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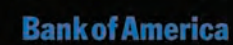
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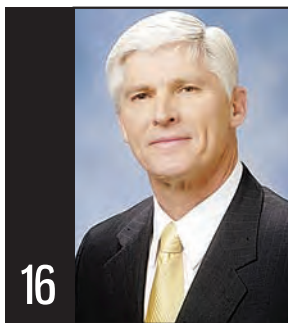


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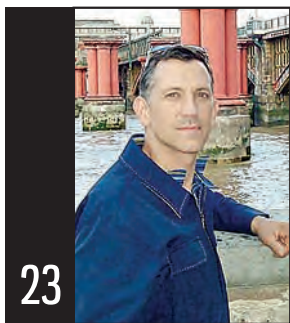




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Cover photo by Andrew Potter

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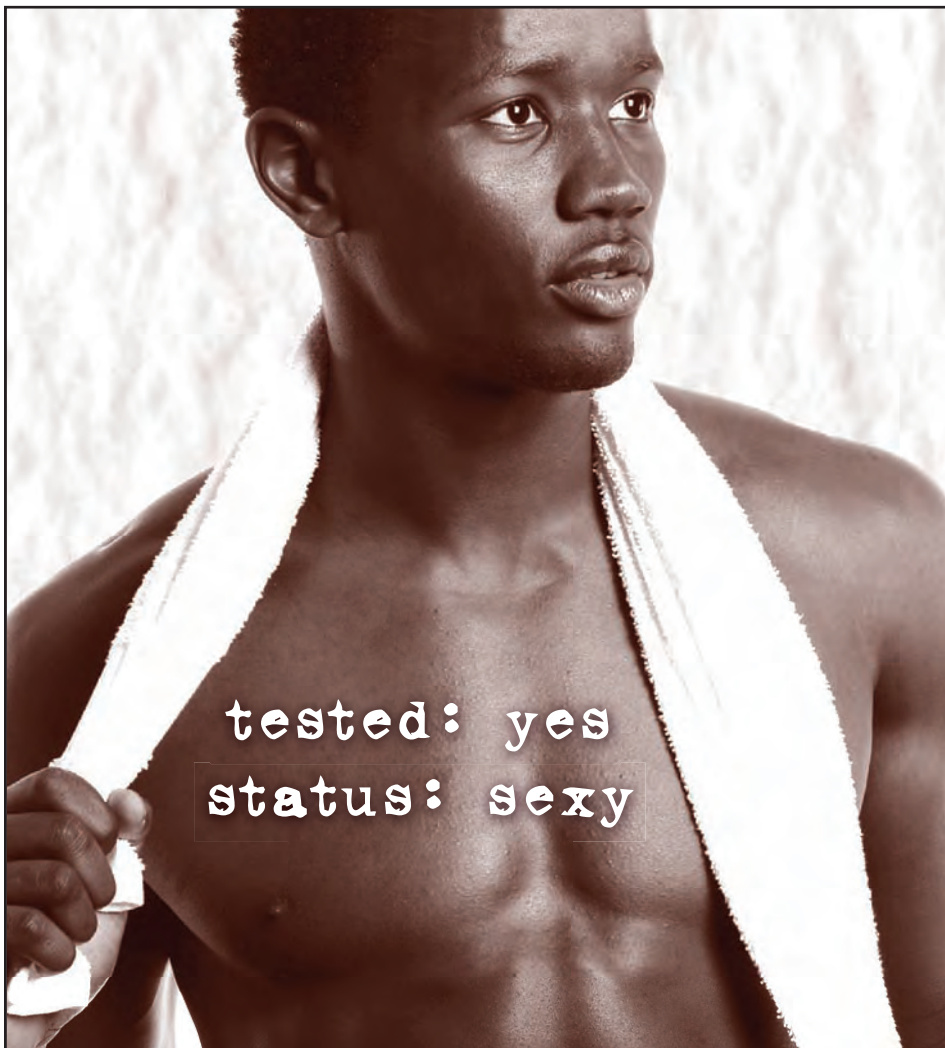


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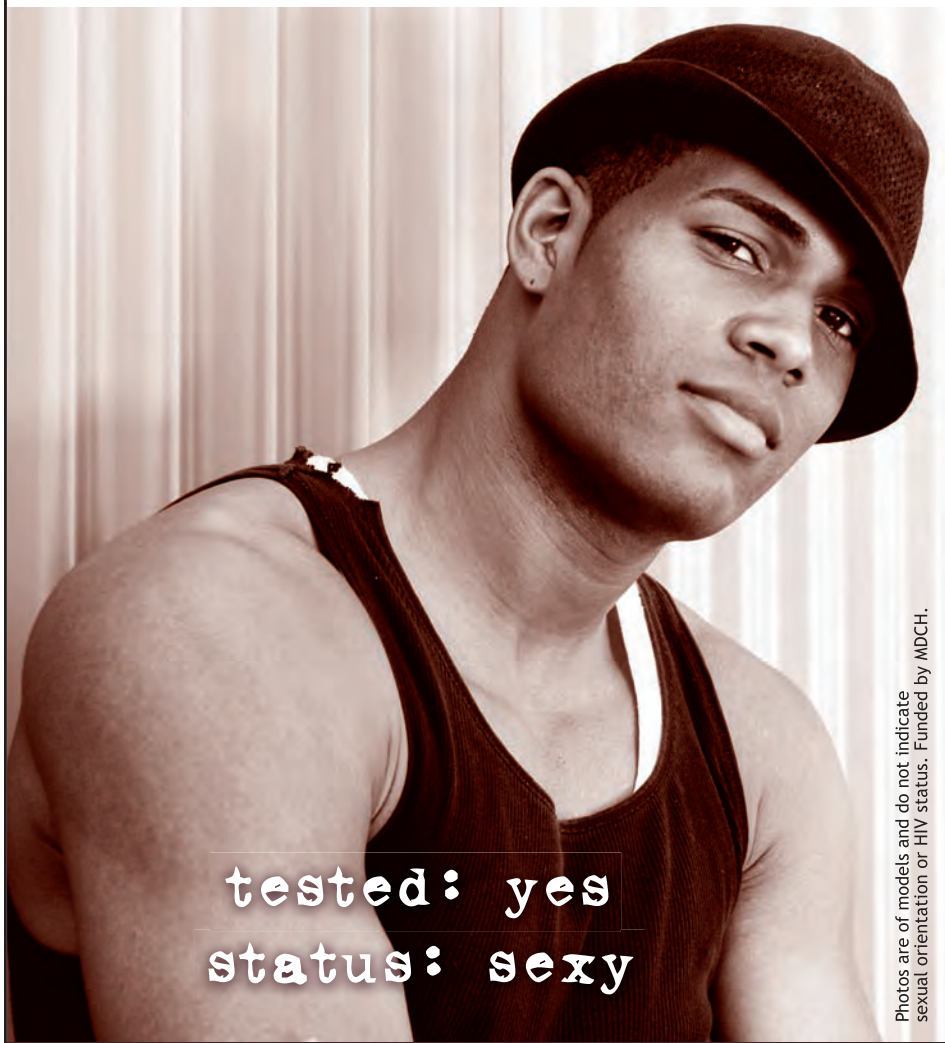


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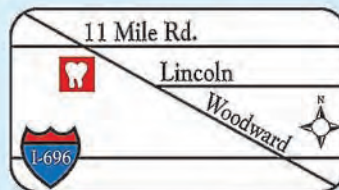


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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES



VIDEO: University of Michigan Law School graduates walk out from graduation ceremony in protest of speaker Rob Portman, a U.S. Senator with an anti-gay voting record

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Chris Armstrong's suit against former Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell

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BTL Speak Out

BY ERIC RADER

Divided we fall

Last week, President Barack Obama released his long-form birth certificate in an effort to quell the ridiculous assertion of Donald Trump and others that he was not born in this country. Only a few days later, our commander-in-chief announced that American Special Forces, on his orders, had killed the mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Osama bin Laden. In making this decision, President Obama demonstrated that he is more than qualified to lead and protect this nation from danger, regardless of the irrational fears and doubts of the lunatic “birthers” and other conspiracy theorists. Our times demand real leaders, not narcissistic reality television stars like Trump masquerading as leaders.

Unfortunately, it appears that America’s first president with a non-European name is required to meet different eligibility standards with some folks than presidents of European origins. The president’s birth certificate, along with contemporaneous newspaper notices of his 1961 birth in a Hawaiian hospital, should be ample documentation that he was born in this country. The birthers, however, won’t let the facts get in the way of their bigoted efforts to cast the president as somehow different from mainstream Americans.

The LGBT community certainly understands what it’s like to endure paranoid and prejudiced lies from opponents. For many years, far right-wing politicians and religious leaders have claimed that our “lifestyle” is “deviant.” Those with a sexual orientation or gender identity different from the norm are classified as abnormal in some quarters. This bigotry is then used as a reason to deny basic rights to gays and to marginalize the LGBT community. There are some in the right wing who obsessively fixate on LGBTs, even though most Americans rarely think about the sexual orientation and gender identity of other people. A number of new Republican governors and members of Congress continue to use bigoted terms when referring to LGBTs, in attempt to perpetuate discriminatory policies. For these public officials, a person’s sexual orientation and gender identity can make her or him undeserving of the basic rights that all citizens are entitled to enjoy.

Thankfully, most Americans are more rational and intelligent when it comes to these issues. In the case of President Obama’s birth certificate story, it appears that the vast majority of the general public is on the side of reason, and rejects the conspiracy theories on which the birther movement is based. However, sizeable numbers of self-identified Republicans believe that the president was born in a foreign country. On gay rights, rational people understand that it is fundamentally wrong that the U.S. denies basic equality to the LGBT community. Again, many conservatives believe that there is something morally wrong with LGBTs, making us undeserving of any legal protections.

These are serious times for our nation. Gas prices are soaring, too many people are unemployed, the threat of terrorism is still

significant even with the death of Osama bin Laden, and natural disasters demand our leaders’ attention. This is not the time to lose focus on what’s important. Political debate is perfectly legitimate in the U.S. – that’s what the First Amendment is all about. Unfortunately, some people on the political right believe that their job is to undermine the moral and legal legitimacy of others, whether it’s the president or people whose background is different from what they consider to be normal.

After September 11, 2001, Americans were united in grief and a determination to achieve justice for the victims of the terrorist attacks. The killing of Osama bin Laden has reunited most Americans and should remind all of us of the danger that still exists in this world. It’s important to keep our focus on issues of consequence, not trivialities like birth

We should work hard to remind our fellow citizens that we are part of the American family too, and deserve to be included in the blessings of liberty that are the birthright of citizenship.

certificates and conspiracy theories that serve to divide people.

We elect our leaders to take care of serious matters like economic security, civil liberties, equality, and most importantly, the safety and security of the country. Let’s hope that we can move on from recent efforts to divide Americans and face our nation’s enormous challenges with the same determination and focus exhibited by our president last week in confronting terrorism. Our nation’s problems can only be solved if we remain united as citizens. There were people of all backgrounds killed on September 11, including patriots who happened to be LGBT. We should work hard to remind our fellow citizens that we are part of the American family too, and deserve to be included in the blessings of liberty that are the birthright of citizenship. True unity can only be achieved when all of people are treated equally and with genuine dignity.

President Obama’s statement on releasing his birth certificate:

<http://tinyurl.com/3pzlv62>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force information on the Anti-Gay Industry in America:

http://www.thetaskforce.org/issues/anti_gay_industry





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Advocates: Anti-bullying bill not strong enough

LGBT students are not protected

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

LANSING— On May 3, Michigan’s Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill, Senate Bill 137, that would call for schools to implement policies prohibiting bullying or harassment. But advocates say the bill is not strong enough and will not protect LGBT students.

There are two versions of an anti-bullying bill that have hung around the state legislature for the last five years. One mandates that schools list specific classes of students to protect, and includes sexual orientation and gender identity on that list. The State Board of Education supports this version. The other version does not list any specific classes.

Interestingly, in late April, Gov. Rick Snyder said he supported the version of the anti-bullying bill that the State Board of Ed. supports. But Republican lawmakers support the other version of the bill.

“Senate Bill 137 will not get the job done,”

“This bill simply will not reduce the bullying that our students face.”

—Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan

said Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan. “We need a bill that requires school districts to adopt policies that list protected categories and report incidents of bullying and harassment. This bill simply will not reduce bullying that our students face. Our legislature and the governor have a responsibility to pass a comprehensive policy that will be effective.”

State Republicans say that the version of the bill that is supported by Snyder and LGBT activists would offer special protections to LGBT students. Brogan-Kator disagrees. “Listing protected categories such as race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity makes our schools safer for all students,” she said. “Students in schools with such detailed policies report less bullying and harassment, are more likely to report feeling safe at school, and are three times less likely to skip a class because they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. When schools have comprehensive policies in place, staff members have the tools they need to prevent and respond to bullying.”

U-M law students: LGBT rights are not debatable

More than 100 Law School graduates walk out of Ohio Senator Rob Portman’s commencement speech

BY JAMES DAVID DICKSON

ANN ARBOR— “Don’t open the doors!” the University of Michigan security official instructed her counterparts. “If they want to walk out on their own, fine, but don’t open the doors for them.”

Everyone at the U-M Law School’s May 7 graduation ceremony, also known as Senior Day, knew that a mass student walkout was coming when Ohio Sen. Rob Portman took the podium – they’d been told as much. Security at the school’s Hill Auditorium wouldn’t stop the students from walking out, but it wasn’t about to open the doors for them either.

Portman, a 1984 alum of the Michigan Law School, was invited last month to speak at Senior Day. It is something of a custom for Michigan Law grads who reach the heights in politics to be invited back. Last year’s commencement speaker was Michigan Law alum Valerie Jarrett, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

Andrew Selbst, a 2011 graduate of the Michigan Law School, emerged as the unofficial spokesperson for the protestors. When Portman was announced as commencement speaker, a number of the law school’s outgoing seniors planned to protest in some way, but it was unorganized, Selbst said. Eventually they settled on the silent protest, a walkout during Portman’s speech.

A small number of the graduates were invited to engage in a dialogue with Portman prior to the ceremony. While students were tight-lipped about what was discussed at the meeting, apparently it did little to squelch the planned walkout.

Days before the ceremony, Selbst told *Between The Lines* that he expected maybe 40 people to walk out of Portman’s speech; more than twice that did. So great was the urge for the protestors to turn their backs on Portman that they actually went ahead of their cue, Selbst said, taking a pause in Cormac Joseph Kerins’ introduction of the senator as their chance to leave the auditorium en masse and talk amongst themselves in the lobby.

In his opening remarks, Law School Dean Evan Caminker said that the law school would always be there to welcome its graduates home. Part of the purpose of Senior Day is to bring back Michigan Law grads who have been successful since leaving Ann Arbor. As he explained in a letter to the seniors on April 14, he said “We seek speakers who have achieved success and accomplishment in their professional careers, rather than speakers whose views are representative of all or a majority of the students at the law school.”

Caminker said the senator was a great example of where a Michigan Law degree can take a person: “anywhere.” Before being elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2010,



“The legal profession has always led the way in terms of civil rights. I’m proud to graduate with so many people who want to keep leading the way.”

—Andrew Selbst, 2011 U-M Law School graduate

Portman served as a Congressman and in 2005 was appointed U.S. Trade Representative and later the director of the Office of Management, both cabinet-level positions under President George W. Bush.

Bringing Portman back to Ann Arbor might be custom, but Selbst and others said it was unacceptable, given Portman’s votes against gay marriage and, more recently, gay adoption in Washington, D.C. A number of students who took part in the protest described gay marriage and gay adoption as human rights, as issues that don’t permit reasonable people to disagree.

