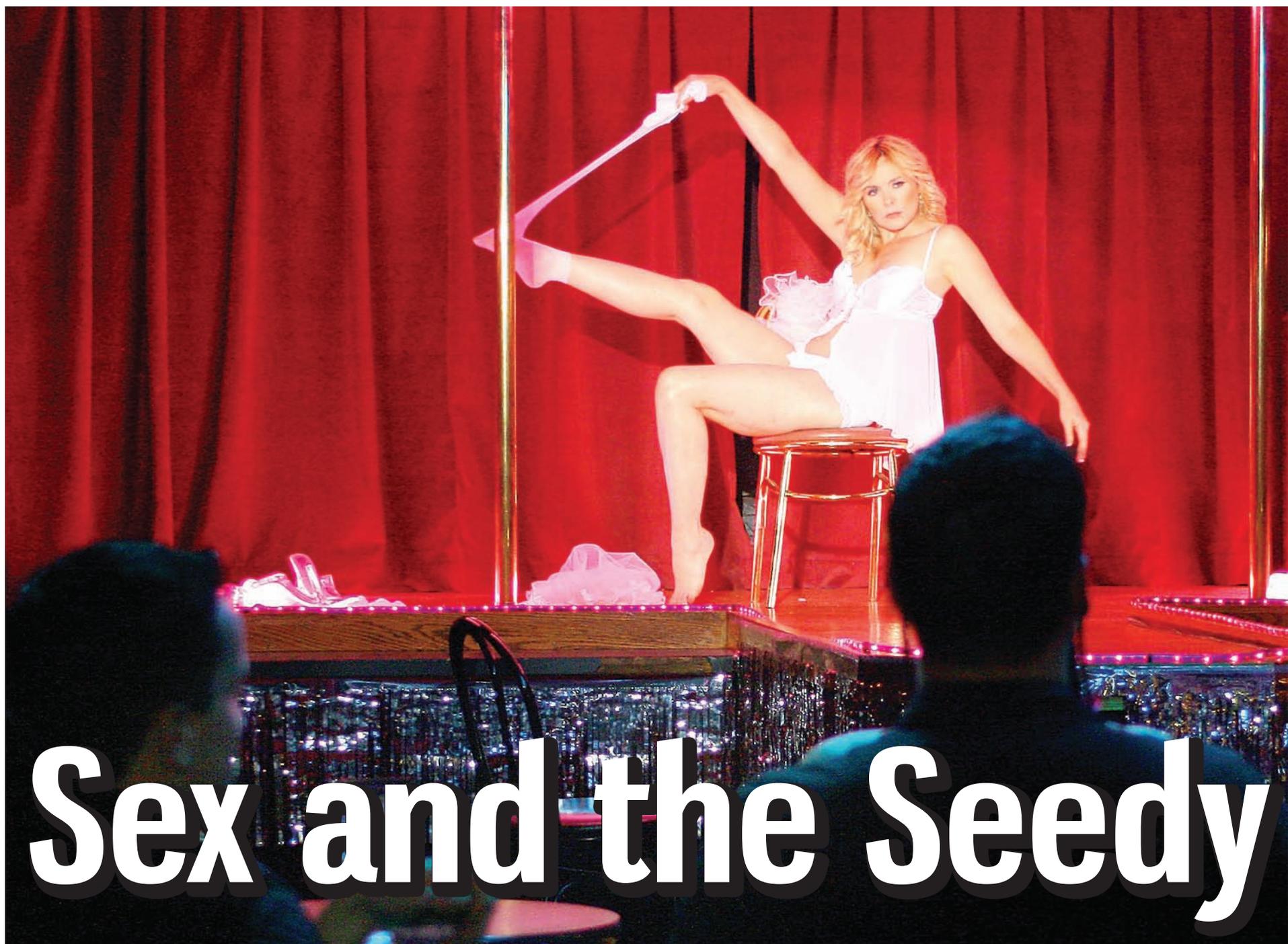
"The Court's Chamber judgment of 21 October 2010 has thereby become final," the court's registrar reported.

On April 12, Moscow Pride applied to the police department and mayor's office for permission to hold this year's march.

The group asked to hold a "mass cultural and educational event" this time rather than a "political rally" – which had been banned each of the past five years.

"I really hope that this time common sense will finally prevail and our gay pride events will not be banned by authorities," co-organizer Nikolai Baev told UK Gay News and GayRussia.ru. "It's enough of such a madness (as) bans, arrests, riots and so on. I think that nobody is interested in such ... things except extreme right groups."

Previous years' unsanctioned events were attacked by anti-gay hooligans, picketed by religious protesters and broken up by riot police.



Sex and the Seedy

Kim Cattrall on her very un-Samantha role, love of gay men, and Britney Spears

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

There's not much city in "Meet Monica Velour," but there's sex – and a trailer park and a very haggard-looking Kim Cattrall. The "Sex and the City" actress plays the title character, a washed-up porn star who meets a young fan of hers when the boy travels to rural Indiana – the film was shot in Michigan in 2008 – to see her at a strip club. After six seasons of glam in her iconic role as super-slut Samantha Jones on the hit TV series (and two movie spin-offs), Monica Velour is nothing like the femme fatale Cattrall once played.

Recently, we caught up with Cattrall, who discussed how the part parallels her own career, why she shops at Kmart and whether she'd be up for another "Sex and the City."

What about this role was so different for you?

I usually play characters who are very strong, forceful and successful dynamos, and this woman is someone who's been marginalized and is very much an outcast. I thought, "What will it be like to inhabit that, and do I have that in me?"

In some ways it's a story that's not too far from what has happened in Hollywood for decades. And I thought, "I can relate to that. That's

a great handle for me to go on, because I'm in my 50s and suddenly you become, 'You look good for your age,' instead of, 'You look good.'" It was a physical, emotional and intellectual challenge.

You really threw yourself into this part.

I had a tremendous amount of support – I really did. To be handed a role like this at any time in your career, but especially at this time, I said to Keith Bearden, the director: "You've written a feminist film. It's really incredible that you cast a woman in her 50s who's overweight, and that you wrote that role." This is a guy who's rewriting a Hollywood movie and what he's done is make a wonderful American movie. And I don't think we have a lot of those around anymore, sadly.

What kind of research went into this role? I heard some of it involved you going to strip clubs.

That was the least of it, really. I mean, that kind of reality is very easy to access on the Internet. For Keith and I, it was really an investigation on multiple levels. I decided to go with a deeper register in my voice. I felt that my voice as Kim was too hopeful, too lyrical, and I wanted to go deeper than that. Gaining the weight was, again, like looking at porn. It was something that was a dedication in the sense of continuously being

aware of it and doing it and not exercising, which was a blessing, and not being on diet, which was an even bigger blessing. (Laughs)

What did you eat?

Oh, god. Definitely pasta, butter, desserts, lots of pork. Anything and everything that was either salty or sweet. It was really a "Get Out of Jail Free" card, because my whole life I've been on a diet or on an exercise routine. But I do love to eat.

How was it shooting in Michigan?

I love Michigan!

Before the shoot, you were spotted at Kmart.

Oh, yeah. I was there. I did a lot of the costumes myself, and every weekend I would go to Kmart because that's where Monica would shop. That's the kind of authenticity that was going on in the sense of this is real; it's not Hollywood real, it's real. No special lighting, no special treatment.

You mention Monica being an outcast, and early test screenings for the movie showed a strong interest among gay men. Do you think that has something to do with it?

Well, not being a gay man, I can't really comment on that. But I can understand how it would – yes,

definitely. Especially in Middle America.

Did you tend to buddy-up with the gay people on set?

Our scenic designer, who did a brilliant job, is gay and he absolutely loved working on this movie. He came in at the last minute, and he did a phenomenal job. That trailer park doesn't exist. A lot of those places didn't exist. We actually shot in the trailer, and with such detail. I remember saying to him, "This really feels real." The bedroom felt real; the living room and everything in the kitchen, he built that all out and he did a phenomenal job.

Do you appreciate porn stars more now?

It gave me an appreciation of women of a certain age – which I am one of them. Whether you're an actress or a teacher or a porn star, after a certain age you are marginalized – and then, in the case of a porn star, you're an outcast. So where do these people go? And where do aging actresses go? I like to think that they go to the theater and they continue to be involved with great stories. So there are a lot of women that I've surrounded myself with, like Janet Suzman, Judi Dench and Meryl Streep; they are really inspiring, but most people get so

See Kim Cattrall, page 16



Governor Snyder killed my career

BY ERIC A. HAYNES

This January, as I was moving to the Detroit area from Los Angeles, everyone asked me why I was heading to Michigan. To work in film production, duh! With Governor Snyder's proposed \$25 million cap on the film tax incentive I am now asking myself the same question.

"Meet Monica Velour" was the first film I worked on here during the summer and fall of 2008, and I fell in love – with Michigan. I stayed in a Livonia hotel for four and a half months while working on the film. I was not about to sit in that hotel room on weekends, and at the time I didn't know I would be coming back in 2009 and 2010 to work on two more movies. So every weekend I was out and about, from the U.P. to Detroit to Saugatuck, and I made sure to see and do as much as I could. The state is beautiful – lakes, wineries, quaint downtowns, fall leaves, cider mill doughnuts, the list goes on and on.

Aside from the beautiful state of Michigan, I moved here for steady work in film production. Now that I live here, there is none. Last summer there were 10 different films shooting in and around Metro Detroit. Now? Two. Gov. Snyder's 2012 proposed budget scared off producers that were bringing films to Michigan. What's even more bizarre is the Michigan Film Office is operating as though the \$25 million cap is already in place. The proposed budget is for 2012, not 2011.

Gov. Snyder, Michigan already lost the auto industry. Why do you want to kill the budding film industry that has brought more than \$500 million into the state since

April 2008? The tax incentive is not just about the bottom line and how much money you give out. It's also about employing Michiganders who otherwise would be collecting unemployment, watching their homes fall into foreclosure and having their cars repossessed.

And, I'm not just talking about the Michiganders the film employs. I'm talking about the convenience store clerk, waitress, rental car rep, hotel maid, theater ticket-taker, bartender, casino dealer, clothing store clerk, taxi driver, pharmacist, barista and all the other people the out-of-towner deals with while they're staying in Michigan.

OK, CliffsNotes version of the film tax incentive: Producers get 30 to 42 percent back for every dollar spent in the state of Michigan on qualifying expenditures, i.e. office supplies, lumber, costumes, rental cars, hotel rooms. And the tax incentive is not just for films; it also applies to television shows and video games. Every project that's approved to film in Michigan must go through an audit prior to receiving their tax incentive monies. More than \$100 million was awarded to producers in 2010. A \$25 million cap is not going to cut it. And, it hasn't. All it did was scare off producers.

I was supposed to start work April 4 on a film that would employ me for three and a half months. Because of the uncertainty of the tax incentive the film went to Toronto. Tell me again how I'm supposed to get a job in Michigan?

Eric A. Haynes was the unit production manager for "Meet Monica Velour." He lives in Royal Oak.

► Kim Cattrall

Continued from p. 15

downtrodden, like this character – where do they go, what happens to them? So I have a real respect and appreciation for what that is and will continue to fight it with everything I have. (Laughs)

If you were a porn star, what would your porn star name be?

Mine would be Fluffy Dawn, because my cat was Fluffy, and I lived on Dawn Road.

What do you think Samantha would say about Monica? Would they be friends?

I don't think they would be friends. I think they live in different universes. Samantha is a dynamo and in some ways she's kind of stuck in her own way, meaning that she doesn't want to change, she doesn't want to age. A character like Monica Velour doesn't have a choice.

Will there be a "Sex and the City 3"?

I have no idea. I really don't know.

Would you be onboard?

To me, it always depends on the script, because I always felt the writing was so good on the show and I know that for the writers and producers – Sarah (Jessica Parker) being one of them – that would be a real priority. But I've heard nothing. I also haven't been around too much. I've been busy working. You'll probably know before I do.

What's your relationship been like with the "Sex and the City" women? Do you stay in touch?

You know, we do in the sense of, "Hi, I'm over here," and "Congratulations on that." Two of the four of us have kids, so that's a whole other world, and Kristin (Davis) travels extensively, as do I. But when we see each other, it's so nice. It's really lovely. But we all live in different universes.

How did you react when Cynthia Nixon came out?

