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# BTL Speak Out

BY ERIC RADER

## GOP not the family values party

Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-NY, resigned last week from Congress after he admitted to sending racy electronic messages to various women who were not his wife. It was probably inevitable in this age of social media that a politician would get caught using online tools to engage in inappropriate sexual communications. While the news media has been consumed with the details of Weiner's online interactions with women, ultimately the congressman is accountable only to his wife and his constituents for this boorish behavior.

As the Weiner scandal broke a few weeks ago, Republicans and many Democrats instantly called for his resignation from Congress, even though he didn't break any laws. Of course, Democrats were concerned about the political implications of this scandal, especially because

they would very much like to take back control of the House of Representatives in the 2012 elections. Republicans have seen this as an opportunity to philosophize about moral values. It seems, however, that many of these GOP legislators are applying a double standard in their treatment of Rep.

Weiner. Just a few years ago, Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana was exposed for his patronage of a prostitution service. Vitter and the Republicans resisted calls for him to step down, and last year, he was reelected to another six-year term in the Senate. Weiner's transgressions were relatively minor when compared with Vitter's, yet he received a far harsher judgment for his actions than the Louisiana senator. Many other members of Congress have been embroiled in similar scandals over the years, yet most have remained in office.

For more than three decades, Republicans have billed themselves as a "family values" party. Since the 112th Congress took office in January, several bills have been introduced that involve social issues about which people have strong opinions. Most prominently, the Republican House attempted to cut off family planning funds to Planned Parenthood because this organization provides abortion services. Now, House Republicans are attempting to delay or stop the full repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. This discriminatory law was revoked last December, but full repeal requires the Pentagon to certify to Congress that the military is ready to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces. While the Defense Department is finalizing the certification process, the House is attempting to insert amendments to defense appropriations bills that would weaken the

effect of the repeal or even stop it altogether. At the same time that the House is trying to stop the repeal of DADT, its leadership is also spending a large amount of taxpayer money to defend the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" in court.

While Republicans self-righteously condemn a Democrat for engaging in immoral behavior, they seem to think it's OK to pursue public policies that would undermine the family lives of millions of LGBTs. The current leaders of the House have a view of morality that focuses on personal decisions when it's convenient, but ignores the public policy choices of elected officials. Many Republicans believe that family values are about whom a person sleeps with in bed, though they're willing to give the benefit of the doubt to their own members.

In fact, we elect public officials to protect the common good and promote the general welfare of all people. By that standard, Republican policies are profoundly immoral. Where's the morality in denying equality to gay soldiers or defending a law that denies equal federal benefits to same-sex couples? Our system is supposed to be based

on fair play, yet for many Republicans, there is a strong disconnect between their professed personal values and their public positions on issues that affect average people. For far too long, Republicans in Washington have gotten away with labeling themselves as the true defenders of family values, while attempting to pass legislation that could hardly be described as pro-family. Morality and values have everything to do with how we treat other people in both our personal and public actions, a standard that many people in Congress fail to meet.

The American people did not put Republicans in charge of Congress so they could hound a man out of office over a personal indiscretion. Our leaders in Washington have an obligation to promote fairness and equality for all Americans, while respecting the personal privacy of all citizens, including members of Congress. We live in very serious times, and the challenges facing our nation are significant. There is no time to waste on silliness and gossip about a person's private life, regardless of that person's political background. It's long past time for our legislators to mind the business of the people, not the private behavior of individual citizens.

Republicans think it's OK to pursue policies that undermine the family lives of millions of LGBTs.

Contact your house member and tell her/him to oppose efforts to defend DOMA or delay the repeal of DADT:

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

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More than 100 residents and concerned Michigan citizens watched on Wednesday night as an ordinance to protect LGBTs from discrimination in Holland was debated. BTL photo: Jeremy Martin.

# Holland votes no on anti-discrimination ordinance

## Ordinance would have protected LGBTs from discrimination in housing, employment

BY JEREMY MARTIN

**HOLLAND**— Last Wednesday night the Holland City Council voted 5-4 against drafting an amendment that would have included the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the city’s code of ordinances. The language would have extended civil rights coverage to Holland’s LGBT community in matters of housing and hiring.

Passing of the amendment would not guarantee legislation, but it would have allowed the city’s attorney and the Holland Human Relations Commission to begin drafting changes to the ordinances, which would then have come back to the council for another vote.

The contentious debate was witnessed by a standing room crowd of more than 100 concerned citizens who filled the tiny council chambers on Michigan’s West side, many of whom wore buttons proclaiming “Holland is ready.” Several more were left in the entryway watching the proceedings on closed circuit television.

The meeting, which included more than two hours of public comment and an emotional council debate, concluded just after midnight with Mayor Kurt Dykstra breaking a 4-4 tie with his ‘no’ vote.

“The discussion of whether to enshrine these protections in the laws of a city of under 35,000 people has placed us, whether we like it or not,

on the front lines of this nation’s culture war. The issue of gay rights, like no other topic, causes battle lines to form,” Dykstra said, reading from a prepared statement.

“Let us be clear,” the Mayor said. “Tonight’s proposal would exceed federal law, it would exceed state law, it would create another protected class under our ordinances. I can think of few things that should be undertaken with greater gravity than the creation of protected classes, for protected classes by their very nature create additional rights for those covered by them.”

Though Dykstra stressed that neither he, nor the council is against the rights of LGBT citizens, he felt it was not the place of the council to create legislation specifically protecting them. That task, he said, should come from a vote by the general populace.

“I am under no illusion that this is the end of the matter, rather I fully expect and I frankly hope that those that have passionately made the case for the expansion of this city’s ordinances will continue those efforts in the broader arena and seek a public vote on the topic,” Dykstra said.

Those on the council voting against drafting an amendment echoed the Mayor’s sentiment, although many of them said they sided “emotionally” with Holland’s LGBT community.

“I truly believe with everything that I have heard, if you want to make this an inclusive city, the best

way to do that is to put it to a vote of the people and have them say ‘Yes, we are embracing exactly what you are saying,’” Myron Trethewey, council member from Holland’s first ward said.

“We can be progressive and the nine of us can say let’s go, write up this ordinance. (But) I don’t think you’re going to get your inclusiveness, you’re going to get something rammed down people’s throats.”

---

“I have the privilege as a pastor in hearing the stories that people trust in me and that it’s not safe for them in Holland. I have to tell you that this is a problem, and that the only reason that you can vote against this is for political expediency.”

—Pastor Gordon Wiersma

Those in favor of the amendment arrived en-masse to the meeting, outnumbering the opposition 33-6 during the public speaking portion.

Many came with prepared speeches. Some read from books, some quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., Albert Einstein or John Winthrop. Others, such as Pastor Gordon Wiersma, attempted to fight back tears while giving heartfelt

testimonials to the council.

“I have a responsibility as a pastor to speak for those who can’t speak ... I have the privilege as a pastor in hearing the stories that people trust in me and that it’s not safe for them in Holland. I have to tell you that this is a problem, and that the only reason that you can vote against this is for political expediency ... You’re not going to vote against this because you’re discriminatory, because you’re

a bad person, because you’re a hateful person, but just because you can say it’s not necessary. But that is totally not true,” Wiersma said, looking at the floor, unable to retain his composure.

Passionate testimonials by Wiersma and others were countered by speeches from citizens whose fear was based in their belief that homosexuality is against the will

of God.

Ralph Houston quoted both the Bible and various studies conducted at “Ivy League schools” in order to show that “individuals are not born homosexuals,” but every person is “born with a sin nature.”

Mr. Houston argued that an amendment to the codes for LGBT persons is unnecessary, because unlike the women’s rights or African American rights movements, homosexuality is a choice that “through therapy can be cured.”

Before his deciding vote, Mayor Dykstra chose to take the middle road while reading from his pre-written statement.

“I do not believe the worst descriptors advanced by either side, namely that approval of such an ordinance precipitates the demise of a once great God-fearing city or that defeat of such an ordinance demonstrates that this city is comprised of bigots and know-nothings,” he said.

After the vote, Dykstra gave his “sincere thanks” to the members of the Holland Human Relations Commission, the volunteer advisory board that purposed this amendment, who had “gone about their task analyzing this difficult issue, honestly and diligently.”

He also thanked those in attendance for their civility and willingness to patiently listen and accept the viewpoints of all who spoke.



# West Mich. Pride bigger than ever

## Attracts more than 7,000 to Riverside Park

BY JIM SULLIVAN

**GRAND RAPIDS**— With a new location, the 23rd annual West Michigan Pride festival attracted more attendees and vendors than ever before.

Last year roughly 6,000 attended, said organizer Linda Stuba. But this year, a preliminary estimate showed about 7,200 guests — and that’s not even the official count. The number of vendors increased from 76 to 105. “It’s quite a jump,” Stuba said.

Last year’s pride went well, but it was in a ballpark and “in the sun, with all that dust, it wasn’t the best place,” Stuba said.

The June 18 festival took place this year at shady Riverside Park.

The only downside of the increase in attendance? People had a hard time finding parking, Stuba said.

Despite that one minor issue, the day focused on a sense of community that goes beyond just LGBTs.

“This is the one day a year we get to see each other again. It’s like homecoming,” said Rob Wiersum, owner of Diversions and Pub 43.

Bank of America, Herman Miller, and Celebration Cinema were just a few of the well-known companies from West Michigan whose participation reiterated

that the celebration involves the whole community.

Members of the year-old Michigan Gay Officers Action League, based in Lansing, had a booth at the event to inform festivalgoers about their mission.

“We want to be a resource between law enforcement and the LGBT community to foster acceptance in our fields, and reach out to the broader LGBT community to build trust and communication,” Michigan Department of Corrections officer James Sims said. “Historically, that has not happened.”

For the full story, go to [kentcountystar.com](http://kentcountystar.com).



The 23rd annual West Michigan Pride in Riverside Park on June 18 saw a huge increase in attendees and vendors. BTL photos: Katherine Thelen. For more photos go to [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com)

# Saugatuck votes against video use in sex ed

## School board votes 5-2 to not show eighth graders video about homosexuality

BY JEREMY MARTIN

**SAUGATUCK**— On Monday night, following two months of deliberation, the seven member Saugatuck school board voted 5-2 against adding a video titled “Coming Out: What Every Teen (Gay or Straight) Needs to Know” to the 2011-2012 eighth grade sexual orientation curriculum.

If approved the video would have been a supplement to the second part of the class, which focuses on sexual harassment and bullying.

The video, which had been viewed by all members of the board and had also been made available to students, parents and community members, was deemed to be inadequate educationally for the part of the curriculum in which it had been proposed.

“After watching the video, it really speaks to what the title of the video is. It’s about coming out and sexuality,” said Jason Myers, a board member. “We kind of got sold on it as being something more about harassment and bullying,

but there really isn’t a lot about that in the video. I want to go on record as saying I’m actually for the video, and I think it should be included in our sexual education part of the class, but not necessarily in the bullying and harassment section.” Myers voted against adding the video.

Board President Mike Van Loon reiterated Myers’ comments that the subject matter of the video is important, but he also did not feel it fit with the lessons currently being taught in the eighth grade class.

“I believe that the video does very little in terms of the harassment and bullying component. It really is geared more towards the coming out aspect of it. We’re trying to address the harassment and bullying situation and there’s very little in the video about that. It does touch on it slightly but it’s not the bulk of the video.”

All board members voting against amending the curriculum spoke to the small audience in the middle school’s media room regarding their desire to include LGBT issues in the curricula; however the lack of a quality educational product

on the topic matter has made it difficult to do so.

“There’s just not a lot out there on this topic,” said Rolfe Timmerman, Saugatuck Schools’ superintendent.

Despite a lack of educational material, the two board members voting yes, including Joan Lamb, believed that adding the video would be a

“We’re trying to address the harassment and bullying situation and there’s very little in the video about that.”

—Saugatuck School Board President  
Mike Van Loon

good first step towards integrating more LGBT-friendly material into middle school sexual education classes.

Lamb, who was in charge of fielding community feedback on the video, said “very few parents or community members expressed opposition” to the video and that an “opt-out clause” would have been available for those parents or students who were uncomfortable with the subject matter.

In the weeks leading up to the vote nearly 100 people called, wrote letters or spoke with Lamb and other board members regarding their feelings on the issue, but no audience members chose to speak during the public comment section of Monday night’s meeting.