Outside the Hill Auditorium guests attending Senior Day were handed a pamphlet explaining the coming protest. About 60 percent of the graduates wore rainbow buttons or flair on their gowns. Family and friends of the graduates wore the rainbow ribbon to show

U-M law students silently walk out from their graduation ceremony as Law School Dean Evan Caminker announces Sen. Rob Portman, the featured speaker. The students were protesting Portman’s anti-LGBT voting record, and returned to their ceremony when he finished speaking. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

solidarity with grads who would be affected by Portman’s votes.

The pamphlet contained a letter from more than 200 Michigan Law alumni to Dean Caminker.

“Senator Portman, in public life, has actively worked to deny some members of the graduating class their civil rights ... Our objection is not a political one ... rather we are concerned about the message Michigan Law is sending by giving an anti-gay rights speaker the honor of marking what should be a joyful occasion,” the letter read.

Inside Hill, guests were handed the official program. Everything about it was normal – an image of the law school, the itinerary for the ceremony, the names of this year’s graduates – except for a baby-blue insert affirming both the right of the offended graduates to protest and the right of the senator to be heard without protestors “interfering unduly” by shouting him down.

“If the hosts of this event or University representatives believe that protestors are interfering unduly with a speaker’s freedom of expression, those protestors will be warned,” the letter admonished. “If the warnings are not heeded and the interference continues, then the individuals responsible may be removed from the building.”

There was no shout-down. When Caminker mentioned Portman briefly in his opening

See Law students, page 13

House approves penalty for state schools that offer partner benefits

Penalty would be five percent cut in state funding

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING—The Michigan House approved an amendment to the education budget on May 5 that will penalize state universities and colleges five percent for offering domestic partner benefits for same-sex or unmarried partners.

State Rep. Dave Agema, R-Greenville, posted the following status update to his Facebook page announcing the amendment:

“I had an amendment put into the education budget that takes 5% away from colleges that give same sex/unmarried benefits...Colleges can't say they are short of money when they skirt the law and give such benefits. The Dems didn't like this – it passed.

The approved budget cuts millions of dollars in state funds from the state's K-12 system while shifting some of the funding from the school aid fund into community college funding. State universities and community colleges were cut 15 percent in the Senate version of the funding, but in the House funding proposal, those entities are cut by 22 percent unless they keep tuition increases below 7.1 percent.

Both bills now head into a conference committee where they will be combined into a final bill, which will then face up and down votes in both chambers. If approved, it would head to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk.

Agema has introduced the same amendment measure for years without much success. But with the public battle between the Michigan Civil

Service Commission and Republican lawmakers over the January MCSC decision to extend partner benefits to unrelated adults living in the same home as state employees, the amendment is likely a head nod to anti-gay activists.

In March, the GOP majority in the House fell short of the needed 2/3 majority to override the benefits, allowing the proposal to become law. That happened over the protests of Gov. Rick Snyder and the GOP dominated Senate, which easily mustered the 2/3 majority to approve the

now suffer...for operating in a responsible and forward thinking way toward the very individuals that work hard to make our students successful and prepared for the world economy,” said Emily Dievendorf, director of policy for Equality Michigan.

“Budgeting taxpayer dollars is not a game for our elected leaders to play but an opportunity for each legislator to demonstrate their values and commitment to the well being of their constituency. Rep. Agema's amendment is a

“We are reminded today that budget negotiations can result in less food on the table and basic and essential rights being stripped away.”

—Emily Dievendorf, director of policy at Equality Michigan

resolution rescinding the MCSC decision.

The move by the House to put the penalty in the education budget raised the ire of advocates for the LGBT community, which has fought hard to attain and protect partner benefits for colleges and universities in the state.

“Rep. Agema has used creative accounting to force Michigan's colleges and universities to deny their employees' families access to good health. Our institutions of higher learning could

thinly veiled expression of personal ideology and not a reflection of what is best for the families he represents. This is exactly why no Michigander should lose interest when their legislator starts talking dollars. We are reminded today that budget negotiations can result in less food on the table and basic and essential rights being stripped away.”

Story originally published on michiganmessenger.com

MI attorney general sues to block domestic partner benefits

Benefits also attacked by Republican lawmakers

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Attorney General Bill Schuette announced on May 6 that he is suing the Michigan Civil Service Commission. The MCSC decided in January to offer benefits to unrelated adults living with state employees, and Schuette is challenging the constitutionality of that decision.

“This unconstitutional use of authority is costing the taxpayers millions at a time when they can least afford it,” Schuette said.

Schuette claims the benefits exceed the Constitutional authority granted to the MCSC and they violate the state's equal protection clause.

The MCSC, an independent office that administers human resources for state employees, negotiated with state employee unions to offer domestic partner benefits under Gov. Jennifer Granholm. But in 2004, Michigan voters added an amendment to the state constitution that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman.

That amendment, known as Proposition 2, also demanded that any benefits of marriage – such as health benefits – only occur between a man and a woman. In response, state universities that had offered “same-sex partner” benefits changed their language to offer “other eligible adult” benefits. This allows unrelated roommates and their dependents to receive benefits even under Prop 2. The MCSC decision is similar in purpose.

The AG isn't the only one trying to remove the benefits. State Republicans tried to overturn the MCSC decision in February and March. They needed a two-thirds majority vote in both the state House and Senate. Republicans managed the majority in the Senate, but not the House. The benefits are set to take effect in October.

House Republicans are also attacking the benefits again, this time financially. They wrote language in their version of the state budget that would penalize universities who offer “other eligible adult” benefits with a five percent cut in funding.

Although the attorney general said he's challenging the constitutionality of the MCSC decision, his complaints – and complaints of fellow Republican lawmakers, including Gov.

Rick Snyder – mostly decry the cost.

Schuette claims the benefits will cost up to \$8 million. Democratic Senator Rebekah Warren from Ann Arbor told BTL in February that there was no way to know exactly how much the benefits would cost, but did not think it would be as high as Republican projections.

The MCSC needs to respond to the suit by May 27.

“This unconstitutional use of authority is costing the taxpayers millions at a time when they can least afford it.”

—Attorney General Bill Schuette

PFLAG Detroit celebrates 25th anniversary

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

The Detroit chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a national non-profit organization comprised of more than 200,000 members, celebrates its 25th anniversary this weekend with a dinner catered by the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Tony DeOrio, president of PFLAG Detroit, said the evening acknowledges the organization's 25 years of keeping families together after a family member has come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or intersex. “We've been a safe place for parents who don't know where to turn when their son or daughter has come out,” said DeOrio. “When parents are hurt or confused and they want to understand their children, they can come to us for support, education and advocacy.”

PFLAG Detroit meets every second Sunday of the month in Troy's Lutheran Church of the Master. During each meeting, the organization splits into four different support groups: new parents, parents of transgendered children, LGBT or allied youth and young adults, and a general discussion group.

The organization frequently hosts LGBT and allied speakers at its meetings, seeking to educate parents and friends about the changing cultural and societal issues surrounding gender identity and sexuality. “It's kind of like we've created our own giant family of support, love and acceptance,” said DeOrio.

The evening's keynote speaker will be Nancy M. Schlichting, the openly lesbian president and chief executive officer of the Henry Ford Health System. Schlichting will discuss the roles parents and friends can have in supporting LGBT youth during the coming out process. She also will detail her own experiences as an out lesbian in her profession.

The celebration takes place at 6 p.m. on May 14 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, located at 26601 Ryan Road in Warren. Tickets cost \$60 and are available online at pflagdetroit.org.

Together in Faith Conference May 14

LANSING— Together in Faith, a growing collaboration between faith-based LGBTQ advocates and allies across the state and the Upper Peninsula, is hosting a conference May 14 at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The conference features workshops, resources and worship. Registration, which costs \$35, can be done online at inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/.

For more information, contact Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com.

Saugatuck schools are considering talking about 'alternative lifestyles' and coming out in its eighth grade sex ed lessons. What do you think?

Besides the fact that I find the term "alternative lifestyle" offensive, I think that it's great that someone is finally doing this in Michigan! The comments under the story you linked to are terrible, though. People are so ignorant! This is why my wife and I will be homeschooling our kids!
-Bridget Kelley

It's about time. This is not only a benefit for gay and lesbian preteens, but for any kid trying to navigate the vagaries of adult sexuality. They can be very confusing times and having access and understanding of the entire spectrum of human sexuality is going to make for healthier kids.
-Will Myers

I agree, Bridget. It is not an alternative lifestyle. Just living life.
-Michelle Fox-Phillips

Agreed, Ms. Kelley and Ms. Fox-Phillips, it is just living life. By reading the comments in the story, looks like those who commented need this sort of anti-harassment lesson the most!
-Michael Suitts

Great! It will help all youth. I wouldn't want them to have to go through what I did.
-Jeffrey Olivier

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

 **Join the conversation ...**
 Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

Marriage support in New York



Bill Clinton

"Our nation's permanent mission is to form a 'more perfect union,' deepening the meaning of freedom, broadening the reach of opportunity, strengthening the bonds of community. That mission has inspired and empowered us to extend rights to people previously denied them. Every time we have done that, it has strengthened our nation. Now we should do it again, in New York, with marriage equality. For more than a century, our Statue of Liberty has welcomed all kinds of people from all over the world yearning to be free. In the 21st century, I believe New York's welcome must include marriage equality."

-President Bill Clinton, in a statement made to Human Rights Campaign in regards to marriage equality legislation in New York, hrcbackstory.org, May 5.



Chelsea Clinton

"As a New Yorker who not that long ago got married in New York to her best friend, I certainly believe that all of my friends should have the right, as Marc and I did, to marry their best friend. I certainly expect my straight friends to help us achieve that for all New Yorkers, for all Americans, and for the children that Marc and I hope to have someday."

-Chelsea Clinton, daughter of President Bill Clinton, at a pro-gay-marriage event hosted by FriendFactor in New York, people.com, May 3.



Matt Baume

"Yes, it would have been nicer if it had come 20 years ago. Yes, he's caused our community plenty of problems by signing DOMA. And yes, on this issue he's behind plenty of pro-marriage Republicans, including Laura Bush and Dick Cheney for heaven's sake. But that's what makes this announcement so lovely: he's had to travel a long way to get here, and now he's joined the nearly 60 percent of New Yorkers who want marriage to happen. Okay! Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work."

-Matt Baume, writing for the online LGBT magazine Queerty in response to President Bill Clinton's statement to HRC, queerty.com, May 5.



Richard Socarides

"Right now, with the situation in California tied up in a lawsuit that looks like it will take years to resolve, New York is the biggest prize that remains and if we can win in New York, it will be an important turning point in the marriage effort."

-Richard Socarides, president of Equality Matters and former New York lawyer, about New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's efforts to pass same-sex marriage legislation, huffingtonpost.com, April 20.

State finally releases n-PEP guidance

Use of anti-retroviral meds can save lives

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING— After more than a year, the Michigan Department of Community Health has released a guidance paper to state health officials on the use of antiretroviral medications to prevent HIV infections in non-work related exposures.

The procedure, called non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis or n-PEP, has been an approved preventative treatment by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 2005. The World Health Organization has had similar guidance in place since 2006.

“It looks like the n-PEP position statement received final approval April 21,” said Kelly Niebel, spokesperson for MDCH. “It was distributed to high-prevalence local health department AIDS coordinators; Michigan HIV/AIDS Coalition; Expanded Testing Initiative grantees; prevention grantees; designated sites; AIDS Drug Assistance Program doctors; case management agencies. It was also sent to the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, which distributed it to local health department health officers, medical directors and nursing staff.”

One high prevalence location has already

started pushing n-PEP as standard prevention activity. Michigan Messenger reported that the Ingham County Health Department has begun to push n-PEP publicly. The decision was made in response to the county having the second highest rate of HIV infection in the state. Ingham County officials announced their plans ten days prior to

“This is a first step, but an invaluable step toward a healthier Michigan.”

—Emily Dievendorf, policy director of Equality Michigan

MDCH’s approval of its policy paper.

A Michigan Messenger investigation in December 2009 first brought the issue of n-PEP to the forefront when it was revealed that the state had no policy “written in stone,” and that access to the life saving medications was entirely dependent on where in the state a person was located.

The same day the investigation was published Amna Osman, director of Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control for MDCH, told Messenger an n-PEP policy would be in place “early” in 2010.

However, a year later, the proposed language continued to be stuck in a bureaucratic system and was not yet approved. As a result of the delay, national and local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations condemned the MDCH for failing to have the policy in place, and demanded immediate action.

The policy appears to be a re-write of the 2005 Centers for Disease Control guidance, and is substantially different from drafts released to Michigan Messenger earlier this year in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. Those earlier drafts blurred the distinctions between post exposure prophylaxis, which is a specific treatment designed for health care workers and first responders who might have an exposure to HIV, with the non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis. The latter, n-PEP, is designed to be administered to persons with an exposure through sex – whether consensual or non-consensual – and needle sharing.

Both procedures require the person exposed

to begin a 28 day course of anti-retrovirals within 72 hours. Anything beyond the 72 hours after exposure is considered too late for the intervention. While the procedures are in fact quite effective in preventing HIV from gaining a foothold in the body, it is rife with potential side effects and is expensive. An average n-PEP or PEP prescription costs about \$1,000.

The release of the new policy brought praise from Equality Michigan.

“Equality Michigan is pleased with the Michigan Department of Community Health’s release of its own n-PEP policy,” said Emily Dievendorf, policy director for the civil rights group. “The release of the policy can ensure that Michigan health care providers know that an option exists to prevent the spread of HIV and offer them guidance as to n-PEP’s distribution and effective use. In this case knowledge can save lives. It is my hope that the n-PEP policy is distributed widely along with strong encouragement that health care providers offer it every time an individual may have been exposed to HIV. This is a first step, but an invaluable step toward a healthier Michigan.”

Story originally published on michiganmessenger.com

Kalamazoo county notifies health providers to watch for syphilis

County sees highest number of cases reported since 2001

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The Kalamazoo County Health Department is in the midst of fighting an outbreak of syphilis. The county reports seven cases of syphilis in 2010. While that doesn’t sound like much, it is the highest number since 2001.

Michelle Thorne, clinical services director for the Kalamazoo County Health Department, said that while preliminary totals to date are not available, the department so far this year is already “pretty close to what our total count for 2010 was.”

On March 11, the department sent a health advisory to hospitals, doctors, women’s clinics and health departments in the region.

“Kalamazoo County is currently experiencing an increase in early syphilis cases,” the advisory said. It continued:

“The current increase in syphilis cases have been identified as primary cases. Primary syphilis is characterized by a painless chancre. Secondary syphilis is characterized by a skin rash and mucous membrane lesions and may be accompanied by flu-like symptoms. Syphilis can be transmitted to others during these stages.

“KCHCS is taking action to stop the progression of syphilis. We are working with the Michigan Department of Community Health to conduct case investigations along with contact

tracing, testing, and treatment. Screening of high-risk groups that may be associated with the primary cases of syphilis include individuals with multiple sex partners; men who have sex with men; men who have sex with men and are co-infected with HIV; and individuals that trade sex for drugs or money. In addition, staff will be working to distribute information regarding syphilis and its prevention to those at risk as well as the general public.”

Syphilis has been seeing regular appearances across the state after years of being at nearly zero cases. Genesee county saw the largest outbreak in 2008. That outbreak was in heterosexuals. Ingham and Kent counties saw outbreaks in 2009, and in 2010 Oakland county saw an outbreak. Ingham, Kent and Oakland saw their outbreaks in the men who have sex with men communities. Many of the cases in those counties were also co-infected with HIV, which may also be the case in Kalamazoo.

Syphilis occurs in three distinct phases. First stage syphilis is identified by a painless sore. Second stage by a rash, usually on the hands and feet, and the third stage is when the bacteria invades organs of the body, including the brain. First and second stage syphilis are considered contagious.

