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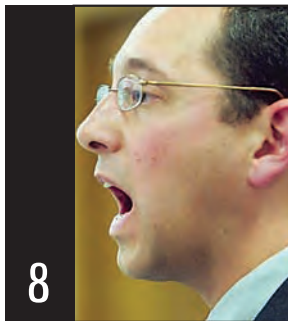
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8



30

## Cover story

### 17 | Brent's big surprise

Porn star talks Detroit debut appearance, barebacking and the worst shoot ever

## News

### 7 | Between Ourselves

Julie H. Lynch

### 8 | Shirvell asks for dismissal of lawsuit

### 8 | Transgender children have specific needs

### 9 | Sex ed vote postponed until June

### 9 | Ogemaw bullying case settlement disclosed

### 9 | Ferndale Pride updates

### 11 | Delaware governor signs civil-union bill

### 12 | Navy halts move to allow gay unions by chaplains

### 14 | House members attempt to delay DADT repeal

### 14 | Lawyers: Gay judge fit to rule

### 15 | Report: Suns exec tells newspaper he's gay

## Opinions

### 10 | Heard on Facebook

What do you think about President Bill Clinton – the guy who signed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 – now supporting gay marriage in New York?

### 10 | S/he said

Coming out, "It Gets Better"

### 12 | Viewpoint

Here's to the death of power lists

### 12 | BTL Editorial

Say yes to sex ed

### 13 | Parting Glances

Mary: It's a grand old name

### 14 | Creep of the Week

Dwight Probasco

## Life

### 19 | Book Marks

"Leche" is a chaotic, nostalgic read

### 22 | Chrome Cat closes its doors

### 23 | Curtain Calls

Reviews of "Love! Valour! Compassion!" and "Rigoletto"

### 24 | Happenings

Featured: Robyn on June 4 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre

## Rear View

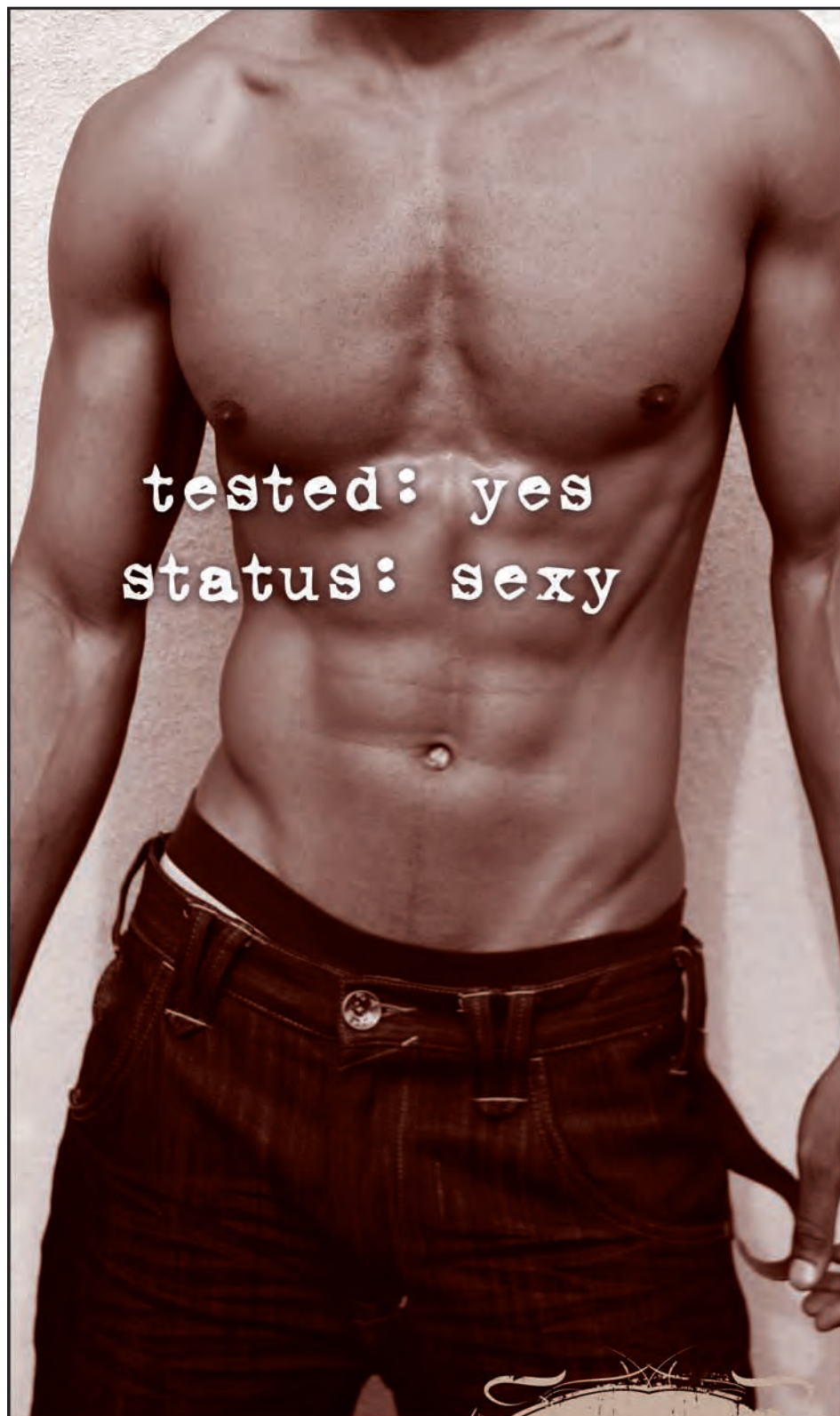
### 26 | Dear Jody

### 27 | Horoscopes

### 28 | Puzzle

### 29 | Classifieds

### 30 | Deep Inside Hollywood



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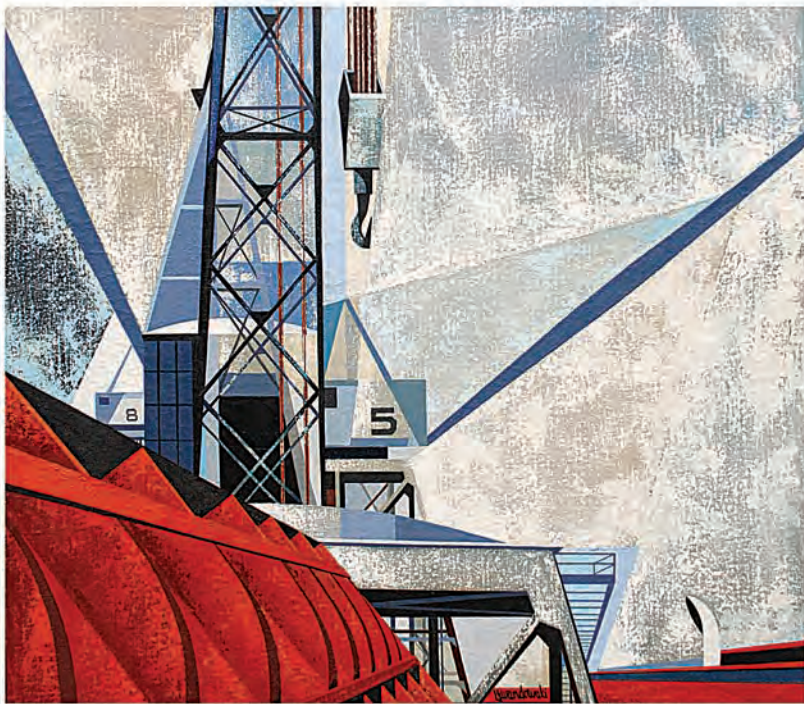
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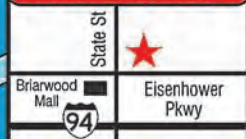
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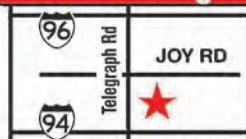
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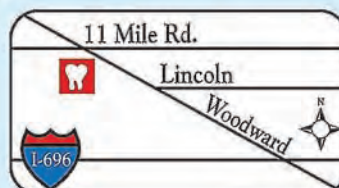
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# BTM Between Ourselves

**Julie H. Lynch** is the author of *gendersonese.com*. Lynch, a 30-year-old transgender woman from Ypsilanti, is currently seeking a second bachelor's degree in nursing from Eastern Michigan University. Her first bachelor's degree from EMU is in philosophy.

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

## 1 What prompted you to start a blog about transgender issues?

I could never have guessed that coming out as transgender to people on social networking sites would have led me to start a blog, but it did. Initially, I expected passive aggressive insults, a missing "friend" here or there, or maybe some outright transphobia thrown my way. Imagine my surprise when even the most socially conservative acquaintances gave their support. Everything went uncomfortably smoothly for a time, but then the ugliness of some of my most trusted friends began to show. Of course I was shocked but, more importantly, I was catapulted into long and engaging arguments. During these exchanges, it dawned on me that the people who were the most hostile toward me were the most ignorant of gender identity issues and privilege in general. I wanted to reach them—all of them—and help them understand.



Very little can be done without the support of the majority. Laws cannot be passed and social beliefs cannot be changed without engaging those in the greater community.

## 2 What have been some of the hardest issues to write about?

I think it's always most difficult writing about privilege. Though people may support marriage equality or engage in activism, trying to get them to understand their privilege and work against it is nearly impossible. I think this is so because it challenges not only their errant beliefs of how social equality is achieved, but also because it challenges their very identity. I know too many people who go around thinking that everyone has the same life opportunities as everyone else by simply being a member of society. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Oppression is still very strong in America and anyone who is a member of an oppressed group knows this intimately.

## 3 Do you find writing on your blog to be therapeutic—that it helps you cope with problems?

Honestly, no. Some trans people are strong supporters of the community and its efforts, only to completely abandon it after they have transitioned. For this reason, the transgender community is unique in its lack of a cohesive identity. If the community is just a revolving door, how can we ever expect to get anywhere? I can understand that there are not always enough participants in local community sharing and activism to keep transgender programs going,

so many turn to the Internet for their sole source of support. That's how my blog is therapeutic. What I get out of writing my blog is the belief that I am helping others, whether or not they are transgender. I want to be one more source of support and understanding so others have a less hard time getting through their day, as reading other blogs definitely helps me get through mine.

## 4 Who do you hope your blog benefits?

As much as I want to help other trans people through my blog, I tend to focus more on helping cis people understand transgender issues. Very little can be done without the support of the majority. Laws cannot be passed and social beliefs cannot be changed without engaging those in the greater community. I also believe that intelligent people can only maintain a prejudice against others if they are untouched by them. The purpose of my blog is that cis people will read it, realize that I am more than valid in my gender identity, and are made aware of what social equality for trans people should look like and how to achieve it. I know this is the case for family members who have come across my blog. Some of

them had never known a transgender person, so it was a complete overhaul of their beliefs concerning us. I've found this to be a positive experience for them more so than not.

## 5 Why is it important for transgender people to talk about their experiences?

This is where statistics come into play. It's important for us as a society to recognize where entire groups of people are being subjected to violence, prejudice, and discrimination and to change that. The statistics show that transgender people are disproportionately subject to job and housing discrimination, violence, suicide attempts and murder. It's easy for most people who are completely removed from the daily horrors facing trans people to read these statistics and think nothing of them. Only when the voices of our people are heard will others realize that action is well overdue. Instead of merely being an "other" to the greater cis community, when we talk about our experiences, we are people made flesh. Blogs are an integral part of this. The more trans blogs written with different perspectives and voices, the more diverse our efforts become. The more diverse our efforts become, the more diverse an audience we can reach. I think this is key in social equality for transgender people.

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

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# Shirvell asks for dismissal of lawsuit

## Chris Armstrong is suing former assistant attorney general Andrew Shirvell for harassment, defamation

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Andrew Shirvell, Michigan's former assistant attorney general who was fired last fall, asked on May 6 that the lawsuit filed against him by University of Michigan graduate Chris Armstrong be dismissed.