As it stands, the sexual education curriculum for Saugatuck Middle School’s eighth grade classes will remain unchanged, but the Saugatuck sexual education advisory committee, along with the school board, may look into making the video available upon request for those students, and community members interested in viewing it.



# Dynamo Di Donato says, 'Not old enough'

John Di Donato honored with lifetime achievement award at Pride Banquet

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

John Di Donato is retired in name only. "I didn't retire to sit and die," said the 66-year-old former teacher who officially retired in 2003. "I retired to have the time to do the things that I wanted to do."

What does he want to do? Make life better for the LGBT community – and he certainly has. Di Donato will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony, which takes place on Thursday at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren.

"He's been behind a lot of organizations and kept them going on beyond. When other people gave up, he never did," friend Mary Wahlman said. "He's very deserving of the recognition."

"He's a human dynamo for gay causes," said John Malafouris, who has known Di Donato for more than 30 years. "He almost single-handedly created the Forum Foundation." The Forum Foundation has given scholarships to LGBT students since 1983. Di Donato has also worked for the Gay/Lesbian Educator's Association of Michigan, the Motor City Business Forum, the Living Well Conferences, the Human Rights Campaign and the Michigan Federation of Teachers. He's organized blanket drives for Higher Ground, teams for AIDS walks and donations for the Ruth Ellis Center.

The award has gotten Di Donato thinking about the achievements he's seen for the LGBT community over the years. As a veteran who was wounded in the Vietnam War, he's thrilled that President Obama signed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" last year. He was also happy to see so many young people at Motor City Pride



"We need to think of ourselves as little ants. Every little grain that we carry is one more that's piled to get the job done."

—John Di Donato

in Hart Plaza earlier this month, especially because as a young person the only gay bars he could go to were in unsafe areas.

"I'm glad we've come as far as we have, but I still think we can't be so comfortable," he said. "We have to keep going."

He'd still like to see marriage equality, same-sex couples getting partner benefits just like straight couples and partner visitation rights in all hospitals.

"Another goal I would love to see is the gay community in Detroit come together," he said. "And that is why I love the Pride Award Banquet so much. It is one of the few times that several organizations within our community come together and help one another instead of compete with one another."

So what does the "human dynamo for gay causes" think about his Lifetime Achievement Award, especially when he shows no signs of stopping?

"When they told me I had this award I thought, I'm not old enough. This is not the end of my life," Di Donato said. "We need to think of ourselves as little ants. Every little grain that we carry is one more that's piled to do the job to get the job done."

*The Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony takes place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, located at 26601 Ryan Road in Warren at 6:30 p.m. The first ceremony was put together by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights in 1986. The planning committee now includes members from many LGBT organizations from southeast Michigan. For tickets, go to [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).*

# Police investigate hate crime

Ferndale home, car vandalized with paint, scratches, 'fag'

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**FERNDALE** – Ferndale Police are investigating a hate crime that occurred around 1 a.m. on June 13.

Ferndale Police Sergeant Patrick Jones said on June 13, two men were in a house on Fielding, west of Woodward, when they heard paint splash. They went outside and saw red paint splashed on the paneling of the house and the word "fag" in yellow spray paint on one victim's car. The words "white fag" were scratched into the door of the other victim's car, which was parked in front of the house.

"We don't generally see these types of situations."

—Ferndale Police Sergeant Patrick Jones

The Oakland County Daily Tribune reported that the two victims were a gay couple, but Jones said that was not confirmed in the report. Jones said the word "fag" caused the department to investigate the incident as a hate crime.

The same victim reported his house vandalized last year, Jones said. He awoke on Aug. 13, 2010 to red paint splashed on his home and feces thrown on his front porch.

Aside from these two incidents, Jones could not point to any other recent anti-gay hate crimes. "It's really not an issue here," he said. "Everybody gets along and we don't generally see these types of situations."

Sara Spurgeon, a victim's advocate at Equality Michigan, talked with the one of the victims. She said that the men do not believe it was a random attack from a member of the public.

Spurgeon and Equality Michigan have also discussed establishing a Neighborhood Watch program in the area and have helped repair some of the damages to the property.

Spurgeon added that she was pleased with Ferndale Police and their response to the incident.

# MDOC allows officer to wear uniform at pride

Same officer previously not allowed to wear uniform at Michigan Pride parade

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The Michigan Department of Corrections reversed its earlier decision and allowed Officer James Sims to wear his uniform while attending the gay pride events on Saturday, June 18 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sims was denied permission to wear his uniform in the Michigan Pride March just a week earlier on June 11. Officials in the department said the decision was not based on the fact it was a gay event, but rather, top officials felt the department's honor guard was better suited to represent the MDOC in the march.

In issuing his determination email allowing Sims to wear his uniform, Deputy Director Dennis Straub wrote: "This event, held in Grand Rapids, differs from the June 11 event Officer Sims requested to participate in. That event included a parade, which is more suited for our Department's Honor Guard. My decision in that instance was irrespective of it being an LGBT event."

Straub continued: "The Michigan Gay

Officers Action League will have a booth at this Saturday's event. The main function is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the law enforcement, public safety, corrections

Officer James Sims was denied permission to wear his uniform in the Michigan Pride March just a week earlier.

and criminal justice professions, including within the Department. MDOC employee R. Cole Bouck will also be in attendance, but in his outside capacity as President of MI-GOAL.

"Consistent with my and the Department's commitment to diversity and other similar decisions this department has made, I am

approving 4.0 hours of administrative leave for RUO Sims to attend this event in uniform."

In an email announcing the decision, MI-GOAL President R. Cole Bouck praised the decision: "Working with MI-GOAL in making good on his reassurance, Deputy Straub today approved Officer Sims to attend a different LGBT event (in uniform) this coming weekend. MI-GOAL will host an information and materials booth at this weekend's West Michigan Pride in Grand Rapids. Officer Sims will be in uniform at our booth, proudly representing Corrections professionals, and those others in law enforcement, public safety and criminal justice!"

Bouck has said in previous interviews that MI-GOAL will request the MDOC honor guard for future Michigan Pride marches.

Sims declined any further comment, noting that he thought Bouck "said it best."

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



## RTM Editorial

### How to stop history from repeating

There's been disappointing news from the west side this week, and it doesn't just affect those who live along the lakeshore – it affects all of us.

Last week in Holland, a measure to protect LGBT citizens from discrimination in housing and employment failed by one vote from the mayor. This measure would have paved the way to creating an ordinance to provide LGBTs with protections that aren't found at the state or national level. It is incredibly important that cities signal to state and federal governments that these kinds of protections are needed. Our state's civil rights law bars housing and employment discrimination for nearly every class imaginable: Race, ethnicity, religion, gender, marital and familial status, even height and weight. But it doesn't mention sexual identity, gender identity or expression.

Earlier this week, Saugatuck schools voted against teaching about homosexuality in its eighth grade sex education class. At the center of the debate was a video that would have been shown to the students about LGBT teens coming out. That video, no doubt, would have helped a lot of confused students who were scared or unsure about their feelings. It also would have informed all students that LGBTs do exist, and that they are no more or less worthy of respect than any other student. The Saugatuck School Board voted down the measure by a not-even-close vote of 5-2.

We could blame these disappointing votes on bigotry, on extremist religious beliefs, on the failure of activists to organize well enough or on the failure of all citizens to inform themselves about the issues. We could try to hash out which one of these failed the most. But really, that's a futile exercise.

Hate comes from fear. Fear comes from what we don't understand. We don't understand what we don't know, what we haven't been exposed to, what is foreign. Our community isn't just misunderstood; it's completely foreign to some people, especially those in conservative areas. But if we truly make up five to ten percent of

the population as studies say, well, then we're everywhere. We don't need to be foreign. We all need to take it upon ourselves to educate the people we know about this community. That it has its quirks, its lingo, its divisions. That at the end of the day, we're a community of people – that being L, G, B, T (or Q or I or A) is just another characteristic that makes us unique, just like the characteristics of gender, religion or race. That all of our unique characteristics should be celebrated – and they must be respected and protected.

#### The failure of Saugatuck to educate means failures like Holland's will happen again.

The most heartbreaking part of these two news stories is that they're connected. The failure of Saugatuck to educate means failures like Holland's will happen again.

It's not as if no one tried: In Holland, the majority of citizens at the City Council meeting spoke in favor of the ordinance. Many were even from the faith community. But clearly, there wasn't enough of a majority to sway the council, and the council wasn't open enough to be swayed. The council had learned too little, too late in their lives. As for Saugatuck, the school board made the video accessible to the public for a month before the vote, so citizens could see what the fuss was about. Then, of course, the board decided that the video didn't focus enough on bullying to be worth showing.

The failure to educate means incidents like these will happen again.

So you should ask yourself: What are YOU doing to educate the friends, family and allies around you? What are YOU doing to educate those who are uncomfortable? What are YOU doing to make life better for this community... and for yourself?



## RTM General Gayety

BY LESLIE ROBINSON

### Let my people kiss

Among the security guards at Target Field in Minneapolis, one stands out for his overriding moral concerns. The fellow is a little tin Moses, and the stadium is his Mount Sinai. With mustard and relish.

Taylor Campione and Kelsi Culpepper encountered him when they decided to take in a Minnesota Twins game on May 27. According to City Pages, the young women arrived a little late to the game, and Culpepper headed for the restroom, first giving her girlfriend a quick peck. A middle-aged security guard immediately walked toward Campione, shaking his head.

"I saw you kissing that girl, you can't do that," he said.

"I can kiss whoever I want to," she retorted, showing quicker reflexes than most infielders.

"Well, we don't play grab ass here," said the guard. If the women shared only a quick kiss as they claim, this man's sense of anatomy leaves something to be desired. He must think catchers squat on their ears.

Campione told Culpepper what had transpired, and Culpepper confronted the guard, saying, "I don't understand what's wrong with kissing my girlfriend." After some arguing, the security guard declared, "Well here in the stadium, we adhere to the Ten Commandments."

That one would've left me speechless. I wouldn't have known whether to laugh, shriek or look around for Charlton Heston.

What I do know is there is no commandment about kissing, same-sex or otherwise. So which commandments was the man talking about? Which ones do they adhere to at Target Field? I suspect these are the Target Ten Commandments:

**1** You shall have no other team but the Twins. Even if they're in the cellar and playing like Muppets.

**2** You shall have no other idols beyond Joe Mauer. You shall not bow down to Alex Rodriguez, Joey Votto or Big Papi, nor clothe yourself in their T-shirts or jerseys.

**3** You shall not swear. At least not out loud. If the Twins hit into five double plays in one game, cursing under your breath is acceptable.

**4** You shall keep the Sabbath day holy by attending a Sunday game and praying like crazy for a win.

**5** You shall honor your father and mother by bringing them to the ballpark. Contact a service representative for more information on

the special "Honor Your Parents, Pay for Their Tickets" package.

**6** You shall not murder. Even if the guy behind you spills his Landshark Lager and soft shell tacos on you during the seventh-inning stretch.

**7** You shall not be gay and commit a display of affection. Try a National League park for that.

**8** You shall not steal. But the team damn well better.

**9** You shall not lie about being old enough to drink. If you attempt to deceive, Twins mascot T.C. Bear will stone you with peanuts and cheese curds.

**10** You shall not covet your neighbor's ass, your wife's ass or anybody's ass, for grab ass is not played at Target Field. However, teammates shall whack the ass of any player who hits a grand slam.

These must be the commandments the security guard was thinking of when he scolded the lesbians. If he had carried two laminated stone tablets in his wallet to whip out on such occasions, things might've gone easier.

Campione and Culpepper are filing a complaint with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. It's unknown whether the guard is filing a complaint with God.

The man has received a verbal and written reprimand for his "unacceptable" behavior, said a Twins spokesman. He's still on the job, so anyone he catches misbehaving at Target Field will be subject to ejection and locusts.

These must be the commandments the security guard was thinking of when he scolded the lesbians. If he had carried two laminated stone tablets in his wallet to whip out on such occasions, things might've gone easier.

# Same-sex marriage ruling upheld

## Gay judge need not recuse himself from presiding over Prop 8 case

BY LISA LEFF

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—A federal judge on June 14 upheld a gay judge's ruling to strike down California's same-sex marriage ban, noting that his fellow jurist could not be presumed to have a personal stake in the case just because he was in a long-term relationship with another man.