Story originally published on michiganmessenger.com



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Bill Clinton urges NY state to legalize same-sex marriage

BY REX WOCKNER

Bill Clinton, who as president signed the anti-gay federal Defense of Marriage Act into law, urged New York state on May 5 to legalize same-sex marriage.

In a statement released by the Human Rights Campaign, Clinton said: "Our nation's permanent mission is to form a 'more perfect union' – deepening the meaning of freedom, broadening the reach of opportunity, strengthening the bonds of community. That mission has inspired and empowered us to extend rights to people previously denied them. Every time we have done that, it has strengthened our nation. Now we should do it again, in New York, with marriage equality. For more than a century, our Statue of Liberty has welcomed all kinds of people from all over the world yearning to be free. In the 21st century, I believe New York's welcome must include marriage equality."

Gay activists and Gov. Andrew Cuomo are pushing for a vote on a same-sex marriage bill in New York's Legislature before the current session ends in June.

According to HRC, polling suggests 58 percent of New Yorkers support letting same-sex couples marry.

Two days before Bill Clinton's statement, his daughter Chelsea also spoke out in support of same-sex marriage while attending a pro-gay-marriage event.

Karibu House gets new space

DETROIT— Karibu House, founded in 1996, is now a member of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations and has acquired office space inside DABO's multi-service center.

Karibu House intends to continue serving LGBTs of color in the new space and to offer afterschool programming for local students.

To attend a June 4 fundraiser, an evening of jazz and theater at the Samaritan Center at 7 p.m., contact 248-906-5529.

Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to Karibu House, Inc. and sent to 8100 W. Davison, Detroit, MI 48234.

Grassroots conference May 14

MASON— The Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy will hold its annual conference on building grassroots support for LGBT issues on May 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3056 Okemos Road in Mason.

The first 50 registrants can attend the conference for free thanks to a grant from the Arcus Foundation; otherwise, the fee is \$35 per person.

Six continuing education credits are available for this conference from the Michigan Psychological Association.

To register online, Google "MPIPP annual conference 2011."

Attorney general and judge block two gay deportations

BY REX WOCKNER

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder suspended the deportation of an Irish man May 5 because he is in a New Jersey same-sex civil union with an American.

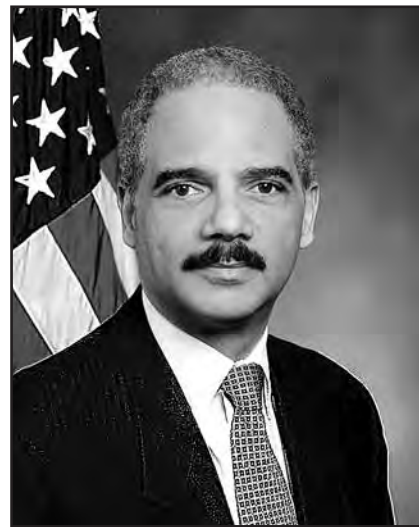
In essence, Holder said he wanted the Board of Immigration Appeals to reconsider whether Paul Wilson Dorman's civil union might qualify him for a spousal green card.

The federal Defense of Marriage Act prohibits agencies of the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, but Holder and President Barack Obama said in February that they consider that portion of DOMA unconstitutional, and the Justice Department stopped defending it in ongoing federal court cases challenging it.

In his May 5 order, Holder said: "I direct that ... this matter be remanded to the Board to make such findings as may be necessary to determine whether and how the constitutionality of DOMA is presented in this case, including, but not limited to: 1) whether respondent's same-sex partnership or civil union qualifies him to be considered a 'spouse' under New Jersey law; 2) whether, absent the requirements of DOMA, respondent's same-sex partnership or civil union would qualify him to be considered a 'spouse' under the Immigration and Nationality Act; 3) what, if any, impact the timing of respondent's civil union should have on his request for that discretionary relief; and 4) whether, if he had a 'qualifying

relative,' the respondent would be able to satisfy the exceptional and unusual hardship requirement for cancellation of removal."

Then, on May 6, an immigration judge



U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder

in Newark, N.J., suspended the deportation of a Venezuelan man who is married to an American man under Connecticut law. Judge Alberto Riefkohl cited Holder's action the day before in issuing his decision.

The couple in the Newark case, Henry Velandia and Josh Vandiver, have made numerous national media appearances and become a poster couple in the political fight

to extend spousal immigration rights to foreigners who are in a legally recognized same-sex relationship with an American.

Gay activists and legal observers said the twin deportation suspensions could mean that the Obama administration hopes or intends to stop using DOMA against binational same-sex couples and to start granting green cards to foreigners who marry or enter into a civil union with an American of the same sex.

However, on May 8, a Justice Department spokeswoman told The New York Times that the department will continue to enforce DOMA and that Holder had intervened in Dorman's case only because some issues had been overlooked by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

According to reports, both Dorman and Velandia entered the U.S. legally, stayed beyond the terms of their visas, tried to get permission to remain based on their same-sex unions, and were turned down.

The section of DOMA that is involved – and that the Justice Department no longer defends in court – reads: "In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."

Local activists make OUT list Hidden 105 list answer to controversial Power 50

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

OUT magazine, a popular LGBT publication, recently released its annual OUT Power 50, a list of the most influential LGBTs in the country. That list immediately sparked controversy for its lack of diversity, and on May 3 the magazine released another list called the Hidden 105, which was submitted by three OUT readers.

The Hidden 105 is a diverse list of LGBT activists, and four on the list are from Michigan.

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh was recognized for his political engagement; the Rev. Hank Millbourne was recognized for leading the fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS; Michelle E. Brown, on the board of directors of Michigan Equality, was recognized for LGBT community leadership; and Julie Nemecek was recognized for her "power of courage" for speaking out against being fired from Spring Arbor University because she was transgender.

Millbourne said he was "quite surprised and honored" when he found out he was listed, especially because "a lot of those folks on the list are certainly heroes to me."

"I think the people who are included

"A lot of those folks on the list are certainly heroes to me."

—The Rev. Hank Millbourne, associate executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan

on the Hidden 105 are people who probably should have been on the list to begin

with," continued Millbourne, who is also the associate executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan.

When the OUT editors released the Hidden 105 list, they explained that their annual Power 50 is meant to show influence, not necessarily worth or valor. They also pointedly added that many on the Hidden 105 have been featured in OUT and are "perhaps not so 'hidden,' after all."

"I don't even know how to respond to that," Millbourne said. "I do think they missed a lot of people who really are important particularly to the LGBT community, and to the work that happens in our community. I'm glad the second list came out."

The authors of the Hidden 105 list – Mandy Carter, Diego Sanchez and Roberta Sklar – describe themselves as longtime LGBT activists. In their submission to OUT, they wrote that they hoped their list showed "the diversity that is inherent in the power of the LGBT rainbow."



Sarah Palmer and Alisa Whitfield hand out pamphlets explaining the walkout outside the graduation ceremony at U-M's Hill Auditorium on May 7
BTL Photos: Andrew Potter

► Law students

Continued from p. 8

remarks, the crowd did not boo. When Portman was introduced to speak, the graduates filed out quietly, with no hooting or hollering. When Portman was done speaking and Matthew Jaret Budow, a class of 2011 graduate, was introduced, the seniors returned as quietly as they left.



Law student Sophia Henrich and girlfriend Cynthia Maier are engaged and plan to wed in Germany.

“We wanted (the protest) to be dignified,” Selbst explained in the hallway as Portman spoke. He was joined by about 100 future lawyers from his graduating class. “The legal profession has always led the way in terms of civil rights. I’m proud to graduate with so many people who want to keep leading the way.”

Kaitlin Jackson, who is heading to New York to do public defense work after graduation, said that equal rights for the LGBT community is

not just another debatable political issue. Jackson, who is a member of the LGBT community, did not attend the forum with Portman, preferring instead that this be a day of celebration. But she did walk out during Portman’s speech.

Ringo Vine, a 2011 graduate, is engaged to marry her partner and move to Arizona. She will practice immigration law with the U.S. Department of Justice.

“We can’t get married in either of our home states, Minnesota or New York,” she said.



Kaya Williams and student Kaitlin Jackson.

Arizona, where the two are moving, poses another problem: It doesn’t allow for second-parent adoption. While Vine has a male friend who would be willing to father her child, her fiancée would have no rights to the child. She said that politicians who vote the way Portman does are part of the problem.

“I couldn’t imagine sitting there, smiling, and being honored by someone who would deny me the right to my civil, human, basic right to marry my partner and raise a family,” Vine said.

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Editorial

When Republicans attack

We gotta hand it to the Republicans. They are tenacious. See, they were definitely defeated in their quest to take away health benefits for domestic partners of state employees. An independent office that administers human services to state employees, called the Michigan Civil Service Commission, decided on the benefits in January this year.

And state Republicans tried to reverse the benefits in the state legislature. They tried not once, but twice – and they couldn't get the number of votes they needed.

But are they giving up? Nope.

Now, our Republican Attorney General, Bill Schuette, is suing the MCSC, saying that it acted beyond its authority. And Republican House members have put a penalty in a funding bill, taking away 5 percent of state funding from any university that offers its employees benefits to an unrelated or not-married person.

They're like sharks circling the boat.

It's amusing (or annoying) that Republicans, who say they want small government, are seeking to make government bigger by penalizing universities for how they spend their money. There are rules so that state universities are allowed to spend as they please – so that students are served properly and politics stay out of it.

But what's even more amusing is how our state Republicans are scrambling.

Every day, we are reminded that life for LGBTs is changing for the better. Former President Bill Clinton, the boob who signed the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, just joined his daughter in support of gay marriage in New York. President Obama stopped defending parts of DOMA this winter and has appointed more openly gay nominees to high-level positions than any other president. Dick Cheney supports gay marriage. Dick Cheney, people. Things are changing.

And not just on the national level, but on the state level too: Just look at the graduating class at the University of Michigan Law School, gaining national attention last weekend for walking out of their graduation ceremony because the school

Even though they circle like sharks, they're finding a lot less space to do so. And sharks look a lot less threatening when they're stuck in a tank.

invited an anti-gay-rights U.S. Senator to speak. More than one hundred graduates – roughly a third of them – quietly walked out during the senator's introduction, and quietly walked back in when he was finished. And more than half of the auditorium wore rainbow-colored buttons or tassels in support.

So Michigan must look pretty bipolar to the nation right now, because every blog from New York City to San Francisco talked about the penalty for universities and the walkout, news events that happened just days apart.

But really, we know Michigan is not bipolar. We know that Republicans – those old white guys in Lansing – are a minority, no matter how much power they have.

So even though they circle like sharks, they're finding a lot less space to do so.

And sharks look a lot less threatening when they're stuck in a tank.



General Gayety

The Nuptial News

BY LESLIE ROBINSON

There's been a lot of marriage news lately. But enough about the Royal Wedding. On these shores, the struggle for same-sex marriage has been as wobbly as a tipsy bride.

Look at Rhode Island. Hopes were high that Little Rhody would become the sixth state to allow gay marriage. But House Speaker Gordon Fox announced the legislation wouldn't pass the Senate, so he was backing civil unions instead.

Rhode Island started off down the aisle, then got cold feet.

Fox, interestingly enough, is openly gay. Advocates of same-sex marriage are openly angry at his decision. Martha Holt of Marriage Equality Rhode Island said in a statement, "We cannot support legislation that establishes a second class of citizens in Rhode Island."

When Vermont granted civil unions 11 years ago, they were the cat's meow. Now many consider them something the cat dragged in.

Marriage activists have unusual company in their opposition to civil unions: the Catholic Church and the National Organization for Marriage. These anti-gay forces want lawmakers to reject the legislation because civil unions, they say, are a stepping-stone to gay marriage.

Let's hope so.

In other marriage news, we turn now to that all-American boil, Donald Trump. When talking to a New York Times reporter about his opposition to same-sex marriage, Trump used a golf metaphor.

"A lot of people – I don't want this to sound trivial – but a lot of people are switching to these really long putters, very unattractive," said the kind-of-sort-of Republican presidential candidate. "It's weird. You see these great players with these really long putters, because they can't sink three-footers anymore. And, I hate it. I am a traditionalist. I have so many fabulous friends who happen to be gay, but I am a traditionalist."

Yes, the Donald is comparing your relationship to a golf club. Fore!

If he becomes president, he'll see to it that America doesn't resort to gay marriage or ugly putters. Because he's a traditionalist—who's been married three times.

Let's check out the poll conducted by Public Policy Polling that revealed a majority

of Republicans now support some form of legal recognition for gay couples.

Most thought gay couples should receive a notarized certificate reading "Nice try" and a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts card.

Actually, of the more than 1,000 Republicans nationwide who were polled, 12 percent favored full marriage rights, and 39 percent favored civil unions. That's a total

The struggle for same-sex marriage has been as wobbly as a tipsy bride.

of 51 percent in support of legal recognition, compared to the 48 percent who believed gay couples should have no legal rights and ought to move to the Yukon.

Finally we head to the state of New York, where it appears the legislature will vote on marriage equality pretty darn soon. In 2009 same-sex marriage died in the Senate. What will the Senate do this time? Both sides are pushing like mad. Oh, the drama.

Former President Bill Clinton, a New York resident, weighed in. He released a statement through the Human Rights Campaign that said each time this nation has extended rights to those previously denied them, America has become stronger, so let's do it again, New York.

I keep picturing Bill in a spangled red, white and blue suit, backed by the Rockettes.

Chelsea Clinton helped kick off statewide phone banking in Manhattan. She made some phone calls, and told the volunteers she was proud of her father's stand. She said, reported The Advocate, "I am unabashedly biased toward my parents, and I am also unabashedly biased toward the right to marry."

Clinton herself got hitched last July, and she said marriage equality would be a fine first-anniversary present. Indeed, the traditional first-anniversary gift is paper. A document with the signature of the governor of New York would work nicely.

Leslie Robinson lives in Washington, which is temporarily devoid of marriage equality news. Email her at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and check out her blog at www.generalgayety.com.



Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Blow out my candles!

Two auspicious events take place as this, my 586th PG column, appears today. I turn 75 on May 12. Jesus returns May 21 to 'rapture' his flock (stopping off long enough to wish me "Happy Birthday, Mary!")

If I were the only person to age – now five years beyond life's biblically allotted three score and ten – I'd gripe. But, as aging happens to young and old, I'll grin and bear it. (God knows the number of times I've done just that. No untoward email comments, please.)

As for Jesus making a CNN newsworthy appearance – as city billboards are trumpeting – I have doubts. Seventh Day Adventists said he'd get here in 1844. Jehovah's Witnesses claimed 1914, 1925, 1950, 1975. All no shows.

Life would have been a damn sight better for a whole lot of us mere mortals if, say, in 1975 the Late JC dropped in to kidnap Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, George W, Anita Bryant, and, just for good measure, babies Teddy Haggard, and diaper wailing Sarah Palin.

75! Seems just yesterday I was 19, cruising Farmer & Bates in downtown Detroit, as a lanky, good-looking (better believe it!), gay newbie. No Stonewall Lib papers. No out movie stars. No welcoming churches. No LGBT centers. You'd ask folks, Are you gay? They'd say, Sure I'm happy, why? Why, why, indeed.

Just gay bars. With back doors to slip in unseen. Go by a clever nickname. Marshmallow. Estralita. 'Hit-the-Tiles Rita.' Switch pronouns to confuse "tourists" who dropped in to "look at the queers," leer and giggle. This year's trade, next year's competition, we'd laugh among ourselves. Frequently right on the mark.

I recall, as though yesterday, sitting in Lou Walker's Bar on Woodward Avenue, just off Wayne University's campus – before it became WSU – age 23, telling a prof I was, well (long pause) gay. Said he, "Oh, (longer pause) I'm so sorry for you, Alexander. You're going to have a rough go of it. There are, unfortunately, so many things you can't do. Drink up."