I was very happy for her. I saw the pictures of her, and also



Director Keith Bearden, star Kim Cattrall, producer Gary Gilbert and co-star Dustin Ingram attend a screening of "Meet Monica Velour" on April 12 at the Uptown Palladium in Birmingham. Photo: Andrew Potter

just from being around her, and she just seemed so fulfilled. Christine (Marinoni) is just wonderful. They're a terrific couple. And I'm very pleased about the baby.

What do you think when you go back and watch yourself in "Star Trek VI" or "Mannequin"?

I never do it. (Laughs) The most I see of that is from fans. But I look back at my career so fondly. I had so much fun and I worked with such terrific people. I'm still working, and I'm just very lucky. And I know I've worked hard for it, and continue to, but it has not been a hardship, it has been a real joy.

You played Britney Spears' mom in "Crossroads," and her life as changed so much since then. But did you ever feel maternal, like you wanted to protect her from all she'd gone through?

When I met Britney she was in top form, but what I really liked about her was that she had a real desire – acting in this film meant a lot to her. She had a coach on the set, and she took it very seriously.

I have a lot of empathy for her. The road that she's chosen is a really tough one, and to be in the public eye is tough already – but to be at that level at such an early age, she has handled it the best she knew how. My hat's off to her that she has found her way through that really tough time, and I wish her the very best. I really do.

On your episode of "Who Do You Think You Are," you found out that your grandfather was married to two women at the same time. How did discovering that affect you personally?

It's affected my whole family. It was very wounding and hurtful to find out the truth, but ultimately it brought the family that I do have closer together. It also started to envelope other people who neither of us knew existed, and that has been a wonderful experience – to have new family and really respect and value the family you do have.

This may come as a shock to you, but you have a massive gay following.

Where would I be without gay men? I don't know where I'd be. I love gay men.

I love gay men, too.

I know you do! (Laughs)

Do most gay men recognize you as Samantha?

Some do, and some know "Mannequin" and some know "Big Trouble in Little China." Some know me just from my theater work. I have a couple of gentlemen who traveled all the way from New York to Liverpool to see me in "Antony and Cleopatra" over the fall, and that is just so incredible. I'm overwhelmed that someone cares enough to follow me where my career goes.

Did you realize how much gay men loved you before "Sex and the City"?

I didn't. I really didn't. But now I do!



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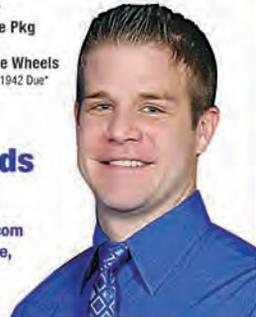
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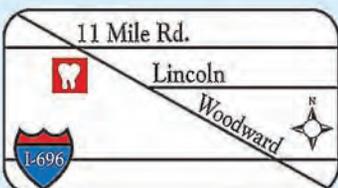
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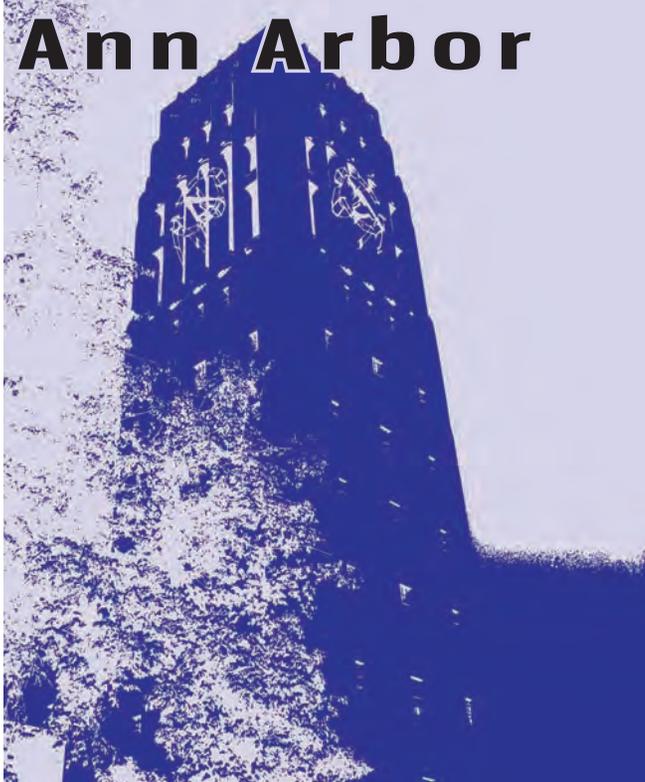
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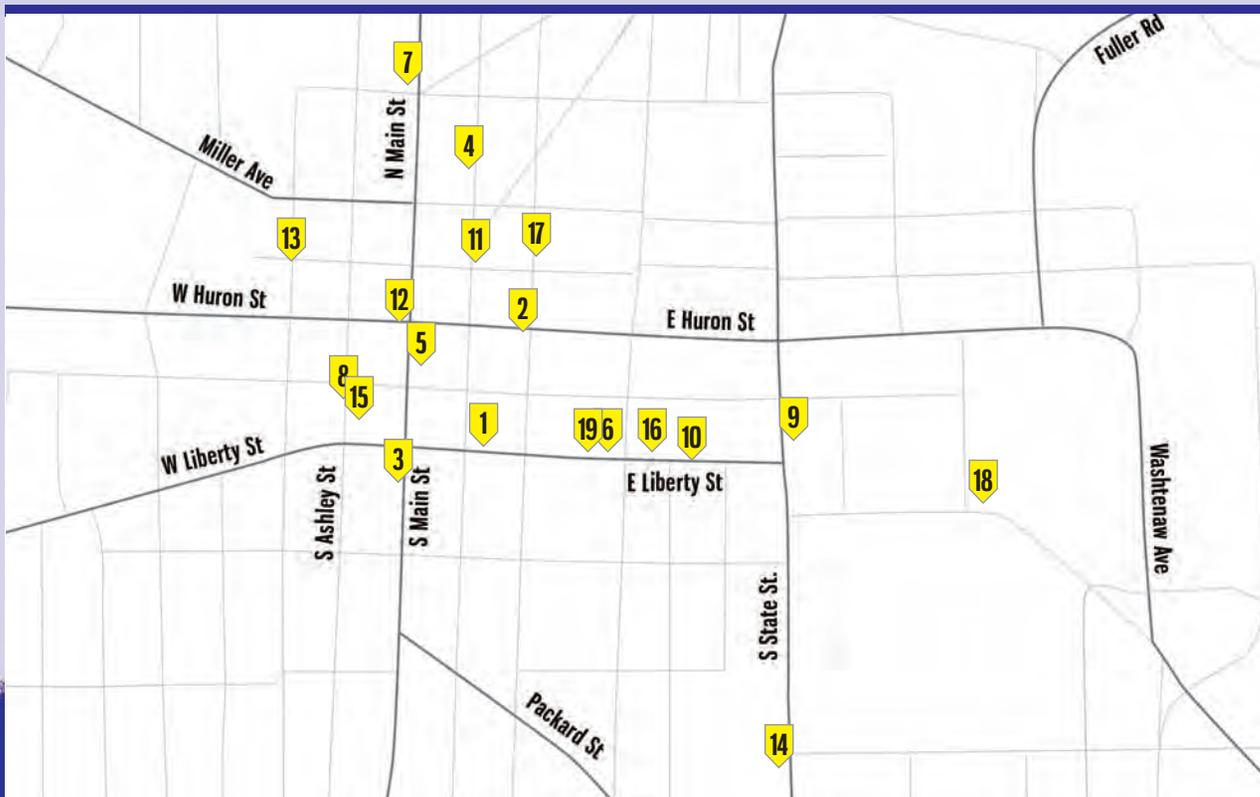
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Summer Festival's 28th season: k.d. lang, drag artists

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival recently announced its headlining indoor performances as well as a special outdoor attraction for the 2011 season. From Hollywood celebrities and hip-hop circus to sequined drag artists and inflatable sculptures, the new season runs from June 17 through July 10, and features an eclectic mix of music, dance, comedy, theater, spoken word, circus, fringe and family entertainment.

Now celebrating its 28th season, the festival's Mainstage series features a wide variety of contemporary performing artists that include art rock virtuoso Andrew Bird with indie newcomer Haley Bonar; jazz funk sensation Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with local fusionists The Macpodz; New York's hottest literary ticket, The Moth Mainstage; comedian, actor and expert banjo player Steve Martin performing with The Steep Canyon Rangers; fiery Texas blues trio Los Lonely Boys with ex-punk-turned-roots-rocker Alejandro Escovedo; acclaimed vocalist k.d. lang and her new band, The Siss Boom Bang, with folk duo The Belle Brigade; the gloriously glittered Taylor Mac with his Bowie/Tiny Tim mash-up show; popular political satirists The Capitol Steps; daredevil Aussie acrobats Tom Tom Crew with their urban circus spectacle; and the festival return of the globetrotting, vintage-chic musical collective Pink Martini.

The festival's Mainstage performances take place in Power Center for the Performing Arts, Hill Auditorium and the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. The outdoor activities at Top of the Park continue at Ingalls Mall, located directly in front of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate

See Ann Arbor Summer Fest, page 23

2011 Mainstage Performance Highlights

Andrew Bird

With special guest Haley Bonar
8 p.m. June 18, Power Center
\$30-\$45

Few artists better exemplify the term chamber pop than violinist, whistler, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird. A classically trained violinist, former swing jazz musician and now art rock virtuoso, Bird is one of the most imaginative and distinctive voices making music today. Essentially a one-man band, Bird plays and layers live loops, stacking sounds and rhythms, and offering an eclectic mix of gypsy ballads, jazz, folk and rock. Opening set by indie singer-songwriter Haley Bonar.

Steve Martin

Performing with The Steep Canyon Rangers
8 p.m. June 25, Power Center
\$55-\$75

Actor, comedian and writer Steve Martin has become the surprise ambassador of bluegrass. A dedicated banjo player for 45 years, Martin's fleet-fingered virtuosity and playful songwriting garnered him a 2009 Grammy for "The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo." Playing alongside North Carolina's broadly talented Steep Canyon Rangers, Martin delivers an unforgettable evening filled with bright, energetic bluegrass and uproarious interludes in support of his latest release, "Rare Bird Alert."

k.d. lang and the Siss Boom Bang

With special guest The Belle Brigade
8 p.m. July 1, Hill Auditorium
\$35-\$75

Canadian superstar k.d. lang returns to the Hill Auditorium to headline a spectacular evening of new originals and soulful classics. The winner of four Grammy Awards and eight Juno Awards, k.d. lang's powerful, sultry vocals and astounding range have made her one of the most sought after live performers for the past 25 years.

Her frequent collaborator Tony Bennett calls her "the best singer of her generation" and her performance of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Opening Games was nominated for a Juno Award for Single of the Year. Touring in support of her newest release "Sing it Loud" prepare to be astounded by k.d. lang and her new band Siss Boom Bang. Opening set by folk-rock siblings The Belle Brigade.

Taylor Mac in Concert

8 p.m. July 2, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
\$25
Recommended for mature audiences

Gloriously larger than life, the fabulous Taylor Mac draws from the traditions of drag and performance art to create a style all his own.

Combining dramatic flair, searing satire, poignant honesty, and – of course – plenty of glitter, Mac's newest show, "Comparison is Violence," was born after dozens of reviewers commented that he was a cross between David Bowie's alter ego and the cult figure Tiny Tim.

While praising his ukulele-playing and gender-bending performances, over 20 international publications have, of their own volition, described Mac as "Ziggy Stardust meets Tiny Tim." Being a queen who can take a hint, he decided to write and perform an original conversation about comparison, while singing Tiny Tim songs and selections from David Bowie's classic glam-rock album "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust." It promises to be a concert unlike any other.

The Capitol Steps

5 and 8 p.m. July 4, Power Center
\$30-\$45

The only group in America that attempts to be funnier than the politicians, the Capitol Steps provides an entertaining blend of musical and political comedy. Answering the call for more civil discourse, these former Congressional staffers' brilliant song parodies and hilarious sketches lampoon up-to-the-minute issues, events and personalities, poking fun at both sides of the aisle.