In a 19-page ruling, Chief U.S. District Judge James Ware said former Chief Judge Vaughn Walker had no obligation to divulge whether he wanted to marry his own gay partner before he declared last year that voter-approved Proposition 8 was unconstitutional.

Ware called it the first case in which a judge's same-sex relationship had led to calls for disqualification. He said there probably were similar struggles when race and gender were the issues.

The ruling does not settle the legal fight over Proposition 8. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is considering whether Walker properly concluded that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry violates their rights to due process and equal protection.

In his ruling, Ware cited previous cases dealing with women and minority judges in concluding that his predecessor

had acted appropriately.

"The sole fact that a federal judge shares the same circumstances or personal characteristics with other members of the general public, and that the judge could be affected by the outcome of a proceeding in the same way that other members of the general public would be affected, is not a basis for either recusal or disqualification," he wrote.

Lawyers for backers of the ban argued at a hearing on June 13 that Walker should have recused himself or disclosed his relationship because he and his partner stood to personally benefit from the verdict.

Walker publicly revealed after he retired in February that he is in a 10-year relationship with a man. Rumors that he was gay had circulated before and after he presided over the trial in early 2010.

Ware crisply rejected the idea that judges who are members of minority groups have more of a vested interest in the outcome of civil rights cases based on the U.S. Constitution than anyone else.

"We all have an equal stake in a case that challenges the constitutionality of a restriction on a fundamental right," Ware wrote. "The single characteristic that Judge Walker shares with the plaintiffs, albeit one that might not have been

shared with the majority of Californians, gave him no greater interest in a proper decision on the merits than would exist for any other judge or citizen."

**"We all have an equal stake in a case that challenges the constitutionality of a restriction on a fundamental right."**

— U.S. District Judge James Ware

Many legal scholars had not expected Ware to overturn Walker's decision. They said having a judge's impartiality questioned because he is gay is new territory, but efforts to get female judges thrown off gender discrimination cases or Hispanic judges removed from immigration cases have failed.

# Schools have right to form GSAs

## Dept. of Ed says many schools still discriminate against the groups

BY DANA RUDOLPH

Schools receiving federal funds must provide equal access to school resources for all student groups, including gay-straight alliances, said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in a "Dear Colleague" letter to educators on June 14.

That has been true since the passage of the Equal Access Act in 1984, but Duncan's letter was a reminder that many schools still unlawfully discriminate against GSAs.

The department also issued a companion set of legal guidelines reiterating the key provisions of the Equal Access Act and schools' obligations under the Act.

As Duncan explained in the letter, if a public high school allows at least one noncurricular student group to meet on school grounds during "noninstructional" time (lunch, after school, etc.), it may not prevent other noncurricular student groups from doing so, "regardless of the religious, political, philosophical, or other subject matters that the groups address."

Duncan noted that officials do not have to endorse any particular student organization, as long as they give all student groups the same opportunities to form, convene on school grounds, and have access to the same resources.

The Equal Access Act was originally

promoted by conservative religious organizations wanting to protect student Bible study and prayer groups. It was signed into law by President Ronald

**"By encouraging dialogue and providing supportive resources, GSAs can help make schools safe and affirming environments for everyone."**

—Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Reagan and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Westside School District v. Mergens* in 1990, a case involving a Bible study group at a Nebraska high school.

More recently, however, it has helped LGBT students and allies in a number of cases in which they challenged schools over the right to form GSAs. At least ten such cases were brought

between 1999 and 2010, according to Stuart Biegel, a member of the faculty at the UCLA School of Law and UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. And the LGBT students prevailed in just about every case, Biegel observed in his book, *The Right to Be Out*.

New cases keep coming, however. In mid May, students at West Bend High School in Milwaukee sued their school board in federal court, claiming it had illegally denied them the right to form a GSA.

In his letter, Duncan reiterated statistics from a study by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network that found that more than 90 percent of LGBT students in grades 6 through twelve reported being verbally harassed, and almost half reported being physically harassed, during the 2008-2009 school year. High levels of harassment, the study showed, "correlate with poorer educational outcomes, lower future aspirations, frequent school absenteeism and lower grade-point averages."

GSAs can help, wrote Duncan. In a press statement praising Duncan's letter, GLSEN provided supporting evidence. According to GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey, LGBT students

See Dept. of Ed., page 14

# Creep of the Week

## Kim Haynes

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

Remember back in the day when black people couldn't swim in public pools because white people didn't want to catch being black?

Luckily that doesn't happen any more. Well, save a minor incident where 60 black kids were kicked out en masse from the Valley Swim Club in Philadelphia after being told that there were no minorities allowed in the club. There was a fear, as expressed by the club president that the "kids would change the complexion ... and the atmosphere of the club."

But hey, that was a long time ago, way back in 1959. Oops, I mean 2009. But hey, you know how society is. Two steps forward one step back, am I right?

Which brings us to 2011 at The Pavilion in Hazard, Ky. where Kim Haynes, a Pavilion employee, was brave enough to finally speak the truth about gay people swimming in public pools: it's against God. Of course, everybody knows that. Well, good Christians who apparently liberally interpret Bible do at least.

**"Thou shall not swim whilst gay in a public pool in Kentucky" is a little known commandment.**

On June 10 two gay men, described by the Lexington Herald-Leader as having "intellectual and developmental disabilities," were visiting the pool along with a caregiver from Mending Hearts, Inc., a social service group.

Reports vary about what the two men were doing. A Pavilion lifeguard says they were kissing and hugging. Their caregiver says they were only sitting on each other's laps. Haynes says they were "fondling" each other, though not each other's private parts. And so he told them to get lost.

According to Mending Hearts Executive Director Shirlyn Perkins, "They were informed that 'gay people' weren't allowed to swim there."

"This is completely outrageous, The Pavilion is owned by the City of Hazard and paid for by our tax dollars," said Kentucky Equality Federation President Jordan Palmer.

"My clients, whom already feel ridiculed and different, left the city-owned facility crying and embarrassed for trying to participate in 'normal' activities that everyday 'normal' people do," Perkins said.

When their caregiver said that they were being discriminated against, Hayes said, "You need to read the Bible more often, we don't tolerate that down here."

It is, of course, true. "Thou shall not swim whilst gay in a public pool in Kentucky" is a little known commandment, probably because the only place it exists is scribbled in red ink in the margins of Hayes's very own Bible.

Hayes isn't the only class act working for the city of Hazard. In a press release the City Manager apologized "to CNN and to the staff of Anderson Cooper 360" because Charlotte Pearlman, the Pavilion manager, used "language which was disrespectful toward the public, including insulting and obscene language" when an Anderson Cooper 360 staff member contacted her. According to the press release, "In the course of handling the large volume of media requests for comment and the many phone calls and messages from persons who supported or opposed the actions taken (on June 10), she became frustrated and used inappropriate language in the course of a telephone conversation with a staff member of the CNN show Anderson Cooper 360 while declining to comment on the pending story."

Um, no comment? I think the fact that she used "insulting" and "obscene" language kind of speaks for itself.

To the City of Hazard's credit, Hayes has been suspended (though only for 5 days), they plan to post signs at The Pavilion that include "sexual orientation" as part of their non-discrimination policy, and they plan to get their employees some diversity/sensitivity training. Apparently the Pavilion does have an unofficial no grab-assing policy for gays and straights alike, which they now plan to officially post and enforce regardless of whether the grab-assers are gay or straight.

**Tim Pawlenty is another 2012 Republican hopeful who gets ‘glitter bombed’ – in the name of gay rights and women’s reproductive rights. Is this a good tactic?**

That was very entertaining, although not very professional.  
–Kevin Johnson

LOVE IT!  
–Johnny Rheame

What’s the point? It’s funny and frivolous, but is anyone going to take it seriously?  
–Alex Hardesty

The only problem I see is that they aren’t using the glitter that you can’t get off you no matter how hard you try.  
–Joe Posch

It’s a good tactic if you’re trying to make your cause look silly and childish.  
–Jay Topham

Not a good tactic. It might make all of us feel good and chuckle in the short term, but it gives those who hate us ammunition in the long term.  
–Kevin Dennis

*Comments may be edited for grammar and length.*



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

## Schools and politics



**Arne Duncan**

*“I encourage every school district to make sure that its administrators, faculty members, staff, students, and parents are familiar with these principles in order to protect the rights of all students – regardless of religion, political or philosophical views, sexual orientation, or gender identity. I also urge school districts to use the guidelines to develop or improve district policies. In doing so, school officials may find it helpful to explain to the school community that the Equal Access Act requires public schools to afford equal treatment to all non-curricular student organizations, including GSAs and other groups that focus on issues related to LGBT students, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Federal law requires that they afford all student groups the same opportunities to form, to convene on school grounds, and to have access to the same resources available to other student groups.”*

–Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, in a “Dear Colleagues” letter to elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. Duncan stressed that LGBT students are often the target of bullying and verbal harassment, and that after-school clubs can help students cope with the bullying, U.S. News & World Report, usnews.com, June 17.



**Jason Dabrowski**

*“We have to remind everyone that Tracy Morgan has the right to say any sort of dickhead thing he wants, but I also have the right to call him a dick. Tracy Morgan, go fuck yourself. Fuck your apology. Fuck your career, and fuck your high-minded ideas about freedom of speech. I’m tired of reading about dead (gay) kids. I’d rather be reading about unemployed comedians.”*

–Jason Dabrowski, in his blog titled “A Free Speech Reminder: Tracy Morgan, Go Fuck Yourself,” [blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com), June 12. Morgan received national attention for viciously anti-gay remarks during a stand-up act. He has since apologized.



**Roy McDonald**

*“You get to the point where you evolve in your life where everything isn’t black and white, good and bad, and you try to do the right thing. You might not like that. You might be very cynical about that. Well, fuck it, I don’t care what you think. I’m trying to do the right thing. I’m tired of Republican-Democrat politics. They can take the job and shove it.*

*I come from a blue-collar background. I’m trying to do the right thing, and that’s where I’m going with this.”*

–New York State Sen. Roy McDonald, R-Saratoga, snapping at reporters, in a reversal from his earlier opposition to voting for same-sex marriage in New York, [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com), June 15.



**Carl Kruger**

*“The ethical argument against outing closeted public figures is that, basically, it’s ‘none of our business.’ Their private lives are not relevant or newsworthy. But in the case of anti-gay politicians, their private lives seem very relevant. Keeping ‘open secrets’ that ‘everyone knows’ from the public is already a questionable journalistic practice, and now there’s a great deal of evidence that the private lives of politicians have very real effects on public policy.”*

–Alex Pareene, in his column titled “The case for outing closeted politicians – A formerly anti-marriage equality New York legislator switches his vote after his secret life is exposed,” about NY state Senator Carl Kruger, D-Brooklyn, who was recently outed by the FBI which investigated Kruger for bribery, learning he lived with his longtime male partner while pretending his partner’s mother was his girlfriend, [salon.com](http://salon.com), June 14.



## Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### One picture, 1000 words

I was ten when my grandmother took me to see "The Picture of Dorian Gray." It was the only time she ever took me to the movies.

The film, based on Oscar Wilde's most famous tale, played the Mayfair movie house, now Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theater. Admission, 25 cents, adults; 12 cents, kids. (A quarter also bought a Coke and buttered popcorn.)

My grandmother, born in 1880 in Durham County, England, was 15 years old when Wilde's three trials took place. Wilde was goaded by his sometime lover, Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas to take Douglas's father, the notorious John, 9th Marquess of Queensberry, to court on charge of libeling.

Queensberry left a calling card for Wilde at his club, accusing the playwright of "posing as a sodomite." Even with misspelling (sodomite), its intent was to challenge: Wilde, though married, father of two young boys, was a menace to society. (Not only that, gossip this: he fraternized below his social rank with clerks and unemployed roustabouts.)

At the final 1895 trial sentencing, Queensberry, who had hired detectives to track down rent boys – Victorian version of today's hustlers – servicing Wilde (and Bosie) gloated when Wilde got two years at hard labor for gross indecency. Bosie was not tried.

It's since come to light that Queensberry had another son, Viscount Francis Drumlanrig, rumored to have committed suicide – covered up as an accidental hunting death by gun shot wound – because he was having an affair with the Prime Minister of England, Lord Rosebery!