Last month, Armstrong filed suit against Shirvell for harassment, stalking and defamation of character. Armstrong, who is openly gay, says Shirvell followed him, showed up at his home and contacted his current and future employers. Shirvell wrote about Armstrong in a blog called "Chris Armstrong Watch" and claimed that Armstrong was a radical homosexual activist. Armstrong was president of the U-M student assembly at the time.

Shirvell, who is representing himself, says in his request for dismissal that he was merely exercising his First Amendment rights by demonstrating his disagreement on the Internet and in person with Armstrong's "political agenda."

He also claims that Armstrong's suit does not provide enough information to prove that Shirvell stalked Armstrong or invaded Armstrong's privacy.

"Therefore, the Court should dismiss these claims against (Shirvell) and award such other relief as it deems appropriate, including costs, attorney fees, and any other available sanctions for having to defend against these meritless claims," the motion concludes.

Shirvell also filed counterclaims with the motion, saying he "has suffered significant loss of income, future earnings, and the right



In this Sept. 7, 2010 photo, University of Michigan alumnus and assistant attorney general Andrew Shirvell speaks about then- University of Michigan's student assembly president Chris Armstrong at a Michigan Student Assembly meeting in Ann Arbor, Mich. (AP Photo/ The Michigan Daily, Marissa McClain)

to enjoyment of his livelihood as well as emotional distress, humiliation, mortification, embarrassment, sleeplessness, anxiety, and depression as the result of (Armstrong's) tortuous conduct."

Shirvell was fired in November last year, after an investigation by the attorney general's office found that Shirvell had been blogging about Armstrong on state time while using state computers. The investigation also found that Shirvell called Nancy Pelosi's office while on

state time in an attempt to get Armstrong fired from an internship.

Shirvell claims in the filing that Armstrong's lawyer, Deborah Gordon, conspired with the attorney general's office to get Shirvell fired.

"He was fired because there were findings made that he engaged in really significant wrongdoing," Gordon said, noting that his firing is a matter of public record. "If he was fired wrongly I think he needs to be suing the attorney general's office."

Shirvell says he was merely exercising his First Amendment rights by demonstrating his disagreement on the Internet and in person with Armstrong's "political agenda."

"Mr. Armstrong's lawsuit is politically motivated," Shirvell wrote in an email to the Detroit Free Press. "For months, Mr. Armstrong has garnered publicity for himself and for his political agenda by trashing me in the media. The lawsuit filed on April 1st is nothing more than Mr. Armstrong's latest publicity stunt. It is entirely without merit and totally devoid of reality. Mr. Armstrong has suffered no damages. I am confident that the Court will ultimately throw-out Mr. Armstrong's baseless lawsuit and that my First Amendment rights will be upheld."

"He needs to take some responsibility for his actions," Gordon said. "That's something he has as of yet been incapable of doing and I think you can see that from these pleadings he's filed. He needs to take responsibility, retract, and put this behind him. I don't know where he's going with all of this."

# Transgender children have specific needs

## Founder of Trans Youth Family Allies speaks in Troy

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Shir Tikva in Troy welcomed Kim Pearson of Trans Youth Family Allies on May 3 for a presentation on recognizing and helping transgender youth.

The Arizona mother of three has been a strong voice for transgender children since her youngest child revealed himself to be an affirmed male five years ago. She spoke about what she's learned as a transgender parent and as the co-founder of TYFA, which has helped more than 300 families nationwide.

"You cannot take what you know about transgender adults and downsize it to transgender children," Pearson began. Although some transgender adults might be able to say they "feel like they are born in the wrong body," young children don't express themselves in those terms, she said. "They're not confused about their gender identity. They know who they are. They are confused why other people

don't get it."

Pearson and volunteers around the country step in to provide resources for parents with gender variant children. They help facilitate

Another key aspect of TYFA's work is educating the public about how to respect children who do not meet society's expectations for gender expression.

"They're not confused about their gender identity. They know who they are. They are confused why other people don't get it."

—Kim Pearson, co-founder of Trans Youth Family Allies

discussion with school districts that may not know how to properly respect a transgender child's rights. They provide legal, medical and counseling referrals, and they work to educate the public and the media.

Pearson explained that even among men and among women there are varying levels of femininity and masculinity – a continuum, she said. People are likely to be punished if they express themselves too far from what the "gender

rules" are.

Children who have a gender that is different from their biological sex often get frustrated, Pearson told the audience. Some even try to hurt themselves by attempting to remove their genitals – which they see as the cause of their problems. "This situation comes up over and over again," she said.

Pearson encouraged people to be more open-minded and aware of the ways they may enforce gender stereotypes. "The rules are socially constructed. If you don't buy into this then the rules change. When you stay quiet things stay the same."

Pearson and Shannon Garcia of Holland, Mich., formed TYFA together. The nonprofit will open its first brick and mortar office in Los Angeles soon.

For more resources about gender variant youth, visit the TYFA website at [www.imatyfa.org](http://www.imatyfa.org).



# Sex ed vote postponed until June

## Saugatuck Schools debate discussing homosexuality with eighth graders

BY JEREMY MARTIN

**SAUGATUCK** – A scheduled vote by the Saugatuck school board on changes to the eighth grade sexual education curriculum has been postponed until Monday, June 20.

The planned vote on deciding whether or not to adopt an addition to the curriculum that would allow the teaching of “alternative lifestyles” in middle school sex ed classes has, according to Saugatuck School’s Superintendent Rolf Timmerman, been pushed back in order to allow for more public feedback. This gives parents, students and community members time to weigh in on the potential changes to the curriculum.

“We don’t want the perception that we’re trying to push this through,” Timmerman said at the board’s May 16 meeting.

Timmerman initially broached the idea after discovering a video titled “Coming Out: What Every Teen (Gay or Straight) Needs to Know.”



Saugatuck Schools Superintendent Rolf Timmerman at a May 16 board meeting. BTL photo: Jeremy Martin.

Besides discussing the difficulties that many LGBT youth have while deciding whether to come out, the video also focuses on tolerance,

sexual identity and bullying.

The video has been viewed by all members of the school board and is available for viewing by the general public in Saugatuck Middle School’s Media Center, located at 401 Elizabeth St.

Timmerman said that he has fielded many questions from concerned parents and community members regarding the issue, and thought it prudent to postpone the vote until more people had an opportunity to watch the video and gather information.

A community forum is planned for June 6, before the final vote on June 20. Both take place at the middle school’s media center.

“I highly encourage them to come in and take a look at the video,” Timmerman said. “I don’t want to influence people based on what I know about it.”

Information on the Saugatuck school system and school board updates can be found at [www.saugatuckps.com](http://www.saugatuckps.com).

## Legislative Day urges protections for LGBT Michiganders

**LANSING** – People from across the state will be able to speak with elected officials about the need to reform Michigan’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act on May 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights act protects certain classes of citizens from discriminatory practices in employment and housing. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are not protected classes under the act. The classes that are protected under the act are: religion, race, ethnicity, color, sex, height, weight, marital status and familial status.

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, the ACLU of Michigan and Equality Michigan are sponsoring the event.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is located at 218 W. Ottawa St. in Lansing.

# Ogemaw bullying case settlement disclosed

## Legislature still considering anti-bullying laws

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Anti-bullying activists say the details of a federal settlement in a bullying case at Ogemaw High School renews the urgency for the state to pass comprehensive legislation addressing bullying.

The agreement, reached in January, was released to the Bay City Times in a Freedom of Information request, reports the newspaper.

Cassandra Morris, 18, dropped out of Ogemaw High School last fall after being subjected to sustained anti-gay bullying, she said. Her case was the first time the U.S. Department of Justice used new civil rights guidance to investigate anti-gay bullying.

Those new guidelines were announced after a series of high profile suicides involving victims who were allegedly bullied. Those guidelines directed school officials to treat harassment and bullying on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. It noted that failure to do so could lead to federal intervention.

That is exactly what happened in Moore’s case.

Under the agreement, none of the parties were allowed to discuss the settlement but it required the school district – West Branch-Rose City Area Schools – to provide training to all its staff on Title IX sexual harassment rules, investigation procedures and more. The Title IX trainings also required training on anti-gay harassment.

The district was also required to provide anti-bullying training to the schools’ eighth to 12th graders by the end of the year. That training also was required to include a segment on anti-gay harassment.

The news comes as lawmakers continue to struggle with passing an anti-bullying law in the state.

Advocates in favor of a comprehensive anti-bullying law – which would include enumeration, or a listed of protected classes – seized on the news in the Cassandra Morris case.

**“We as a society need to recognize and understand that uncivil behavior in any form and in any setting is being looked at as serious criminal activity, and must be addressed by all parties.”**

**–Kevin Epling, the father of a child who committed suicide in 2002 due to bullying**

“Both the fact of this case and the terms of the settlement underscore the need for anti-bullying policies that protect all students and specifically prohibit harassment because of a student’s real or perceived sexual orientation or gender expression,” said Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan. “Had this school had such a policy in place, the harassment could have been handled effectively at the local level. There would have not been a need for the federal government to intervene, at extra cost and time to all involved. Our legislators

in Lansing have an opportunity to create a comprehensive policy right now so that school districts take this behavior seriously.”

Kevin Epling, whose son committed suicide in 2002 after being bullied, has been fighting for a comprehensive anti-bullying law. The various versions of the laws generally carry his son’s name – Matt.

“We as a society need to recognize and understand that uncivil behavior in any form and in any setting is being looked at as serious criminal activity, and must be addressed by all parties,” Epling said in an email to Michigan Messenger. “Regardless of what any law would, should, or will say, the school district itself had the opportunity and the responsibility as directed by the State Board of Education in 2001 and again in 2006 to enact policies to prohibit bullying and protect the students within that district. Just because the Michigan legislature has dragged its feet for years, does not give schools an excuse not to meet or exceed, not only local and state guidelines but federal guidelines as well.”

Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, has moved a piece of legislation which activists have raised concerns about, although the legislation still has not seen a vote in the full Senate. On May 10, Equality Michigan issued a press release calling on lawmakers to strengthen the legislation – SB 137 – by including enumeration as well as reporting requirements for school districts. Activists say that schools should have to have deadlines to report new policies as well as report to the state how many incidents of bullying have been investigated and how they were concluded.

*Story originally published on [michiganmessenger.com](http://michiganmessenger.com)*

## Ferndale Pride updates

Ferndale Pride, which runs from June 3-5 this year, continues to add sponsors and events to its list of activities. Ferndale hosted Motor City Pride for the past decade until this year, when the annual festival moves to Detroit’s Hart Plaza on June 4-5.

“Everyone is welcome to come to any of our events,” said Julia Music, Ferndale Pride co-chair. “In this town, everyone gets along. It is what makes Ferndale a safe and special place.”

### Planned Events

- We Are Family Pride Parade – June 3
- Night March – June 3
- Second Annual Dyke March – June 4
- Gay and Lesbian commitment ceremonies, officiated by Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter – June 4

### Sponsors

Motor City Casino Hotel, Bud Light, Rosie O’Grady’s, Dino’s, Loving Touch, Soho, Danny’s Irish Pub, Sneakers, Green Thumb Gardening Center, the Candlewhich Shoppe, Ferndale DDA, MDSL Softball League

### For more information

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[ferndalepride2011@gmail.com](mailto:ferndalepride2011@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: Southeast Michigan Dyke March  
<http://semidykemarch.org/>  
[semidykemarch@gmail.com](mailto:semidykemarch@gmail.com)

## What do you think about President Bill Clinton – the guy who signed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 – now supporting gay marriage in New York?

Did his much-appreciated newfound support come with a directly stated apology and explanation for DOMA?