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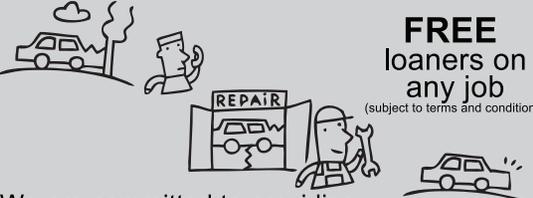
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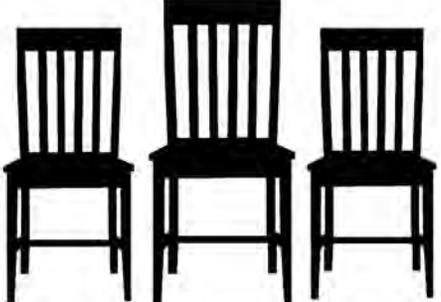


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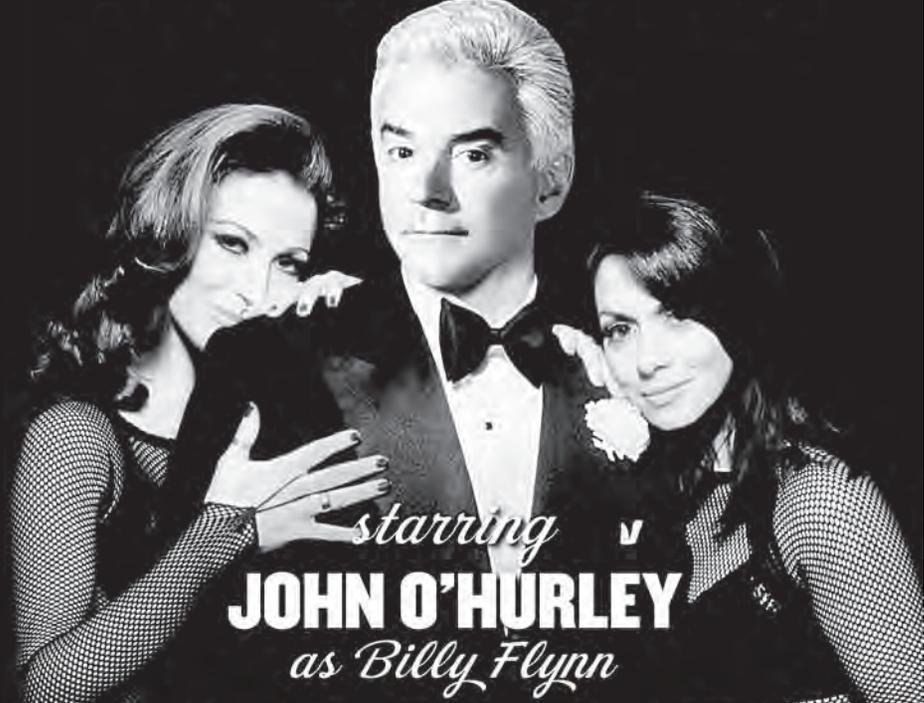
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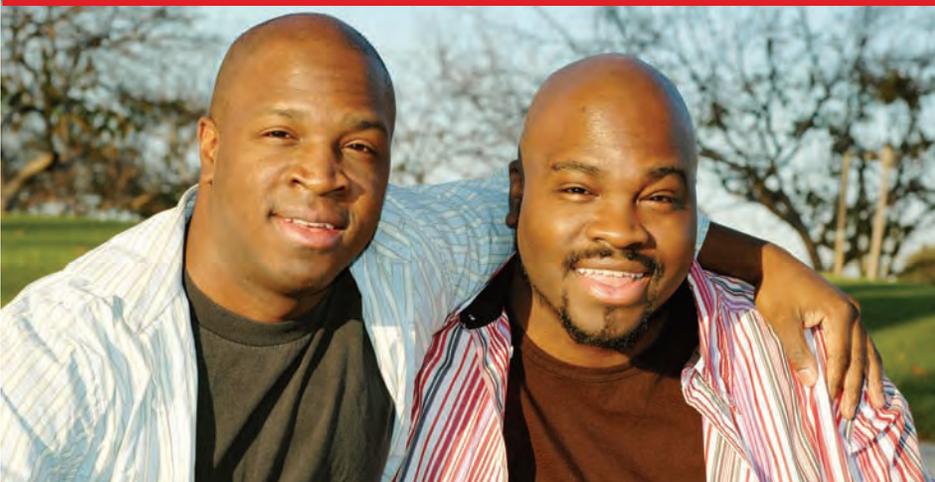
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PBS to air 'Stonewall Uprising'

New film chronicles beginning of gay rights movement

In 1969, homosexual acts were illegal in every state except Illinois and gays frequently found themselves being hauled off to jail, their names splashed in the next day's newspaper. The vast majority of medical authorities at the time decreed homosexuality a "mental disorder" and often prescribed brutal treatments, including lobotomy.

Even in Greenwich Village, where thousands of gay people moved to escape the constant oppression of their hometowns, patrons of gay bars were accustomed to frequent police harassment. But on June 28, 1969, the gay community experienced what one Village Voice reporter who was on the scene called its "Rosa Parks moment," when the N.Y.P.D. raided a Mafia-run gay bar, the Stonewall Inn. For the first time ever, patrons refused to be led into paddy wagons, setting off a violent three-day uprising that launched the gay rights movement. Based on David Carter's "Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution," Kate Davis and David Heilbroner's "Stonewall Uprising" will premiere on the PBS series "American Experience" at 9 p.m. April 25.

Told through interviews with Stonewall patrons, reporters and the policeman who led the raid, "Stonewall Uprising" recalls the fervently hostile climate that gays were forced to live in, when public service announcements warned youngsters against predatory



homosexuals, respected news outlets reported on the "homosexual problem," and police entrapment was rampant. Being arrested could cost one their livelihood since licenses to teach, practice law or medicine or even cosmetology, were frequently denied or revoked.

But 1969's so-called "Summer of Love" would be a time of radical change across America, including within the gay community. At the height of that summer's social turmoil, the cops once again raided Stonewall, but this time the patrons did not leave quietly. Fighting back, they triggered three nights of pandemonium, beating back

a small army of tactical police armed with tear gas and billy clubs. Once the dust settled, the world realized a movement had been born. Exactly one year later, America saw its first Gay Pride Parade as thousands marched up Sixth Avenue. Says a man who was part of that historic day, "It's very American to say 'this is not right.' It's very American to say, 'You promised equality, you promised freedom.' And, in a sense, the Stonewall riots said, 'Deliver on the promise.' So, in every gay pride parade every year, Stonewall lives."

"Stonewall Uprising" will be available on DVD at shopPBS.org beginning April 26.

► Ann Arbor Summer Fest

Continued from p. 19

Studies on Washington Street near the Burton Memorial Tower.

Similar to last year, the 2011 festival will present slightly fewer ticketed indoor performances than previous seasons, while it further expands and diversifies its outdoor program offerings. "As our audiences continue to grow at Top of the Park, we feel it's important to introduce new activities and experiences into the environment," said festival director Robb Woulfe. "We're always looking for creative ways to engage our community, so this year we're very excited to introduce an even wider range of programs, festival partners and event venues."

In what promises to be one of the highlights of the 2011 season, the festival will host a special four-day outdoor exhibition of the Amococo luminarium, a massive walk-in art installation created by England's acclaimed Architects of Air. The biggest of the company's luminaria, the approximately 10,000 square-foot inflatable structure will make its Michigan premiere on Palmer Field, a short walk from the Top of the Park site, from June 23 through June 26.

Amococo is a large scale, inflatable sculpture made up of labyrinthine tunnels, soaring domes and cavernous atriums.



k.d. lang performs July 1 in Ann Arbor.

Constructed of translucent vinyl, the multi-sensory space welcomes, inspires and affects everyone who journeys inside. Islamic art and architecture, Archimedean solids and Gothic cathedrals meld together to form an inspiring monument to the unexpected beauty of color and light. Tickets for this interactive family attraction will only be available at the luminarium entrance on Palmer Field during the four days of exhibition. Admission is \$5 per person; children 3 and under are free.

The Top of the Park lineup will be

unveiled at a special announcement party hosted by Arbor Brewing Company from 5-8 p.m. May 2. The free public event will also serve as the launch for a special, limited-edition seasonal beer, Festival Saison, developed in partnership between Ann Arbor Summer Festival and Arbor Brewing Company. The new summer ale will be sold exclusively at Arbor Brewing Company in Ann Arbor throughout the summer months, with a portion of sales proceeds going to support Top of the Park.

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is an exhilarating celebration of performing arts, outdoor entertainment and community spirit. A boutique music and arts festival, the three-week gathering offers an array of ticketed and free events, regional premieres and Ann Arbor exclusives with a progressive mix of local, national and international artists. Presenting over 100 scheduled events each season and attracting a diverse audience of 60,000 people, the festival continues to grow as a major cultural event in the Ann Arbor community, and as an internationally recognized celebration of arts that enriches the cultural, economic and social vitality of the region. For the latest updates on season information, visit the festival website at annarborsummerfestival.org. Tickets are on sale now through the Festival Ticket Office at 734-764-2538, or online through the website.

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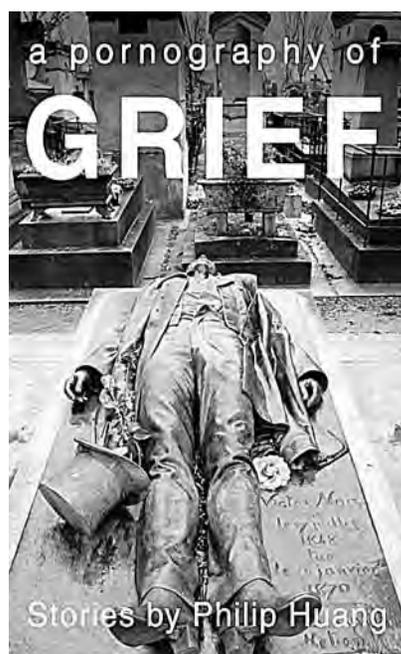
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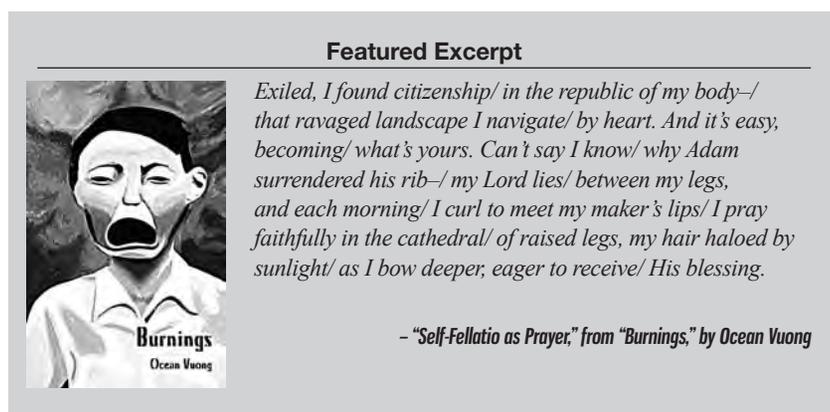


"A Pornography of Grief," by Philip Huang. Signal 8 Press, 193 pages, \$12.95 paper.

It would be a mistake to read the 18 stories in this slim debut collection in one sitting. The tales are short – many under 10 pages – but they all pack an impressionistic punch that demands, and deserves, an interlude of reflection. Or, often, a re-reading; Huang's prose is at once stirring, shocking, subversive and, all the while, subtle. Most of the pieces are infused with grief: "The Widow Season" is about the troubled relationship between a gay man and his dead lover's mother; in "Okra," a woman mourns the death of her baby, but the reader is told, matter-of-factly, that "babies die every day"; in "Saturday," a dazed man's dog dies; "Childhood," one of the lustier stories, is about a man coping with AIDS and death. But the world of Huang isn't entirely dire and dour: One of the more straightforward stories, "House Party," features two stoned roommates whose apartment is taken over, comically, by refugees from a party across the hall; "Colin Farrell's Penis" is a hilarious vignette about beautiful bodies and political assassination.

"Wingshooters," by Nina Revoyr. Akashic Books, 250 pages, \$15.95 paper.

Xenophobia is rampant in rural Vietnam War-era Wisconsin, and for most of Revoyr's fourth novel, it's focused squarely on almost-10-year-old Michelle LeBeau, small-town Deerhorn's only non-white



Featured Excerpt

Exiled, I found citizenship/ in the republic of my body—/ that ravaged landscape I navigate/ by heart. And it's easy, becoming/ what's yours. Can't say I know/ why Adam surrendered his rib—/ my Lord lies/ between my legs, and each morning/ I curl to meet my maker's lips/ I pray faithfully in the cathedral/ of raised legs, my hair haloed by sunlight/ as I bow deeper, eager to receive/ His blessing.