"Gentleman, take your choice," weaseled Queensberry, behind the scene among royalty and peers. "Either Wilde goes to prison or Rosebery gets publicly exposed. Make no mistake. I'm playing by Queensberry below-the-belt boxing rules."

"Well, how did you like the movie, Bobby?" asked my grandmother. "I thought the picture was scary. It seemed like magic when the bad guy stabbed his picture, and it changed back to the handsome guy. He was nice looking," I said very thoughtfully.

My grandmother nodded, smiled, squeezed my hand. To this day I wonder if she didn't suspect that I might be, like Wilde, his alter ego Dorian, well, perhaps just a little bit painted with similar brush strokes? (I was 30 when she died. "Still not married, Bobby? I'm not surprised," she said shortly before passing.)

Although I first read "The Picture of Dorian Gray," a long, long time ago – finding its writing overly florid, languidly chatty, embarrassingly purple prosy at times, I bought a newly published, "annotated, uncensored edition" (Nicholas Frankel, editor; Belknap Harvard, \$35.)

The pictorial version gets as close to Wilde's 1890 unexpurgated original as possible. First published in America as a "Lippincott's Monthly" serial, the British versions were repeatedly censored before publication. Result: several "authentic" versions.

(Following Jack the Ripper's five ghastly White Hall murders in 1888 London, the grotesque picture gets stabbed once by Dorian instead of slashed repeatedly.)

Among the tragic incidents of Wilde's fall from grace – Ireland's brilliant man of letters, art critic, raconteur, writer of children's fables – two among many stand out as memorable to me. The first concerns Alfred Taylor, 33, cross dresser and rent boy "madam."

Taylor, offered sentence leniency, refused to turn Crown's evidence. He too was sentenced to two years of hard labor. (He migrated to America, worked as a Chicago waiter, and, irony of ironies, waited on Lord Alfred Douglas, when piss-elegant Bosie, 50, visited the Windy City in 1920.)

The second, a touching moment ...

As Wilde stood handcuffed, ostracized, a pariah, awaiting to board the train taking him to Reading jail, an unknown man looked Wilde's way, silently doffed his hat, nodding in gentlemanly, and respectful courtesy. Wilde was moved; wrote of it years later in his introspective lament, "De Profundis."

Charles@pridesource.com Have a rainbow day!

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# UN backs LGBT rights for first time ever

## Resolution opposed by some African, Muslim countries

BY FRANK JORDANS

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations endorsed the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender people for the first time ever on June 17, passing a resolution hailed as historic by the U.S. and other backers and decried by some African and Muslim countries.

The declaration was cautiously worded, expressing “grave concern” about abuses because of sexual orientation and commissioning a global report on discrimination against gays.

But activists called it an important shift on an issue that has divided the global body for decades, and they credited the Obama administration's push for gay rights at home and abroad.

“This represents a historic moment to highlight the human rights abuses and violations that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face around the world based solely on who they are and whom they love,” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement.

Following tense negotiations, members of the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council narrowly voted in favor of the declaration put forward by South Africa, with 23 votes in favor and 19 against.

Backers included the U.S., the European Union, Brazil and other Latin American countries. Those against included Russia, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Pakistan. China, Burkina Faso and Zambia abstained, Kyrgyzstan didn't vote and Libya was suspended from the rights body earlier.

The resolution expressed “grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination, in all regions of the world, committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.”

More important, activists said, it also established a formal U.N. process to document human rights abuses against gays, including discriminatory laws and acts of violence. According to Amnesty International, consensual same-sex relations are illegal in 76 countries worldwide,

while harassment and discrimination are common in many more.

“Today's resolution breaks the silence that has been maintained for far too long,” said John Fisher of the gay rights advocacy group ARC International.

The resolution calls for a panel discussion next spring with “constructive, informed and transparent

“This represents a historic moment to highlight the human rights abuses and violations that LGBT people face around the world based solely on who they are and whom they love.”

—U.S. Secretary of State  
Hillary Clinton

dialogue on the issue of discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against” gays, lesbians and transgender people.

The prospect of having their laws scrutinized in this way went too far for many of the council's 47-member states.

“We are seriously concerned at the attempt to introduce to the United Nations some notions that have no legal foundation,” said Zamir Akram, Pakistan's envoy to the U.N. in Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Nigeria claimed the proposal went against

the wishes of most Africans. A diplomat from the northwest African state of Mauritania called the resolution “an attempt to replace the natural rights of a human being with an unnatural right.”

Boris Dittrich of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights program at Human Rights Watch said it was important for the U.S. and Western Europe to persuade South Africa to take the lead on the resolution so that other non-Western countries would be less able to claim the West was imposing its values.

At the same time, he noted that the U.N. has no enforcement mechanism to back up the resolution. “It's up to civil society to name and shame those governments that continue abuses,” Dittrich said.

The Obama administration has been pushing for gay rights both domestically and internationally.

In March, the U.S. issued a nonbinding declaration in favor of gay rights that gained the support of more than 80 countries at the U.N. In addition, Congress recently repealed the ban on gays openly serving in the military, and the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the U.S. law that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

The vote in Geneva came at a momentous time for the gay rights debate in the U.S. Activists across the political spectrum were on edge Friday, June 17 as New York legislators considered a bill that would make the state the sixth – and by far the biggest – to allow same-sex marriage.

Asked what good the U.N. resolution would do for gays and lesbians in countries that opposed the resolution, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary Daniel Baer said it was a signal “that there are many people in the international community who stand with them and who support them, and that change will come.”

“It's a historic method of tyranny to make you feel that you are alone,” he said. “One of the things that this resolution does for people everywhere, particularly LGBT people everywhere, is remind them that they are not alone.”

► Dept. of Ed.

Continued from p. 14

in schools with GSAs heard fewer homophobic remarks, were more likely to report that educators intervened when they heard such remarks, experienced less victimization related to their sexual orientation and gender expression and were less likely to feel unsafe. They also felt a greater sense of connectedness to their school community.

And in a separate study published in the May 2011 issue of *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Mark Hatzenbuehler of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health found a positive social environment, including the presence of GSAs, led to a 20 percent reduction in the risk of attempting suicide for youth. There are more than 4,000 GSAs in the country, according to GLSEN, and nearly 45 percent of LGBT students attend a school that has one. The first GSA was founded in 1988 at Concord Academy in Massachusetts, a collaboration between a straight student and gay teacher Kevin Jennings.

Jennings later became Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools at the Department of Education, a position he held until last week, when he left for the private sector. Among his other accomplishments, he organized the department's first-ever LGBT youth conference, held June 6 and 7, at which the GSA letter and guidance was first announced.

The Department of Education's announcement was not the only piece of federal support for GSAs in the past month. The Department of Adolescent and School Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded the Gay-Straight Alliance Network more than \$285,000 on June 2 to help launch its new Safe & Healthy LGBT Youth Project, which will assist schools and community-based organizations in reaching LGBT youth. The Network is a national youth leadership organization that trains student leaders, supports student-led GSAs, and operates the National Association of GSA Networks, an organization of more than 30 statewide GSA networks.

Duncan's letter noted that the benefit of GSAs extends beyond LGBT students, those perceived as LGBT, and their family and friends. “By encouraging dialogue and providing supportive resources,” he wrote, “these groups can help make schools safe and affirming environments for everyone.”

# Tennessee sued over anti-gay law

## Law prohibits protecting LGBTs from discrimination

BY REX WOCKNER

Gays, LGBT groups and elected officials sued Tennessee in state court June 13 over a new law that prohibits cities, counties and school districts from having laws or policies that protect LGBT people from discrimination.

The law says, “No local government shall by ordinance, resolution, or any other means impose on or make applicable to any person an anti-discrimination practice, standard, definition, or provision that shall deviate from, modify, supplement, add to, change, or vary in any manner from” state law.

The statute targeted a Nashville law that prohibited metropolitan government contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity through their employment practices.

The lawsuit says, “HB600 embodies an animus toward gay and transgender people so strong that the

Tennessee legislature was willing to repeal policies protecting students against bullying and harassment and to make other groups suffer as well, merely to prevent gay and transgender citizens from obtaining needed protections.”

Lead attorney Abby Rubenfeld said: “They passed a law based on disapproval of gay and transgender people, which the Tennessee and U.S. constitutions do not permit. Fifteen years ago, in fact – in a case quite similar to this one – the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that ‘if the constitutional conception of ‘equal protection of the laws’ means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare ... desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest.”

In that ruling, the Supreme Court struck down Colorado's Amendment 2, which barred any laws anywhere in the state that protected gay people from discrimination.

Plaintiffs in the Tennessee lawsuit include Nashville Metro Councilmembers Erik Cole, Erica Gilmore and Mike Jameson; high-school student Shirir Pankowsky (founder of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School's Gay/Straight Alliance); Marisa Richmond, president of the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition; Wesley Roberts, a teacher and GSA co-sponsor at Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet

School; the Tennessee Equality Project; and the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition.

“The state legislation was disguised as an effort to ensure consistent business regulations across Tennessee counties,” said Jameson. “But that was a Trojan-horse pretext for getting this passed. Every county has unique zoning regulations, unique employment regulations, and so forth. Why is it only now, and only on the issue of discrimination, that we suddenly need uniformity?”

The National Center for Lesbian Rights and Morrison & Foerster also are representing plaintiffs in the case.

“Under the very thin guise of protecting businesses and commerce, Tennessee passed a law specifically intended to encourage discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the community,” said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter. “This law is part of a larger, national strategy to attack cities and counties that attempt to protect their citizens from discrimination based on characteristics that bear no relationship to job performance, talent or one's ability to contribute to society.”

The lawsuit says the law violates equal-protection guarantees of the U.S. and Tennessee constitutions.



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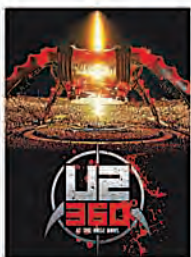


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# 'Glee' star talks queer career, Elton John duet and sex in public

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**M**atthew Morrison doesn't mind being the gayest straight man you know. The 32-year-old actor recently called being a member of a gay boy band in the 2003 film "Marci X" the "gayest thing" he's done in his career.

And that's saying a lot – he's currently starring on "Glee," playing hot choir-club head Mr. Schuester. His part on the musical-comedy hybrid follows years of Broadway work on shows like "Hairspray" and "The Light in the Piazza," which earned him a Tony nomination. Now, after becoming a big deal and an even bigger teacher crush, Morrison ventures out on his own with his recently released solo debut.

We spoke recently with the man behind Mr. Schuester, chatting about some racy photos involving a gay twin and his "chicken," the "Glee" girl he'd date, and the importance of the show's father-son relationship.

## **Because of your musical-theater work and "Glee" role, do people often think you're gay?**

I've been singing and dancing since I've been in fifth grade so I've gotten that quite a bit in my life.

## **Being one of few straight guys in theater, how did you use that to your advantage when it came to the ladies?**

The odds for me were definitely in my favor, being surrounded by beautiful female dancers and being the person that they could actually, you know, be with. (Laughs) So it was a great time in my life. I really took advantage of it for a while in my younger days on Broadway, but aside from all that bullshit, I love being on the gayest show on TV. It doesn't bother me; I wear it as a badge of honor to be accepted and loved in that community.

## **There are several steamy pics of you on the Internet, including ones of you in polka-dot underwear with a plushy little poof on the private.**

Yeah, that's my chicken. (Laughs) It was for a thing called Broadway Bares, a big fundraiser. And if I knew at the time how much flack I would get for those photos I probably would've never done it, but it raised a lot of money that night for AIDS.

## **There's another picture out there of you – or someone that looks like you – getting cozy and smoochy with Anderson Cooper's alleged boyfriend.**

That's not me. It looks very much like me.

## **It does, indeed. Your doppelganger?**

Yeah, I know. Thank you for making out with Anderson Cooper's boyfriend, whomever you are. (Laughs) But his ears are different, and he doesn't have the mole on the side of his face like I do.

## **Do rumors bother you?**

They used to, but it happens so much now that you have to shut it off. I know my own truth, and that's what you have to live with.

## **Which "Glee" girl would you have dated in high school?**

I would've been the Quinn guy. I actually pretty much did date Quinn in high school. I dated the homecoming queen and she was very religious, and I went to church with her all the time.