–Peter M. Spencer

I would say that since he is no longer president he can afford to have a little bit of personal integrity on this subject. I am certain that both he and President Obama have never really objected to equal marriage, but both felt it necessary to turn their backs on us for political expediency. Fortunately times and acceptance have changed since Clinton did this vile thing, so now Obama can start to be the advocate he promised us he would be. I hope he will continue on that path he has set by refusing to defend DOMA, and that we will have equal marriage before he leaves office.

–Karen Hale

I think it's great. Whether it was purely about political expediency is a matter of debate, but bear in mind that Clinton was groundbreaking for his time. "Don't Ask Don't Tell," while very problematic, did go a long way toward opening the door to the point we are at now, DOMA notwithstanding.

–Dave Goulding

Dave: DADT was a horrid "compromise" which resulted in tens of thousands of service people being kicked out of the military, losing their careers, pensions, and self-respect. I have always loved Bill Clinton DESPITE his acquiescence on those issues, such as gays in the military, about which he should have been resolute. I appreciate him coming out now for gay marriage, and I think it takes a great deal of integrity to do so IN SPITE of his weakness regarding our civil rights in the nineties.

–Karen Hale

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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## Coming out, 'It Gets Better'



**Don Lemon**

*"I'm scared. I'm talking about something that people might shun me for, ostracize me for. It's about the worst thing you can be in black culture. You're taught you have to be a man; you have to be masculine. In the black community they think you can pray the gay away."*

–Don Lemon, CNN news anchor, in an interview with The New York Times about coming out in his new book, "Transparent," nytimes.com, May 15.



**Rick Welts**

*"This is one of the last industries where the subject is off limits. Nobody's comfortable in engaging in a conversation."*

–Rick Welts, president of the Phoenix Suns, ending his career silence about his sexuality and admitting he's gay in an interview with The New York Times, nytimes.com, May 15.



**Dan Savage**

*"The Google Chrome/'It Gets Better' ad doesn't promote or discuss or campaign for homosexual sex. It acknowledges the existence of LGBT people and LGBT kids and gives those LGBT kids hope for their futures. Acknowledging the existence of LGBT people does not raise awareness of the specifics of gay sex any more than acknowledging the existence of heterosexuals raises awareness of the specifics of heterosexual sex."*

–Dan Savage, firing back at FOX viewers who were upset to see an "It Gets Better" ad during American Idol last week, thestranger.com, May 17.



**Judge Walker**

*"It is understandable that supporters of Proposition 8 disagree with these conclusions, and that is what appeals are for. But it is nonsense to say that Judge Walker did anything wrong by hearing the case, which was randomly assigned to him, and by deciding the matter. Those who are attacking the decision by attacking Judge Walker should be ashamed."*

–Erwin Chemerinsky, a legal scholar, writing in an op-ed titled "Vaughn Walker's sexuality irrelevant," advocate.com, April 26. Walker, now retired, recently admitted to being gay. Last year, Walker ruled that Proposition 8, the law in California that banned same-sex marriage, was unconstitutional, and now Prop 8 supporters want his decision thrown out.

# Delaware governor signs civil-union bill

BY REX WOCKNER

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell signed the state's civil-union bill into law May 11 at World Café Live at The Queen theater in Wilmington.

"Tonight we say to loving and committed couples across the state who want the law to endorse the promise they made long ago in their hearts, 'Your love is equally valid and deserving, your family is now equal under the law,'" Markell said. "And tonight we say to children of gay and lesbian parents in committed relationships – and there are so many wonderful kids growing up in those families all over our state – that it doesn't matter if your parents are gay or straight. The people you love and look up to and that are dedicating their lives and love to raising you – those are your parents. You are a family. And while we've known it, and you've known it for years, tonight that equality becomes real under law."

In April, the Senate passed the bill 13-6 and the House of Representatives passed it 25-16.

The law grants same-sex couples the state-level rights, benefits and obligations of marriage, and recognizes same-sex civil unions and marriages from other states, treating them as Delaware civil unions.

Seven other states have similar laws, and five states and Washington, D.C., let same-sex couples marry. Five additional states recognize people married in other states and countries as married.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont



Delaware Gov. Jack Markell signs the civil-union bill into law May 11 with members of Equality Delaware, legislators and first lady Carla Markell, at right, looking on. Official photo.

and Washington, D.C. Same-sex marriages from elsewhere are recognized as marriages in Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island and California (if the marriage took place before Proposition 8 passed).

The states with civil-union laws that grant all marriage rights are California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington. The Hawaii and Illinois laws were

passed recently and have not come into force. Five other states have gay-union laws that extend some rights of marriage: Colorado, Hawaii (an older law), Maine, Maryland and Wisconsin.

The situation in California is unusual. Same-sex marriage was legal from June to November 2008, when voters amended the state constitution via Proposition 8 to put a stop to it. The couples who married then are still legally

"Tonight we say to loving and committed couples across the state who want the law to endorse the promise they made long ago in their hearts: Your love is equally valid and deserving, your family is now equal under the law."

—Gov. Jack Markell

married, as are other same-sex couples who live in California and got married anywhere in the world before Prop 8 passed. Gay couples who married somewhere else after Prop 8 passed, or who marry elsewhere in the future, receive every state-level right and obligation of marriage in California except for the legal right to call their marriage a "marriage" when they are in California. They are not recognized under the state's domestic partnership law, but rather are married couples who are denied use of the word "marriage."

# Navy halts move to allow gay unions by chaplains

## U.S. House members object to Navy plan to perform gay marriage services on base

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON (AP) – Under pressure from more than five dozen House lawmakers, the Navy on May 10 abruptly reversed its decision that would have allowed chaplains to perform same-sex unions if the Pentagon decides to recognize openly gay military service later this year.

In a one-sentence memo obtained by The Associated Press, Rear Adm. Mark Tidd, chief of Navy chaplains, said his earlier decision has been "suspended until further notice pending additional legal and policy review and interdepartmental coordination."

The Navy said its lawyers wanted to do a more thorough review of the legal decision that allowed Navy chaplains to receive training to perform civil unions on military bases, but only in states where same-sex unions are legal.

Military training to apply the new law allowing gays to serve openly began earlier this year and is expected to be completed by midsummer.

House members wrote to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to object to the Navy's initial ruling,

saying the service was violating the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act by appearing to recognize and support same-sex marriages.

That law defines marriage as only between a man and a woman, and it also says states don't have to recognize gay marriages performed in other states where they are legal.

"We find it unconscionable that the United States Navy, a federal entity sworn to preserve and protect the Constitution of the United States, believes it is their place alone to train and direct service members to violate federal law," said the lawmakers' letter, which was signed by 63 House members.

The lawmakers asked Mabus to direct the Navy to defend the Constitution, adding that individuals should not be allowed to pick and choose the laws they will follow.

The Navy's decision triggered an uproar, particularly since the Army and Air Force had not made similar decisions, and there was no overall Defense Department guidance issued on the same-sex union issue.

Navy officials had said Monday that they updated the training after questions came up about civil ceremonies for gay couples.

In earlier training guidelines issued by the Defense Department and the military services, same-sex ceremonies were not mentioned and therefore not explicitly prohibited.

When first asked about the Navy's decision to allow the training, the Pentagon said the federal Defense of Marriage Act does not restrict the types of ceremonies a chaplain may perform in a chapel on a military base. And officials have repeatedly stressed that the military would not compel chaplains to perform a same-sex union if it was against their religious beliefs.

The military dust-up comes against the backdrop of the Obama administration's decision in February to no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act. Attorney General Eric Holder said at the time that President Barack Obama concluded that the law was unconstitutional.

The Pentagon has been moving carefully to implement the repeal of the 17-year-old ban on openly gay troops. Under the law passed and signed by the president in December, final implementation would go into effect 60 days after the president and his senior defense advisers

certify that lifting the ban won't hurt troops' ability to fight.

Under the Navy's initial ruling, the civil union ceremonies would be allowed at military facilities such as chapel and catering centers, but only in states that already recognize same-sex unions.

And even if a same-sex union ceremony is performed, same-sex partners would not get any health, housing or other benefits that are provided to married couples involving a man and woman.

The Air Force and Army did not include discussion of same-sex union ceremonies in their training.

Under Pentagon guidelines, chaplains and other key military leaders were among the first tier of service members to be trained about the new law repealing the ban on openly gay service. Much of that instruction has been completed, so the Navy will send out updates to include the same-sex union ceremony provision.

Under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, service members face dismissal if they revealed they were gay.



RTI  
Editorial

Say yes to sex ed

Saugatuck schools were scheduled to hold a vote Monday night on including “alternative lifestyles” – a.k.a. homosexuality – in its eighth-grade sex-education lesson. If approved, kids would basically learn that gays exist, by watching a video about coming out.

This possibility offered up no shortage of controversy, even in gay-friendly Saugatuck. So the district decided to postpone the vote until late June, in order to provide more time for public commentary. Or perhaps time for everyone to calm down.

First off, we must say: thank god some districts in this state still actually teach sex ed. Many schools across the country went with abstinence-only education during the Bush years (because we all know telling horny teenagers to hold it till they’re married is the way to go).

But the controversy here isn’t really about what to say vs. what not to say to a bunch of 13-year-olds. The true controversy is about adults and parents – particularly the parents who suffer under the notion that if they educate their kids about homosexuality, then their kids will become homosexuals.

To those parents, we say: Why don’t you just turn off the TV and the Internet too? Because if kids don’t learn about it at school or from you, they’ll learn about it elsewhere. Information is everywhere. And even if you cut off all media connection to your kid, you might as well seal your kid off from his or her friends – because chances

are, a friend knows something about the gays and will spoil your kid and turn him or her into a homo.

Sarcasm aside, come on, people. It’s amazing that our country is so pro-education, until it comes to the things that adults have trouble dealing with. The gays, civil rights – these are things adults skirt in conversations with each other, so of course they’re going to avoid discussing them in the classroom.

But you know what? Kids are pretty resilient. They mostly just want to figure out how the world works. Their lives won’t be altered by simply learning that, say, chances are they’ll know of a gay student in their class by the time they graduate.

But you know whose life experience will be altered? *That gay student’s*. Instead of being exiled and harassed, that gay student just might blend in with the crowd, which is all most students want to do anyway.

For all the talk about bullying that we do, about having to train teachers and students, about creating “safe spaces” in schools and gay/straight alliances, why not nip the bullying in the bud with a bit of education? Just as students learn that it’s not OK to harass a student who’s another color or race, they should learn that it’s not OK to harass an LGBT student, because sexuality is just another characteristic that we all need to respect.

This is a simple concept, one that kids will likely absorb and shrug off. So why is this so complicated for the adults who teach them?



RTI  
Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Here’s to the death of power lists

The definition of insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results” is generally attributed to Albert Einstein. Regardless of who originally coined this adage, it continues to ring true today.

We live in an insane world where decisions, attitudes and even elections are influenced, even determined, by headlines, innuendos, trends of the moment and the loudest voice able to capture our short attention span. We don’t change, then wonder why things aren’t better.

We all, to some extent, are lured into following and/or defining ourselves, our movement, our lives by the usual bright shining lights. We find some level of acceptability, comfort, even progress by basking in the rays of this light rather than looking for a reality beyond current expectations.

I have been thinking about this lately, following some discussions around Out Magazine’s “Power 50” and “Hidden 105” lists, specifically at how we define power and the implied power associated with being on these lists.

I have to start by disclosing that I am on the “Hidden 105” list. I must admit being included on a list that includes Mandy Carter, Juan Battle, Hank Milbourne and Julie Nemecek compiled as an addendum, so to speak, to a list which included Barney Frank, Rachel Maddow and Jody Foster is pretty damn cool.

In this day and age of instant celebrity, news and communications, I wonder how are we defining power? When I looked at the initial “Power 50” I asked myself how this is “my power” as a member of the LGBT community?

Yes, we are visible. Gay characters pop up all over television and in the movies and more importantly gay actors are being cast in a variety of roles based solely on their talent and ability. We are not only in the news, but making news and policy as broadcasters and politicians. Unless you’ve been living under a rock or on hiatus to Mars you know we are here and queer whether you’re used to it or not.