—"Self-Fellatio as Prayer," from "Burnings," by Ocean Vuong

resident. Her father – son of Charlie LeBeau, one of the racist town's more upstanding citizens, despite his own inherent bigotry – has dumped the young girl with her grandparents while he travels the country trying to reconnect with his Japanese wife, who has fled the family. Bullied relentlessly at school for being "different" and isolated from her peers, the young girl finds solace in the company of both her devoted dog and her doting grandfather, who – though he loathed his son's interracial marriage – connects with tomboyish Michelle (he calls her Mikey) through her love of fishing, hunting and baseball, manly pursuits his own son avoided. When a young black couple arrives, Deerhorn's deep-rooted intolerance explodes from sullen to savage, their presence leading to race-based hatred that tears the town apart. Revoyr writes about deep heartache, flawed characters and squandered anger with infinite grace.

"A Saving Remnant: The Radical Lives of Barbara Deming and David McReynolds," by Martin Duberman. The New Press, 312 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

Gay historian and biographer Duberman had planned to write about "some half-dozen" lesbian and gay activists of the 1900s – none of them particularly committed to just the narrow focus of gay liberation – when he began research for this inspiring book. But the stories of Barbara Deming (born in 1917 to an upper-middle-class New York family) and David McReynolds (born in 1929, raised a Baptist, soon a socialist) captured his attention. Both were out before being so was politically in – the left was pretty homophobic in the '50s and '60s – though Deming was far more sexually precocious than McReynolds; both threw themselves into such vital leftist concerns as civil rights, peaceful protest and anti-war activism. Their political passions often overlapped, though

they led quite separate lives, and for a while feuded over women's rights. Duberman has crafted a riveting account of the public lives and noble ideals of two fierce queers, through which he threads a well-mannered glimpse of their sexual lives – Deming was involved in a series of lesbian relationships, while McReynolds in his younger days cruised for sex.

"Burnings," by Ocean Vuong. Sibling Rivalry Press, 40 pages, \$12 paper; "Road Work Ahead," by Raymond Luczak. Sibling Rivalry Press, 80 pages, \$14.95 paper.

There's an old voice in many of young Ocean Vuong's poems – he was born in 1988 – particularly in those in the first section of this bold debut collection, where he recalls a culture left behind when his family emigrated from Vietnam and re-imagines the atrocities of a war he did not live through, all the while rendering the emotion of loss with vulnerable intensity. The focus of the second section shifts to more personal work: an ode to masturbation, self-fellatio as prayer, the memory of boys touching in the dark – poems pulsing with the lust of youth, but just as vulnerable and intense. And as one poet comes into his queerness, another reflects on life after the end of a long relationship. Raymond Luczak's fourth collection dwells on loss – one poem, in memory of a beloved basset hound, opens with "One morning I will depart and leave her/ with the man I once loved" – but the writing is more nostalgic than it is melancholy, the expression of an aching heart beating with hope for love to be realized.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

Footnotes

CHARIS BOOKS & MORE, one of America's few remaining women's bookstores, hopes to relocate within a year to a larger location, transforming itself into the Charis Feminist Center with a café, more room for programming, and with space to share with nonprofit organizations. The 37-year-old bookstore's current building is for sale, and a campaign to raise \$1 million – co-chaired by the same now-active philanthropist who provided seed money

for the bookstore in 1974 – has started. "We've been dreaming about this for 10 or 15 years and finally we have the right people on board to make it happen," co-owner Angela Gabriel told the "Georgia Voice."... CELEBRITY BLOGGER and gossip monger Perez Hilton, whose voice has sometimes been quite venomous, has signed with Celebra and the Penguin Young Reader's Group for a children's book, "The Boy with Pink Hair" – a kid with a "shock of fabulous hair"

who yearns to fit in with his peers. According to Hilton, the picture book is intended to appeal "to every kid that's ever had a dream, felt excluded, wanted to belong, and hoped that one day they could do what they loved and make a difference"... POET AND MEMOIRIST Mark Doty has been named a recipient of a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, an honor that comes with \$7,500.

Pigeon Creek steps 'Merchant' in merriment

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" is rightly considered a problem play for today's audiences, consisting as it does of strong anti-Semitism and the heart-breaking ending in which Shylock is forced to convert to Christianity. It provides a challenge to modern companies as they determine how to present it – is it a drama? A straight comedy? A tragedy?

Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, a troupe committed to original practices such as universal lighting, doubling and an integration of modern musical entertainment, decides to play it straight, just as it might have been in Shakespeare's time. It is a choice that works as they let Shylock be the villain, but one more clearly motivated than the Iagos, Richard IIIs or even the

REVIEW

'The Merchant of Venice'

Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Thursday-Sunday through April 24. \$12. www.pcshakespeare.com



Steven Schwall and Joel L. Schindlbeck in "The Merchant of Venice." Photo: Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company.

Macbeths of Shakespeare's plays. There is sympathy for this moneylender whose daughter is stolen and who is spat upon by all in the city simply because he has been successful at one of the few professions legally allowed him.

Joel Schindlbeck effectively portrayed this role of a man embittered by his treatment and looking for a way that he might find justice of his own while remaining true to his heritage and faith. It is telling that he is the only one who

quotes Scripture or shows any religious devotion other than an outward label. Yet, Schindlbeck clearly shows the harm that years of racist treatment and bullying have wrought on this man.

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

Tragic "night, Mother" is compelling drama

BY JOHN QUINN

It was Aristotle, godfather of all theater critics, who first wrote of "catharsis." Briefly, it refers to tragedy's ability to purge an audience's emotions through the evocation of pity and fear. For all its benefits in restoring balance to the psyche, it is a painful, gut-wrenching experience. It is, quite honestly, an experience largely foreign to me until I saw Breathe Art Project's production of "night, Mother" at The Furniture Factory.

Another wise Greek, Socrates, told his judges, "The unexamined life is not worth living," and opted for death rather than imprisonment. In "night, Mother," Jessie Cates has examined her life and it is still not worth living. Epileptic, agoraphobic, failure as wife and parent, she lives with her aging mother in the family's rural home. In the midst of a routine Saturday night, Jessie is methodically setting affairs in order.

REVIEW

'night, Mother'

Breathe Art Theatre Project at The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St., Detroit, Friday-Saturday through April 30, plus Sunday, May 1. 248-982-4121. Then at Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich St., Windsor, Ontario, May 5-7. 519-255-7600. \$20. www.breathearttheatre.com



Lisa Melinn and Diane Hill star in "night, Mother." Photo: Breathe Art Theatre Project

She casually informs her mother, Thelma, she's opted for suicide – she won't be alive in the morning. The play, performed in real time as one continuous scene, is practically a textbook illustration of Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. It's a huge emotional burden to confine in a mere 90 minutes.

Playwright Marsha Norman won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this tragic

story. One wonders if she experienced the killing presence of clinical depression in her family, as I have in mine. Jessie is clearly a victim of depression.

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

A full-throttle 'Full Monty' in Detroit

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

We had both seen "The Full Monty," the stage musical based on the movie, previously but neither I nor my wife could remember much about it beyond the basic plot – certainly not any of the songs, let alone their titles. The new Hilberry/Bonstelle Theatre production reminded me why, and also that going to "The Full Monty" for the songs is like reading Playboy for the articles.

There isn't one memorable song in the entire musical, but that doesn't mean you won't enjoy the show. Actually, there is one memorable song from "The Full Monty"; it's called "Maid of the Mist," but it was stripped from the show before it ever got to Broadway in 2000.

"Strip," of course, is the operative word here. Like the British film it's based on, "The Full Monty" (reset in

SPECIAL REVIEW

'The Full Monty'

Bonstelle Theatre, 3434 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Friday-Saturday through April 23. \$15-20. 313-577-2960. www.bonstelle.com



Jason Cabral, Cal Schwartz and Adam Crinson in "The Full Monty." Photo: Robert Lima

Buffalo) concerns some unemployed factory workers who decide to perform a one-night-only strip show to raise much-needed cash and even-more-needed (but never mentioned) self-esteem.

Their driving force is Jerry (Hilberry actor Jason Cabral), inspired by the roaring success, even in a depressed economy, of a visiting Chippendales troupe. In a sense, "The Full Monty" is a blue-collar facsimile of another tale of male bonding, "The Lord of the Rings" – identify the quest; have a sidekick; recruit a brave band to help; get it

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

A dance concert exploring the seasons of nature – and of the heart

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CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION BY ANNIE BAKER

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BTL Happenings

Editor's Picks

Outings



The Michigan Same-Sex Wedding Expo serves a lot of purposes this May 1.

Whether you're getting married, daydreaming, or just want to get to know your Michigan LGBT-friendly businesses and entrepreneurs, the Same-Sex Wedding Expo is just the opportunity.

Guests will shop with 40 vendors within the Detroit Marriott Livonia, including caterers, jewelers, salons, photographers, officiants, churches, florists, gift registries, clothiers, printers, travel agents and entertainers. The entire event is catered by Sweet Lorraine's Restaurant and admission is only \$10, which includes food, giveaways and entertainment.

The Same-Sex Wedding Expo is 3-8 p.m. May 1 at the Detroit Marriott Livonia. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online at Pridesource.com/events.html. Enter BTL1993 while checking out to get \$2 off tickets.

Art 'n' Around

The Alfred Berkowitz Gallery of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Mardigian Library exhibit, "Toledo Studio Glass Artists: New Generations," displays glass artistry of Toledo, showcasing many of the city's finest artists.

The delicate pieces seem to combine elements and colors of the cosmic aurora borealis with the psychedelic trips of the '70s, resulting in surreal and abstract works of gravity-defying art. Artworks range from as small as a young child's fist to the size of a grown man's torso.

The gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, located on the fourth floor of the Mardigian Library, UMD, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. The exhibit remains in the gallery until May 12. For more information, call 313-593-3592.



Theater

The Farmington Players presents Mel Brook's Broadway smash musical "The Producers." Follow former Broadway giant Max Bialystock and Broadway producer wannabe Leo Bloom as they sing and dance their way through the greatest showbiz scam ever devised: Raise a million dollars, put on a \$100,000 sure-fire flop, and keep the rest.

"The Producers" continues the Farmington Players' 57-year tradition of producing compelling live performances "The Barn" shines as one of the most inviting community theaters in the Detroit area. It also serves as one of the best bargains in the region.

The Producers will be performed from April 29 through May 21. For more information, call the box office at 248-553-2955.

OUTINGS

Wednesday, April 20

LGBTIQ Support Group, 7 p.m. An inclusive environment for all gender who are healing from domestic and/or sexual assault. YWCA of KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234.