## **Was your girlfriend in the celibacy club, too?**

Uh, well, we weren't having sex, so yes. (Laughs)

## **Speaking of sex, let's talk about the first single from your new album, "Summer Rain."**

Yes! Sex on a roof.

## **Tell me how the song came about.**

It's a true story – me and my ex-girlfriend, who was actually a Broadway dancer (laughs), on the roof of my apartment. It was a beautiful summer day, and then it just started raining – and the moment just kind of took us and we just, you know.

See Matthew Morrison, page 22

# MATTHEW MORRISON As Gay As He Gets



Photos: Brian Bowen Smith

# Best of 2011 (So Far)



**D**ivas dominated the first half of this year, but the Adele-Britney-Gaga train wasn't the only one rolling through. All three ladies, though, made our mid-year review, a look back at the last six months of Hear Me Out and the eight albums you mustn't miss.

## Adele, '21'

"21" reflects a tumultuous split that left Adele with a broken heart and 11 songs, all done-up by a slick team of Top-40 producers. Wronged-woman balladry is the album's primary pursuit, with numbers like "Take It All," featuring a stunning bridge and choir, and showstopper "Someone Like You," a wrenching, repeat-worthy torch song with enough conviction



penetrating her colossal wail to crush you into itty-bitty pieces. It's the voice of a classic in the making.

## Britney Spears, 'Femme Fatale'

"Femme Fatale," Britney's seventh studio album, is near-perfect pop – hooky, horny and heavy on the bangin' beats. Even if Spears is the finger puppet played by a team responsible for putting on the show – producers, songwriters, even the photographer who took that fittingly flirty cover pic – "Femme Fatale" is Britney's masterwork, boosted by one of those career best-ofs: "Criminal," a flute-flecked song about falling for a bad boy that echoes early Madonna.

## Lykke Li, 'Wounded Rhymes'

"Dance while you can" is the lyrical creed off one of the best cuts, "Love Out of Lust," from the Swedish chanteuse's follow-up to 2008's "Youth Novels." But these aren't foot-shuffling songs. Even if they are electro-retro, they're chilly as ice – achy, wallowing and absolutely mesmerizing. "Unrequited Love" is a girl-group song in slo-mo whose sadness mounts because of her little-girl singing; it's a brilliant bummer.

## Lucinda Williams, 'Blessed'

That husky slur is still one of the Americana legend's finest assets, and it works well when she snarls on "Buttercup" and pipes over a grungy guitar rollick on "Convince Me." She doesn't have to convince us; the songs, from "Don't Know How You're Livin'" to the powerful "Copenhagen," do

so on their own, as Williams sounds wiser, like she's finally ready to look out instead of in. Years of heartbreak will do that to you.

## Matraca Berg, 'The Dreaming Fields'

Blessed with a sterling voice, it's a wonder we haven't heard more from Matraca Berg in the last 14 years. Berg's "Dreaming Fields" is mellow singer-songwriter music for the soul, mirroring legends like Emmylou Harris and Carole King. "A Cold, Rainy Morning in London in June" closes this marvelously moving album on just piano and strings – and if there were any doubts that Berg should be a bigger deal, this is the song to change that.

## Augustana, 'Augustana'


Now unrecognizable as the dreamy piano-pop group – except that they still sing about love woes and new beginnings – this is practically a new formation. "Shot in the Dark" is a bouncy boost of optimism whose positivity is infectious. The rest of the seamless 10-track album is nearly just as solid. So of course they named "Augustana" after themselves – who wouldn't want to be remembered for this one?

## The Decemberists, 'The King is Dead'

The decision to downsize to organic accents and tangible narratives (no crazy forest creatures here) is not only an admirable exercise in music morphing, but one the quintet pulls off with expert panache. Frontman Colin Meloy sweetly sings of lost love on "January Hymn," a nostalgic beauty. All of "The King is Dead" – even at a mere 10 tracks – works in a unison that feels more easy-going than anything they've ever done.

## Lady Gaga, 'Born This Way'

Gaga's message of self-love in the face of adversity isn't just part of the "Born This Way" emancipation proclamation, on which she celebrates all kinds of queers with kitschy ridiculousness that only Mother Monster could pull off. Almost every other club anthem on this very gay gospel of Gaga comes at you like a wrecking ball. "Born This Way" is strong enough for the everyman but made for the monsters. Two paws up.



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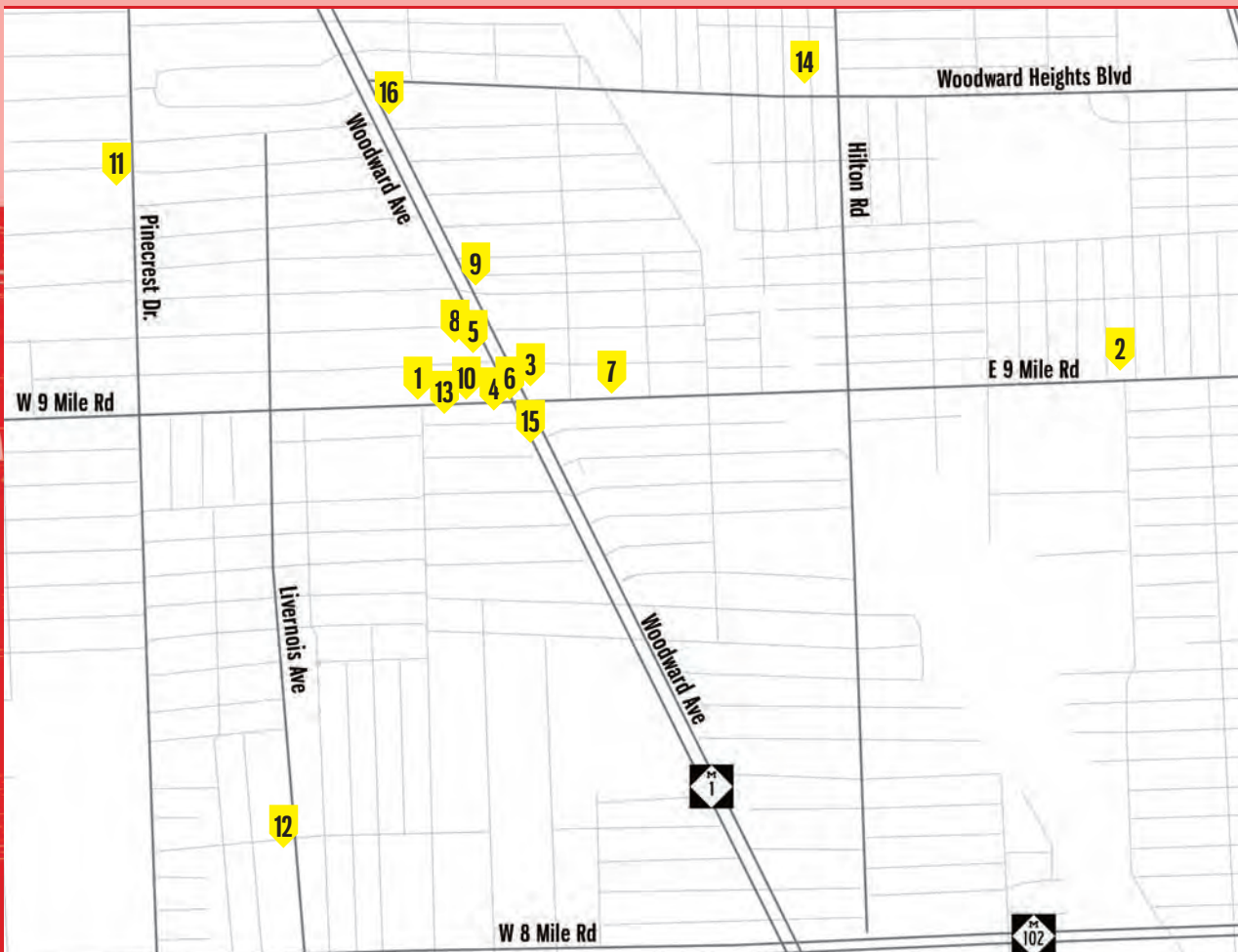
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## ► Matthew Morrison

Continued from p. 17

This was in New York City, where there could be 1,000 people watching you on top of the roof, but we didn't care. A lot of people think that song is just about having sex on a roof, but for me it was being young and in New York and in love. If the 16-year-old version of myself would've known I would've had a moment like that in my life, I would've been very happy. (Laughs)

**I bet. There's a line that references Lover's Lane. What's the last thing you bought from there?**

Bought from Lover's Lane? Is that a store?

**Oh yeah. Lover's Lane is a sex shop.**

(Laughs) Ohh, no! Oh my god. That's crazy. I didn't even know that. I wrote it as, in the '50s you go to lovers' lane, kind of like going to a lookout mountain in your car and making out and stuff.

**Oops. Guess it has two meanings now. (Laughs)**

(Laughs) I guess so! I'm glad I know that little tidbit of knowledge.

**You know, public sex might be trickier for you now.**

Yeah – I still do it. Who cares! (Laughs) No, I can't do anything in public anymore. Honestly, I'm really happy that I – I feel bad for some of the kids on my show. I mean, they're not kids, they're all in their 20s, but I really got to live out my 20s in New York and do whatever I wanted and not be in the public eye, and now I'm such a homebody that I don't really have any problem with that anymore. I feel lucky that I really got to experience my life like that.

**"Glee" has tackled important issues like gay bullying, drinking, teen sex, and so on. Which theme are you most proud of?**

I absolutely love the relationship between Kurt and his father. It's so beautiful and it's something that really needs to be seen. I mean, I don't know how that works being a gay teen – do you have the birds and the bees talk like other people? I thought that was so well handled. Straight guys who watch the show now and do have kids who might be gay, I think they'll be more equipped to handle that.

**Did you know any Kurts in school?**

Oh yeah, for sure. There were a lot of Kurts. I mean, I went to a performing arts high school. I had a college roommate, and I was the first person he came out to. I went to NYU and we lived in this dorm; there were five of us living together and one of them came out to me and just kind of felt comfortable. And I've always been very open and accepting of that because I know how hard that is, and I'm a good listener. To this day, there are a lot of Kurts in my life.

**Some critics were harsh on the second season of "Glee." How do you feel about that?**

I love that season. There are always going to be naysayers out there, but it's hard to follow what we did the first season. I actually thought we were going to be in trouble, but that season was really strong.

**So, is Lea Michele as much a diva as people say?**

No, no. She's very committed to her job and she's a very talented girl, and I think sometimes that gets misconstrued.

**Have you ever been hot for teacher?**

For sure. I can't think of her name, but she was a Spanish teacher. I don't know if it had something to do with the language, but that's kind of hot.

**For the Elton John mash-up, how did you decide on "Rocket Man" and "Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters"?**

I wanted to pay homage to him and do some of his songs. It actually took a while to pick which ones, but I knew I wanted to mash two together. I was thinking "Tiny Dancer." The only one Elton didn't want to do was "Crocodile Rock."

These two just kind of mesh. They don't when you think about it, but it turned out to be this epic seven-minute song. He was just so game for anything and such a pleasure to work with. He's such a student of music, and every Tuesday he buys every new artist who comes out. He knows what he's doing, and it was just cool to be in (the studio) with him.

**"I don't know how that works being a gay teen. I thought that was so well handled. Straight guys who watch the show now and do have kids who might be gay, I think they'll be more equipped to handle that."**

**Why no "Glee"-type raps on the album?**

I try to get far away from "Glee" on this album. Coming from "Glee," I thought it was important that I write a lot of my own material. I didn't want to do just covers, because that would've been very "Glee"-esque, and to be taken seriously as an artist I had to write my own songs.

**Back in the day, you used to be in a boy band called LMNT. Now that you're solo, how does it compare?**

Well, that was just a bad year of my life – and it was in the late '90s, when you couldn't throw a stick and not hit someone in a boy band. It was so manufactured and so cheesy and, as a performer, when you're on stage and you're embarrassed to be up there, you know you're doing the wrong thing. But honestly, that year I was in the boy band, I learned a lot about the recording process, and it really helped me in where I am today – in "Glee" and in doing this solo project. It was a good experience in that sense.