But I’ve heard this tune before. My African American experience includes those early television shows where blacks went from serving the household to having households; where African American actors are in front of and behind the cameras, not limited to opportunities by the color of their skin. African Americans have also made their mark in politics. And even though no African Americans were elected to the U.S. Senate in the 2010 elections, the Congressional Black Caucus remains strong and an African American, Barack Obama, occupies the most important house in the land – the White House.

You might say, “we’ve come a long way baby,” but it’s hardly time to kick back and light up that Virginia Slim. It’s not time to pat ourselves on our backs, sing we’ve got the power, and throw our hands up in the air and wave them

like we no longer have to care.

We don’t have the power, and more importantly, do we really know what power is?

In 2008, we ushered in the piper(s) to lure the political rats away. We felt we had the power, the momentum. But like the citizenry of Hamelin, once the possibility of change was within our grasp we’ve been unwilling to pay the piper. Assimilation has lulled us into a false sense of security and now the piper is coming for our children with a backlash of bias and false conservatism threatening to unravel our precious gains.

The accomplishments and visibility of the Power 50 in Out Magazine, even expanded to include the 105 people of color and transgender and ability activists, is not a game changer. We are still disempowered.

Even if you listed both Jody Foster and

Let’s make a deal: no more lists. No more accepting crumbs so we can pretend to be powerful.

me as references on your resume, there is still no ENDA to protect your right to work as an openly gay person.

Knowing that the kid in the playground being bullied for his/her sexual orientation or gender expression might grow up to be Rachel Maddow will not ease the pain, nor will it provide the protection of strong anti-bullying legislation.

The war for marriage equality rages on in the states. The fight against DOMA and DADT still isn’t totally over. Lists are nice, but please don’t congratulate me for having my name on anyone’s list. It’s just my 15 minutes of fame.

The only power list that matters is the one you won’t find published in any magazine. It’s strong, powerful and all-inclusive, regardless of race, creed, color, ethnicity, ability/disability, sexual orientation or gender expression.

It’s that unspoken list that denies us full equality as gay Americans, that says it’s OK to continue to persecute and even kill gays worldwide, and that tells little Johnny it’s OK to bully the Muslim/queer/person of color/disabled and others because power accepts him but excludes the others.

So let’s make a deal: no more lists. No more accepting crumbs so we can pretend to be powerful. No more worrying about who made the list or not. We’ve paid the piper, so let’s finish what we’ve started and tear down the power lists that have divided our community, denied us our rights and continue to threaten the world we must build for all of our children.



## Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Mary: it's a grand old name

"I read your last column with interest," says my unannounced guest who appears in my art studio suddenly, unexpectedly – putting it mildly – on my birthday, May 12. Probably flew in through my sky light window.

He sits on my couch comfortably, as though he belongs, leafing through my magazines without comment, not so much as an "Oh my!" His cape's golden. Radiant in the morning light. Am I having a lucid dream?

My Jewish friends would say my guest's visit's a mitzvah. My skeptic friends: I'm delusional. (Artists are known for vivid imaginations. Maybe I am delusional.)

"May I say for starters: you don't look your age," he comments, as I nervously offer him a decaf cup of coffee at 10 a.m., which he says he's never tasted before but surprisingly finds refreshing. (He likes its earthy, "pagan" taste.)

He smiles joyfully. A smile that makes me somehow feel I've known him forever. Did I meet him in a bar? I wonder. Maybe church? A march in Washington? Eye contact's familiar. Unmistakable. A few milliseconds longer than usual. Gaydar. (Who knows?)

I sense, like myself and many of my longtime acquaintances, he's probably been around life's block a few times. Knows what it's all about. Makes friends easily. A born leader. (I do find his silver sandals a tad retro.)

"As I've never been known to tell a lie – I say this without fear of contradiction – in centuries of recorded history, you may take my personal observation as a compliment," he tells me. "Obviously you – and your kind – come of happy lineage. It's nice to have things in common.

"And I suspect you take energy foods – figs in season are excellent – and exercise. Walking without benefit of beast of burden. (I hear there are many such asses around your Lansing area these days. Politically speaking.)

"How might I put it in your language lingo. Good gay genes!" he adds with a chuckle, looking over my cluttered art studio. "I like artists. Next to fishermen, tax collectors, gardeners, independent women with one name. Mary. Madonna. Cher. St. Joan. They're likable companions. Clerics I find, well, spoil sports for the most part.

"Just between us," he confides, cross signing over my Advocate copy, "these televangelists – I think that's what they go by – are, to use the simpleminded term bandied about – an abomination. You can quote me in BTL."

"I don't mean to be inquisitive, but are you from this planet?" I hesitate, refilling his quickly emptied coffee cup. "It occurs to me that I've seen your picture on billboards. You're much better looking in person. By the way, I love your cape with all those stars, suns, moons embroidered on it. Kinda thing you'd wear on Halloween. Maybe win best drag prize."

"Where I come from all costumes are bright. Everybody has wings. We flit about a lot. We also sing and sing and sing. God, do we sing! Our show biz productions are, well, for want of a better word: heavenly. Unending. Staged by St. Peter in Perpetuity and Equity, LLC."

"Just out of curiosity: Why did you sorta shazam in on me? Not that I mind a little glorious shazaming now and then," I ask, suddenly feeling a rush of euphoria. Almost a spiritual, take off high. Wow! Outta sight!

"Well, just for the hell of it," he winks, "I've wanted to say – since A.D. whenever – just once: 'Happy Birthday, Mary!' (There! I said it.) And, as you write for wide-circulation, please get this SOS out. I'm not zapping in on May 21st to whisk holier-than-thou fundies anywhere. You're all in it together. Sink or swim. Practice love. Be compassionate. Think for yourselves. Have a blessed – er, sorry – rainbow day!"

### Denise Joseph, Ph.D.

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## Dwight Probasco

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When Wasilla High School Principal Dwight Probasco told the jazz choir they could not perform Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" at graduation, the kids in the choir got kind of pissed off. After all, they'd been working on the song all year.



Dwight Probasco

But a parent had complained, after all, and everyone knows that parental complaints are always based in sound reasoning and must be taken seriously and acted upon. See, this particular parent apparently didn't think the kids should be singing a Queen song since Freddie Mercury was a big homo and all. So Probasco did what any reasonable guy would do: he pulled the plug on the performance.

I mean what else was he supposed to do? Let the jazz choir sing something gay?

But his mandate didn't go over well with members of the WHS student body.

In fact, junior Casey Hight, a member of the jazz choir, went so far as to call up the folks at a big city (okay, Anchorage) gay organization. They told her to go to the ACLU. Oh, snap!

"I felt like the school was discriminating for sexual orientation and I felt it was wrong," Hight told *The Frontiersman*. "It's so stupid because there's nothing sexual in the song. There aren't even any cuss words."

True. Though to be fair, no one really knows what the song's about. Mercury was pretty tight lipped about the whole thing. I mean, unless you're doing, like, a graduate school level close reading in the Queer Theory school of literary criticism (and something tells me that's not something the WHS English department spends much time on), the song is pretty tame sexually. It does have murder in it, though.

Still, it's not as if the song hasn't ever been played at the school.

"They'd played the song on the school intercom and we played it at prom. It's a great song and the choir was really excited to be singing it. And the senior class felt like it defined them," senior Rachel Clark told *The Frontiersman*. "The whole attitude of the song just seems to fit our class."

She's right, it is a great song! And the choir is excited to sing it! And it defines the senior class! Wait, it defines the senior class?

Okay, that part is a little weird. I mean, have you listened to the song's lyrics? There's a lot of confusion ("Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?"), fatalism ("Caught in a landslide. No escape from reality"), depression ("I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all"), self-pity ("I'm just a poor boy nobody loves me"), defiance ("So you think you can stone me and spit in my eye?"), and indifference ("Nothing really matters to me. Any way the wind blows").

Huh. I guess that does perfectly encapsulate high school? Never mind.

Not wanting to tangle with the ACLU, Principal Probasco relented and the show will go on. The only concession is that the lyrics about shooting a man in the head need to be omitted. Fair enough.

Clark, the senior who claims that "Bohemian Rhapsody" speaks for her class, also told *The Frontiersman*, "We were joking about singing Elton John's 'Candle in the Wind,' instead."

Those Wasilla kids are pretty funny, I must say, especially since, as Gawker pointed out, Probasco looks a lot like Elton John. Actually, Gawker calls him "a dead ringer for Elton John," which I think is a bit of a stretch. Probasco looks more like John's weathered older brother.

Rumor on the Internet is that Probasco really isn't a bad guy. But giving into anti-gay parental pressure is decidedly uncool. Especially when some graduating seniors just want to get their "Rhapsody" on.

# House members attempt to delay DADT repeal

## Amendments added to funding bill merely 'scare tactics,' say activists

BY LISA KEEN

The full U.S. House Armed Services Committee approved three amendments on May 11 that seek to delay implementation of repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and to reiterate Congress's support for the Defense of Marriage Act.

The votes were largely along partisan lines and are unlikely to be sustained in the Democratic-controlled Senate, even if they are approved by the Republican-dominated House.

But the question is whether they might survive a Senate-House conference committee, when compromises have to be hammered out between the two increasingly contentious parties.

None of the proposed amendments sought to undo what Congress did last December when it passed legislation to repeal the military's ban on openly gay people, but each provided yet another forum for debate over repeal.

The committee debated for more than 40 minutes about an amendment to require that each of the chiefs of the four combat branches of the military provide written certification to Congress before repeal can be implemented. The amendment passed.

The committee also passed an amendment to reiterate that DOMA applies to the military, and another amendment

to reiterate that decisions concerning use of military facilities and personnel for conducting same-sex wedding ceremonies are governed by DOMA.

"These adopted amendments to delay and derail repeal are a partisan political

"These votes should be a wake-up call to supporters of open service that our work is not done."

—Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

attempt to interject the same-sex marriage debate and other unrelated social issues into the (budget authorization legislation), where they have no place," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said the amendments were intended "to slow down open service

and perpetuate scare tactics about the repeal of DADT."

Three different Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee proposed the amendments during consideration of the annual bill authorizing how the Department of Defense can spend its funding. The overall bill is known as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, or bill number H.R. 1540. Fiscal Year 2012 begins October 1.

Currently, President Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Mike Mullen are expected to certify the military as ready to implement repeal of DADT this summer. The repeal would then take effect 60 days later. Given how difficult it has been for the Senate and House to agree on budget matters in recent months, it seems possible that the 60-day waiting period will expire and DADT will be repealed long before a Senate-House conference committee will have a chance to tackle the issues.

"Make no mistake," Sarvis said, "these votes should be a wake-up call to supporters of open service that our work is not done. Our commitment to timely certification and repeal must be redoubled as we move to the House floor to defend the progress we have made to ensure that LGB patriots can defend and serve the country they love with honesty and integrity."

# Lawyers: Gay judge fit to rule

## Prop 8 supporters want judge's ruling thrown out

BY LISA LEFF

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Claims by the group that sponsored California's voter-approved same-sex marriage ban that the federal judge who overturned the law was biased because he is in a relationship with another man are "factually groundless and legally insupportable," lawyers for two same-sex couples said on May 13.

The legal team that successfully challenged the ban in Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's court last year argued in legal papers that the now-retired jurist had no obligation to reveal his sexual orientation or relationship status before he ruled that Proposition 8 violated the civil rights of gay Californians.

The ban's backers "lack any factual basis to assume that Judge Walker wishes to marry...and instead rely on nothing more

than the fact that he is gay, in a relationship with a person of the same sex, and recognizes in his decision the importance of marriage in American society," the attorneys wrote. "Such unvarnished speculation does not come close to meeting the statutory requirements for compelling a judge's recusal."

The religious coalition that sponsored Proposition 8 moved last month to have Walker's historic ruling invalidated on the grounds that he stood to personally benefit from it.