Friday, April 22

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Kathy Griffin, She'll Cut a Bitch. Bagging an Emmy hasn't spoiled D-list doyenne Kathy Griffin; it just gets her backstage. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, April 23

Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxe or September Murphy. Open to all 18+. Refreshments and bingo food fare. Reservations available by phone. Five15, 515 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Kicking Country Night, 9 p.m. New country music and favorites for drinking and line dancing; rodeo games; fund raising for Michigan's Gay Rodeo. Michigan Intl. Gay Rodeo Assoc., 1250 Turner, Lansing. 616-735-4521. michiganrodeo.org

Monday, April 25

Mid-Michigan Transgender, 6 p.m. The group offers an informal gathering, taking a more "light-hearted" approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. Perceptions, 5789 State St., Saginaw. 989-598-6566. perceptionssv.org

Tuesday, April 26

Return to Paradise, 9 p.m. Hosted by Delicious with DJ Avi with male strippers. All door proceeds will go to support Michigan Pride 2011. For 18+ only. Admission: \$10. Michigan Pride, 224 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. facebook.com/pages/Club-X-Cel

Wednesday, April 27

Caring Caregiver, 6:30 p.m. A support group for anyone who is caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. This group is open to family, friends, spouses and partners. Everyone is welcome. Alzheimer's Association and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Thursday, April 28

CARES' 3rd Annual Dining Out for Life, 6 a.m. Participating restaurants donate 25% or more of what you eat and drink back to CARES, Southwest Michigan's AIDS Service Organization. Restaurant list available online. CARES, Kalamazoo. 269-381-2437 ext. 22. diningoutforlife.com/kalamazoo/participating

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

Friday, April 29

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: D.E.B.S. Encrypted within the SAT is a secret test that measures a girl's potential for espionage. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, April 30

Queer for Books, 2 p.m. Book club for gay men. Reading Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-547-6008. d.c.hellenberg@gmail.com

Detroit Wig Out, 7:30 p.m. Detroit's iconic Magic Stick Lounge for the third annual one-night celebration of alternate identities, hair fashion, and eye-popping wig wearing. Tickets: \$10. Detroit Wig Out, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 248-588-0891. detroitwigout.com

Sunday, May 1

Michigan Same-Sex Wedding Expo, 3 p.m. Getting married? Thinking about getting married? Need LGBT-friendly vendors for your next party? BTL offers 40 vendors, including caterers, jewelers, salons, photographers, officiants, churches, florists, gift registries, clothiers, printers, travel agents and entertainers. Free food of Sweet Lorraine's. Admission: \$10 at the door or online. Detroit Marriott Livonia, 17100 Laurel Park Drive N., Livonia. 734-293-7200 ext. 22. pridesource.com

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

Kerrytown Concert House "Mad About Chamber Music" A free series of informal chamber music performances to benefit a designated charity. Donations accepted at the door. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, 48104. April 6-April 20. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Parnas/Kohlberg Trio" Chamber music trio. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 28. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Michigan Opera Theater "The Magic Flute" Performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's final masterpiece. Tickets: \$25-78. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 a.m. April 21. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. whartoncenter.com

University Music Society "Songs and Waltzes of Love" Return to the vocal genre with the Spanische Liebeslieder song collection. Tickets: \$10+. Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 23. 734-764-2538. ums.org

COMEDY

Caesars Windsor "Craig Ferguson" Best known as the host of CBS's The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, Ferguson will have audiences laughing out loud to his sharp-witted take on pop-culture, politics and everyday life. Tickets: \$30+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Drive, Windsor. 9 p.m. April 23. 800-991-7777. caesarswindsor.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Bill Burr" Tickets: \$25. Available online. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St, Royal Oak. 8 p.m. April 23. 248-399-2980. purchase.tickets.com

CONCERTS

Ariana Gallery "Hot Glass & Cool Jazz" 22nd Michigan Glass Month Exhibition with live jazz music. 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 29. 248-546-8810. arianagallery.com

Detroit Fox Theatre "Neil Young" Spring Solo Tour. Tickets: \$45-85. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 4. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Cabaret Detroit, "Caren Kapson and Roy Sexton" Stories told in song, featuring selections from the American songbook, musical theater and contemporary song writers. Cocktails served during show. Bastone, 419 S. Main St., Royal Oak. April 7-May 8. 248-383-5460. cabaretdetroit.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Marcus Elliot Quarter" Saxophonist and composer performing Marcus Belgrave and Robert Hurst in the greater Detroit jazz scene. Tickets: \$10-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Ave, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 23. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com



Drag Queen Bingo

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Coheed & Cambria" Tickets: \$27. Available online. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. April 29. 248-399-2980. purchase.tickets.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Tumbao Bravo" A jazz concert by the five-piece ensemble. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 5, 8 p.m. April 22. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royalty of Hip Hop Salt N Pepa, Naughty by Nature, Whodini, MC Lyte, Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick. Tickets: \$49-79. Available online. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 23. 313-471-6611. ticketmaster.com

The Ark "Colin Hay" Tickets: \$33-40. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 28, 8 p.m. April 29. 734-761-1800. teark.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Annual Detroit Public Schools Student Exhibition" Art by Detroit Public School students, from kindergartners to high school seniors, is showcased in this annual exhibition. Among the variety of objects on view are paintings, drawings, ceramics, collages, photographs, videos, and jewelry. 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 1-July 16. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Olympia Entertainment "The Pixies" On the "Doolittle" tour performing all of the songs from their 1989 classic, Doolittle and its related B-sides. Tickets: \$35-\$59.50 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 22. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Disney in Concert" One of the DSO's first concerts since returning from strike. Features memorable tunes of Disney classics such as The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, and the Little Mermaid. Tickets: \$20. The DSO, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 29-May 1. 313-576-5111. detroitssymphony.com

The Listening Ear Crisis Center "Light in the Dark Words of Life, Love, & Loss" Featuring Melissa Dey Hasbrook, spoken-word artist and poet, performing from her upcoming book Circle...Home. The event benefits The Listening Ear with donations earmarked for its future Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Center. In collaboration with Take Back the Night. Mid-Michigan Family Theatre, 440 Frandor Avenue, Lansing. 6 p.m. April 21. 517-374-6474. deyofthephoenix.com

The Michigan Theater "Jackson Browne" Singer-songwriter's second leg of his 2011 Solo Acoustic Tour. Tickets: \$50-\$76. The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. April 20. 800-745-3000. michtheater.org

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art "Adam Unsworth Quartet" Jazz Series: Associate Professor of Horn at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, is joined by Ann Arbor jazz favorites for a mix of original compositions and jazz standards. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 20. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

FESTIVALS

Michigan Theatre of Jackson "Amp It Up" All day and night music festival to raise funds for a new sound system at the Theatre. Tickets: \$10 advance, \$15 at the door. Michigan Theatre of Jackson, 124 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. 11 a.m. April 23. 517-783-0962. michigantheatre.org

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Institute of Arts "Le Quattro Volte" Frammartino's wondrous and continually surprising four-part meditation on man and nature traces the cycle of life by way of rituals of rural folk in the Italian region of Calabria. Tickets: \$7.50. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 15-April 24. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Queen to Play" Dramatic comedy of new found passions and mid-life triumphs, set on the shores of Corsica. Tickets: \$7.50. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 22-May 1. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Penn Theatre "The Time Machine" Sci-fi Month. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. April 21. 734-453-0870. penntheatre.org

Penn Theatre "The Incredible Shrinking Man" Sci-fi Month. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. April 28. 734-453-0870. penntheatre.org

OTHER

Collingwood Arts Center "Buddy Wakefield" Two-time Individual World Poetry Slam Champion brings "Gentleman Practice" tour. Collingwood Arts Center, 2413 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo. 6:30 p.m. April 23. 419-244-ARTS. cactoledo.org

Copper Colored Mountain Arts "One Pause Poetry: Celebrate National Poetry Month" Conversations with Poets: Monica Youn, Mark Wunderlich, and Raymond McDaniel discuss the craft of poetry. 7101 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor. 10:30 a.m. April 23. 734-904-7487. ccmarts.org

EVERYbody Reads "Forgiveness Charity Workshop" Yoko Spring, a holistic healer, life coach and native of Nagasaki Japan, will direct this workshop on creating a world peace through inner peace. Donations sent to the families in northern Japan devastated by natural and nuclear disasters. EVERYbody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 1 p.m. April 23. 517-346-9900. becauseeverybodyreads.com

Henry Ford Culinary Institute For Health and Healing "Food Happiness 101" Healthy cooking demonstrations. Registration: \$139 one day, \$250 both. Henry Ford Culinary Institute For Health and Healing, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital's Demonstration Kitchen, West Bloomfield. 10 a.m. April 30, 10 a.m. May 1. 248-325-3890. dfk@hfhs.org

Kerrytown Concert House "All About The Trio" Ellen Rowe and her trio present a concert/lecture series exploring various aspects of the jazz piano trio. Tickets: \$10-25, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. May 1. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

The Henry Ford "Day Out With Thomas: Leader of the Track Tour 2011" Thomas the Tank Engine rolls into Greenfield Village. 20-minute ride through Henry Ford. Tickets: \$11.75-32.75. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 30-May 15. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

Planned Parenthood "Joan Rivers" Tickets: \$85, includes lunch. Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. 11 p.m. April 26. 734-926-4813. plannedparenthoodDetroit.org



Joan Rivers to speak for Planned Parenthood

Spirit of Hope: Detroit "Sunday Worship" Seeks to empower people of all races, genders and gender expressions, sexual orientations, physical abilities, denominational or religious backgrounds, to serve one another as God has gifted us to do. From all over Metro Detroit to enjoy upbeat worship, preaching, community outreach, and fellowship. 1519 Martin Luther King Dr. Detroit. March 6-Aug. 28. 313.964.3113. spiritofhopedetroit.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Distracted \$10-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through May 1. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Doubt, A Parable \$10-\$12. SRO Productions at The Historic Burgh, 26060 Berg Road., Southfield. April 29-May 15. 248-796-4645. srotheater.org

Grey Gardens \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette St., Royal Oak. April 29-May 14. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Pancakes! The Musical \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Theater 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Through April 23.

The Producers \$16-\$18. The Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road., Farmington Hills. April 29-May 21. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Vincent in Brixton \$12-\$14; Thursdays only \$8-\$10. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. April 28-May 8. 517-482-5700. RiverwalkTheatre.com

You Can't Take it With You \$5. Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 29-May 1. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Dramafest Free. Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Road., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 21. 313-927-1522. marygrove.edu

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot MSU Dept. of Theatre at MSU Auditorium Arena Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. April 19-23. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu

Savage in Limbo \$10-\$12. Wayne State University Studio Theatre at Hilberry Rehearsal Studio, 480 W. Hancock St., 4th floor, Detroit. April 21-30. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

The Full Monty \$15-20. Bonstelle Theatre, 3434 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through April 23. 313-577-2960. bonstelle.com

The Real Inspector Hound and Black Comedy \$5-\$20. Western Michigan University Department of Theatre at Williams Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through April 23. 269-387-6222. wmutheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

A Musical Salute to Vaudeville and Burlesque \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road., Eastpointe. Through May 14. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

April Foolery \$10-\$15. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. Through May 1. 313-967-0599. matrixtheatre.org

Cabaret Detroit \$15. Cabaret Detroit, Bastone, 419 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. Through May 8. cabaretdetroit.com

Circle Mirror Transformation Previews April 21-24 & 28 (\$10-\$32). \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 22-May 22. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Ernie \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 28-June 26. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Fahrenheit 451 \$12-\$30. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 26-30. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com

Forever Plaid Previews April 21. \$25-\$28. Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. April 21-May 15. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Forgiving John Lennon \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 22. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

Godspell \$20. What's That Smell? Productions at The Box Theatre, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Through April 23. 586-954-2311.

Love and Cheap Wine Includes a dinner performance April 23 (\$36, which includes buffet beginning at 6:30 p.m.). \$17. Reservations required. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N. Van Buren St., Bay City. Through April 23. 989-893-9399. vanburenstreettheatre.com

Mercury Fur \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 25. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

'night, Mother \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project, The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St., Detroit. Through May 1. 248-982-4121. breathearttheatre.com

Salvage Previews April 21. \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. April 21-May 14. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Seascape Previews April 28-30 (\$10-\$29). \$15-\$25. Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. April 28-May 28. 734-332-3848. blackbirdtheatre.org

Shout! The Mod Musical Previews April 20-22 (\$24-\$30). \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. April 20-May 15. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Some Couples May... \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 28. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Special Skills Talent Show By donation. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 21. magentagiraffe.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

t&a \$10. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 22-23. 269-599-7390. crawlspace theatre.com

The Cider House Rules, Part I: Here in St. Cloud's \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through May 12. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The Cider House Rules, Part II: In Other Parts of the World \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through May 14. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The Cocktail Hour \$26-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through April 30. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

The Everyman Project \$15. The New Theatre Project, 220 Felch St., Unit 5, Ann Arbor. April 26-May 15. 734-645-9886. thenewtheatreproject.org

The Magic Flute \$15-\$78. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Bogue St. & Wilson, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. April 21. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron? \$30-\$35; Dinner and Show Packages \$79.95-\$89.95 per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi. Through April 24. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

The Merchant of Venice \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Through April 24. pcshakespeare.com

The TeaseTown Correctional Facility for Women Telethon \$15. The TeaseTown Correctional Facility for Women at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. April 22-23.

Thursdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

To Kill a Mockingbird \$16-\$18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through April 23. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Waiting for Godot Admission by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Ave. #113, Detroit. April 15-May 7. 313-485-0217. theabreact.com

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type \$15. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. April 23. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Madagascar Live \$15.50-\$38.50, VIP \$85.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 29-May 1. 1-800-745-3000. ticketmaster.com

Michael Lee and Opus Mime \$10 adult, \$7 ages 15 and under. Children's Theatre Network, Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. April 23. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.com

The Crane Maiden \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through April 30. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

CLASSES

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE — offers three summer theater camps for youth, call 734-971-2228 for details.