Well, let's see. I've been an OR tech, a New York Central Railroad claims clerk, a Harbor Terminal stevedore, a reviewer for the Wayne Collegian, a WSU writer/editor, a substitute school teacher – later administrator – a PR rep for the DSO, a stringer for the Detroit Free Press, a prolific community artist. And! there's BTL.

I grew up on rough Cass and Peterboro streets. (Tame by today's standards.) Poor. Discovering at age 15 I was "a fairy." Coming out my high school senior year. Choosing my gay self over Southern Baptist salvation. (No doubt not winding up as a rice-bloated China Inland Missionary.)

I was 20 when I met my first "lover" – the term we used back then. Ernie, a ballet dancer, classical pianist, was Jewish. We were together three years. He mentored my arts interests. Took me to concerts, plays, foreign films. Told me what to listen for in classical music. Because of him I started college. (Eight years going nights to get my English B.A.)

Being gay opened doors for me. I met, befriended college professors, doctors, musicians, artists, wonderful supportive friends – also many straight – who guided and encouraged me, were there for me when I came close to losing everything to booze thirty years ago. They're gone. I remember voices. I recall faces . . .

I recall good times, shared laughter; and, despite society's approbation, callousness, hostility – much changed today – I treasure feelings, sentiments, insights shared over five-plus gay decades. I've learned being gay, like anything else that's extra special and worthwhile in life, is a gift with unique blessings of its own. I'm grateful. And proud.

PS: If Jesus doesn't return, I won't mind. My 75th birthday celebration's his loss, not mine. Hugs, all!

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Dave Agema

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

If you go to State Rep. Dave Agema's website you see quotes related to Michigan's economy. It's pretty boilerplate Republican speak: "We need to bring more jobs to our area. It is imperative that Michigan is the place business comes and stays!"



Dave Agema

Fair enough. That's something a lot of people would like to see. There

is, however, lots of concern about proposed education funding cuts in the state. I mean, an educated workforce certainly seems like a business-attracting asset and the deep slashes in school funding would no doubt have a negative impact in producing said workforce.

This doesn't seem to be a problem for Agema, who supports the funding cuts, which range from 15-22 percent depending on whether you're looking at the House or the Senate version of the bill. Oh, and there's also a stipulation that schools will be hurt even further if they raise tuition to make up the money.

And apparently the bill wasn't anti-gay enough for Agema, and so he added an amendment that would slap colleges that offer domestic partner benefits with an additional 5 percent cut.

"Public universities are thumbing their noses at the rule of law because of their special constitutional privilege dictating that we can't tell them how to spend the money we appropriate to them," Agema said in a press release. "We can, however, not give them that money in the first place if they disregard the law."

The law that Agema is referring to is, of course, the anti-gay marriage amendment passed by Michigan voters in 2004. The amendment stated "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose." And while supporters of the amendment swore up and down that it had nothing to do with DP benefits, the Michigan Supreme Court interpreted the language of the amendment to mean that public employers were barred from offering DP benefits.

Many colleges and universities in Michigan were offering DP benefits, as were many schools nationwide. After all, if you want to attract top talent you need to have a competitive

compensation package. Not wanting to be at a disadvantage, schools like the University of Michigan and Michigan State found a way to keep offering benefits while still following the letter of the law by allowing employees to name an additional qualified adult.

It was a good business decision, frankly, although Agema, someone who claims to be so pro-business, doesn't see it that way.

"Public universities have disregarded that and placed themselves above the law and above the will of the people on this issue, and I think it's true justice that now there is a penalty for that," Agema said.

Agema even tries to sell the DP benefits penalty as a gift to public school retirees.

"(The amendment) uses the

The education bill wasn't anti-gay enough for Agema, and so he added an amendment that would slap colleges that offer domestic partner benefits with an additional 5 percent cut.

money from the universities that refused to change their policy and places it into the K-12 public schools retirement coffers to help eliminate the shortfall there," he crowed. "This could be worth up to \$60 million to schools."

Oooh. It's like winning the anti-gay lottery.

There are, of course, other ways to raise the millions of dollars schools need. Do I need to mention that any kind of tax increase is off the table and corporate taxes are going to be slashed?

But hey, that's business-friendly and Agema loves himself some business. "We need less onerous laws and less excessive taxation," he claims on his website. Unless those laws have to do with punishing gay employees or slapping colleges with a "gay-friendly" tax for offering a competitive compensation package.

"We must make Michigan a place where our children and grandchildren can expect to find good jobs," he adds.

Unless those children are gay and want to work in, say, higher education or go to a school that values all of its employees. In that case, fuck 'em.

Ugandan LGBT activist wins top human rights award

Ugandan LGBT activist Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera was selected May 3 as the recipient of this year's Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders.

The major award is a joint project of 10 human-rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists.

Nabagesera is the founder and executive director of Freedom and Roam Uganda, one of the nation's leading LGBT organizations.

In announcing the award, the Martin Ennals Foundation said: "Kasha has had the courage to appear on national television in Uganda, she has issued press statements on behalf of the gay community, and spoke on several radio stations. Already in 2007 she was harassed at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, and on many occasions afterwards she was heckled, threatened and even attacked by people for appearing in the media. Since then she

has been shifting from house to house, afraid to stay long in the same place."

Nabagesera's name appeared on the infamous list of alleged Ugandan homosexuals published last year by a local tabloid newspaper. Gay leader David Kato was murdered after appearing on the list, though police have suggested that the two occurrences were unrelated, saying that a man Kato bailed out of jail confessed to killing Kato because Kato offered him a car, house and money in exchange for sex, then didn't provide the items.

Nabagesera will receive the award later this year at a ceremony in Geneva.

Three days after the announcement of Nabagesera's award, Uganda's Parliament resumed active consideration of the notorious Anti-Homosexuality Bill that has been pending since 2009. The final day that the bill could be passed in its current form is May 13.

The major award is a joint project of 10 human-rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists.

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

Lesbian confirmed to Mass. high court

Openly gay Barbara Lenk's appointment to Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court was confirmed May 4 in a 5-3 vote of the Governor's Council.

In a statement citing Lenk's "sharp intellect, vast experience and deep sense of humanity," Gov. Deval Patrick said she will be an "outstanding" justice.

Lenk is married to Debra Krup. Massachusetts was the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, in 2004.

Open lesbian elected to Denver City Council

Denver's first openly gay or lesbian city councilor was elected May 3. Robin Kniech won an at-large seat in an election that was conducted by mail.

"I ran to work for all Denver families, but I know this is a meaningful day for our LGBT community," Kniech said, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which supported her campaign.

In Indianapolis on May 3, Victory Fund-endorsed Zach Adamson won the Democratic primary for an at-large City Council seat and advances to the general election in November. If victorious, he would become that city's first openly gay or lesbian council member.



Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie

Hawaii trans bill signed

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a bill banning employment discrimination based on gender identity or expression May 5. Transgender people already were protected in the areas of housing and public accommodations.

Twelve other states and the District of Columbia protect transgender people from discrimination.

Brazilian Supreme Court creates national civil unions

BY REX WOCKNER

In a 10-0 decision May 5, Brazil's Federal Supreme Court ordered that same-sex couples be permitted to register their unions, which will grant them the rights of marriage.

The ruling came in two cases. In one, the governor of Rio de Janeiro state, Sérgio Cabral, argued that nonrecognition of the same-sex unions of state employees violated constitutional guarantees of equality, freedom and dignity. He also said that conflicting rulings around the nation had created legal confusion.

The other case, filed by the federal attorney general's office, asked that same-sex couples be legally considered "family" and granted the same rights as opposite-sex couples. The office also said that not recognizing same-sex unions violated guarantees of equality and dignity.

Gay activists hailed the ruling and vowed to push onward for access to marriage.

"The Supreme Court decision is a victory for democracy," said Toni Reis, president of the Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association. "No one has lost as a result of the decision, not even those who are contrary, but a significant proportion of Brazilian men and women have gained access to equal rights



Rio de Janeiro Gov. Sérgio Cabral. AP Photo: Felipe Dana

guaranteed by the federal Constitution thus far denied to same-sex couples.

"The Supreme Court has given an excellent example to the National Congress, which has not advanced with this issue since it was first submitted in 1995," Reis added. "This is yet another victory in the battle against inequality. We shall continue to demand that the National Congress approve legislation to criminalize homophobic discrimination and to recognize civil marriage between same-sex couples."

With a population of almost 191 million, Brazil is the fifth-largest nation in the world,

and has the world's largest Roman Catholic population.

Brazilian census counts same-sex couples

Brazil's 2010 census found 60,000 gay and lesbian couples, the government's Institute of Geography and Statistics said April 29.

Census takers asked respondents if they considered themselves a same-sex couple.

"We expected the figure to be lower than this," said Toni Reis, president of the Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association. "In a heteronormative society many gay and lesbian people prefer not to reveal this sort of information for fear of discrimination."

Still, given Brazil's population of 190.7 million, Reis called the 60,000 figure "just the tip of the iceberg."

"Without a doubt, the number will be much higher in the next census in 10 years' time, as LGBT people become more open," he said.

The LGBT association ran a campaign to encourage same-sex couples to declare their relationship.

For the 2020 census, the organization plans

"The Supreme Court decision is a victory for democracy...This is yet another victory in the battle against inequality."

-Toni Reis, president of the Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association

to encourage the government to also ask about sexual orientation, "so that there will finally be official statistics estimating the size of Brazil's LGBT population and serving to orient public policies."



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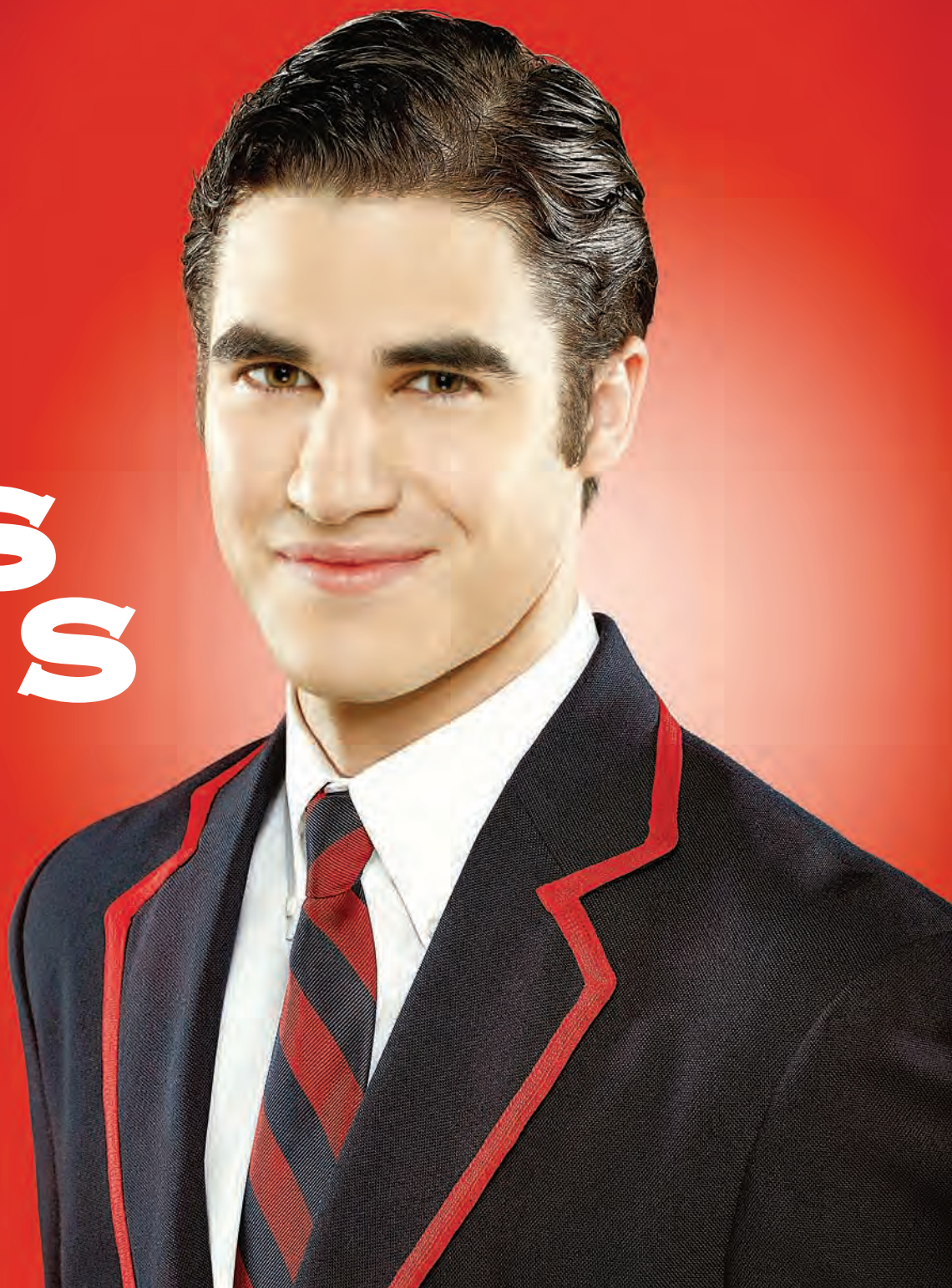


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Photos: Fox



Former University of Michigan student hits the big time on 'Glee'

BY ALICIA RANCILIO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Darren Criss isn't even officially a full-time cast member on "Glee," but he's one of the most popular stars on the Fox TV show.

The actor made his debut last fall as Blaine Anderson, a gay student at Dalton Academy where Chris Colfer's character, Kurt, transfers after being bullied out.

Criss performed a version of Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream" that quickly became one of the show's most popular performances to date. Viewers were smitten, and the 24-year-old – a former University of Michigan student who received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2009 – was quickly written into most of the season's episodes. Now, fans can get an extra dose of Criss on the new album "Glee: The Music Presents The Warblers."

The "Glee" star recently chatted about his "Glee" success, the new album and the possibility of a solo CD.

Your performances are so popular on "Glee." What's it like to be on an album?

They're all incredible songs, so I really enjoyed them all. I worked super hard. If people are enjoying them, I'm glad because it's not something that I took lightly.

What would you like to see on "Glee" that hasn't happened yet?

I would really love it to start in the summer, because I want to see what these kids are up to when they're not in school. I always joke that everyone in "Glee" is, like, family-less. No one has parents, no one has brothers or sisters ... like any time they have a concert or something,

the parents never come, I guess. No one really cares. No one's driving them home afterward. I don't know how they're gettin' around. They're like 15, 16 years old. (Laughs)

When did you realize your first appearance on the show was a big deal?

I don't watch a lot of TV. I'm really busy, so I wasn't really feeling it. I was living in my little apartment. It was really dirty. Nothing really manifested itself in an immediate way. I still had laundry to do, bills to pay. Any successes it may have garnered it didn't hit me (laughs) at all, so it was this very intangible thing. People were like, "It's doing really well" and I was like, "OK, great."

Are you getting recognized a lot?

It depends where I go. If it happens, I'm happy

to address it, because I consider myself very fortunate. You know, at least I didn't release a sex tape – that you know of – or I haven't done anything illicitly terrible where, you know, I'm sort of cowering in shame. It's something that I'm really proud of.

Do you have plans to release a solo album?

I was kind of at a crossroads right before I started "Glee." I was literally about to throw in the towel with acting because music was proving itself sort of more mentally, spiritually and financially lucrative. I started a theater company in Chicago, Team StarKid, and my EP "Human" started doing really well (it charted on Billboard) and that was gonna be my life. "Glee" has both empowered and complicated that whole process. Whatever album I was about to put out got put aside for a little bit. It'll happen eventually.



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Kobe Bryant and the f-word

I'm pretty sure Bennie Adams is straight. So what's the big deal with Kobe Bryant calling him a "fucking faggot" during a nationally televised game?