**Now, Jane Lynch –**

Who's she? (Laughs)

**What's she like off-camera?**

She's actually my best friend on the show. I'm the closest to her out of everyone. We just have an amazing relationship. I love her to death. I love her wife. And she's the kindest woman you'll ever meet.

**You wouldn't know based on her "Glee" character, Sue Sylvester.**

Exactly!

**Have her hair jibes caused you personal pain?**

(Laughs) No, not at all. Everyone gets hammered on the show; no one gets away unscathed. I actually made fun of her hair at some point. Lea's nose gets made fun of; Cory (Monteith) gets made fun of because he can't dance. Everyone gets ragged on – it's just part of being on "Glee."



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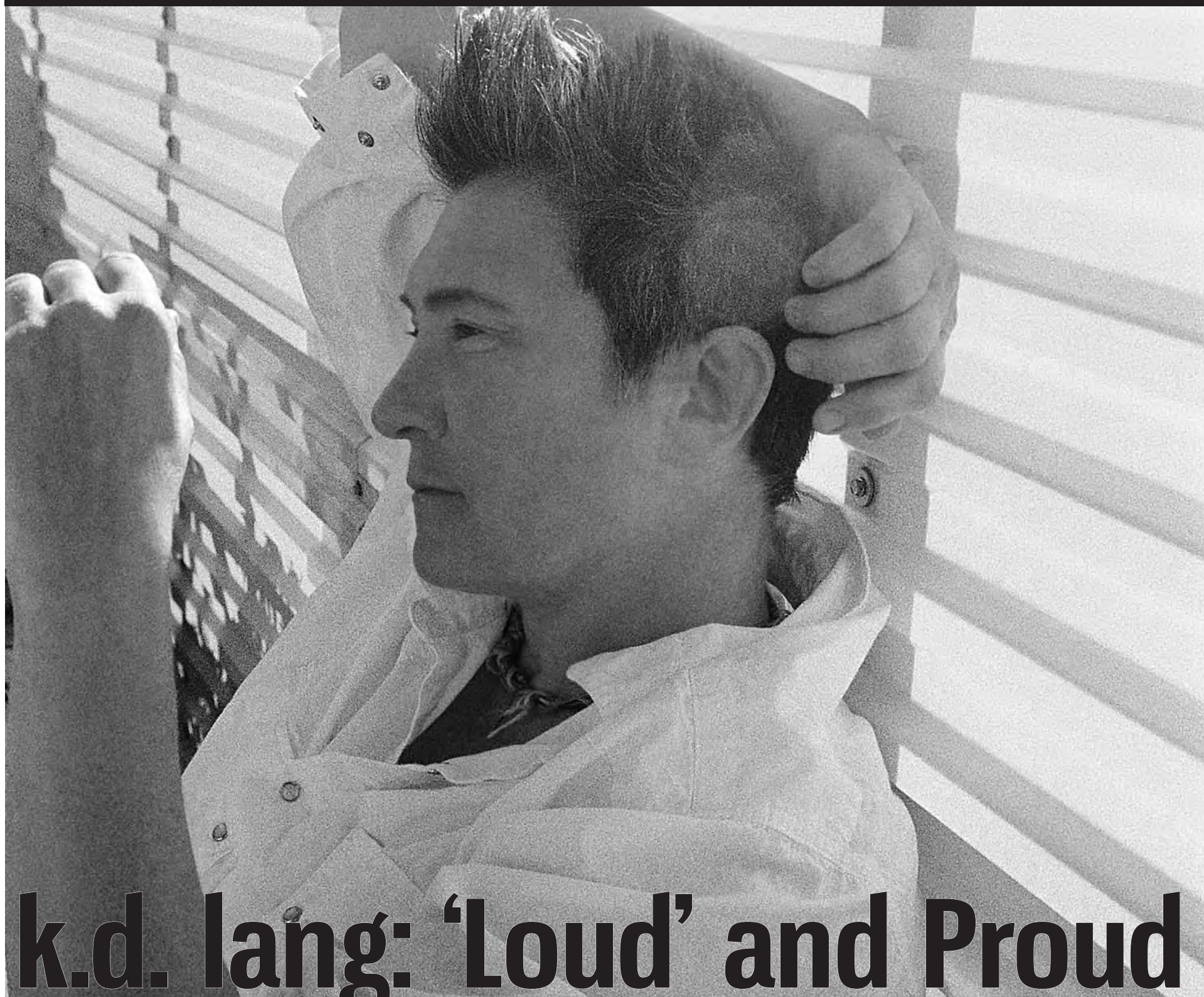
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# k.d. lang: 'Loud' and Proud

Singer talks being butch, out and the first gay country star (before Chely Wright)

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

k.d. lang is manning up, and here's why: Lady Gaga, Katy Perry and all the other sexpots of pop who shoot whipped cream from their chests and ride disco sticks. In our recent interview with lang, a longtime gay activist and singer of the purest form who turns 50 later this year, she told us how her decision to boost her butchness was a rebellious choice.

The look is evident in "I Confess," the lead single from the recently released "Sing it Loud." k.d.'s first record made entirely with a band in over 20 years ago, the new album features her sublime voice in all its glory.

Before performing on July 1 as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, the singer chatted with *Between The Lines* about the album's evolution, how being the first out country star doesn't matter (she doesn't even know who

Chely Wright is), and why she's proud to have been part of "Glee."

**Why did you approach "Sing it Loud" with a fuller sound and, for the first time in a while, a band?**

It just seemed to be the right thing to do. It was just what I was feeling. I was working with Joe (Pisapia), writing songs, and it came time to record them and I just felt like the band was the right way to approach it – very live and spontaneous and kind of rock. We put the band together and it was beyond my wildest dreams what transpired. We recorded eight songs in three days and the love in the room was palpable, and the communication and the magic was just extraordinarily creative.

**There's lots of love on the album. What inspired all of it?**

## k.d. lang & The Siss Boom Bang

8 p.m. July 1  
Hill Auditorium  
825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor  
\$35-\$75  
[www.annarborsummerfestival.org](http://www.annarborsummerfestival.org)

We wanted to write something that was unpretentious and uplifting and made the listener feel good and felt good while we were playing it. It's not really an autobiographical record because it's highly collaborative.

**How will the new songs translate to a live venue?**

I really believe that the energy that we feel for each other and for the music will translate to the

audience – at least I'm hoping, but I'm pretty sure it will.

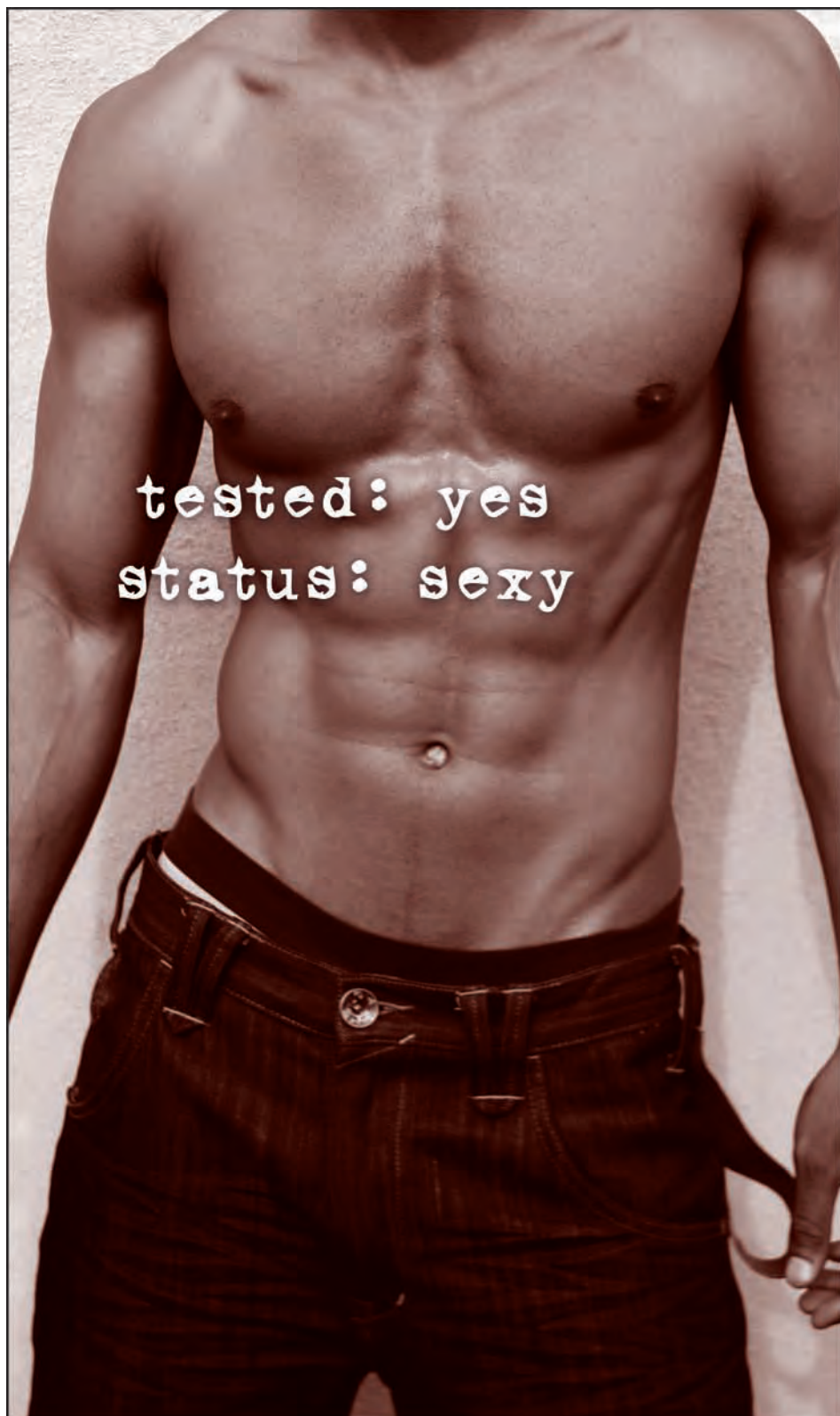
**Explain the line "I'll be your daddy" on "I Confess."**

Well, it's pretty self-explanatory, isn't it? (Laughs)

**Definitely, but how did it come about? Was it your line?**

We were just sitting around and I said to Josh (Grange) and Daniel (Clarke), who I wrote the song with, "I want to write a Roy Orbison song." It just started coming out of us, and I was just kind of riffing on lyrics and fooling around – "I love you madly," and I just went, "I'll be your daddy" – and Josh is like, "Oh my god, that's so cool. You have to keep it."

See k.d lang, page 24



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k.d. lang (front) with The Siss Boom Bang

► k.d. lang

Continued from p. 23

**How do you think that line would've been received had you recorded this song 20 years ago when you first came out of the closet?**

Probably the same as now. I think there's going to always be people who feel uncomfortable with it and there's always going to be people who are titillated by it. You just have to know that's going to be the case for a long time.

**Would you say you're embracing your butchness more than you used to?**

Yeah – this music really asks for it. I also think that the aesthetic nature of today's music, with people like Lady Gaga and Katy Perry – not that it's new, it certainly isn't; I know better than that – being very exaggerated, I thought, I can exaggerate too. (Laughs)

**You mention the aesthetic of performers today, which seems to be more important than vocal talent these days. But you've always been about the voice. What do you make of the way the music business has shifted in the way it sells music?**

It's kind of the direction it's been going. If you're really a historian you can probably go back to television, to video, to multimedia and see how it sort of extracted it from its purist form, which is making music. Now you're on camera every single time you open your mouth. I'm surprised someone isn't video taping this interview for the web. (Laughs)

I actually think it's boring because everything is so overexposed. But it's fine; it is what it is. I'm not going to be one of those people going, "Oh, it's gotta be like it used to be." I think it's relative and it's the evolution of the way things are. In terms of music, there is always going to be a place for someone who can sing and someone who can communicate with an audience. I don't think that will ever be in danger, because that's what separates the cream from the crop. If you can walk on stage and really deliver, yeah – you can't fake that.

**Did you ever feel pressure to conform in your career?**

That would depend on what I wanted to reap from my music. I've always been quite sure that I wanted to have a more artistic career and a career of longevity, so in that respect, no. I've made decisions that have nurtured my art rather than my public awareness or my celebrity. That's been self-determined, so no, I never felt the pressure.