ART 'N' AROUND

323 East "BASK Solo Exhibition" Czech-born agent provocateur of countless "thought crimes" headlines new exhibition Saturday Night Special. 323 East, 323 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. April 23-May 23. 866-756-6538. 323east.com

Cass Cafe "5w-30" Three-artist exhibit within the Cass Cafe thought of as a synonym for a sort of psychological endurance typified by living in Detroit and Michigan. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16-June 11. 313-831-1400. casscafe.com

College for Creative Studies "Eight Continents in Collaboration" A workspace for dialogue and interaction. Using material from the first eight weeks of the 2011 Economist magazines, collaborators Mira Burack and Narine Kchikian engage the community in conversation about contemporary global/political issues, gestures and iconography. Center Galleries, Alumni & Faculty Hall, 301 Frederick Douglass St., Detroit. April 1-April 30. 313-664-7800. theeconomistseries.com

Detroit Artist's Market "Northern Michigan Artists" exhibition of northern Michigan artists who express themselves in a variety of media and have been touched by the Northern Lights. John F. Korachis, Curator Detroit Artist's Market, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. April 28-May 28. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Cheryl Phillips and Betty Prudden" Exhibitions are free and open to the public. 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 15-May 27. 734-720-0671. downriverarts.org

Gallery Project "Unhooked From Time" Multimedia exhibit in which 28 local, regional and national artists examine how society has lost its sense of the cycles of nature, and how it has artificially hooked ourselves to linear digital time. Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 3-May 5. 734-997-7012. thegalleryproject.com

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Ukiyo-e Redux: Contemporary Japanese Prints" Inspired by the strong tradition of Ukiyo-e prints of the 18th and 19th centuries, but infused with a modern sensibility, contemporary Japanese prints have flourished as a vibrant art form throughout the 20th century. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 1-April 23. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Denise Rohde Exhibit" Uses traditional training in photographic processes, while embracing digital editing to create unique style. By deconstructing and reconstructing familiar subjects, Rohde's photographs have a dream-like quality that can appeal to a broad range of viewers. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor. April 5-May 1. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com



"Devil in the Details" Exhibit

Kresge Art Museum "Devil in the Details" Undergraduate students' assembled and curated exhibit: Student Perspectives-Devil in the Details. The exhibition of approximately 26 pieces presents a variety of subjects and mediums that explore the devil in different contexts. Perspectives Gallery, Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. April 21-May 8. 517-884-0659. artmuseum.msu.edu

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography 2011" Fifteenth annual photography exhibit, a juried show expected to draw submissions from approximately 100 area photographers. Dunes Resort, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 1-April 29. 248-544-0394. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Mardigian Library at UM-Dearborn "Toledo Studio Art Glass: New Generations" Participating in the 2011 Michigan Glass Month with an exhibition celebrating new generations of contemporary studio glass artists from Toledo. Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. April 1-May 12. 313-593-3592. umd.umich.edu

River's Edge Gallery "From Paris to Detroit" Etienne Yver captures mundane moments in the visual language of his art. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. April 15-May 20. 734-246-9880. artattheedge.com

Riverside Arts Center Gallery "Docent Exhibition" Featuring the work of local artists, including drawings, woodwork, prints, glass work and more. Artist reception will be held 5-7 p.m. April 2. Riverside Arts Center Gallery, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. March 1-April 30. riversideartscenter.org

Scarab Club Gallery "Working Class Heroes" An all-media juried exhibition honoring the working class, inspired by ML Liebler's book Working Words: Punching the Timeclock and Kicking Out the Jams, a compilation of writing from local, national and international poets and writers. 217 Farnsworth St., Detroit. April 1-May 15. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

Scarab Club Lounge "Scarab Club Studio Collective" The Scarab Club houses six artist studios on its third floor. Running concurrently with the Working Class Heroes exhibition, the SC will host an exhibition of its studio artists. Scarab Club Lounge, 217 Farnsworth St., Detroit. April 1-May 15. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Life in Ceramics: Five Contemporary Korean Artists" This exhibition focuses on five artists with well established reputations in Korea, whose visually stunning ceramic objects acknowledge and engage with Korean clay traditions yet embody innovative, unexpected art making and conceptual approaches. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-June 26. 734-647-0524. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Photoforance: An Empathic Environment" This new multimedia installation brings together the work of Ernestine Ruben, experimental photographer of the human form; Monica Ponce de Leon, architect of highly sensual, muscular, and poetic structures; and Peter Sparing, choreographer/video artist of new movement forms; with music by Erik Santos, composer of scores for a wide range of musical ensembles and Butoh performances. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St. Ann Arbor. March 1-May 15. 734-647-0524. umma.umich.edu

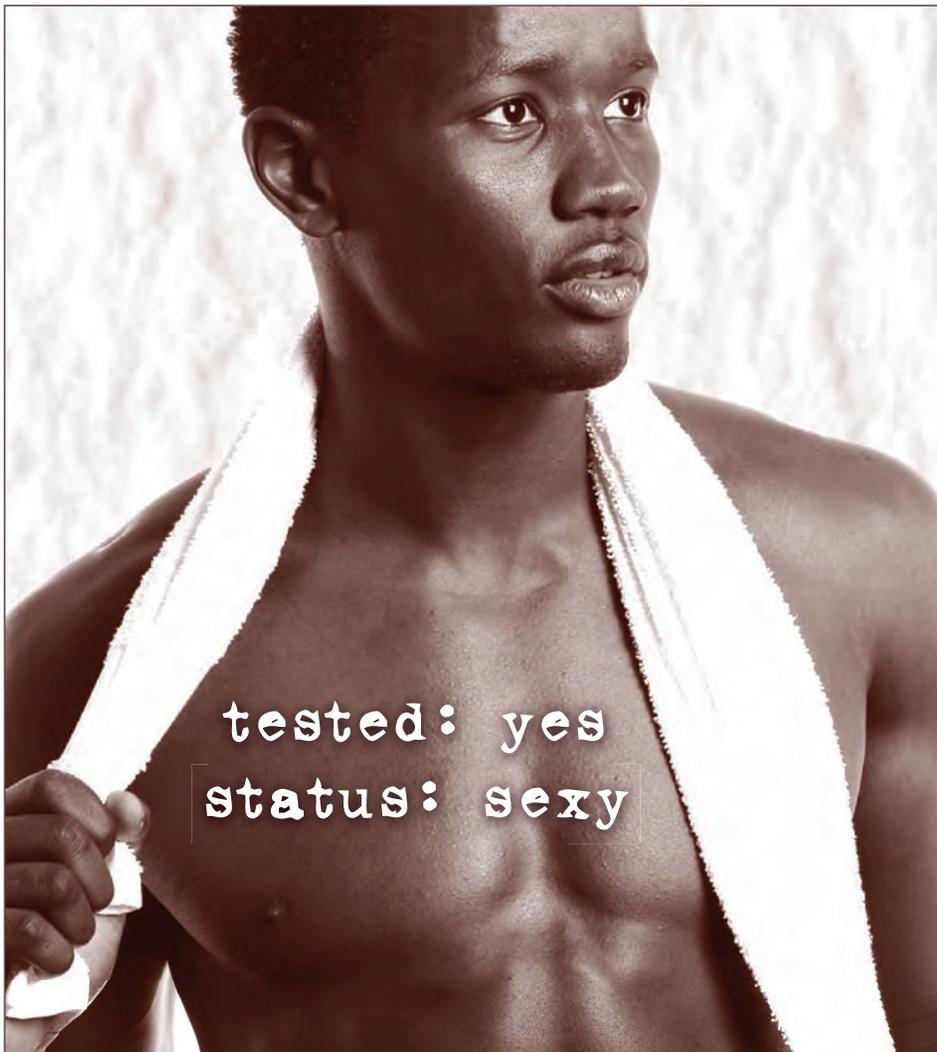
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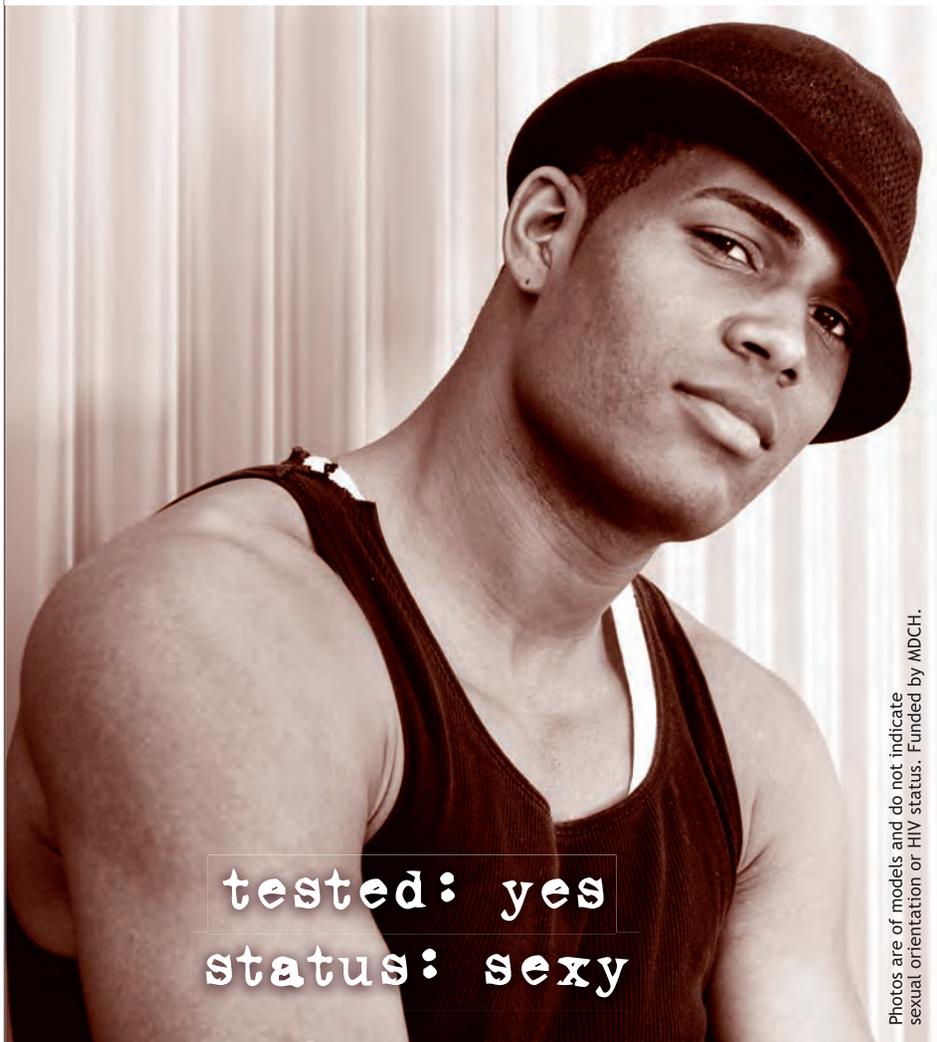


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status: sexy

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tested: yes
status: sexy

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BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

Coming out – as a family

Q. My girlfriend “Julie” and I are having a disagreement and I am thinking this may be a “deal breaker” for me, so I hope you can give us some sage advice that will help us save our relationship.

Julie and I are both in our thirties and have been dating for three years. We both own our own homes and have good jobs. Julie has a 4-year old-daughter, “Kelli.” Our problem stems around Kelli. Kelli and I have a great relationship; I love her dearly and feel like a second mom to her. Almost everything Julie and I do includes Kelli, which is great with me because I love doing things as a family.

The problem Julie and I are having is how to handle our relationship when Kelli is around. Julie wants to pretend that we are just friends so as not to confuse Kelli. She says Kelli is too little to understand two women in love and also feels it might cause her problems at the day care center. The day care that she is sending her to is a religious one, and many of the parents and teachers are quite conservative.

I want to get married, sell one of our homes and move in together so we can start being a real family. I am tired of just being a “friend” to both Julie and Kelli. I ache to be a mom to Kelli and to live with Julie. Julie doesn’t want any of this until Kelli gets older. She doesn’t say how much older Kelli would need to be before she could be told that her mom is gay and in a permanent relationship.