The group's lawyers asked Walker's successor as chief federal trial judge in San Francisco to rule that Walker should have disqualified himself from hearing the case or at least disclosed his same-sex relationship.

In disputing that assertion, lawyers Theodore Olson and David Boies, who represented George W. Bush and Al Gore

in the contested 2000 presidential election, said a married heterosexual judge could have been accused of bias just as readily because Proposition 8's supporters argued at trial that legalizing same-sex marriages would undermine traditional unions and harm children.

"In fact, under proponents' reasoning, African-American and female judges would have been required to recuse themselves in the most important civil rights cases in American history and all judges would be required to disclose their most private thoughts and relationships in order to preside over any case that involves constitutional rights they might conceivably want to secure for themselves and their families," the couples' lawyers said. "That is not the law — and our nation is much the better for it."

# Report: Suns exec tells newspaper that he's gay

## Sports industry questions its attitude toward homosexuality

NEW YORK (AP) – Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts revealed to the public that he is gay in a story posted on The New York Times' website on May 15, saying he wants to break down one of the last significant social barriers in sports.

Welts' declaration is the latest development on a subject that has gained attention in the sports world recently, after Lakers star Kobe Bryant's use of a gay slur on the basketball court and NHL player Sean Avery's public support of same-sex marriage.

Welts talked to NBA commissioner David Stern, WNBA president Val Ackerman, Hall of Famer Bill Russell and Suns guard Steve Nash before discussing his sexual orientation with a reporter from the Times, the newspaper said. All of them offered Welts their support.

"This is one of the last industries where the subject is off limits," the longtime executive told the paper. "Nobody's comfortable in engaging in a conversation."

The Suns did not offer a statement when contacted by The Associated Press. Messages left with Welts' public relations team were not returned.

Welts is one of the most prominent figures active in sports to openly declare that he is gay, although there has yet to be an active player in the NBA, Major League Baseball or the NFL to make such a statement. Some athletes have done so after their playing careers.

The 58-year-old Welts, who began his career as a ball boy for the Seattle SuperSonics, spent several years with Stern in the league office. He was the architect of the All-Star Weekend and helped raise the NBA's profile before leaving for the Suns' front office.

Welts told Stern about his sexual orientation during a meeting in New York last month. The next day, Bryant responded to a technical foul by calling referee Bennie Adams a "faggot" during the third quarter of a game against San Antonio – touching off a firestorm of controversy and underscoring the taboo nature of the subject in sports.

The Lakers star was fined \$100,000; Bryant has since offered multiple apologies.

Also last month, Atlanta Braves coach Roger McDowell allegedly made homophobic comments, crude gestures and threatened a fan with a bat before a game in San Francisco. McDowell served a two-week suspension and also apologized for his remarks.

Then there was Avery, the outspoken New York Rangers agitator, who offered his support for same-sex marriage in a video as part of the New Yorkers for Marriage Equality campaign.

Hockey agent Todd Reynolds tweeted that it was "Very sad to read Sean Avery's misguided support of same-gender 'marriage.' Legal or not, it will always be wrong." Damian Goddard, who hosted a show on Rogers Sportsnet in Canada, tweeted his support for Reynolds and was fired.

Among the only people Welts opened up to were his parents and younger, only sibling, Nancy – although Stern said he had a feeling his friend was gay. Stern even telephoned Welts after his longtime partner, Arnie, died from complications of AIDS in 1994.

Now, after all these years, Welts has decided it's time to come out of the shadows.

"What I didn't say at the time was: I think there's a good chance the world will find this unremarkable," Stern told the Times, recalling their meeting in which Welts revealed he was gay. "I don't know if I was confusing my thoughts with my hopes."

Welts said he told Nash because they hold each other in high professional regard. According to the newspaper, Nash was tipped off about what Welts wanted to discuss and was surprised only because he thought everyone already knew that Welts was gay.

"I think it's a shame, for all the obvious reasons, that this is a leap that he has to take," Nash said. "Anyone who's not ready for this needs to catch up. ... He's doing anyone who's not ready for this a favor."

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# BRENT'S BIG SURPRISE



## Porn star talks Detroit debut, barebacking and the worst shoot ever

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**G**ood thing a picture is worth a thousand words. We barely got that many out of Brent Everett during a recent chat with the porn star, who punctuated every statement with a giddy schoolgirl laugh and seemed to know better ways to work his mouth. And if you've seen any of his gay adult films, you know he does.

Before flirting with the boys on May 21 at Ice Nightclub in Hamtramck, the 27-year-old porn star spoke with *Between The Lines* about his twin fantasy-come-true, bareback porn and growing out of his twink phase.

### What's up, Brent?

It's been pretty crazy. I was shooting a new movie for Channel 1 Releasing with a guy named Dante, and it was really hot. We just wrapped on it. It'll be a really good movie.

### Who's this Dante guy?

He's a newcomer to the industry. A hot Latin boy. He's good at what he does.

### Which is?

(Laughs) Well, I actually bottomed in this movie. It's the first of my new contract. I just signed a new two-year exclusive with Channel 1.

### Have you been to Detroit before?

No, I've never been to Detroit. I'm super excited. I can't wait.

### What should we look forward to?

I usually have two erotic performances, and I'm supposed to get away with a little bit more, too. (Laughs)

I try to push boundaries with my show, so I'm also introducing a whole new – should I say it? – it's a big surprise. I'll be doing a lot of giveaways – DVDs and stuff – and an autograph signing and meet-and-greet.

### Is the big surprise what I think it might be?

Probably. (Laughs)

### You're going on 10 years in the adult film industry. Looking back, what do you remember from your first porn shoot?

Oh, wow. Hmm, so long ago. It actually wasn't a very good experience. The shoot went really long and after that I actually said I would never do porn again.

### That bad?

It was pretty bad. I don't even know if the company's around any more.

### Are you happy that you've outgrown your twink phase?

I guess so. Yeah, a little bit. I like how I can experience anything I want now. I'm not limited by just a stereotype and a category.

### Do you feel like there's an expiration to your porn career?

No. (Laughs) This is what I was meant to do. I'm expanding. I'm behind the camera a lot more and I'm expanding my company and going into other ventures through that, and if I'm not in front of the camera forever, I'll

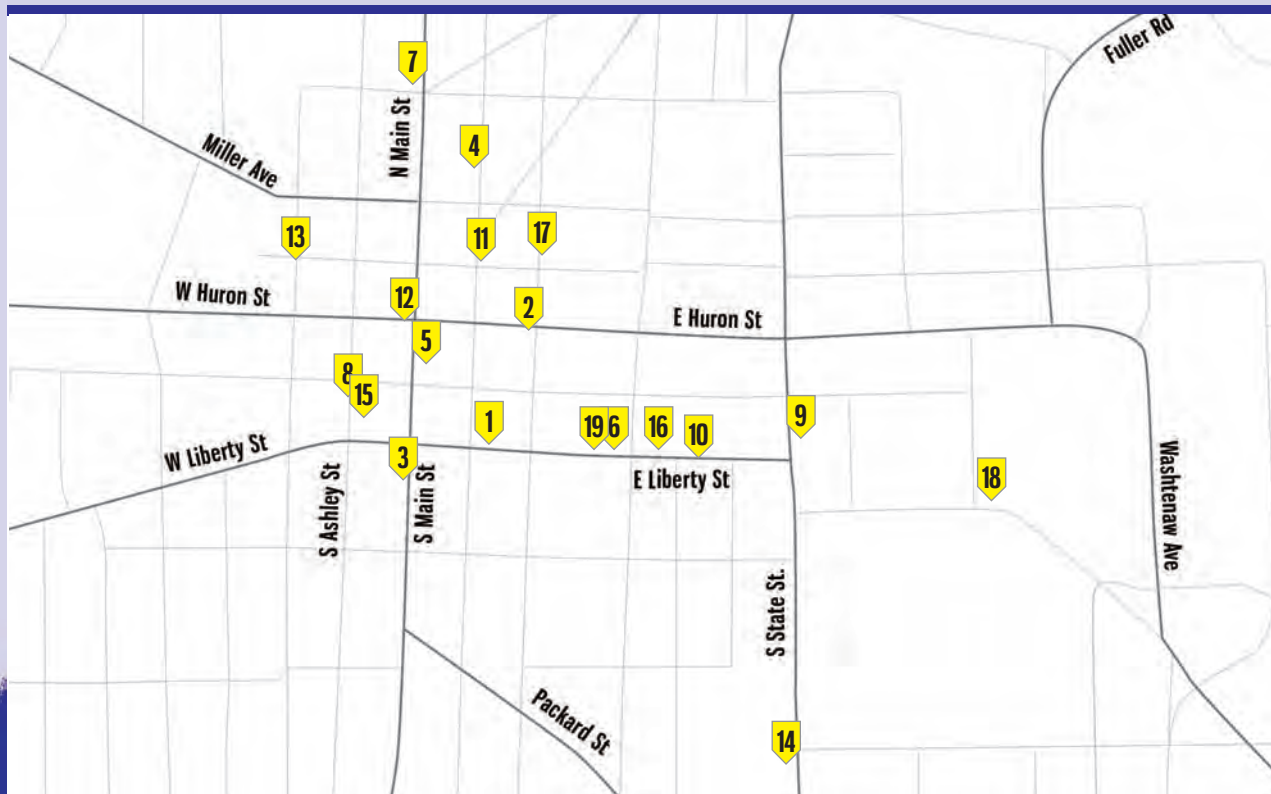
See Brent Everett, page 22

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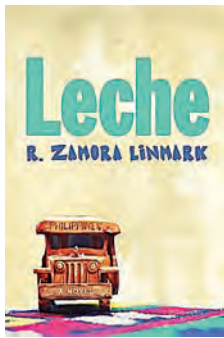
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# 'Leche' is a chaotic, nostalgic read



**"Leche," by R. Zamora Linmark. Coffee House Press, 280 pages, \$15.95 paper.**

The message of this kaleidoscopic novel is that you can go home again. But the trip is... trippy. Filipino-born Vince, raised by his grandfather after his parents decamped for Hawaii to escape the repressive Marcos regime, reunited with his mother at age 10. Thirteen years later, the now handsome – and quite queer – man returns to the crazy-quilt country of his birth, the prize for placing second in a male talent pageant for Filipino expatriates. A series of reflective postcards sent home and of tourist tips both cheeky and informative – “The Philippines has four seasons: hot, wet, melting, flooding” – capture Manila’s oppressive pollution and quirky culture. Equally disconcerting, a cast of colorful characters – among them a hunky taxi driver who fuels Vince’s sexual fantasies and a tour guide who doesn’t deliver on a date – all declare him American, a status he resists. But when Vince returns to the village of his birth, to honor his dead grandfather, he discovers he does belong. Linmark’s second novel balances the irreverent, the chaotic and the nostalgic with seductive energy.

**"Nina Here Nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender," by Nick Krieger. Beacon Press, 216 pages, \$15 paper.**

Life was nice enough for Nina – she moved in a circle of A-list San Francisco lesbians, hanging out with wealthy and sporty women, identifying as a dyke. But when she returned to the Bay Area after a winter bumming around Wyoming with her snowboarding brother, she moved into a cheap room in a Castro apartment. Immersed in the culture of unconventional queers – including a roommate in transition – she began to question her physical and emotional self-identity. Krieger’s journey through and beyond gender, from Nina to Nick, from a large-breasted “her” with shaved legs to an after-top surgery “him” with hairy calves, is chronicled with a dash of wit, with nuanced wisdom, and with candid accounts of confrontations with parents – particularly the father – who are puzzled and pained at seeing their daughter become their son. For the author, however, the essence of gender isn’t as cut-and-dried as daughter-or-son. Nina accepts Nick as a name while embracing this paradox: “... the confusing choice to take on a guy’s name, even though I do not consider myself a guy.”