After all, that's common parlance in locker rooms and on basketball courts around the country – not to mention countless school hallways, playgrounds and everywhere else.

Precisely.

Bryant's outburst – for those of you who may somehow have missed it – came last month, after receiving a technical foul. Bryant – for those of you who may somehow not know him – is one of the National Basketball Association's true superstars. He's a 13-time All-Star, and makes about \$25 million a year.

In other words: Kobe Bryant is not some kid playing Horse in an empty gym. He's not a boy who doesn't know any better, or a closeted kid trying to fit in by saying anti-gay stuff every chance he gets.

Kobe Bryant is one of the most recognized athletes in the world. His purple #24 jersey is worn by admiring fans around the globe. Millions of people look up to Kobe Bryant, admiring everything he does.

And listening to every word he says.

When it became clear that his f-bomb detonated loudly, Bryant went into damage control. Through the Lakers, he issued one of those non-apology apologies: "What I said last night should not be taken literally. My actions were out of frustration during the heat of the game, period. The words expressed do NOT reflect my feelings toward the gay and lesbian communities and were NOT meant to offend anyone."

So what are Bryant's "feelings toward the gay and lesbian communities?" He didn't say.

If he did not mean to offend anyone, why did he call Adams a "fucking faggot"? Why not "a horrible official"? Or simply "you asshole"?

The National Basketball Association acted swiftly. Commissioner David Stern called Bryant's outburst "offensive and inexcusable." Acknowledging that basketball is "an emotional game," he added, "such a distasteful term should never be tolerated....Kobe and everyone associated with the NBA know that insensitive or derogatory comments are not acceptable and have no place in our game or society."

Stern then fined Bryant \$100,000.

Seems like a lot, huh?

Well, not if you have Bryant's net worth. And not – as the Good Men Project revealed – when compared with other NBA fines. In 2007 the league fined Vladimir Radmanovic – another Laker, ironically – \$500,000 for violating his contract by snowboarding. (He separated a shoulder, and was out of action for several weeks.)

And despite his "apology," Bryant said he would fight the fine. He called the appeal "standard protocol," whatever that means.

Come to think of it, "standard protocol" could mean standing up, admitting a mistake, recognizing the power of role models, and issuing a strong statement explaining exactly why words like "faggot" hurt. Describing how they hurt straight kids as well as gay ones, by reinforcing stereotypes.

Then, for good measure, Bryant could say he's leading a campaign to eliminate, once and for all, the use of anti-gay words in basketball.

In other words, he could do something like what NBA players Grant Hill and Jared Dudley are doing.



They might not have Bryant's stature – though Hill is no slouch himself – but the Phoenix Suns teammates recently filmed a public service announcement for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Part of GLSEN and the Ad Council's "Think Before You Speak Campaign," it airs during the NBA playoffs. The ads are striking; they reach an important audience during a high-powered event, and the NBA's commitment to the campaign underscores Stern's strong statement about the power of language.

Ironically, Hall and Dudley taped their public service announcement just hours before Bryant demonstrated his own inability to think before he spoke.

But words are not the only weapons that can hurt. Images do too.

For years, the NBA's Washington Wizards have shown a "Kiss Cam" during games. Two people appear on a giant TV screen, and are urged to kiss. Sometimes they're strangers sitting next to each other. The crowd goes crazy (hey, it's better than watching the Wizards play).

Then the camera cuts to two players from the visiting team, on their bench. The words "Kiss Cam" remain on the screen. Now the fans really howl. The players make faces, hide under towels, or pretend to ignore each other.

What would happen, I wonder, if the "Kiss Cam" showed two guys – men who were not teammates, that is. And what if they did kiss, because they had gone to the game together?

Maybe it could happen when the Wizards play the Lakers. Maybe after the game Kobe Bryant could head into the stands, high-five the couple and pose for a picture.

That action, I'm betting, would speak far louder than his "fucking faggot" words. Or the half-hearted "heat of the moment" apology that followed.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.



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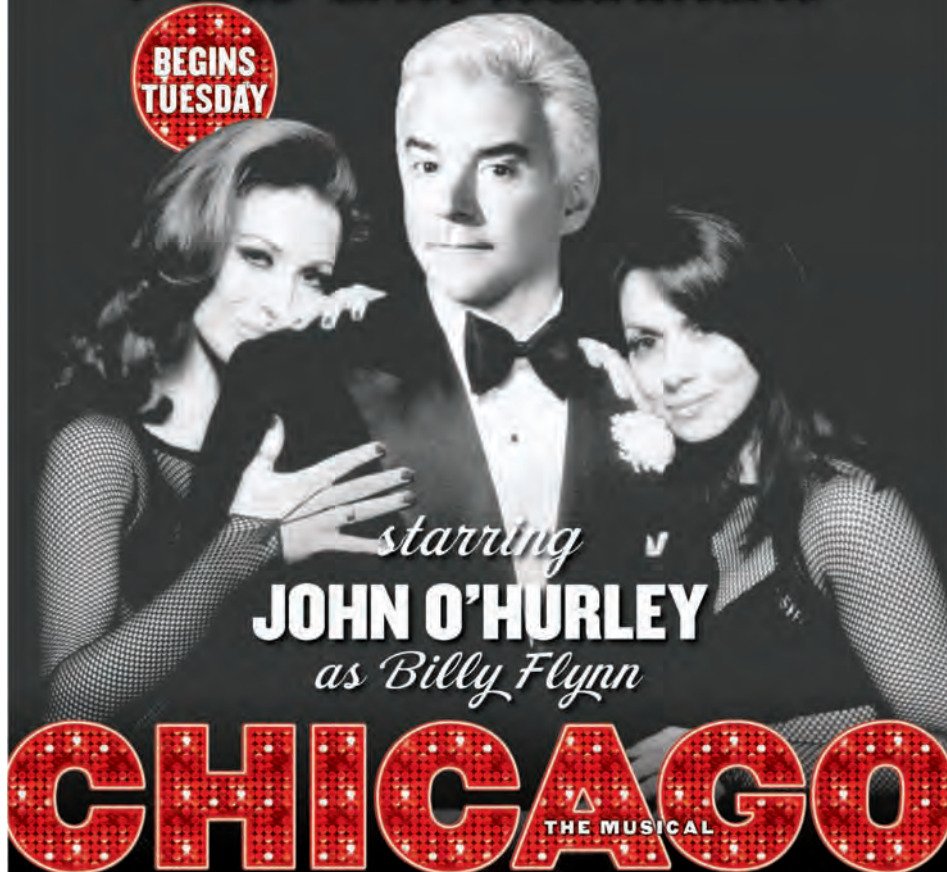
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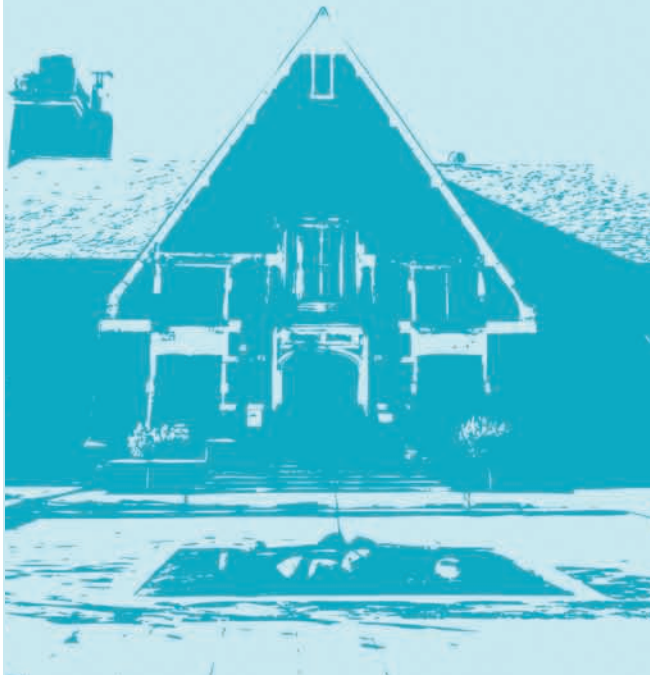
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Birmingham fair exhibitor John Gutoskey hopes work will inspire gay rights dialogue

BY ANDREA POTEET

If you spend any time browsing in thrift stores or estate sales around Ann Arbor, sooner or later you might run into John Gutoskey, collecting trash to turn into treasure.

Gutoskey, 49, works mainly in assemblage art, morphing found objects from game pieces to gum wrappers into visual commentary on politics, patriotism and life as a modern gay man.

"I'm very visually hungry," Gutoskey says. "I like to sort of fill myself up with images when I'm working."

For his latest work, Gutoskey filled up with Walt Whitman's "Calamus" poems from "Leaves of Grass" given to him by his partner, Peter Sparling, 12 years ago. The poems drew controversy upon their 1855 release for their celebration of "manly love of comrades."

"His point of view of patriotism was that all men should be affectionate, all men should love each other," Gutoskey says. "For me there's something beautiful about that, especially in this age we live in where we keep being presented such extremes of thought, spiritually and politically. There's something about those poems that really speaks to mankind."

Gutoskey sells his art at fairs across the country and will showcase it at the 30th Annual Art Birmingham scheduled for May 14 and 15 at Shain Park in downtown

Birmingham. He said he used the poems as a catalyst to help him use his art to comment about his sexuality and the lack of gay-centered art he sees.

"I'd go to all these fairs and I'd never see any work about being gay," he says. "You know, a lot of the artists are gay. I meet them."

The result was a series called "Whitman's Men," showcasing Victorian-era photos of men caught in innocent embraces.

Since he started bringing the pieces to art fairs, the reactions have been mixed, he said. "It's been very up and down. No one's really getting in-my-face mad, but people are certainly leaving the booth when they see these pieces."

Born in Wickliffe, Ohio, Gutoskey moved to Ann Arbor in 1987 to run the costume shop for the University of Michigan's theater department. Prior to that, he had worked as a design assistant for film and theater in New York City and launched his own clothing and hat label, Head-On Collision, in Chicago.

After four years at the University of Michigan, he left to start his own therapeutic bodywork practice, which he ran for 17 years while focusing on his own art from the home he shares with Sparling, his partner of 20 years.

Drawing on his lifelong love of found objects, Gutoskey began making assemblage pieces and shadow boxes showcasing items that told stories from his

point of view.

On one trip to a local thrift shop, he came upon a worn copy of a 1970s board game called The Ungame. On the box was a seal of approval from Dr. James Dobson, who founded the anti-gay group Focus on the Family. Inside was a stack of cards asking questions like, "What advice would you give to a man before he gets married?" and "Describe the perfect family."

"Here are these cards that clearly have a different intention in their meaning," Gutoskey says. "I know who this man is and he's a man who does not like us as gay people."

Thrilled by his find, Gutoskey tracked down more copies of the game and integrated the cards into a series called "Gay Day" – a play on May Day – featuring pairings of male paper dolls and same-sex wedding cake toppers. When fairgoers ask where the cards came from, he happily hauls out the board game to show them.

Gutoskey said he never meant his pieces to be shocking – they are supposed to reflect the strides toward gay marriage that have been made in his lifetime and force people to think critically about the real issues behind marriage equality.

"I thought if people are going to deal with this, they are going to need to start thinking about it and talking about it," Gutoskey says. "And art's a good way to start a conversation."

Robert Schefman



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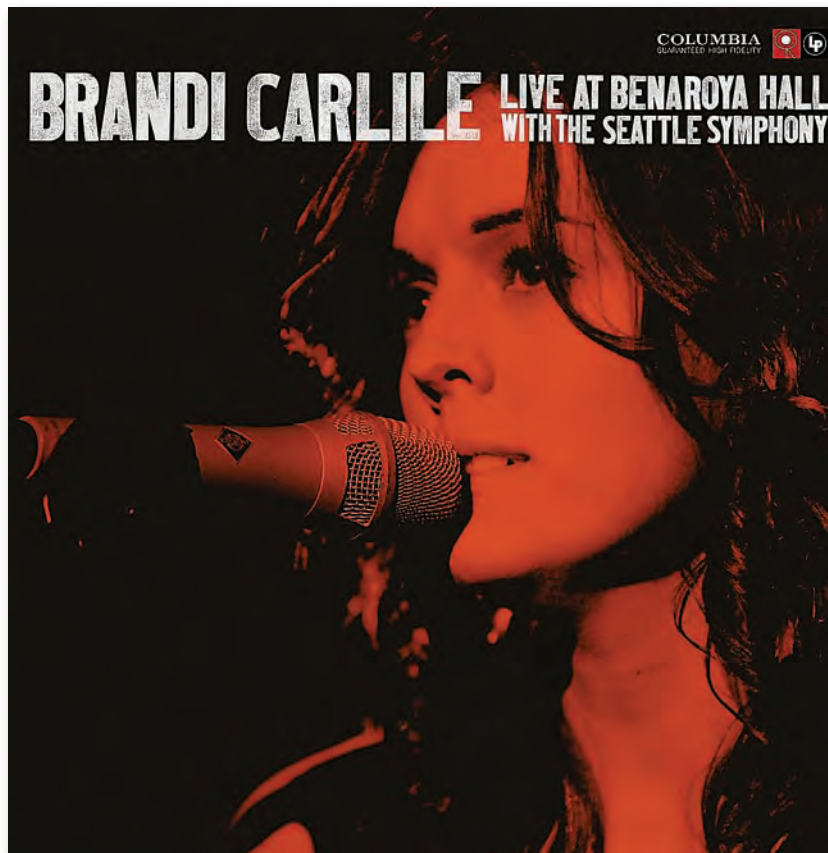
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Brandi Carlile, 'Live at Benaroya Hall with the Seattle Symphony'

No wonder Brandi Carlile's always releasing live music – her big, bellowing voice is best heard outside the studio, in all its rawness. This time it's with the Seattle Symphony, which complements the crescendos of songs from the folk-rock musician's magnificent catalog. Most of them are pulled from her latest album, "Give Up the Ghost," with a staggering seven-minute "Pride and Joy" that kicks into a string-fueled, sound-flooded rocker, and the lovely "Before it Breaks," which follows its original piano-launched blueprint until there's an even more epic midway blast – with horns and woodwinds – that surges into an explosive powerhouse. Her biggest hit, "The Story," follows similarly with its end wallop, but especially setting it apart from the studio song is Carlile's unrefined onstage interpretation – like her up-and-down-and-sideways voice is running through a grater. She nails it. "Turpentine" is turned into a three-part-harmony sing-along with Tim and Phil Hanseroth, her bandmates, before they take the spotlight themselves on "The Sound of Silence," and completely steal it. Carlile wraps majestically with two stirring covers, "Hallelujah" and a show-stopping "Forever Young," dropping the 30-piece orchestra for just a piano. The real instrument, after all, is that voice. *Grade: A-*

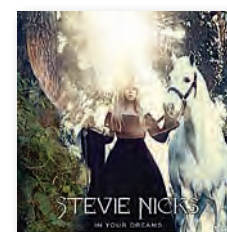


Augustana, 'Augustana'

Let's just pretend this is Augustana's debut album. After all, like most firsts, it's named after the band. And considering the mediocrity of their two previous LPs, the boys might not mind starting over. Now unrecognizable as the dreamy piano-pop group – except that they still sing about love woes and new beginnings – this is practically a new formation. Even frontman Dan Layus sounds like he hit a second puberty, with a rasp that's more Bruce Springsteen than pre-pubescent boy channeling a poor man's Coldplay. "Augustana" is better for it. "Shot in the Dark" is a bouncy boost of optimism whose positivity is infectious; it's a single The Killers would kill for, and one of the best songs you'll hear this year. The rest of the seamless 10-track album, even if the songs don't reach the same feel-goodness, is

nearly just as solid. "Wrong Side of Love" is a radio-ready rocker; and "On the Other Side" is the band's new "Boston" (their biggest hit), another power ballad that swells like a balloon. They go completely Americana on "Borrowed Time," a sweet little soft spot. So of course they named "Augustana" after themselves – who wouldn't want to be remembered for this one? *Grade: A-*

Also Out



Stevie Nicks, 'In Your Dreams'

One day Stevie Nicks might finally catch up to the times, but till then we have "In Your Dreams," a divine throwback to her Fleetwood Mac days that captures the essence of the mystical music-maker. Early-'90s nostalgics will find pleasure on "Secret Love," which casts a dreamy blend of storytelling and light-rock reverie. There's a simple sweetness to road song "For What It's Worth," and a great hook on the title track, an old-school rocker. Even the weaker material, like a corny love song called "Cheaper than Free" with producer Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics, doesn't totally bomb at the helm of Nicks' enchanting voice. "Dreams" was worth a decade of waiting.