**So do you think people who nurture their**

**celebrity status are less likely to endure than people who don't?**

I don't know. I wouldn't say less likely. You get what you get; it's fate. You either have a huge amount of success at the beginning and then your career kind of dwindles, or you have something kind of consistent like me and it goes for years and years, or you work really hard and nothing happens and then you explode later on in life. I don't really think that one is better than the other.

**If you hadn't come out publicly at 30 and you were still closeted, how do you imagine your life and career now?**

I can't imagine, because I was always out and coming out wasn't really a big deal for me just because I was living out to my family, and in the world, for a long time. But it certainly made things easier. I can't imagine what it would be like, but at the same time it's definitely made my life easier just because it kind of stripped away the question marks in the audience's minds or the business mind – the sort of public understanding of who I was. It took away any pretense or any question. So even though in some circumstances it's more difficult, it's definitely open and honest, so in that respect it makes it so much easier.

**There was this big hoopla when Chely Wright came out last year as the first gay country star, because there was the argument that you beat her to it. How did you feel about all that?**

I don't know who Chely Wright is. But I don't care. I mean, to a whole generation of people who know Chely Wright, they probably don't know who I am, so to them it is the first country star to come out. (Laughs) I don't really care who's the first, who's the last, because before me there were a lot of people that helped get me to a place to feel confident and comfortable with coming out.

**When you look back at the films that you've done in the past, like "Eye of the Beholder" or "Salmonberries," what do you think? Do you watch them?**

No, I don't watch them. (Laughs) I don't watch a lot of movies, and if I were to watch a movie, I certainly wouldn't pick one of mine.

**Last year you lent your voice to a song on a "Glee" soundtrack. Would you ever do the show?**

I don't know. I don't really watch "Glee," but I know it's very popular and very gay friendly, which is great. And Jane Lynch is hilarious. So I guess if they asked me I would consider it, but I'm really happy that I could be a part of something that's supportive and promotes alternative and varying lifestyles.



# Pleasant as a summer night's dream

BY JOHN QUINN

An astute professor once told our class, "One does not go the theater to 'see' Shakespeare. One goes to 'hear' Shakespeare!" I've never seen that demonstrated so ably as in the adventuresome adaptation of "The Tempest" staged by the Blackbird Theatre. The company has ventured out of its black box and is playing at the newly renovated West Park in Ann Arbor. I might say "all the world's a stage," but I'd be quoting the wrong play. Other than set and lighting by the Creator Herself, it's just four actors and some of the most beautiful theater ever written.

"The Tempest" is the last play written by a mature artist, the grand finale of his stellar career. Oddly enough, its plot is probably Shakespeare's most original. It's a fairy tale of mysterious islands and magical shipwrecks, a story of betrayal and retribution, remorse and forgiveness. Plus boy meets girl – boy gets girl. Happy ending, anyone?

REVIEW

## The Tempest

Blackbird Theatre at West Park, Seventh Ave. & Miller Rd., Ann Arbor. Friday-Saturday through June 25. \$15-\$25. 734-332-3848.

[blackbirdtheatre.org](http://blackbirdtheatre.org)

Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, spent too much time mucking around with magic and too little time in governing. His conniving brother, Antonio, staged a coup with the help of Alonzo, King of Naples. Prospero and his three-year-old daughter, Miranda, were set adrift to live or die. The boat washed up on the shore of an uncharted island, where for 12 years they've been the only human inhabitants. Yet they're not alone. Prospero, through his dark arts, has suborned to his will two servants – the zephyr-like Ariel, whom the magician freed from a witch's spell, and Caliban, the cloddish spawn of that self-same witch. By creating the illusion of a mighty storm, Prospero now has in his

power his traitorous brother and the King of Naples, as well as the king's scheming brother and Crown Prince Ferdinand. Along for the ride are two clownish, drunken servants. The newcomers are scattered across the island – "Lost" if you will – and the little groups think they are the sole survivors of a fatal shipwreck. Disoriented and disheartened, they are easy marks for Prospero's justice.

By and large, the Blackbird's adaptation is a success. The editing tucks the play into a two-hour window and emphasizes the main story line. Its weaknesses are of a different sort. If you check a copy of the play, you'll find that there are some 15 speaking roles. When played by only four performers, it's hard to keep straight just who's who. I am also missing some choice confrontations between characters; they'd be difficult when the antagonists are played by the same actor.

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

# By Zeus! Program thy GPS to The Ringwald

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

New play, one-act and staged reading festivals have been springing up all over the place in recent years – beginning in earnest, if memory serves me correctly, with the Heartland Theatre Company's much lauded efforts in the 1990s. Such events offer emerging and established playwrights an opportunity to workshop their latest scripts, while theater executives are given a chance to test a script in front of a live audience with a quick and cheaply produced production. And theatergoers are treated to a wide variety of points of view all in one sitting.

So it's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

This month sees the return of the Gay Play Series at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre – bigger and longer than last year's inaugural effort. Several events are part of the festival, but the heart and soul is its One-Act Festival, featuring nine new plays split into two separate blocks of shows. Audiences are asked to vote for their favorite play, and the winning production will be given a special encore performance Monday, June 27 at 8 p.m. It will also receive a full production at The Ringwald during its 2011-2012 season.

That's a pretty good prize, don't you agree?

Because of the separate blocks of plays, we've split reviewing duties among myself (Block A) and Michael Margolin (Block B); Margolin's review can be found separately.

And now on to a look at the festival's Block A productions!

## Our Little Lezzie

One of the hardest decisions a young gay man or lesbian must make is whether or

REVIEW

## Gay Play Series: Block A

Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Block A performs at 8 p.m. Friday, June 24 and 1 p.m. Sunday, June 26. Block B performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 25 and 5 p.m. Sunday, June 26; the winning production will be given a special encore performance at 8 p.m. Monday, June 27. \$10 per event; \$30 pass. 248-545-5545.

[whowantscaketheatre.com](http://whowantscaketheatre.com)

not – or when – to come out to their parents. It's a frightening process all of us struggle with, and most of us expect the worst. "How will they react," we ask ourselves. "Will they still love me?"

Missy (Zee Bricker) has decided it's finally time to "have the talk" with her parents, Shirley (Samantha Rosentrater) and Arthur (Peter Jacokes). So she invites them to her home, asks them to sit down, and then reveals to them her secret. Their reaction is NOT what she expected.

Without giving too much away, Allison Fradkin's script is a cute twist on the "coming out" story that makes one wonder: Is there such a thing as TOO much support from your parents?

Director Joe Plambeck keeps the pacing brisk, and his actors are quick to breathe life into their characters. (Rosentrater, who recently graduated from Wayne State's Hilberry program with an M.F.A. and a broken ankle, and Jacokes, a familiar comedic face in the improv community, are delightful together.) The result is a funny, farcical start to Block A of the Gay Play Series.

## Reluctant Hero

Matt Heftler's script is another "coming out" story, but ripped from headlines circa 1975. Decorated US Marine and Vietnam veteran Oliver "Billy" Sipple was in the crowd during a visit to San Francisco by then-President Gerald Ford. When Sara Jane Moore raised her arm and pointed a gun at the president, Sipple lunged at her and deflected her aim, just as the she pulled the trigger. Ford was saved, but the bullet hit (but did not kill) a local taxi driver. Sipple, a Detroit native, became a national hero. But he was disowned by his family when his sexual orientation was leaked to the media.

While all of the above is true, Heftler's story imagines the late-night conversation Sipple had with his friend and fellow activist (and later, political leader) Harvey Milk, who was rumored to be the source of the leak. There's not a single wasted line in the script, which digs into two passionate views of outing held by members of the gay rights movement: a person's right to privacy and the movement's need to "break the stereotypes of homosexuals."

Director Leah Smith explores the story's emotional beats with actors Eric Maher as Harvey and Patrick O'Connor Cronin as Billy. It's always a pleasure to watch these fine actors work their magic on stage, and that holds true here. Maher's accent was the first clue he was portraying Milk – there are no last names used in the script – and he maintains it faithfully throughout the performance. And Cronin is fully believable as a man whose life has just crumbled as the result of an action by someone he trusted.

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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- Between the Lines

# RTM Happenings

## Editor's Picks

### Outings



The GLBT Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony, honoring members of the LGBT community who have made significant contributions of time and effort toward a more equal Michigan, celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year.

The evening's awards recognize Michiganders' efforts in activism, media, volunteerism and various other fields. As the event's date is chosen to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York City 42 years ago, tickets for the evening cost \$42. This includes admittance to the evening, dinner and an open bar.

The Pride Banquet begins 6:30 p.m. June 23 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center at 26601 Ryan Road in Warren. Tickets can be purchased at [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org) or through the banquet's Facebook page ("25th Anniversary GLBT Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony").



## Music & More

Singer-songwriter and global pop star Katy Perry returns to metro Detroit on her worldwide "California Dreams Tour," performing tracks from her latest album "Teenage Dream" as well as her greatest hits off "One of the Boys."

Raised by Christian pastors, Perry began her musical career singing gospel, but in no time was dropping pop tracks such as "Ur So Gay" and "I Kissed a Girl." With hits like "California Gurls," "Teenage Dream," and "E.T.," Perry became the first artist in history with at least one of her tracks in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 for a whole year.

Katy Perry performs at 7:30 p.m. June 28 at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Detroit. Tickets (\$48-58) and information are available at [katyperry.com](http://katyperry.com).

## Theater

As part of The New Theatre Project's mission to produce work centered around truthful human stories, TNTP presents a special event titled "The Story" on Friday, June 24. "The Story" casts audience members as storytellers in an event inspired by NPR's "Moth Radio Hour." In what promises to be an evening that indulges the ears, eyes and the soul, TNTP will welcome local musicians Match by Match to play between stories. Local visual artists will also display their work for purchase.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. for gallery viewing; episode 1 of "The Story: Making Home" will begin at 8 pm.

In the spirit of community, sharing experiences and coming together around art, audience members are invited to bring a dish to pass to the performance. TNTP will provide coffee, tea and light refreshments. Tickets are \$10 if you come with a dish and \$15 without (cash or check only).



## OUTINGS

### Wednesday, June 22

**GSA Lobbying Day in Lansing**, 1 p.m. This is a lobbying day hosted by 30 high school LGBT organizations in support of enumeration in Sen. Anderson's Matt Safe School Bill. The Riot Youth will also be doing guerrilla theater before the teens lobby their congresspeople in support. Michigan Democratic LGBT Caucus, 100 N. Capitol, **Lansing**. 734-757-0526. [mdplgbt.com](http://mdplgbt.com)

**Mitten Mavens Silent Auction**, 5 p.m. Free event. Meet and greet with the Mitten Mavens, Lansing's non-profit roller derby league. There will be a silent auction by Capital City Sports Auctions and the Mitten Mavens will be showing roller derby demonstrations outside. Mitten Mavens Lansing Roller Derby, 2800 Preyde Blvd., **Lansing**. [mittenmavens.net](http://mittenmavens.net)

**Caring Caregiver**, 6:30 p.m. A support group for anyone who is caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. This group is open to family, friends, spouses and partners. Everyone is welcome! Alzheimer's Association and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-996-1053. [karen.sarmir@alz.org](http://karen.sarmir@alz.org) [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

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

### Thursday, June 23

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

**25th Annual Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony**, 8 p.m. Community's top volunteers, activists and other leaders recognized for contributions and involvement in Michigan's LGBT movement. Equality Michigan, 26601 Ryan Road, **Warren**. 586-757-8130. [ukrainianculturalcenter.com](http://ukrainianculturalcenter.com)

### Friday, June 24

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. Film: Saving Face. Dutiful daughter Wil sidesteps her mother's attempts to marry her off in Alice Wu's romantic comedy set in New York. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, June 25

**First Annual Tri-City LGBT Pride Festival**, 12 p.m. This is the first pride festival for this area. There is no admittance charge but donations are welcome to help defray cost. There will be bands and speakers, food vendors, children's activities and more. Vendors can contact for vendor booth pricing. Tri-City LGBT Pride Festival, Ezra Rust Drive, **Saginaw**. 1-989-755-2618. [tricitymichiganlgbtpride@yahoo.com](mailto:tricitymichiganlgbtpride@yahoo.com)