**"Red Clay Weather," by Reginald Shepherd. University of Pittsburgh Press, 88 pages, \$14.95 paper.**

The cancer that killed Shepherd in 2008, with five collections already published and this sixth nearing completion, haunts a brilliant book. “Calcium-deficient bones,” he writes, and “...a rising/ viral load, testing degrees of never, and “nurse says she recognizes me in the light’s edict,”

## Featured Excerpt



*As I moved into the unknown, further into the trans-masculine realm, I didn't see myself on the path of some big change. But I had less resistance to little changes, to a name that could be screamed in bed, to the male words that made me feel seen, to a chest that others might perceive as being of Man, to fighting my own desires as if for some higher cause, understanding now that I was of most value to myself and to others – women, lesbians, trans guys, lovers, my parents – when I was solid and secure in myself.*

-from "Nina Here Nor There," by Nick Krieger

and “today I am afraid of ghosts” and “my body is so porous.” The last poem, finished just two weeks before he died – and as he was baptized an Episcopalian – is titled, optimistically, “God-With-U.” According to the preface by Shepherd’s partner and literary executor, Robert Philen, the poem’s last lines first expressed a desire to believe – “How I want to believe?” – amended to the more affirmative “How I want to believe.” But for the

most part, these poems don’t dwell on Shepherd’s disease; African-American experience, the ephemera of memory, and the presence, especially, of the natural world, inhabit many of these poems, connecting the eye of a poet to the world around him with a dedication to lyricism and a commitment to the purity of language.

**"Donovan's Big Day," by Leslea Newman, illustrated by Mike Dutton. Tricycle Press, 32 pages, \$15.99.**

Donovan wakes up on the morning of the big day in a bedroom with a baseball bat and basketball in a basket in the corner. He can’t sleep in, not even for five minutes. He has to scrub his face and brush his teeth and clean his nails with extra care. After he’s dressed – in a new shirt, new pants, a new jacket, a new clip-on bowtie, even new shoes – he can’t play in the yard with his dog Sheeba, because she has muddy paws. And, especially, he can’t lose a special white satin box, because he’s ring-bearer for the wedding of his Mommy and his Mama, a happy occasion feted by hundreds of grown-ups in this picture book for youngsters aged 4 to 7. “I now pronounce you wife and wife,” says the man in the long black robes, and then Donovan remembers one more important part of the day: to announce, “You may now kiss the brides.” By focusing attention on a boy’s proud excitement, Newman depicts same-sex marriage in an easygoing, accessible tone.

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

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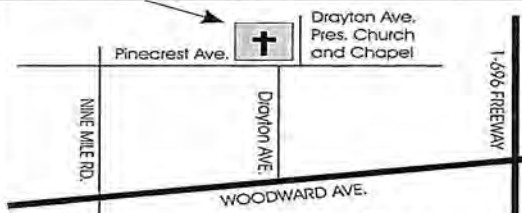
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# Chrome Cat closes its doors

## Why did we lose another lesbian bar in Lansing?

BY HANNAH SCHWAB

After serving Lansing's lesbian crowd for two years, the Chrome Cat closed its doors on April 31 – for good. Owners Lisa Whitehead and Michelle Taylor shut down after back taxes and high rent made staying open virtually impossible.

"The Chrome Cat was a great, safe place for the lesbian community," Whitehead said. "When we announced we were closing, people started asking, 'Where do we go now?' Closing the Cat definitely left a void."

Carrie Miller, a regular patron, is sad Whitehead and Taylor chose to close the bar.

"I met my partner there and the memories are priceless," Miller said. "I am friends with all the staff there, and I know they were hurting. That place was a second home for a lot of us."

Whitehead and Taylor opened the Chrome Cat in 2009 in Lansing's Old Town, replacing Club 505, a former lesbian bar that closed a year before they moved in. "Good publicity mixed with a general curiosity from the gay community brought in a lot of clients right off the bat," Whitehead said.

But with little money for marketing, that clientele waned. Even the restaurant, which was designed to bring in more money, proved to be a waste. Whitehead said maintaining a full menu was extremely costly and they lost money. To cut costs, Whitehead downsized the menu in October and only offered limited food choices and catering.

"It was a good decision and it helped, but wasn't enough to undo the damage that had already been done to us financially," Whitehead said. "There wasn't enough of a turnout in the bar to carry the cost of the restaurant. Running a restaurant is two to three times more expensive than just serving drinks."

Seasonal turnout in Lansing also hurt the bar. "In the summer, people go out of town and travel," Whitehead said. "They don't hit their usual hangouts as much and we saw our numbers drop. Old Town does have festivals and events to bring people in, but it wasn't enough."

The Chrome Cat's finances were tight, and Whitehead found herself having to make some tough decisions. "It came down to

either paying rent or paying taxes," Whitehead said. "The first time, we paid the taxes and got a seven-day notice about the back-owed rent. We decided we couldn't do that again."

"We held a fundraiser to get caught up, but we couldn't continue to do that every week. So we fell behind on our taxes."

Whitehead and Taylor, who owe \$29,000 to the state and

**"Hopefully other bars will absorb our lesbian crowd and make them feel welcome until we decide the fate of the Chrome Cat."**

– Lisa Whitehead, co-owner of the Chrome Cat

\$15,000 to the IRS, finally made the decision to close the bar. "People think the state shut us down," she said, "but it was our decision to close."

Now, Whitehead and Taylor are waiting to hear from the state about the next step in the repayment process. They are also considering selling their equipment and appliances to make up what they owe.

Whitehead hasn't ruled out reopening the Chrome Cat or trying again with another bar, but she said she would definitely do things differently.

"I would take on a partner and start small," she said. "We took on too much from the get-go and small businesses don't have the same deep pockets as chains, so when ideas don't work, it hurts our numbers."

Even so, Whitehead still has the desire to help Lansing's LGBT community – and she hopes other bars feel the same way.

"Hopefully other bars will absorb our lesbian crowd," she said, "and make them feel welcome until we decide the fate of the Chrome Cat."

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### ► Brent Everett

Continued from p. 17

definitely be behind the camera for the rest of my days.

#### What are your other ambitions?

I just started painting. I've actually been contacted to do some openings in art galleries in L.A. and San Diego.

#### What kind of work?

It's modern, contemporary. It's not even paintings; it's art pieces.

#### How'd you get into painting?

Um, it just kind of hit me one day and I just started doing it.

#### What's been your favorite film to work on?

Definitely the movie "Wanting More" or "Brother Fucker," which was one of the funnest, because I got to fuck twins – and ya know, how big of a fantasy is that for most people?

#### You've been married to Steve Pena for nearly four years; did you ever think you'd be a married man?

Oh yeah. It's amazing. It's really an amazing feeling to know that you have someone there for you for the rest of your life and to support you through thick and thin.

#### Are there challenges?

There are challenges in any relationship, but it's just about open

communication. That's probably the biggest hurdle that we go through.

#### The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has been fighting bareback porn, which you've done before. How do you feel about that?

I'm an advocate for safe sex, you know. But to each his own. It was only one time. I'm a very big advocate for safe sex.

#### Does it send the wrong message to people that unsafe sex is the only kind of sex that's good?

Well, we want to advocate safe sex for everybody. I think that everyone should use condoms, for sure.

#### Besides painting and porn, do you have other ambitions?

Uhh, really, this is what I love doing. I have so many different outlets that I get to put my creativity toward that I really don't have any need or want to do anything outside of this. I get to do carpentry and build sets; I get to write, and I get to do design work with web. Everything I want to do I am doing right now.

There is so much more than fucking and sucking than people realize. It just opens so many doors and opportunities; it's amazing. I wouldn't want to do anything else, that's for sure.

#### What are some songs you like to get busy to?

Hmm. I don't really listen to music when I'm having sex. I like the natural sounds better. (Laughs)

#### Grunting and moaning?

Yeah, that's my music playlist.

## 'For good, for bad, forever' at The Ringwald

BY JOHN QUINN

For his prize-winning 1994 work "Love! Valour! Compassion!" playwright Terrence McNally borrowed a page from Anton Chekhov's notebook. Very little actually happens in three acts; it's all about character; it's all about emotion. Though a period piece, the *Who Wants Cake?* production at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale demonstrates it is not a bit dated. McNally's script transcends its milieu and might still be as timely in a century as "Uncle Vanya" is today.

The action takes place over three holiday weekends: Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. At a Dutchess County farmhouse two hours north of New York City, eight men work through their loves, hates and fears. The owner of the summer house, Gregory (Keith Allan Kalinowski), is a 43-year-old choreographer whose body is beginning

**REVIEW**

**Love! Valour! Compassion!**

Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through June 6. \$10-\$20. 248-545-5545. [www.whowantscaketheatre.com](http://www.whowantscaketheatre.com)

to fail him just as he is working on his crowning achievement. He adores his younger lover of four years, Bobby (Matthew Turner Shelton), who is blind. Their guests for the weekends are, for the most part, connected to his dance company.

There's Gregory's business associates, Perry (Richard Payton) and Arthur (John Nowaczyk), a couple of 14 years; grown too familiar with one another, yet still in love. There's John Jeckyll (Charles VanHoose), the ex-pat Brit and rehearsal pianist – bitter and pretentious as a theater



"Love! Valour! Compassion!" continues at The Ringwald through June 6. Photo: Colleen Scribner

critic. He's accompanied by his summer obsession, Ramon (Vince Kelly), a hot young dancer with an uncontrolled libido. Finally, there is Buzz (Joe Plambeck), costume designer and maniacal lover of the musical theater.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

## Michigan Opera Theatre kills with 'Rigoletto'

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

I have to come clean about something: It's been so many years since my last visit to the Michigan Opera Theatre that I have no clear memory of which opera I attended or how many years ago it was. It's not that I have anything against the genre; but for years we were not reviewing most MOT productions because of their short runs – and as such, I was generally elsewhere, sitting in another theater on their opening nights. And when we revised our policy to take advantage of the immediacy of the internet, other critics on our team jumped at the chance to participate in MOT's opening night festivities.

And now I remember why. As a first-time attendee standing near me during the first intermission of MOT's "Rigoletto" remarked on opening night, "I didn't expect it to be so lush." And then she inquired about the cost of season tickets. There's no

**REVIEW**

**Rigoletto**

Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. May 18, 20-22. \$29-\$121. 313-237-SING. [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org)

higher praise than that!

And justifiably so, since MOT's revival of "Rigoletto" is indeed a lush mixture of excellent voices, imaginative staging, superb design work and fine musical accompaniment.

Verdi's "Rigoletto," first performed in Venice in 1851, tells the story of a hunchbacked court jester who has offended way too many people while performing his official duties – and in particular, the husbands of the women his randy boss, the Duke of Mantua, has pursued. When rumors circulate that Rigoletto has a



James Valenti in "Rigoletto." Photo: John Grigaitis

mistress, the noblemen decide to teach the buffoon a lesson. So they kidnap her – with Rigoletto's assistance, thanks to a trick they play on him – and hide her in the Duke's bedchamber.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

## Hufano tears up 'The Model Apartment'

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Playwright Donald Margulies may have written "The Model Apartment" as a dark comedy, but for the most part, director Lavinia Moyer Hart stops at "dark." Although the production at The Jewish Ensemble Theatre is twisted into absurdity, and objectively funny moments come and go, Hart doesn't play the scene for laughs, instead diving headlong into the characters and relationships of one nuclear family freshly and repeatedly ravaged by its history. Given a plot so intense it practically gasps for levity, the choice is indeed risky; it's also more than justified in this incendiary production, cemented by a must-see lead performance.