Yelle, 'Safari Disco Club'

You don't need to know French to get sucked into the joyful dance world of Yelle, producers of dance-pop that charm again on this follow up to 2007's "Pop Up." Their sophomore CD is enveloping with its rich, buoyant melodies and effervescent style of electro-framed disco dancers. Many of the songs are chic, bubbly, lo-fi bait (even if they're sad) – think chimes, handclaps and slick synths – sung in Julie Budet's chirpy singspeak. The cohesiveness blurs individuality among tracks, but the best ones – the eerie "La Musique" and the seemingly happy-go-lucky "C'est Pas Une Vie" – break all language barriers.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

'Seascape': conventional meets primordial

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Understanding and belonging are at the center of Edward Albee's fanciful "Seascape": Specifically, comprehension breeds evolution, which comes at the price of comfort and constancy. As directed by Lynch Travis, the production at the Blackbird Theatre spins a confrontation that is rooted in fantasy, but whose potential consequences feel very real. In trying to reconcile the commonplace with the uncharted in the world of the play, the viewer is challenged to reflect on both the value and the cost of those social and emotional developments that we believe make humankind unique.

The play begins with the placid visage of vacationing couple Nancy (Linda Rabin Hamell) and Charlie (Joel Mitchell), harmlessly quibbling over their expectations and hopes for their golden years. The actors play as much in subtext as

REVIEW

Seascape

Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Saturday through May 28. \$15-\$25. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

they do in text: Hamell's insatiably chatty take on Nancy reflects her wanderlust and strife to remain active and vital; Mitchell's exasperated stoicism belies his repeated invocations of rest and yearning to blend into the scenery in solitude. Albeit at cross purposes, the duo has a believable feel of togetherness and a practiced cadence that suits the tone of Albee's packed-full dialogue. Even in the summer-afternoon light by designer Emily Clarkson, the wind-petrified sand shapes of their secluded beach setting (by Barton Bund, who also



(Top) Linda Hammell, Joel Mitchell, (foreground) Steven O'Brien and Julia Garlotte in "Seascape" at the Blackbird Theatre. Photo: Lynch Travis

layers on dreamy, beachy love songs over the surf din of his sound design) are far from tropical; as it turns out, the craggy, imposing oceanfront implied provides the perfect setting for two stunning and inexplicable sea creatures to make landfall – and contact.

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

Plowshares Theatre explores 'all that's jazz'

BY JOHN QUINN

More than just a musical genre, jazz is attitude. Legendary saxophone player Charlie Parker may have put it best: "If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn." Sit down for a performance of "Jazz: Birth of the Cool" and you'll find it's not what you sing; it's how you sing it. This brand new cabaret musical is the resurgent Plowshares Theatre Company's fresh contribution to a cultural spring in Detroit.

Long before Motown put us on the musical map, the Paradise Valley neighborhood jumped to the sound of this quintessential American art form. Six of the "local vocal" geniuses in the genre have united to revive the glory days of jazz in Detroit. Kimmie Horne, Armond Jackson, Augustus Williamson, Audrey Northington, Brent Davin Vance and Thornetta Davis, backed by a tight quintet, lead us on a

REVIEW

Jazz: Birth of the Cool

Plowshares Theatre Company at Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through May 15. \$25-\$30. 313-506-2858. www.plowshares.org

decade-by-decade trip of 20th Century hits. "Fats" Waller and the Gershwins, "George and his lovely wife, Ira" (seriously, that's how a British radio announcer introduced the "words & music" brothers!) are heavily represented in the early part of the show. The number that really catches the ear, though, is Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust," originally written as a snazzy little jazz piece, only to find immortality as a half-tempo ballad. It's all in the attitude.

My "doh!" moment (thanks, Homer S.) came in the second act, when we learn



Thornetta Davis, Kimmie Horne and Audrey Northington in "Jazz: The Birth of the Cool." Photo: Gary Anderson

how pervasive jazz became in popular music. One can hear its call in swing and big band and pop music from the '50s; it's even there in the samba rhythms of Henry Mancini's "Meglio Stasera," featured in the 1963 film "The Pink Panther."

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

Laughter is the best medicine

BY JOHN QUINN

In the fall of 2005 a subversive little satire hit the boards of the Abreact Performance Space, stole our hearts and walked away with the Wilde Award for Favorite Local Professional Production-Musical. "Cancer! The Musical" is back with its dark comedy intact at the Park Bar Theater in Foxtown. "Cancer!" wields a wicked scalpel, dissecting the excesses and limitations of our health care system. The only disappointment is that it's as relevant now as it was five years ago. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Our play opens in the research labs of a major pharmaceutical company, where everybody is on a mission to rid mankind of disease. The motivation, though, from the doctors down to the lab rats, is more for fame than philanthropy. When Dr. Bernard (the thoroughly madcap Dustin

REVIEW

Cancer! The Musical

Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Fri-Saturday through May 21, plus Sunday, May 15. \$20 313-437-2040. www.parkbardetroit.com

Gardner) discovers a cure for cancer, the forces of greed are awakened. The usual suspects, Big Pharma and Big Insurance, begin a chess game for the survival of both the cure and its creator. Theft, hot pursuit, murder – it's just your typical day at the corporate office.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bernard's medical school roomie, surgeon Dr. Harris (Pat Loos), has broken doctor/patient protocol and fallen in love with terminally ill Annie (the golden-voiced Dawn Bartley). Can Dr. Bernard and his cancer cure survive



"Cancer! The Musical" continues at the Park Bar through May 21.

the menacing Pharma baron, Mr. Murphy (Mike Shreeman)? Can "the cure" save Annie? Stay tuned for the thrilling conclusion of "As the Stomach Churns!"

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



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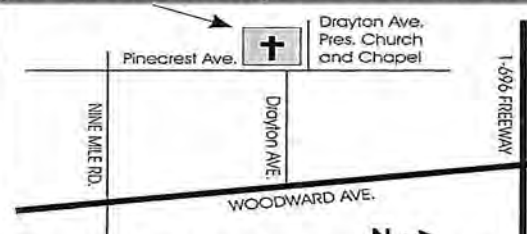
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RTM Happenings

Editor's Picks

Outings



HIV/AIDS Resource Center's 16th Annual Dining for Dollars event will be hosted at the Zingerman's Roadhouse for its sixth year. All attending guests will enjoy the artisanal delicacies of James Beard-nominated Chef Alex Young in the famous atmosphere of Zingerman's.

This roadhouse/deli passionately serves its guests traditional, delectable and healthy foods, consisting of regional and all-American ingredients. All proceeds from the evening go toward supporting HARC in their efforts to provide HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

Dining for Dollars is at 6 p.m. May 18 at Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Ave., in Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$100-200 depending on party size and level of support. More information available at hivaidresource.org.

Art 'n' Around

The National Archives exhibit of the American Civil War comes to The Henry Ford in Dearborn this month, promising to educate, engage and inspire all ages. This traveling exhibit uses letters, photos, maps, diaries, proclamations and countless other sources to offer a unique and interactive perspective of the American Civil War.

In lieu of a chronological approach to the historic era, the National Archives presents the information through themes, such as "Prisoners and Casualties," "Emancipation" and "Spies and Conspiracies." The exhibit also analyzes similarities between the U.S. and Confederate Constitutions, and answers questions rarely even asked, such as "What was China's connection to the Civil War?"

The exhibit is running May 21-Sept 5 at The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., in Dearborn. For ticket and hour information, visit thehenryford.org



Theater

Peppermint Creek Theatre Company will present Alexi Kaye Campbell's timely and moving "The Pride" at the Creole Gallery in historic Old Town Lansing May 12-15 and 19-21.

Alternating between 1958 and 2008, "The Pride" examines changing attitudes to homosexuality and the perennial themes of love, lust and betrayal. In 1958, Philip is married to Sylvia, but finds himself falling in love with another man. His refusal to acknowledge his true nature leads both him and the people he loves to a devastating conclusion. In 2008, Oliver is addicted to anonymous sexual encounters. Forced to make a choice between promiscuity and monogamy, he has to ask himself fundamental questions on the nature of intimacy and identity.

Tickets are on sale now. Call 517-927-3016 for more information.



OUTINGS

Wednesday, May 11

Game Day, 5:15 p.m. LGBT in the park is a social network for the entire LGBT community. LGBT in the Park, Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. jffryoliver@yahoo.com

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

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.

Thursday, May 12

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

Meet 'n Greet, 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner and/or drinks at local restaurant afterward. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. the20somethings.org

Friday, May 13

I Remember, 7 p.m. Spring Concert. Familiar show tunes and songs. Tickets online and at box-office. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus, 2211 Lake Dr., **East Grand Rapids**. 616-438-0303. wmgmc.org

Older Lesbians Organizing, 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Elena Undone. Peyton and Elena are, on the surface, diametrically opposed. A well-known lesbian writer and a mother and wife of a pastor but when their paths cross, what begins as friendship quickly blossoms into something deeper. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, May 14

Ann Arbor Antiques Market, 8 a.m. Admission: \$6. Ann Arbor Antiques Market, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-0496 annarborantiquesmarket.com

Together In Faith Conference, 8 a.m. This conference will include talks and workshops highlighting ways people of faith can be effective in working for equality within their faith communities and in the broader community, particularly for gender and sexual orientation minorities, inclusive of all faith traditions, all races and all ages. Inclusive Justice, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., **Lansing**. 734-769-9939. inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org

Strike Out AIDS, 12:30 p.m. Fairlanes Bowl fund raising for Aids Walk Detroit. \$25 for three games, shoes and two slices of pizza. Sign up available for teams or individuals online. Aids Walk Detroit, 29600 Stephenson Highway, **Madison Heights**. 248-3999-9255. aidswalkdetroit.org

PFLAG Detroit 25th Anniversary Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$60 per person available online. Key note speaker Nancy M. Schlichting, president and chief executive of Henry Ford Health System. Celebrating 25 years of keeping families together. PFLAG Detroit, 26601 Ryan Road, **Warren**. pflagdetroit.org

Get Out And Live Kick-Off Party, 7 p.m. Kick-off event for the new LGBTIQ organization Get Out and Live (GOAL).

Wine, entertainment and music. Registration online. GOAL, 503 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. getoutandlive.me

Mitten Mavens vs Flint City, 7 p.m. Come dressed super heroes and watch the Mitten Mavens Roller Derby League take on the Flint City Girls. Mitten Mavens Roller Derby Girls, **East Lansing**. MittenMavens.net

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, **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Sunday, May 15

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting, 1 a.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. pflagaa.org

Metro Detroit LGBT Softball League Game, 10:30 a.m. Free parking and entry. Leashed pets are welcome, as well as refreshments, however no alcohol is permitted. MDSL, 1000 E. Hamlin Road, **Rochester Hills**. 586-945-4029. cchwarren@aol.com

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting, 2 p.m. Every 3rd Sunday of the month. Support groups including monthly speakers. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter, **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org

HARC Provided HIV/AIDS testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. hivaidresource.org/hiv-testing

Tuesday, May 17

Yoga in the Apse, 5 p.m. Based in the Hatha style, this one-hour class encourages relaxation, strength, flexibility and balance with an emphasis on integrated breathing techniques in standing, sitting and supine yoga postures. All levels welcome. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-647-7888. umich.edu

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

Wednesday, May 18

Covenant House Youth Idol, 4 a.m. Participants comprised of residents from Covenant House Michigan, a Detroit-based shelter that serves homeless and at-risk youth and students of alternative charter high schools for dropout and at-risk students ages 16-22. Guest host Shannon of Channel 955's Mojo in the Morning Show. Percentage of proceeds from food and beverage purchases donated to Covenant House Michigan. Covenant House Michigan, 45 Monroe St., **Detroit**. 313-463-2000. covenanthousemi.org

Dining for Dollars, 5 p.m. HARC celebrates 16th annual Dining for Dollars to raise funds for local HIV/AIDS services. Tickets: \$100. HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 2501 Jackson Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-572-9355. hivaidresource.org/dining-for-dollars

Thursday, May 19

Network Apalooza, 5:30 p.m. A benefit for Higher Ground: Healing the body, mind and spirit for people living with HIV/AIDS. Tickets available online. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. Higher Ground, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. leonandlulu.com

Polyamory Network, 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478.

Friday, May 20

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Puccini For Beginners. Allegra, an opera-loving writer in New York, eschews commitment. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Divas and Divos, 8 p.m. Selections by such artists as: Madonna, Elton John, Pink, Neil Diamond, Barbra, Mariah, Liza and many others. Tickets: \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$10 for students/seniors/unemployed. Out Loud Chorus, 2070 West Stadium Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. 734-265-0740. olconline.org

Singing The Journey, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12-25. Handicap accessible and free childcare provided. Silent auction beginning at 7 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 500 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. 517-372-9575. sistrum.org

Saturday, May 21

Divas & Divos, 6:30 p.m. A divalicious night of music by all your favorite divas & divos. Selections include songs by Madonna, Elton, Barbra, Diana & many more. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$13 students, seniors & unemployed people. Out Loud Chorus, 2070 W. Stadium Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. 734-973-6084. olconline.org

MUSIC

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Kalamazoo Valley Community College "Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fund-Raising Dinner" With special speaker Chef Jeff Henderson an award-winning chef, motivational speaker, New York Times best-selling author, and Food Network television personality. Tickets: \$75+ Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 West "O" Avenue, **Kalamazoo**. 5:30 p.m. May 12. foundation.kvcc.edu

Kerrytown Concert House "An Afternoon of Classical & Jazz" Area performing artists present a concert to raise money for the 2nd Annual Burning Bush International Ministries Fine Arts Camp for youth in the arts. Tickets: \$25-15, \$10 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 4:30 p.m. May 14. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

PeaceSpeakers Art Collective "Honoring Our Mothers" Celebrating mothers of all types: birth mothers, Earth mothers, soul mamas, and Mothers of the Movement (e.g., Harriet Tubman, Emma Goldman, Rosa Parks and Audre Lorde). All are invited to bring personal stories, songs, poetry, photos or selected readings to share. Discussing new ways to define mothering through love and loss as a means of healing. Light refreshments served afterward. This event is free and open to the public. Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill Street, **Ann Arbor**. 3 p.m. May 14. 734-780-6523.

CLASSICAL

Arbor Opera Theater "Carol Vaness" Tickets: \$15-30. First Congregational Church, 608 E. William, **Ann Arbor**. 4 p.m. May 15. arboropera.com

Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra "Symphonic Psalm King David" Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra present Arthur Honeggers symphonic psalm King David, at historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church. Tickets: \$20, students \$10. Wheelchair accessible. Free, secure parking. Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., **Detroit**. 2 p.m. May 15. 313-963-4533. fortstreet.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Chelsea Chamber Players" Nonprofit organization exists to provide live music concerts to the people of Chelsea and surrounding communities. Tickets \$25-10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 20. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

COMEDY

Olympia Entertainment “Bill Cosby” Tickets \$42-\$45 Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. May 20-May 20. 866-752-9622. olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment “Martin Lawrence” Doin’ Time Comedy Tour. Tickets: 45.50-80. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 19. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theater “Jon Oliver” Tickets: \$35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. May 14. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

CONCERTS

Kerrytown Concert House “Starlicker” Mazurek, Herndon and Adasiewicz: Deeply rooted in the Chicago and international avant garde and post rock scenes. Tickets: \$25-15, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 19. 734-769-2999 . kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House “Arundo Donax” Reed quintet of Indiana University. Tickets: \$25, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 12. 734-769-2999.