Julie doesn’t get how awful it feels to come home alone after a great day with the two of them. She also doesn’t understand that I want more of her than just sex once in awhile and time with the three of us. I want to be a part of their lives every day. I want to go to bed with Julie and wake up with her. I want Kelli to understand that I love both her and her mom and that our relationship is a beautiful, spiritual thing. I just don’t want to hide our relationship from anyone anymore.

Well, Julie says that she doesn’t think Kelli is old enough to understand gay relationships and she isn’t ready to “traumatize” her daughter. I have told her that I don’t think I can continue on this way, indefinitely, and that if things don’t

change I may have to move on. Julie always breaks down and sobs and says she can’t live without me, and that I am the most important thing in her life, next to Kelli.

I don’t know what to do. I feel like I am living a lie, as things are right now. If I leave I will hurt Julie, Kelli and myself. If I stay I feel like I am not being true to our love or myself.

What do I do to let Julie know that Kelli would be OK if we told her about our love and functioned as a family?

Not Allowed In

A. I could go on and on about why I think this is a good time for Kelli to have you become an official couple, but I think the problem runs deeper: Julie is being held back by her internalized homophobia and fear, both real and imagined. She needs to deal with it all.

It sounds like you and Julie have been doing a lot of talking about this problem, and Julie is not willing to budge. So now this issue is in your corner; you must decide whether you are willing to spend your life as a friend to someone you love dearly. Consider how that will feel in five or 10 years down the road. At this point you don’t know when, if ever, Julie will deem it appropriate to tell Kelli and start living as a family.

I would suggest that you and Julie get into couples counseling with a therapist that understands and respects gay relationships, internalized homophobia and family dynamics. It is worth the time and effort as this issue is on the verge of breaking up a loving relationship and family.

How can a gay person be homophobic and suffer from internalized homophobia? Search “Dear Jody Valley” on Facebook to find out.

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.



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: **“Delaware”**
Find out why on page 12.
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

BTH Horoscopes

Pace yourself, Scorpio!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury turning direct while conjunct Mars in Aries will open up daring, impulsive ideas. Both planets are opposing Saturn in Libra so those ideas are sure to hit walls of critical feedback. Work with that! Those fiery notions need discipline and real-world testing.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Your brain is afire with brilliance, so why is your partner being a wet blanket? Your sweetie may be looking further. “That won’t work,” doesn’t have to stop the conversation. Discuss specifics, improve on ideas, find what will work.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Worrying about your health will only make it worse. Focus on the positive and deal practically with any real problems and symptoms. Meditation is good. Helping people with bigger problems is a healthy distraction.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Your friends seem eager to enjoy all life has to offer and conquer the world. Though inspired by their vision you’re a little more keen on modest, practical efforts. Don’t squelch the dream, but help build the foundation to enable its realization.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Your energy at work is very strong, maybe too much so. That much force needs discipline. You can get that at home. Much as you hated them, review those parental messages about being a responsible adult. They have some value.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): In your rush to convey grand ideas it’s too easy to trip over simple basics. Start your arguments from the ground up and build patiently on the basics. Chafe as you may it will save you time and trouble in the long run.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Hide the plastic. It’s way too easy to spend yourself into debt. Stick to a very tight budget. The best things in life really are free. Your erotic charisma is sizzling and that can bring you more fun than any gold card.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Your partner is driving you crazy, but that’s what partners are for. Remember, you enjoy being the responsible adult even if it can get tiring. Soak up

some of your baby’s energy; see what you can light with that fire.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): A person can only do so much. You can wear yourself out undermining all your efforts. Take time out to meditate, refresh and be clear on your limits. Have a long-range plan and pace yourself!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Your creative inspirations are a little too amazing. Friends will tell you it can’t be done and they’re probably right. Challenge them to tell you how it can be done, or what’s the next best thing.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Madness at home may feel like a distraction you don’t need, especially when you’re under so much pressure at work. If you can channel and harness that energy, or learn something from it, you could find power and inspiration to accomplish anything.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Somewhere between skipping over necessary basics and getting hung up on minute details there’s a productive path toward expressing the larger, important ideas. Articulating them clearly is a challenge well worth the effort.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Interesting new urges are threatening your same dull, old budget. Getting kinky doesn’t have to get expensive. Pass up the fetish shops and check out the hardware store, kitchenware and pet accessories for bargain debasement.

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 email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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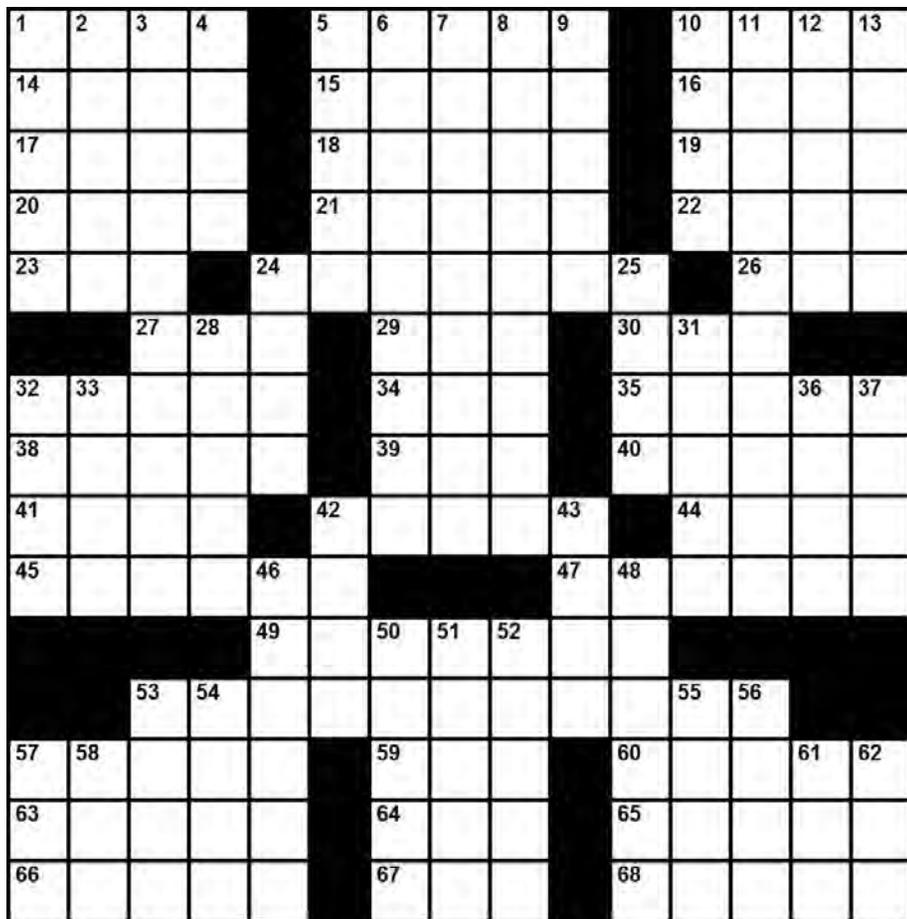
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Taylor-made for the Big Screen

Across

- 1 Eagle or chicken hawk
- 5 "Life Goes On" daughter
- 10 Susan B. Anthony dollar, e.g.
- 14 Be reminded of S&M, e.g.
- 15 Minnesota state senator Spear
- 16 Kinky coif
- 17 Ps on the Parthenon
- 18 Words before evil
- 19 Currier's partner
- 20 "Camelot"'s "___ Moi"
- 21 Get around
- 22 Kopay's team
- 23 Bill written by Alice Paul
- 24 Rolled by
- 26 Checkers side
- 27 Mortgage org.
- 29 Skin decoration
- 30 Hair piece, slangily
- 32 Type of Boy Scout badge

Down

- 35 Sodom suffix
- 38 Maurice of "Bewitched"
- 39 Hockey legend Bobby
- 40 Singer of "Tomorrow"
- 41 Tobias pseudonym
- 42 Grind together
- 44 Doesn't feel up
- 45 Bear
- 47 Some Stein pieces
- 49 When queening usually occurs
- 53 With 66-Across, Elizabeth Taylor movie
- 57 "My Own Private ___"
- 59 Gielgud's john
- 60 Hit first, to Navratilova
- 63 Mister of La Mancha
- 64 Tango number
- 65 Nitpicky about a bit of history?
- 66 See 53-Across
- 67 Cockpit abbr.
- 68 See 3-Down

Down

- 1 Oscar Wilde forte
- 2 Earth tone
- 3 With 11-Down and 68-Across, Elizabeth Taylor movie
- 4 It may come before we forget
- 5 Metabolism descriptor
- 6 Peak statistic
- 7 Elizabeth Taylor movie
- 8 Cukor film holders
- 9 Cell component
- 10 Superman portrayer Dean
- 11 See 3-Down
- 12 Cara of "Fame"
- 13 Prodded, doggy-style
- 24 Chows down
- 25 De Matteo of "Desperate Housewives"
- 28 Nehru, for one

- 31 Bones below the elbows
- 32 No better than
- 33 Neck and neck
- 36 Slick with lubricant
- 37 Gay wedding guide author Ayers
- 42 Courteous chap
- 43 Sphere starter
- 46 Oral zinger
- 48 Playground piece for a couple
- 50 Greek triangle
- 51 Bear sound
- 52 Online exaggeration?
- 53 Have sex with
- 54 Ejaculation of concern
- 55 Weeknight comic
- 56 Bond foe
- 57 Expert ending
- 58 "Of God, of Gaius"
- 61 Kilmer of "The Doors"
- 62 Fairy's cousin

Solution on 29

Pet of the Week



Hi, I'm Magic! I'm a 3-year-old Siberian Husky and I'm looking for my forever family. I'm fully grown at 62 pounds, very active and quite vocal. I would love to find a lively, energetic family that could give me lots of attention and exercise. Come meet me today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 12790518.

Pet of the Week made possible by
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bitter girl

DEFINE MESS



email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

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106 ANNOUNCEMENTS - GROUPS

Social Club

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305 EMPLOYMENT - GENERAL

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305 EMPLOYMENT - RESTAURANT

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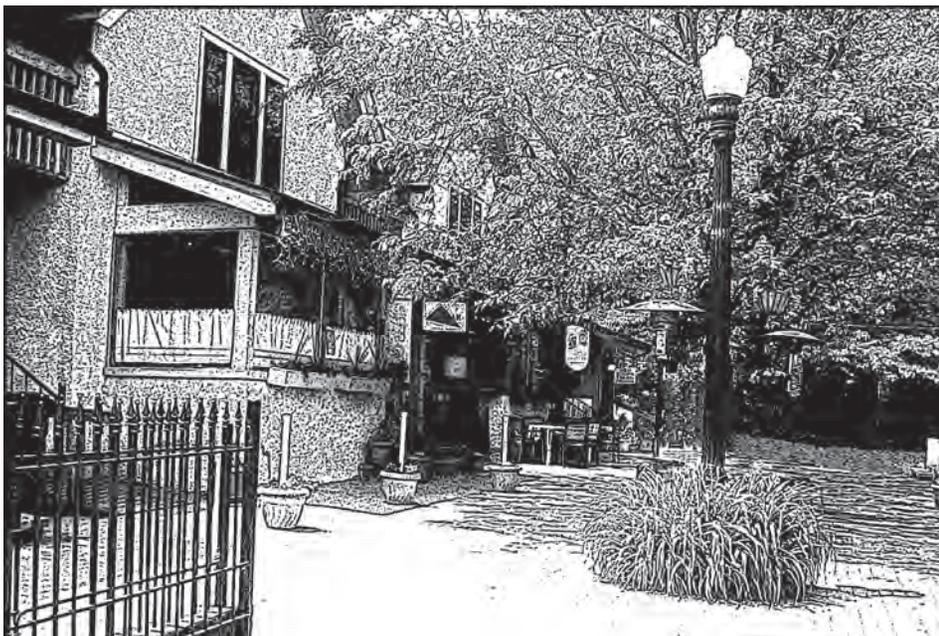
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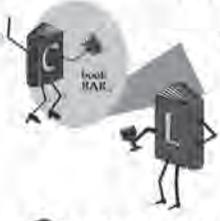




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RTM Queeries

BY STEVEN PETROW

My boyfriend wants me to sext him

Q. Many of my friends are sending naked pictures of themselves to their boyfriends, and they don't seem to think twice about it. I'm a competitive gymnast on my high school's team, and the guy I've been dating for a couple of months says he wants to be able to look at my body even when we're not together because he loves me. He's even emailed me a real keeper of a photo – completely naked, which I do enjoy looking at. But I'm kind of uncomfortable about doing this, and I don't really know what to say. Any suggestions?