Max (Tom Mahard) and Lola (Trudy Mason) have sped from New York to Florida, eager to begin their retirement. However, their arrival is so early, they're waylaid in the model unit of the complex until their

**REVIEW**

**The Model Apartment**

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Thursday, Saturday & Sunday through June 5. \$32-\$41. 248-788-2900. [www.jettheatre.org](http://www.jettheatre.org)

new-construction residence is completed. The production team has fun with the latest in 1988 retirement living: Beyond the busy tropical patterns, pastel-speckled flooring, and bamboo blinds of the studio apartment, set designer Sarah Tanner's distinctly Floridian room even has a Florida room. Bland model-home accoutrements and ocean-inspired kitsch (properties by Diane Ulseth) are bonded to the furniture, enhancing the off-putting feel of a living space void of working appliances or any sign



Trudy Mason, Laurel Hufano and Tom Mahard star in "The Model Apartment." Photo: The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

of life. Jon Weaver's sound design anticipates the trouble-free good life with placidly warm Nat King Cole tunes and uses ambient noises to expand on what's visible. Designer Donald Fox toys with automated lighting and lends both visibility and tone to the several lights-off scenes of Max and Lola's long night.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

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# RTM Happenings

## Editor's Picks

### Outings

Sistrum, Lansing's LGBTQA Women's Chorus, performs their 25th anniversary concert, "Singing the Journey," at 8 p.m. May 20-21 in the Dart Auditorium of Lansing Community College.

Launched by Rachel Alexander in 1986 and named after a rattle-like instrument used in Ancient Egypt, the Sistrum chorus is comprised of lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and heterosexual women performing well-known hits such as "Don't Rain On My Parade," "Fly Me To The Moon" and "Take Five"

The event will be preceded by a silent auction beginning at 7 p.m. also in the Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capital Ave. Tickets cost \$12, and are available online at [sistrum.org](http://sistrum.org).



### Music



Swedish pop star Robyn hits Royal Oak at 7 p.m. June 4 for her rescheduled and much-anticipated Michigan performance.

The "Show Me Love" singer's dance hits, including "Call Your Girlfriend" and "Dancing On My Own," have been gracing nightlife internationally. With 10 Grammys (the Swedish equivalent of the Grammy Awards) and two Grammy nominations, her unique electronic synthpop sound has garnered her legions of adoring fans.

Robyn performs with special guests Diamond Rings and Natalia Kills at 7 p.m. June 4 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St. Tickets cost \$20 and may be purchased at [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com).



in for a very funny evening. What they don't know is that the show also includes great songs, fabulous dancing and a very clever plot twist."

Performances are at 8 p.m. May 20-21 and 27-28 and 2 p.m. May 22 and 29 at the Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham. Tickets are \$17. For more information, call 248-644-2075.

### Theater

What do you get when you add music to a 1988 hit film comedy? The question will be answered on the stage of the Village Players Playhouse in Birmingham through May 28. That's when Birmingham's best live theater presents the musical comedy "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," based on the movie of the same name.

As director Mark Carley says, "Anyone who has seen the Michael Caine/Steve Martin movie knows they are

## OUTINGS

### 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 Street, **Detroit**. 313-463-2000. [covenanthousemi.org](http://covenanthousemi.org)

**Ties Like Me Professional Networking**, 4:30 p.m. Third annual Garden Party on the patio at Pronto! in Royal Oak. Ties Like Me Professional Networking, Address, **Royal Oak**. 248-379-9527. [tieslikeme.org](http://tieslikeme.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](http://hivaidresource.org/dining-for-dollars)

**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 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](http://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. [jimtoycenter.org](http://jimtoycenter.org)

### 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 West Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://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. [olonline.org](http://olonline.org)

**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](http://five15.net)

**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. [bsiler@att.net](mailto:bsiler@att.net) [sistrum.org](http://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. [olonline.org](http://olonline.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. [bsiler@att.net](mailto:bsiler@att.net) [sistrum.org](http://sistrum.org)

### Sunday, May 22

**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](mailto:cchwarren@aol.com)

**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](http://hivaidresource.org/hiv-testing)

### Tuesday, May 24

**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. [umma.umich.edu](http://umma.umich.edu)

### Wednesday, May 25

**Legislative Day set for Protections for Gay and Transgender Michiganders**, 9:30 a.m. People from across state gather at the State Capitol to speak with elected officials about the need to reform Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for Michiganders based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. St. Pauls Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. 313-870-1500. [mwadvocacy.org](http://mwadvocacy.org)

### Thursday, May 26

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

### Friday, May 27

**Womyn's Film Night**, 6:30 p.m. Film: Girl Seeks Girl. This hot and hilarious lesbian soap opera is a wild ride through the mixed up love lives of a group of sexy Madrid lesbians. Affirmations, 290 West Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Sunday, May 29

**The Very Best (So Far) of Outrageous**, 10:30 a.m. Returning performances of Lucy and D neshewa, drag queen dynamic duo. Extravagant sets and outrageous performances. Rainbow Room, 6640 E. 8 Mile Road, **Detroit**. 313-891-1020. [clubrainbowroom.com](http://clubrainbowroom.com)

Lezread 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. [lezread@yahoo.com](mailto:lezread@yahoo.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

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

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Modern Jazz Messengers" Michigan's finest pay tribute to the spirit of the jazz

tradition with an eye toward the future. Tickets \$30-10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 21. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

### COMEDY

**Olympia Entertainment** "Bill Cosby" Tickets \$42-\$45 Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. May 20, 10:30 p.m. May 20. 866-752-9622. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://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](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

### CONCERTS

**Caesars Windsor** "Bruno Mars and Janelle Monae" Bruno Mars is joined by soulful talent and fellow Grammy-Award nominee, Janelle Monae, for an expressive evening of pop and R&B hits. Tickets:\$25+. The Colosseum, 377 Riverside Drive East, **Windsor**. 7:30 p.m. May 22. 800-991-7777. [caesarswindsor.com](http://caesarswindsor.com)

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

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Modern Jazz Messengers" Tribute to the spirit of the jazz tradition with an eye toward the future. Tickets: \$30-15, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 21. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Trio La Vita" Composed of Maria Bessmetseva, Carrie Pierce and Misuzu Tanaka, all DMA students at the University of Michigan. Tickets: \$25-15, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 26. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Rob Mazurek's Starlicker Trio" Chicago avant garde with post rock influence. Tickets \$25-10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 19. 734-769-2999.

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Trio La Vita" Tickets \$25-10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 26. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed Trio" Saxophonist Wes "Warmdaddy" joins the trio for evening of informal dialogue, giving the audience a picture of his musical life in jazz. Tickets \$30-10, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 27. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Royal Oak Music Theater** "Cake" Tickets: \$35+. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St. Royal Oak. 8 p.m. May 18. 248-399-2980. [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com)



Janelle Monae, touring with Bruno Mars





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## The Unthinkable: Coming Out in the Mainstream Church

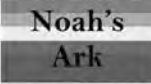
Keynote Speaker and Out Pastor:  
**Rev. Benjamin L. Reynolds**  
Director of the LGBTQ Religious Studies Center  
Chicago Theological Seminary



May 18, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Ecumenical Theological Seminary  
2930 Woodward Avenue  
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Presented by:  
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# BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

## Coworker conundrum

**Q.** Last week my boss announced that I was picked as the project leader for managing a new project at work. It is the biggest project I have ever been given, and I want to impress my boss and let him know that I can handle this extensive project. My goal is to do an excellent job in a timely manner. I want to make sure he sees me handling everything well and trusts that I don't need anyone to watch over my shoulder. It is also important that he sees me as competent when working with and managing others. This feels like such an important time for me at this company. It could either make or break my career.

The project involves working with two other people. One person I will be working with is "Karen." She is very active in a church that is part of the religious right. As it is now, Karen and I just pretty much ignore each other. When I first came to work, she and I enjoyed each other until she found out who I love. Then she told me that, in good conscience, she couldn't talk to me or have anything to do with me. Now she pretty much just plays as if I don't exist.

I don't know how I am going to get this project completed with her on the team. We have six months to finalize this project so we will be working together off and on for an extended period of time. She has the power to destroy me by ruining the project or not doing her part to get it completed. Each person on the project was chosen (by my boss) because of special skills they have that are needed to complete the project.

I held our first meeting today to explain the project and our roles in it. Karen basically filed her nails and ignored what I was saying. She wasn't rude or anything, she just ignored me. "Jim" (the other person on my team) didn't know what was going on; he tried to make jokes and bring us together, but it didn't work. He walked away pretty confused. I don't know him all that well so I didn't try to explain anything.

I am out to most everyone in our office, and it has never affected my work before; no one but Karen seems to care. I'm not sure if my boss knows or not, but my guess is that he does.

Jody, what do you think I should do? Should I confront Karen, just ignore her and hope I can get the project done without her, or tell my boss what is going on? Please answer quickly as I need to decide

how to handle this in the next couple weeks.

*Career on the Line*

**A.** I don't agree with you that Karen wasn't being rude to you when she ignored you in a meeting and filed her nails. Start off by sitting down and talking with Karen. Let her know that it doesn't matter whether she approves of you or not, and that this project's success or failure will affect her career as well as Jim's and yours. Let her know that you aren't asking her to be your friend, only to work with you as a colleague on a project that has been assigned by your boss. Find out if she is willing to be a contributing, enthusiastic member of the team. If not, let her know that you will be looking to have her replaced.

If you don't have the ability to replace Karen and she hasn't changed her attitude, talk to your boss.

If you don't have the ability to replace Karen and she hasn't changed her attitude, talk to your boss about what is going on between you and Karen, letting him know the problem you see working with her. Make sure you stay calm, on point, factual and have suggestions as to who might be a good replacement for Karen.

For tips on how to deal with difficult coworkers, go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.

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

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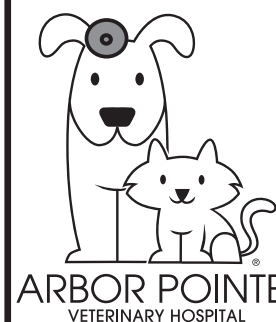
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# BTT Horoscopes

## Work your charm, Leo!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Mercury, Venus and Mars are all lined up in Taurus and trine to Pluto. Folks are digging in their heels, planting roots, not budging. Are you being any less intransigent? Try to meet people where they are and build cooperation by respectfully complementing differences.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** You can't get anywhere by standing firm where you are, but there's something to be said for stopping and taking stock of your experience, your values and your direction. Take a break to discuss all that with your partner or a trusted friend.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** You shouldn't have to defend your ideas, but you may need to clarify them. Mundane tasks and working out can put you in a meditative state where those thoughts come together and find easier expression.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Acting shy and quiet, or hiding out in a retreat, will enhance your sexual charisma. It sounds counterproductive, but you could sublimate that energy into something creatively brilliant – or invite someone to join you in sweet seclusion.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Bring friends and your partner together for some fun. Even a game of cards or a movie could start discussions that will open up great creative insights for you. Secrets may slip out too easily, but even that can lead to helpful perspectives.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Your success depends on the quality of your work and your commitment to it, both of which are clear to see and perhaps subject to debate. Blowing your own horn requires harmony. Don't push or hold back, but work your charm!

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Treat any arguments, or new philosophical or religious ideas, as a game or a creative challenge. Having fun with new ideas will expand your sense of self and stimulate a clearer view of your goals.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** The only way you could be sexier is if you could shake that foreboding sense that your erotic charisma will cost

you somehow. Use that power for good and you'll instantly pay off that imagined debt.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Your intensity, drive and persuasion can come off as strong leadership qualities or control issues. Keep your ego out of the way and focus on the tasks at hand. Insisting that others help pushes them away. Learn from little Bo Peep.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** You have to value your work if you expect others to. Your friends can help boost your confidence. Taking a long view can also help. Getting discouraged and screwing off is a spiral to defeat.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** You are born with a strong sense of propriety much needed now as you enjoy a wild and nasty streak that could channel creative brilliance. Sublimate at work, but let it loose in the right time and place.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** There's no place like home, but you may wonder where the hell "home" really is. Meditate on what you want to accomplish in your life and then reach down to find the roots to nurture that.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Articulating the mad buzzing in your brain might be helpful if you can find the right situation. Keep it among close trusted friends. The key to sorting it out is to focus on the future. What are your hopes for 10 years on?