Kerrytown Concert House “Melissa Morgan” Jazz musician influenced by Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, and Nancy Wilson. Tickets: \$30, \$10 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 14. 734-769-2999.

Kerrytown Concert House “Patrick Donley’s Full Moon Series” Multi-instrumentalist explores the music of Americana in concert of Appalachian string music. Tickets: \$10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 17. 734-769-2999.

Olympia Entertainment “Gladys Knight” Tickets: \$69-99 The Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 14. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com/default.asp?olympia=46&objid=439

The Ark “Bruce Cockburn” Tickets:\$43.70-50.75. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. May 19-May 20. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark “Girlyman” With special guest Coyota Grace Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 13. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark “Dan Hicks and The Hot Licks” Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. May 15. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Seaway Chorale & Orchestra “The Best of Seaway” 35th annual Spring concert. Medleys from “The Wizard of Oz,” “Porgy & Bess” and “Les Miserables.” There also will be songs such as “Chattanooga Choo Choo,” “Singin’ in the Rain,” “All I Ask of You,” “Route 66,” and “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Tickets: \$15 adults, \$9 students. Flat Rock High School Community Auditorium, 25600 Seneca Street, Flat Rock. May 13-May 14. 734-676-9504.

FILM & VIDEO

Penn Theatre “The Philadelphia Story” Tickets: \$3. Cary Grant Month. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 12. 734-453-0870. penntheatre.com

Penn Theatre “Arsenic and Old Lace” Tickets: \$3. Cary Grant Month. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 19. 734-453-0870. penntheatre.com

OTHER

Charles H. Wright Museum “Heidelberg 25” An evening with Tyree Guyton, creator of the Heidelberg Project. A 25 year retrospective of African American history in the Rotunda. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 19.

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Arsenic and Old Lace \$20. Emergent Arts Company at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. May 18-22. 734-985-0875. emergentarts.com

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. May 13-28. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

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

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

Guys and Dolls \$12. Holt Dimondale Community Players at Holt Jr. High School, 1784 Aurelius Rd., Holt. May 12-21. 517-694-3411. hdcptheater.com

Hairspray \$18-\$20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. May 20-June 12. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Lips Together, Teeth Apart \$16. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. May 6-May 22. 734-582-9688. justgobarefoot.com

Little Shop of Horrors \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Jackson Community College’s Baughman Theatre, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. May 20-29. centerstagejackson.org

Murder by Indecision \$15. Still Got It Players at The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. May 11-14. 734-394-5460. spotlightplayersmi.org

Ring of Fire \$25. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. May 13-22. 517-264-7469. crowell.org

The Drowsy Chaperone \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through May 22. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

The Drowsy Chaperone \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Through May 29. 313-561-TKTS. playersguildofdearborn.org

The Pride \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. May 12-21. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

PROFESSIONAL

2011 Staged Reading Festival One play per session, followed by a workshop-style discussion. Admission by donation. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. May 21-22. magentagiraffe.org

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

Almost, Maine \$15 Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through May 21. michiganactorsstudio.com/2011-theatre-season/

Cancer! The Musical \$20 Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through May 21. 313-437-2040. parkbardetroit.com

Chicago \$29-\$75. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. May 17-22. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Chicago \$25 and up. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. May 12-15. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

Circle Mirror Transformation \$22-\$41 Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through May 22. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Crimes of the Heart Previews May 19-20. \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361

E. Cady St., Northville. May 19-June 25. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Doubt, A Parable \$15-\$20 What A Do Theatre at First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. Through May 22. whatado.org

Eleemosynary Previews May 12-15 & 19 Productions at The Historic Burgh, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. May 12-June 12. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

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

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

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

I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change \$30-\$35; Dinner and Show Packages are \$79.95-\$89.95 per couple Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through May 22. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

Jazz: Birth of the Cool \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Plowshares Theatre Company at Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through May 15. 313-506-2858. plowshares.org

Love! Valour! Compassion! \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 13-June 6. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

Northern Lights 1966 \$20; \$10 Fridays. Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit at Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave. (John R. entrance), Detroit. May 13-22. 313-833-4005. mosaicdetroit.com

Rigoletto \$29-\$121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. May 14-22. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

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

Seascape \$15-\$25 Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through May 28. 734-332-3848. blackbirdtheatre.org

Shout! The Mod Musical \$30-\$39 Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. Through May 15. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

SIN-fully Yours \$10 Cherry Kiss Productions at Cliff Bell’s, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit. 10 p.m. May 15. cliffbells.com

SIN-fully Yours \$10 Cherry Kiss Productions, Elbow Room, 6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti. 10 p.m. May 16. elbowroomypsi.com

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

Stomp \$27.50 and up. Broadway Grand Rapids, DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. May 20-22. 1-800-745-3000. broadwaygrandrapids.com

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

Super Happy Funtime Burlesque \$20 The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. May 14. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

The 3rd Annual Kalamazoo Improv Festival \$10 or \$25 fest pass. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. May 12-14. 269-599-7390. crawlspacetheatre.com

The Cider House Rules, Part II: In Other Parts of the World \$25-\$30 Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through

May 14. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

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

The Lady With All the Answers Previews May 18-19. \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. May 18-June 5. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

The Model Apartment Previews May 11-12 & 14. \$32-\$41. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. May 11-June 5. 248-788-2900. jeththeatre.org

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

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

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

The Hundred Dresses \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 20-28. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

War at Home \$7 adult, \$5 ages 17 and under. All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre at LCC Black Box Theatre, 168 Gannon Building, Lansing. May 13-14. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityoflansing.com/allofus

Treasure Island \$15, \$10 children & seniors. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor. May 12-15. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

Turtle Island \$10 adult, \$5 children PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through May 28. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

ART ‘N’ AROUND

23 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

Ann Arbor Art Center “the PRINT “ This exhibition aims to educate the community about the different techniques and styles of printmaking by displaying the works of a variety of talented artists. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St. Ann Arbor. May 9-June 26. 734-994-8004. annarborartcenter.org

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

Cranbrook Art Museum “Saarinen House and Garden” rare integration of art, architecture, design and natureXXa total work of art. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 2-Sept. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Creative Arts Council “Fine Art at the Village” Fine art and fine crafts of 100 juried artists from around the country. Free admission. Village of Rochester Hills Shopping Center, 104 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills. 9 a.m. May 21. 248-689-8734. FineArtAtTheVillage.com

Detroit Artist’s Market “Northern Michigan Artists” The Detroit Artists Market is now taking a voyage to bring to the DAM an exhibition of northern Michigan artists who express themselves

in a variety of media and who 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

Detroit Institute of Arts “It’s A Zoo In Here” Countless creatures of many species fill the galleries in this exhibition of more than 150 prints and drawings drawn entirely from the museum’s holdings and designed with fun in mind for everyone. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. April 1-July 24. 313-833-7900. dia.org

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

Downriver Council for the Arts “Jured Photography Exhibit” The DCA is accepting entries for a juried photography exhibit at the Wyandotte Arts Center. Professional and amateur photographers can submit up to four entries. A non-refundable \$15 entry fee is required for all entries. Exhibit begins Sept. 8. Wyandotte Arts Center, 2306 4th St., Wyandotte. May 1-Aug. 31. 734-324-7278.

Henry Ford Museum “Discovering the Civil War” Tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 youth. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 21-Sept. 5. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

Inclusive Justice “Together In Faith Conference-Lifting Up the Voice of All-Embracing Love” The conference highlights ways people of faith can be effective in working for inclusion of LGBTQ people and families within their faith communities, and in advocating for their full human and civil rights in Michigan. Registration \$35 including lunch. Scholarships are available. Pilgrim United Church of Christ-Lansing, 125 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing. 7:30 a.m. May 14. inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts “2011 West Michigan Area Show” The WMAS celebrates contemporary work in all media, by artists working in a 14-county area. The 2011 exhibition will be shaped by this year’s juror, Michigan ceramicist John Glick. Working from his Farmington Hills studio since 1965, established just 3 years after graduating from Cranbrook Art Academy, Glick’s constant has been experimentation. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park , Kalamazoo. May 7-June 26. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts “The Chinese Scholar’s Brush” Works from the Albert and Betty Chang Collection. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park , Kalamazoo. May 7-Aug. 27. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House “Ebb and Flow” Laura Seligman’s work explores

color, fluid lines and texture through the lens of a camera as well as the luminosity of hand-dyed silk. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. May 3-May 31. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery “US Route 66: The Death of an American Icon” Fascinating and hauntingly beautiful photo documentary on US Route 66 by Arnold Berkman. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. May 5-May 28. 248-544-0294. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Mardigan 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 “Figuratively Speaking” Interpretations of the Human Form. A 2D and 3D exhibit. Reception May 7. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. May 5-May 28. 734-480-2787. riversidearts.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts “PIE: A Slice of Pure Michigan” Exhibit examines how West Michigan’s unique micro-climate created a fruit growing industry worth millions of dollars. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street, Saugatuck. May 16-June 20. 269-857-2399. sc4a.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 “Photoformance: 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 Sparling, 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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BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

Sex drive decisions

Q. I'm a 57-year-old man who has been in a long-distance relationship for the past five years. I'm retired. He continues to work and says he's not financially ready to retire, because he wouldn't have health care coverage. He's been working at the same business for 35 years.

But that's not the problem. It's me, really. For the first several years of our relationship, I had difficulties getting and maintaining an erection and had very little, if any, sex drive – although I did, and continue to, find my partner very attractive. About a year ago he started mentioning my low sex drive, so I went to the doctor and discovered I had low testosterone levels. I have been taking testosterone injections ever since, and now my sex drive is way higher than his. In fact, I find myself sexually fantasizing all the time and masturbating quite regularly. He says he never does anymore.

What worries me is that I have joined, twice, online personals and checked into having sex with married men; my thinking being that they would never reveal our encounters because of the harm it could cause their marriages. Both times I quit the service after a day or two, not wanting to do anything to jeopardize myself and my relationship with my partner, and – perhaps most importantly – not wanting to do anything that would hurt him. It bothers me that I've even checked out the personals and emailed other men, because that in itself is a form of cheating. I feel terrible about it.

My question is this: Do you think I should quit taking the testosterone injections and go back to not having a sex drive? My partner says I don't have to get them for him, because what he enjoys most about our relationship is the holding, touching, kissing and sleeping together, not the sex. But I remember what it was like before when I didn't have a sex drive, and how I would do a lot of things to avoid having sex with him, not really enjoying it much when we did. Quite often, I couldn't even reach climax. I like feeling sexually charged about him and wanting to jump

his bones every time he comes to see me, and I like the swagger it gives me.

What should I do Jody?

Testosterone Charged

A. It seems that you've been suffering from either way too little or way too much of a good thing. But I don't think the answer to your problem is an either/or situation – to take or not to take the testosterone injections. You might want to check with your physician to see if you could lessen the dosage of testosterone in order to better match your partner's sex drive and alleviate your temptation to join online personals, or other enticements that would tempt you to cheat on your partner.

It certainly sounds like you have good communication with your partner, and he sounds very understanding. Let him know how much you are now enjoying sex with him, and that you don't want to go back to the way things were before (where you avoided having sex with him). Since he reports not really caring about the sex – even though he enjoys the holding, touching, kissing and sleeping together – he might want to talk to his doctor about testosterone injections as well. Who knows, maybe you can reduce your testosterone level and he can increase his, thereby meeting you part way, with both of you having a similar sex-drive level.

If you want to investigate if testosterone therapy is right for you, go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook, and click on the link: Is replacement therapy right for you?

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

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RTI Horoscopes

Think ahead, Aquarius!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Eris are aligned in Aries. Take care of yourself while remembering it's not all about you! While the North Node is in Sagittarius trining this pile-up, philosophical discussions can help you get clear focus on needed lessons.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You're filled with enough energy and charm to conquer most worlds, but you're stuck on this one. Even if world domination isn't feasible, you're clever enough to plot reasonable victories. New perspectives will help.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Too much time alone brooding is bad for your health. Some dark erotic adventure or metaphysical studies can channel that energy toward your betterment, or at least help you to unlock self-destructive secrets and be free of them.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): You could host one hell of a party, but be careful not to set the house on fire. Map out the future with your partner. Your plans are likely to be extravagant and all over the place, but your sweetheart will help you get a clear focus.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Focus more on your work than your career. Quality and effectiveness speak much better for you than aggressive self-promotion. Don't worry about being noticed. That's inevitable. The question is what will they see?

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Exploring new ideas should always be fun and creative. The best arguments don't depend on winning, but rather help you to understand broader perspectives. You can also learn a lot from the art, film and music of other cultures.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Challenges at work aren't quite so severe as they seem. The lessons of childhood (share, be polite, wash your hands, etc...) make a good starting point. Your partner, family and tribe can be more helpful than you expect.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): If there's any doubt that your partner is on your side it is probably a problem in communications. In a working relationship, discuss

your approaches to the tasks at hand. If it's about love, solutions are in the bedroom.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Work problems are building to a crisis that will make everything clearer, but there's too much going on for any answer to be easy. It boils down to priorities. Tough choices could anger some friends; keep communications open!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): You might win the contest or achieve the masterpiece, but too many strategies are buzzing in your head. Rule No. 1: Be true to yourself. No. 2: Remember where you come from. Start there and you will succeed.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Are you the storm tearing through your home or are you the eye of the hurricane? It's too easy to get sucked into the maelstrom thinking you can fix the problems. Better to find your inner peace and operate from there.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): It's not unusual for your tongue to get ahead of your brain. Do try to reel it in, listen and think ahead before speaking. In all the babble that surrounds you, there are some brilliant ideas. Listen, discern and be inspired.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Impulsive spending won't make you feel better. Know what you're worth and what you can do. Both are probably a lot more than you realize. Focus and work; you will succeed! Having a plan helps, even if things never go as planned.

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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I	M	A	T		R	E	E	F		E	A	S	Y	A	
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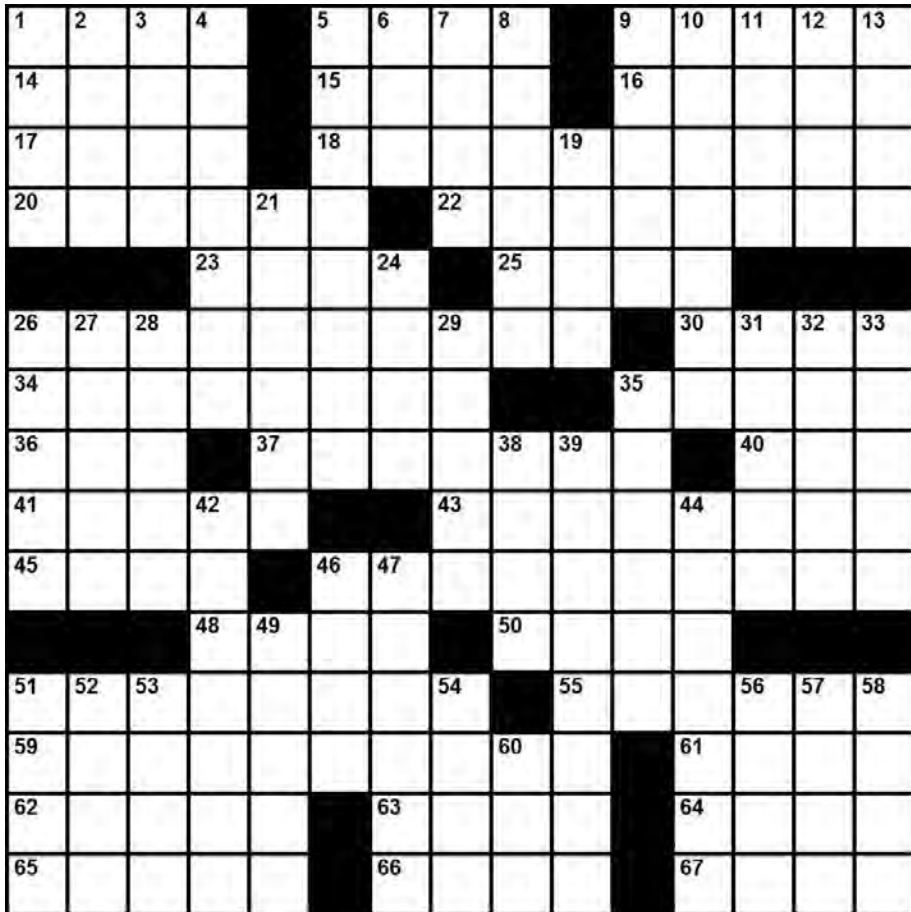
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Was That Our Fault?