In 2009, a study by the AP and MTV reported that nearly one-fourth of 14 to 17 year olds had been involved in some kind of naked sexting.

A. I've been asked about teenage sexting quite a lot lately, and I'd have to say that it's now officially the "unsafe sex" of this century. How big is the problem? In 2009, a study by the AP and MTV reported that nearly one-fourth of 14 to 17 year olds had been involved in some kind of naked sexting. And more and more we're reading stories of sexting gone wild. Sometimes there's a criminal prosecution for the distribution of childhood pornography; sometimes schools suspend or expel those found guilty; and always there's deep embarrassment to the victim (who usually sent the original photo).

Believe me, I do understand that sexting is seen as a way to express your love and trust of someone, that it's a status symbol of being sexually active (some refer to it as an "electronic hickey"), and that you can't get STDs or get pregnant from sexting. Fine and good. I also know that it isn't always easy to just say no.

As for you, trust your instincts. Just because so many other guys are doing it, that doesn't mean it's right or that you should follow suit. If the guy you're dating keeps pressuring you to reciprocate, think hard about whether this is someone you want to be so involved and intimate with. Even if he claims that he's "different," you're definitely not too young to be cautious, if not suspicious. Say something like, "I'm really not comfortable

doing this," or "My parents are really nosy and watch my texting. They'll find out." And what happens if – or when – you break up? Vindictive sexting of an ex's naked pictures may very well be the new century's best example of "revenge sex."

One last point: Once a picture hits the Internet, it lives forever. When you apply to college, an admissions officer may come upon it while doing a little background research on you. Ditto when you're applying for a job. If this happens, you could lose out big time. Just sayin'.

When Google reveals too much about you

Q. I know that just about everybody Googles a person before going out on a date with them the first time. My question isn't about the etiquette of that. Instead, I'd like to know what to do about the fact that the first Google result for my name is a nude photo of me, showing my penis, that an ex uploaded a while ago. Do I explain this to a new date before we even go out? Wait for him to bring it up? Pretend like I don't know it's there?

A. Your question is an interesting twist on the "to Google or not to Google" dilemma. In most dating situations, a good rule of thumb is to avoid dragging out the skeletons during the first date; it just makes for a crowded evening. In your case, though, I'd suggest otherwise, because this photo is likely to be the white elephant of your date (of course, it may also be the *raison d'être* for your date, too!). Sometime during drinks or dinner, say this: "There's something that I want to explain to you. You may have seen a nude photo of me on the Internet, which was posted by an ex of mine. Please don't judge a book by its cover. It was a mistake." Or, if you want to try some humor: "It's amazing what Photoshop can do!"

But while you're at it, you can do a number of things to push that revealing photo further down on the search page and maybe even onto the second page. Create pages for yourself that will rank higher in the search criteria, thus rising over time to the top of the results. A good place to start is by creating profiles on major services like YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. If you can buy the domain for your name (for instance, I own www.stevenpetrow.com), that will also eventually rank higher in search.

Steven Petrow is the author of the forthcoming book Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners. You can find him online at www.gaymanners.com.

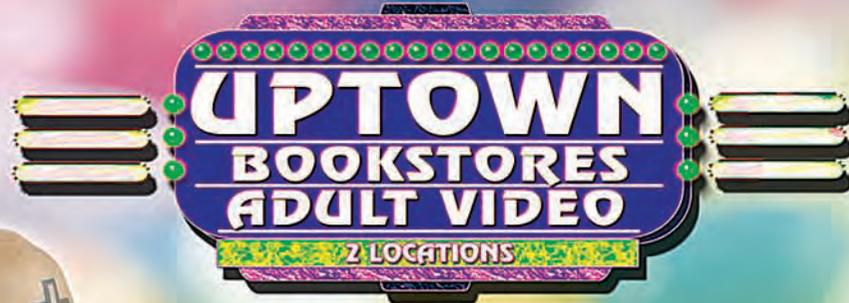
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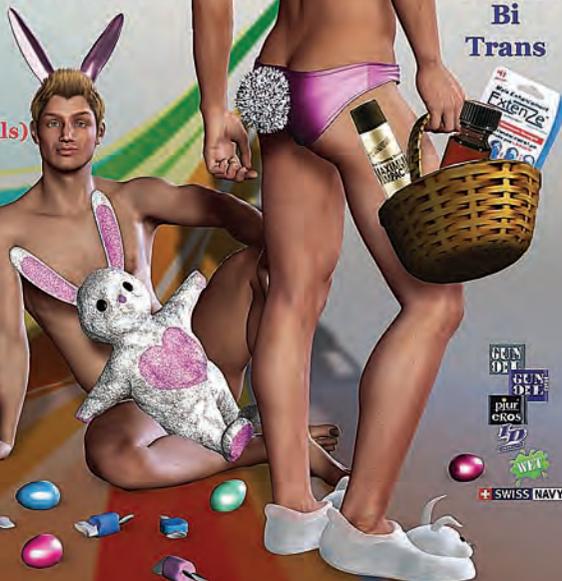
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RTI Deep Inside Hollywood



Betty White. Photo: Touchstone Pictures

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Watch Out, Betty White's going to punk you

NBC wants to be back in the Betty White business. And who can blame them? The 89-year-old spent seven seasons with *The Peacock* slowly becoming a gay icon on "Golden Girls" and is still riding the hottest career wave she's ever had, thanks to an Emmy win for hosting "Saturday Night Live." Now the network wants her to play practical jokes with "Betty White's Off Their Rockers," a show that will feature seniors pranking young people on hidden camera. This might all sound like a geriatric "Punk'd" but the actual inspiration is a European series called "Benidorm Bastards," which operates on the same old-tricks-young premise. Given the face recognition factor, it's unlikely that Betty herself will be pulling the stunts—it would be a little distracting to have Betty White just insert herself into your day to day life, after all—but a brave team of other 89-year-old actors are about to finally get their big Hollywood break.

MTV plans to 'Savage U'

It really does get better, at least for Dan Savage. MTV has committed to 10 episodes of the author/columnist's sex advice show, "Savage U." It will follow Savage as he tours around the country visiting college campuses on a speaking tour and taking questions from students. Now remember, this is a man whose weekly column encourages readers to address him as "Faggot," so the show probably isn't going to be an adorable Dr. Ruth (or even Dr. Drew) experience. Savage's trademark is blunt talk mixed with humor and occasionally some controversy (just Google his name and "fat people" for the most recent public shouting match some of his plus-size readers are waging), so brace yourself for the experience. That is, whenever MTV gets around to airing it. Meanwhile, could someone make it required viewing for young people hoping to audition for "16 and Pregnant"?

Cherry Jones classes up 'REM'

No, the Emmy-winning actor Cherry Jones didn't join Michael Stipe's band. She has, however, signed on for a new pilot on Fox with the same name. Creator Kyle Killen, who was the showrunner on "24" (the show responsible for Cherry's Emmy), has a new project in the works called "REM." It's an "Inception"-like series set to star Jason Isaacs as a detective who emerges back into consciousness after an accident, only to discover that he's living in two parallel realities. In one of them he has killed his son and in the other he has killed his wife. Intervening in this no-win scenario is a psychiatrist, to be played by Jones. If the pilot goes to series it'll be yet another heavy drama for the acclaimed actor, which kind of begs the question of when Jones will be tapped to do some comedy. May we suggest a story arc where she appears as Sue Sylvester's love interest on "Glee" or replaces Charlie Sheen on "Two and a Half Men"? Think of the possibilities.

Restless for 'Restless'? Be patient.

Gus Van Sant-ophiles can breathe a little easier. There's nothing wrong with "Restless." There was a little confusion when the "Milk" director's latest low-budget arthouse drama was pulled from the Sundance Film Festival schedule and from its early 2011 release date. But now it's a potential entry at Cannes and looks to be coming to theaters this fall. As reported earlier, the film returns Van Sant's focus to very young subject matter and very blond casting, with "Jane Eyre"/"Kids Are All Right"/"Alice in Wonderland" star Mia Wasikowska playing a girl with a terminal illness who develops a somewhat "Harold and Maude"-like relationship with a moody young man (Henry Hopper, son of Dennis). And as for the delay, it may simply be that given "Milk"'s Oscar success, distributor Sony Pictures Classics is trying to position the film in a prime award season slot. Couldn't hurt.

Romeo San Vicente is living in his own private Idaho. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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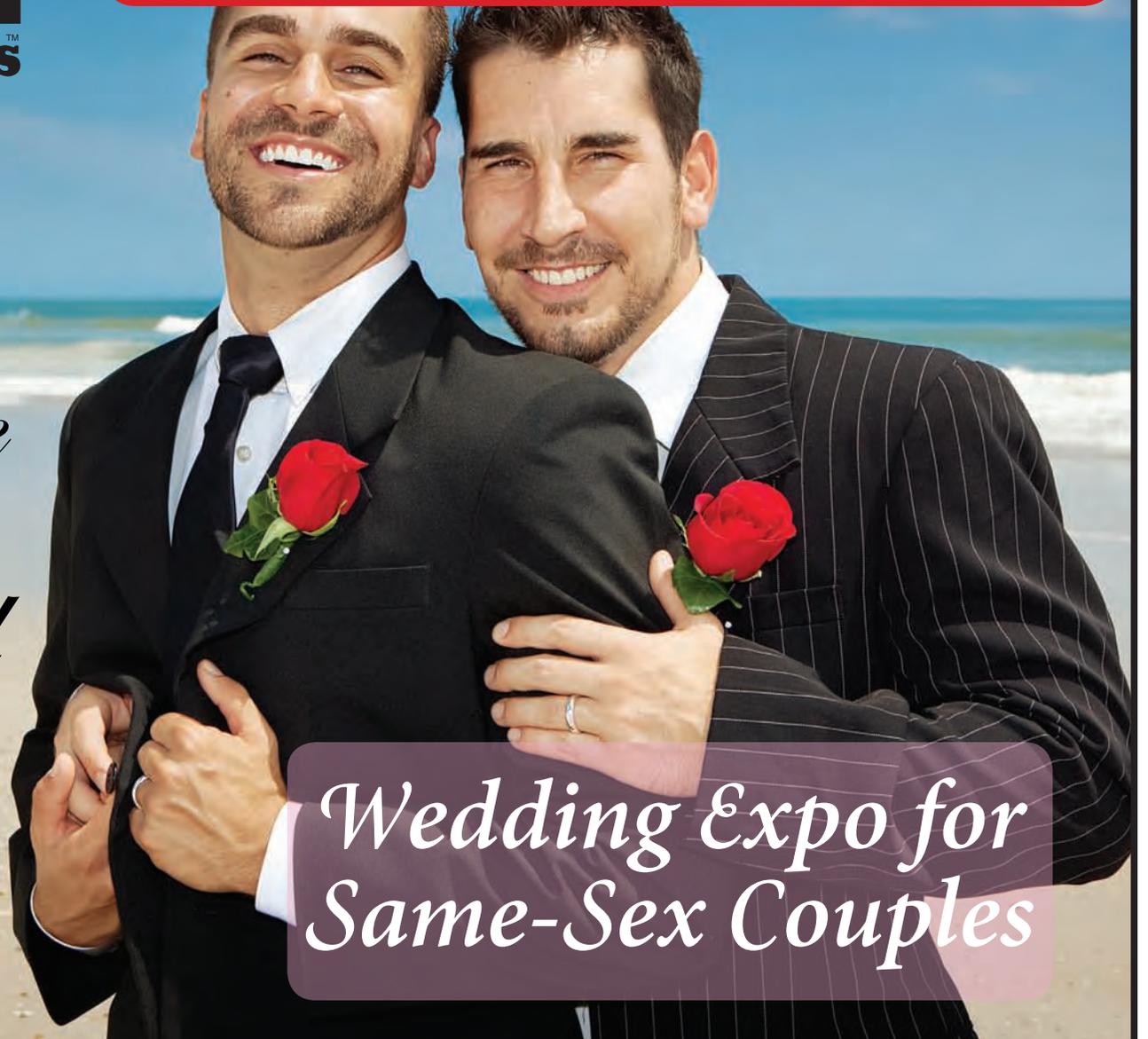
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