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




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**Solution to puzzle from page 28**

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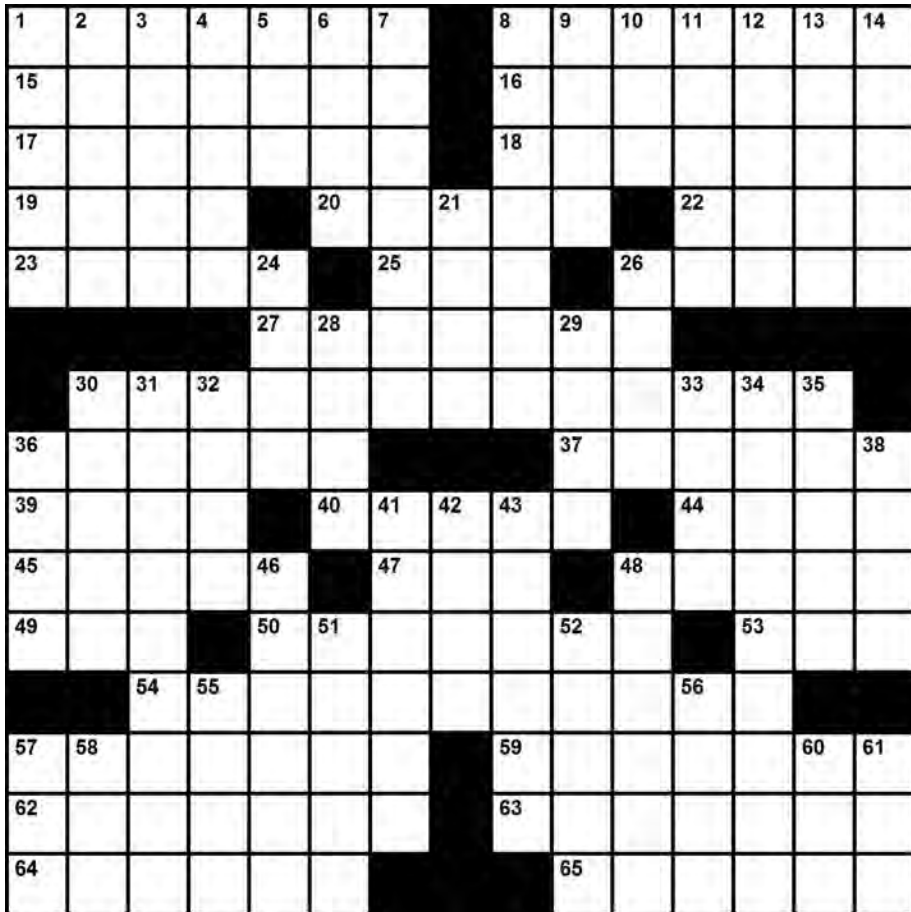
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## Korean Creed

### Across

- 1 NG: Take the essentials of
- 8 Discrimination lawsuit reward
- 15 "South Pacific" setting, broadly
- 16 NG: Subject for civic improvement
- 17 Start of a quote about the deity
- 18 More of the quote
- 19 Guy under Hoover
- 20 They have foamy heads
- 22 NG: Least bit
- 23 Streisand's cross-dressing movie
- 25 NG: Louis XIV, par exemple
- 26 Flamboyant Flynn
- 27 NG: Allowing for future revision
- 30 End of the quote
- 36 Mychal Judge, e.g.
- 37 Took off one's togs

- 39 NG: Stew veggie
- 40 Love-making sounds
- 44 NG: Sheltered on the sea
- 45 NG: Orchestral conductor Zubin
- 47 R. Mapplethorpe supporter
- 48 NG: Wipe away
- 49 NG: Palm Pilot, e.g.
- 50 Bianchi's tools
- 53 Food and wine expert Allen
- 54 Source of the quote
- 57 Vidal's "Season of \_\_\_\_"
- 59 Moon of Uranus
- 62 NG: Be in charge of
- 63 NG: Toy racer
- 64 Having been dumped, e.g.
- 65 Coarse clothing from Barrie's land

- 2 "\_\_\_\_ to bury Caesar ..."
- 3 Hardtop
- 4 Perineum, in slang
- 5 Senatorial seat holders, e.g.
- 6 Life partner
- 7 NG: Like lasagna
- 8 Take off your shorts?
- 9 First mate's pair
- 10 NG: Month in Madrid
- 11 No longer lying with one's partner
- 12 Be attracted to
- 13 Muse for Millay
- 14 George of "It's My Party"
- 21 NG: Years on end
- 24 Woody pile
- 26 NG: Slight advantage
- 28 Honey holders
- 29 Breaks for Heather's mummies
- 30 NG: Hot under the collar
- 31 Tool on a hose that

- blows
- 32 NG: Nitty-gritty
- 33 Enjoy phone sex
- 34 NG: Out of the blue
- 35 They go down south for the winter
- 36 NG: Splendid display
- 38 NG: Title document
- 41 Man in the can
- 42 Will of "The Waltons"
- 43 NG: Ladies' rooms?
- 46 Straddling
- 48 NG: Third-party holding
- 51 Go together
- 52 Will of erect
- 55 Bushy do
- 56 Ill will, or lack of grace
- 57 NG: End of many a web address
- 58 NG: Ab \_\_\_\_ (from the beginning)
- 60 Sonny, to Chaz
- 61 Caesar's arts

### Down

- 1 Intercourse style

Solution on 27

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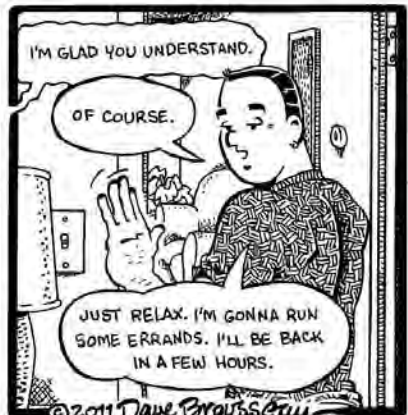
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## RTT Deep Inside Hollywood



Eva Longoria. Photo: New Line Cinema

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Jane Lynch swaps tracksuit for Wimple in 'Stooges'

Jane Lynch knows a thing or two about playing terrifying teachers, what with her Emmy-winning stint as cheerleading taskmaster Sue Sylvester on "Glee." So it's not that big a leap to imagine her putting on a nun's habit and scaring the bejesus out of an orphan or two. Or three, actually, since she's just been cast as a Mother Superior in "The Three Stooges," playing the nun who takes in the titular trio as foundlings. (They're already smacking each other in the head as infants and trying to perfect that eye-gouge move, of course.) Romeo recently reported that Sean Hayes will be playing Larry in the Farrelly Brothers reboot of the vintage slapstick shorts, and Will Sasso of "S#!\*! My Dad Says" has been cast as Curly; there ain't no Moe yet, but there will be soon. The new incarnation of "The Three Stooges" is set to nyuck-nyuck-nyuck its way into theaters next year, so wait for it chowderheads.

### Eva Longoria explores life 'Without Men'

Given her marital troubles of late, one could hardly blame Eva Longoria for wanting to spend some time "Without Men" – and, coincidentally, that happens to be the name of her new movie, a comedy about an unnamed Latin American village and what happens to the local ladies when guerrillas take the men away to fight in a war. With Longoria as mayor, the populace learns how to clean the streets and change the bulbs on the streetlights, and eventually some of the women – Longoria's character included – discover that other women can be even more fun between the sheets than their now-absent husbands. "Without Men" is slated for a July release, and Longoria heads up an impressive cast that also includes Christian Slater, Camryn Manheim, Oscar Nuñez ("The Office"), Maria Conchita Alonso and gay actor Guillermo Diaz ("Cop Out"). You haven't seen this much girl power since the last "Desperate Housewives" catfight. Yes, that show is still on.

### Operation: Get Cynthia Nixon another Emmy

"Sex and the City"'s Cynthia Nixon already snapped up a Guest Star Emmy in 2007 for her appearance as a woman with multiple personalities on NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit," so why not go back to the well for another by appearing on the franchise's cousin, "Criminal Intent?" In the upcoming episode – in keeping with the always hilarious "ripped from the headlines" nature of crime procedural television long since strip-mined of fresh ideas – Nixon will play a loosely-translated version of visionary stage director Julie Taymor, re-named Amanda Reese. The character becomes a murder suspect alongside her musical collaborator "Arno" (see: Bono) after an actor dies on the set of technically complicated stage production not called "Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark." No word on who's playing the Bono-alike, but it should totally be Jimmy Fallon. Coming soon: an episode about a political candidate/real estate mogul/game show host with a bad comb-over accused of murder.

### Channing Tatum returns to stripping

Now that Channing Tatum has wrapped "Haywire" with director Steven Soderbergh, his next project will take him back to his days as a 19-year-old male stripper. No, it's not a remake of the Christopher Atkins-starring '80s male-stripper drama (and unintentional comedy) "One Night In Heaven." This is going to be the Channing Tatum-starring 2012 male-stripper comedy-drama "Magic Mike." How will they differ? For starters, Soderbergh is postponing his threatened retirement to direct the thing and re-team with Tatum, who'll lend an air of autobiographical realness to the project since it's based on his own real-life experiences. It's all underway right now and if the creative team wants a long life and legacy for the film from what is sure to be its ultimate fan base, they'd be wise to A) set it in Las Vegas, B) make sure there's plenty of full-frontal nudity, C) give Gina Gershon lots of great dialogue and D) remember to pronounce it "Ver-SAYCE."

Romeo San Vicente has never had to pay any man to convince him to take off more clothes. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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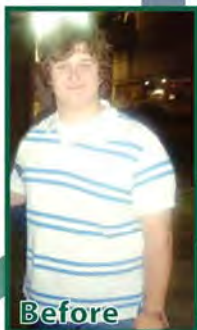
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1225 Woodward Heights @ Hilton In Ferndale  
248-544-4215 • [petesbroadwaycafe.com](http://petesbroadwaycafe.com)

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# MOTOR CITY

# PRIDE



# HART PLAZA

## PRIDE WEEKEND 2011

# JUNE

# 4 & 5



### Parade

Sponsored by Independent Detroit Merchants  
Sunday, June 5, step off at 11:00 a.m.

Griswold Street between Lafayette and  
Jefferson Avenue

Applications can be found at  
[www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)

### Family Picnic

Sponsored by Whole Foods  
Saturday, June 4, Noon to 2:00pm  
Hart Plaza, South side

### Family Area

Sponsored by Comerica Bank

Saturday, June 4, 3:00 7:00pm  
Sunday, June 5, Noon to 6pm  
Lincoln Garden, Hart Plaza

Featuring Dr. Dinosaur  
Face Painting by Mr. Colors  
Puppet Shows  
Arts and Crafts

### Doggie Drag Show

Saturday, June 4 3:00 p.m.  
Pyramid Theater, Hart plaza  
Prizes will be presented in several categories

### The Patio

Sponsored by Three Olives  
Great Lakes Beverage (Budweiser)  
And Red Bull

Saturday, June 4, 3:00 10:00pm  
Sunday, June 5, Noon to 7pm

### Three Stages of Entertainment

Dance area sponsored by The Necto  
Main stage sponsored by Fifth Third Bank  
Saturday, June 4, 3:00 10:00pm  
Sunday, June 5, Noon to 7pm

### Main Stage

Kimberly Cole,  
Kerli Koiv,  
Alexis Jordan,  
God-Des and She,  
Erika Jayne & Chris Willis

### Dance Pavilion

DVJ Mark, DJ Stacy Hotwaxx Hale,  
DJ Irene, DJ Jace, The Perry Twins,  
Dave Audé, DJ G33KDOUT,  
DJ Tom T, John Cruz,  
DJ Hardy, Joe Bermudez,  
Josh Karmin,  
Mike Trombley, CAZWELL



For Festival Information Visit:

[www.MotorCityPride.org](http://www.MotorCityPride.org)