Across

- 1 Cause of the fall of 67-Across, in a recent interview
- 5 Estimator's phrase
- 9 Acceptance of LGBT life style, hopefully
- 14 "While ___ it ..."
- 15 Where a sailor may hit bottom
- 16 Average booster
- 17 Richard of "And the Band Played On"
- 18 Lust for Roddy in a sci-fi flick?
- 20 Behind with the bucks
- 22 Quarters for porkers
- 23 Plunk down your rear
- 25 Literary adverb
- 26 Wise old fruit?
- 30 Ready and willing partner
- 34 Playwright Hansberry
- 35 Former Minnesota state senator Allan
- 36 Mined-over matter

Down

- 37 Gets the bottom line
- 40 Beebo Brinker creator Bannon
- 41 Great balls of fire
- 43 Sheepskins
- 45 Type of crime
- 46 Rides for male prostitutes?
- 48 Ill humor
- 50 Catherine ___-Jones
- 51 One who comes
- 55 To the rear, when cruising
- 59 Where Margaret sleeps?
- 61 Slangy suffix
- 62 Fosse field
- 63 Diggs of "Rent"
- 64 In a bit, to the bard
- 65 It blows up in your mouth, in a gag
- 66 Lacking depth and height
- 67 Letters that "fall" from 4 answers in this puzzle
- 1 Leslie Caron role
- 2 Baldwin's "The ___ Corner"
- 3 Barbecue site
- 4 Like more pricey items at Barneys
- 5 Handel's _Messiah_, e.g.
- 6 Weight training unit
- 7 Penetrate the cracks
- 8 Near future
- 9 In need of a backrub
- 10 Digs in ruins
- 11 Morales of movies
- 12 Org. that may include bears
- 13 Week parts
- 19 "The African Queen" author
- 21 Puffs up
- 24 Blow hard, in and out
- 26 Move in mire
- 27 One from the heart
- 28 Alexander, with "the"
- 29 Cries out for
- 31 Looks tinkled pink
- 32 Hawaiian isle
- 33 Adolf's intimate Rohm
- 35 Pie fight soundtrack
- 38 Type of bath
- 39 Raised
- 42 "Gifts of the Body" author Brown
- 44 Running wild
- 46 Alan of "And the Band Played On"
- 47 Apparently do
- 49 "___ Shoes" (Toni Collette movie)
- 51 Band from Sydney
- 52 Asian cuisine
- 53 Half of a pair for grabbing
- 54 Meir contemporary
- 56 Cube designer Rubik
- 57 Panic place for Jodie
- 58 Zilch
- 60 Queer body part on TV

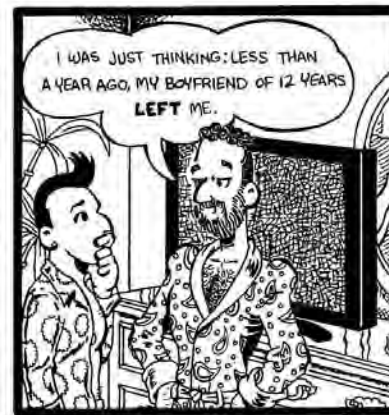
Solution on 29

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Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

House of Wacks

I don't need to know if my dad is horny. It's just something that comes up in conversation at dinner every night, which is why I don't have an appetite lately.

Dad thinks I have an eating disorder, that I'm on a penis-only diet because it beats being a vegan. But I don't care. I can't help but gag every time he informs me he wants to screw one of my girlfriends. I'm sorry, but it's just not normal to listen to your father boast about how he can care for your friends' sexual needs. "If you're not gonna nail them, I will," he says. "Shit, someone has to." Yes, he'd like to rock their worlds. But, he won't wear a condom. No. He's too massive for that. "What can I say? The damn things just don't fit."

"Please, Dad. You're not that big. I've seen it."

"When did you see it?"

"Good lord. If you're going to shower on the porch, I'm bound to be blinded by it sometime."

"Well, bring over some of those girls. I'll blind them too."

Hence, why I don't invite my friends over often. It's just too risky. My dad has a way of bringing out the "crazy" in everyone. Living with him, I find myself talking in circles about sex and women more than any gay man would care to admit. The other night, we were actually debating on whether Hillary Clinton would be good in bed. My vote was no, which started an argument, because he found that unpatriotic. Hence, this is why I go out a lot. I need to fend off the crazy gene. But lo and behold, I have discovered being unstable can be attractive to some people.

For example, my friend Doug's new thing is to only date people with mental illness. It's a defense mechanism, ensuring the relationship will never go anywhere. This is how he keeps himself guarded from falling in love. He's been hurt too much. Therefore, bi-polar guys are white hot, particularly when they're not on their meds. "It's exciting," he informs me at the pub. "I met one the other night, and he's been so unpredictable."

"Is that a good thing?" I ask.

"Well, it beats being in a boring relationship. Last night, I went to his house for dinner, and he had a mannequin coming out of the ceiling in his room. It was just hanging there. There was one in the kitchen too. Isn't that awesome?"

"Um, that depends. What does he do with the mannequins?"

"Oh, they're not for him. They're for his mother. She lives with him. She likes to brush their hair. He only plays with them...sometimes."

"That's nice," I digress, taking a slug of beer. I'd offer more, but I'm thinking of my own predicament, growing heavy with anxiety. Will this happen to me? One day, will I become my dad? I'm already talking like him. What's next? Will I be showering nude, waiting on some young tail to spot me?

"Do you think I should keep dating him?"

Doug asks me, a week later. "I really like him, but he's acting more like his mom. The other night, I heard her talking to a mannequin, and when I asked him about it, he got insulted and said, 'She only talks to the mannequins if they talk first.'"

I should know better, but I can't help but ask. "Has he heard the mannequins talk?"

Dad thinks I have an eating disorder, that I'm on a penis-only diet because it beats being a vegan. But I don't care. I can't help but gag every time he informs me he wants to screw one of my girlfriends.

"Yes, but he's not crazy," Doug says, defending him. "He knows enough not to talk back."

To which, I decide, maybe it's time to have a talk with dad. If possible, I'd like to stop the direction in which we're heading as a family. I want to make it very clear that I'm not cool with talking about sex, particularly when the conversation turns to anything sexual about my friends.

"Dad, you know, it's not normal for a father to talk to his son about sex every night. I mean, you're not supposed to actively try to sleep with my friends."

"Why not?" he asks. "They don't know what they're missing."

"I get it, dad. But I...I just want to talk like a normal family."

"You think there's a 'normal' family out there? Find me one. There's nothing normal about families," he says. "If there were, your mother would still be alive, and we wouldn't be having this conversation."

I suppose he's right. What is normal anyway? Since childhood, I've felt like each day has added another pavement crack in our family preservation. A long time ago, my family life consisted of a home-cooked meal every week night and church on Sunday. Now, we eat from microwaves and talk about my girlfriends' tits. I can't tell if it's normal. Maybe it's part of growing up. Whatever the case, I guess I shouldn't worry about it. I should just be happy that Dad's starting the conversation. And who knows? Maybe I won't go crazy if I don't talk back.

Anthony Paull's second short film, "The Once and Future Me," is available on YouTube.com.

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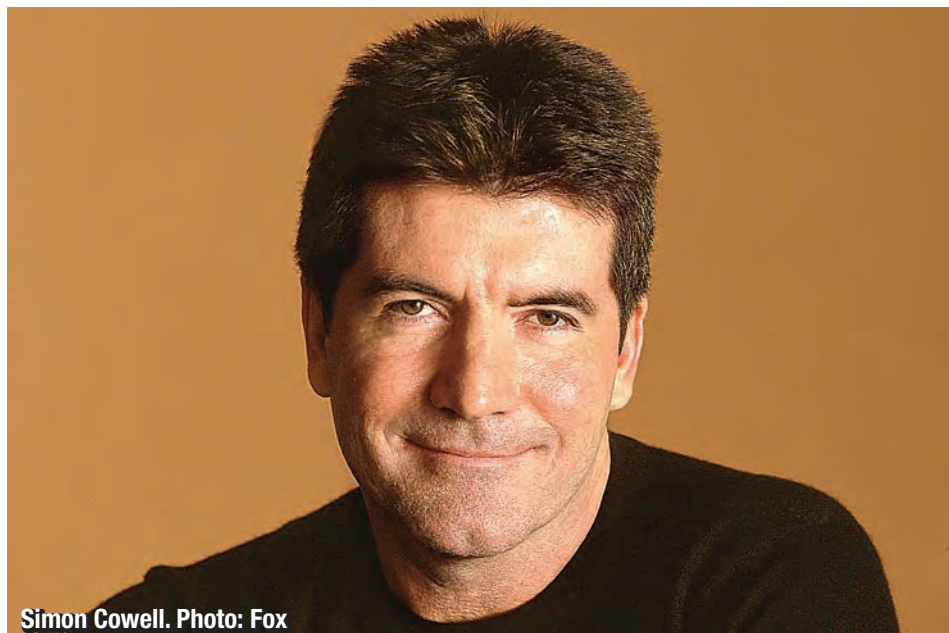
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RTT Deep Inside Hollywood



Simon Cowell. Photo: Fox

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Glee' actor adds Disney Channel to friends list

Chris Colfer is no dummy. Clearly, he already knows – just from observing the gay actors that came before him – that to be an out actor can mean a strange, sometimes difficult career, no matter how popular you are on your current weekly TV series. As reported earlier he's already branched out with his first foray into screenwriting, "Struck By Lightning," which he'll also star in, and it rolls before cameras this summer with director Brian Dannelly ("Saved") while Glee takes a break. But the latest news from Colfer, Inc. is that he's also sold his first TV pilot to the Disney Channel. It's called "The Little Leftover Witch" and based on the children's book by Florence Laughlin about a little witch adopted by a non-witch family after she crash lands her broom at their house. Sounds adorable, and the best news of all is that it only has to be marginally better than that trainwreck '80s show "Small Wonder" to enjoy a respectable legacy in children's television history.

Paula and Simon to reunite for 'X Factor'

The winning qualities of Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler notwithstanding, you know it just hasn't been the same since Paula Abdul left "American Idol." And her dance show sank into the ratings dump and never came out. But like her old pop hit, opposites attract, Simon Cowell has tapped his former co-judge for a spot on this fall's "X Factor." Already an annual ratings smash in England – and, unlike "Idol," fully owned and operated by Cowell – the singing talent show has also lined up music industry power player and former chair of Island/Def Jam Music Group Antonio "L.A." Reid, as well as British pop star Cheryl Cole, to serve as judges. Rumors swirled that Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan and Mariah Carey had all been approached but, in a recent interview with blogger Nikki Finke, Cowell said that no such offers were made. Not that it matters, the other two judges could be the corpse from "Weekend at Bernie's" and a 40-watt lightbulb and we'd tune in just to see Cowell and Abdul continue their weird romance.

James Frey courts controversy for Christ

Hand it to the man, James Frey knows how to get his name out there. Of course, when it first happened it was because he told his own occasionally fictional version of the truth in his Oprah-scorned memoir "A Million Little Pieces." But now it's going to be because a million little angry conservative evangelical Christians will line up to despise his new book, "The Final Testament of The Holy Bible." It's an intentionally fictional work, imagining a reality in which the Messiah is alive and well and living today as a bisexual with a healthy appetite for physical pleasures. In other words, blasphemy. But is the writing good? Early positive reviews may earn it literary cred, but it's going to be the controversy – complete with, no lie, a return visit to the Oprah set any minute now – that aims it straight for the "New York Times" bestseller list. And just wait until the movie rights get sold. Westboro Baptist Church is probably already designing protest placards.

'Real L Word' gets real young

Show of hands, who was bored by the first season of "The Real L Word"? Well, guess what? So was everyone else, including Showtime, the network that aired it. So for season two, coming up very quickly in June, get ready to meet an entirely new cast of younger, wilder, sexier lesbian drama factories. OK, actually, Whitney is back and so is Romi, the girl whose affections Whitney was toying with, but that's it. The rest of those older women with semi-real-life problems are gone and in their place is a cast of hot young babes willing to pose bikini-clad and mud-splattered for publicity shots. Will drinks be thrown? Fighting commence? Threesomes be had? Without a doubt, and now, finally, lesbians (and the straight dudes who fantasize about them) will have their very own, all-girl, bad behavior-intensive "A List: New York"-style show. Equal time and all that.

Romeo San Vicente would very much like to see the lesbian version of "Deadliest Catch" or "Ax Men." He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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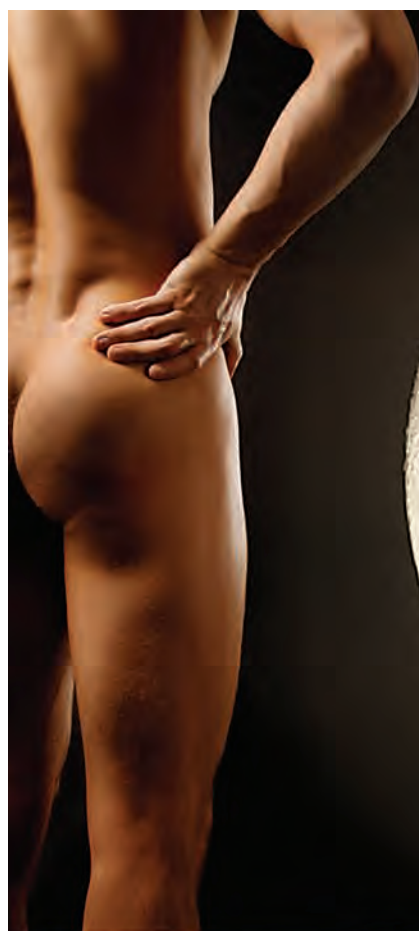
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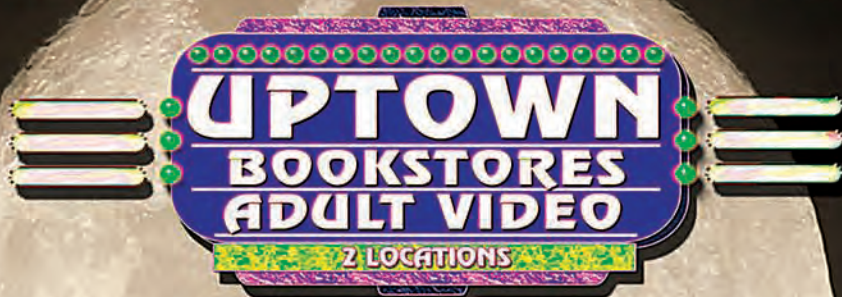
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