**Detroit River Boat Cruise**, 1 p.m. River boat cruise to raise funds for AIDS Walk Detroit. Tickets available at Five 15, Chosen By BC and ZMC Pharmacy. AIDS Walk Detroit, TBA, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-9255. [info@aidswalkdetroit.org](http://info@aidswalkdetroit.org)

**Queer for Books**, 2 p.m. A Book Club for Gay Men. Special guest, author Kathe Koja to discuss the novel Under the Poppy. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. [d.c.hellenberg@gmail.com](mailto:d.c.hellenberg@gmail.com)

**Applause! Applause!** 6:30 p.m. Detroit Together Mens Chorus presents their Concert, Applause! Applause! under the artistic direction of Brian Londrow. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at-the-door. Tickets available from Chorus members, online or via phone. Detroit Together Mens Chorus, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, **Madison Heights**. 248-544-3872. [info@dtmc.org](http://info@dtmc.org) [dtmc.org](http://dtmc.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)

### Sunday, June 26

**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)

**Lezread**, 4 p.m. Ann Arbor's 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)

**HARC 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 Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. [hivaidresource.org](http://hivaidresource.org)

### Monday, June 27

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

**Test for a Taste**, 11 p.m. June 27 is National HIV Test Day. Through a community partnership collaboration, AIDS Partnership Michigan, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA), Uncle Rocks Place and Oakland Primary Health Services will host Test for a Taste, an entertainment-packed HIV awareness party offering live entertainment and a free lunch as an incentive to those who take an HIV test. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 51 North Saginaw St., **Pontiac**, MI. 248-338-2014. [statussexy.com](http://statussexy.com)

### Friday, July 1

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. Film: Kathleen Madigan: Gone Madigan. Kathleen Madigan of "Last Comic Standing" busts her comedy moves in this special filmed at the Gramercy Theater in New York. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, July 2

**Fourth of July Festival**, 1 p.m. Pool party, food booths, games, raffle baskets, music and dancing. Reservations made online or via phone. Windover Womens Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, **Owendale**. 989-375-2586. [windoverwomensresort.com](http://windoverwomensresort.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

### CONCERTS

**Detroit Fox Theatre Eddie Vedder**. Special guest Glen Hansard. Tickets: \$86.50. Detroit Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. June 26. 313-471-6611. [pearljam.com](http://pearljam.com)

**Detroit Fox Theatre** "The Monkees 45th Anniversary Tour" Tickets: \$23-103. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 23. 313-471-3224. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** Steven Curtis Chapman. With special guest Jars of Clay. Tickets: \$39.50-25 pavilion, \$15 lawn. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 26. 248-377-0100. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** Tim McGraw. With special guests Jason Aldean and Halfway To Hazard heat things up for one night as part of their U.S. tour. Tickets: \$32.50 lawn, \$62.50 pavillion. 7774

Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 24. 248-377-0100. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** Motley Crue. With special guest Poison and New York Dolls. Tickets: \$99.50-39.50 pavilion, \$29.50 lawn. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 27. 248-377-0100. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

**Farmington Downtown Development Authority** "Rhythms in Riley Park" Friday night concerts in downtown Farmington. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 10-Aug. 26. 248-473-7276. [downtownfarmington.org](http://downtownfarmington.org)

**Olympia Entertainment** Daryl Hall & John Oates. "Do What You Want, Be What You Are" Tour. Tickets: \$48-\$53 Motor City Casino's Soundboard, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 23. 800-745-3000. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**The Ark** Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones. Tickets: \$22. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 2. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** Livingston Taylor. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 24. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** Boulder Acoustic Society. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 6. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** The Waymores. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 26. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** Stewart Francke. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 30. 313-761-1818. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Palace** "Katy Perry California Dreams World Tour" Tickets: \$48. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. June 28. 248-377-0100. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

### FESTIVALS

**Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival** "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival" Tickets: \$10-35. Advance tickets can be purchased by phone at 248-559-2097 or online. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 10:45 a.m. June 24. 248-559-2097. [greatlakeschambermusic.org](http://greatlakeschambermusic.org)

**Kirk in the Hills, St. Hugo of the Hills, Temple Beth El, and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings** "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival" Music of the Spheres: Songs of the Earth and Sky, the 18th annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival will feature music both earthly and heavenly. Global themes will play a central role with the work of 2011 Stone Composers-in-Residence Chen Yi and Zhou Long. The Festival will close with a chamber transcription of Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde. Takes place June 11-26 in venues around Metro Detroit. Listed online. Various Metro Detroit Venues, Detroit. June 11-June 26. 248-559-2097. [greatlakeschambermusic.org](http://greatlakeschambermusic.org)

**Windover Women's Resort** "Fourth of July Festival" Pool party, food booths, games, raffle baskets, music and dancing. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, **Owendale**. 2 p.m. July 2. 989-375-2586. [windoverwomensresort.com](http://windoverwomensresort.com)

### OTHER

**Planterra** "Summer Workshop Series" A series of informative workshops to inspire the green thumb in everyone. Advance registration is required. Planterra Conservatory, 7315 Drake Road, West Bloomfield Township. June 5-June 28. 248-661-1515. [planterra.com](http://planterra.com)

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

**The Leaven Center** "Spittin' Politics: Poetry, Performance, and Political

Activism" Weekend retreat led by spoken word artist Ami Mattison. Includes writing and performance workshops. Cost: \$200 (meals, lodging included). Scholarships available. The Leaven Center, Lyons. 7 p.m. July 1. 989-855-2606. [leaven.org](http://leaven.org)

**Warren/Conner Development Coalition** "Eastside Farmers Market" Fresh produce, healthy foods, and unique artisan items. Everything locally made and sold directly by the growers and producers. Accepts cash, Bridge Card, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, Project Fresh, credit, and debit. Weekly music and entertainment. Mack Alter Square, 14820 Mack Ave., Detroit. June 11-Oct. 1. 313-571-8200. [facebook.com/eastsidefarmersmarket](http://facebook.com/eastsidefarmersmarket)

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Hairspray** \$25. The Croswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through June 26. 517-264-7469. [croswell.org](http://croswell.org)

**Soccer Moms & Reapers** \$18. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Through June 25. 734-483-7345. [ptdproductions.com](http://ptdproductions.com)

### PROFESSIONAL

**Blood Brothers** \$25-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 25. 269-343-2727. [farmersalleytheatre.com](http://farmersalleytheatre.com)

**Chicago** \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 24-July 17. 269-857-4898. [masonstreetwarehouse.org](http://masonstreetwarehouse.org)

**Children of Eden** Plays in rotating repertory. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 12. 616-395-7890. [hope.edu/hsrt](http://hope.edu/hsrt)

**Comedy Mondays** \$5 for an all-night pass. Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-894-1252. [dogstorytheater.com](http://dogstorytheater.com)

**Consider the Oyster** Previews June 23-24 (\$20-\$30) \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. June 16-Sep. 3. 734-433-7673. [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org)

**Crimes of the Heart** \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 25. 248-347-0003. [tippingpointtheatre.com](http://tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Cymbeline** \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. June 23-26. [dogstorytheater.com](http://dogstorytheater.com)

**Ernie** \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through July 31. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Escanaba in Love** \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through June 26. 269-731-4121. [barntheatre.com](http://barntheatre.com)

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

**Gay Play Series** \$10 per event; \$30 pass. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 17-27. 248-545-5545. [whowantscaketheatre.com](http://whowantscaketheatre.com)

**Hot Dog Mondays** \$5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. [planetant.com](http://planetant.com)

**Looking for the Pony** \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 26. 313-868-1347. [detroitreptheatre.com](http://detroitreptheatre.com)

**Man of La Mancha** \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. June 28-July 10. 269-731-4121. [barntheatre.com](http://barntheatre.com)

**Next Fall** \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 3. 734-663-0681. [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org)

**On Broadway Too: An Irving Berlin Songbook** \$24-\$26. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater.

June 23-July 2. 517-278-6029. [tibbits.org](http://tibbits.org)

**Sandlot Play Festival** \$5. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. June 25-26. 248-347-0003. [tippingpointtheatre.com](http://tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Shrek the Musical** From \$34.50. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. June 21-26. 1-800-745-3000. [broadwaygrandrapids.com](http://broadwaygrandrapids.com)

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** \$7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

**Taking Steps** \$8-\$19. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Plays in rotating repertory. June 24-July 26. 616-395-7890. [hope.edu/hsrt](http://hope.edu/hsrt)

**The All-Star Magic Show** \$15 reserved, \$10 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. June 23. 1-800-745-3000. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

**The Fantasticks** Free; performed outdoors rain or shine. Summer Circle Theatre, behind the MSU Auditorium on the lawn by the Red Cedar, Michigan State University, East Lansing. June 22-25. [summercircle.org](http://summercircle.org)

**The Last Five Years** \$15-\$20; \$49.95-\$59.95 dinner show tickets per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through June 25. 248-348-4448. [andiamonovitheatre.com](http://andiamonovitheatre.com)

**The Story: Making Home** \$10 if you bring a dish to pass, and \$15 without. The New Theatre Project, 220 Felch St., Unit 5, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 24. 734-645-9776. [thenewtheatreproject.org](http://thenewtheatreproject.org)

**The Tempest** \$15-\$25. Blackbird Theatre, West Park, Seventh Ave. & Miller Road, Ann Arbor. Through June 25. 734-332-3848. [blackbirdtheatre.org](http://blackbirdtheatre.org)

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

**Wednesdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

### YOUNG AUDIENCES

**Back When the Animals Talked** \$7. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 15 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 1-9. 517-278-6029. [tibbits.org](http://tibbits.org)

**Charlotte's Web** \$8 adult, \$5 children. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. June 21-July 8. 313-577-2972. [hilberry.com](http://hilberry.com)

**Commedia Project** Fun for the whole family every Friday and Saturday. Performed outdoors rain or shine. Summer Circle Theatre, Behind the MSU Auditorium on the lawn by the Red Cedar, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through June 25. [summercircle.org](http://summercircle.org)

**Hansel and Gretel** \$7. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through June 25. 517-278-6029. [tibbits.org](http://tibbits.org)

**How I Became a Pirate** Plays in repertory. \$10. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Studio Theatre in the DeWitt Center, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 22-Aug. 12. 616-395-7890. [hope.edu/hsrt](http://hope.edu/hsrt)

**Sleeping Beauty** \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through June 25. 313-961-7777. [puppetart.org](http://puppetart.org)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "the PRINT" This exhibition aims to educate the community about the different techniques and styles of printmaking by displaying the works of a variety of talented artists. Ann

Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 9-June 26. 734-994-8004. [annarborartcenter.org](http://annarborartcenter.org)

**Craig Mitchell Smith Glass Gallery** "Glass in the Garden" Display of larger than life glass art in the garden. Admission: \$5. Dow Gardens, Midland MI, 1809 Eastman Ave., Midland. May 22-July 31. 800-362-4874. [dowgardens.org](http://dowgardens.org)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Saarinen House and Garden" rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature's work of art. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 2-Sept. 30. 877-462-7262. [cranbrookart.edu](http://cranbrookart.edu)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "It's A Zoo In Here" Countless creatures of many species fill the galleries in this exhibition of more than 150 prints and drawings drawn entirely from the museum's holdings and designed with fun in mind for everyone. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. April 1-July 24. 313-833-7900. [dia.org](http://dia.org)

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

**Farmington Downtown Development Authority** "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally-produced honey, hand-crafted soaps and emollients, fine art and jewelry, photography and a variety of unique, artisan-made products. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. May 28-Oct. 29. 248-473-7276. [downtownfarmington.org](http://downtownfarmington.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Something Waits Beneath It" Early work by Andrew Wyeth, 1939-1969 is an intimate exhibition of early and seldom seen works by the young Andrew Wyeth, including watercolors of Maine and Pennsylvania made from 1939 through the 1960s. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 1-Aug. 7. 810.234.1695. [flintarts.org](http://flintarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Edmund Lewandowski: Precisionism and Beyond" This is the first retrospective exhibition of Milwaukee-born artist Edmund Lewandowski (1914-98), the preeminent second-generation Precisionist, who achieved recognition for extending the style of Precisionism beyond the East Coast and into the Midwest, making it a national style. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 1-Aug. 7. 810.234.1695. [flintarts.org](http://flintarts.org)

**Henry Ford Museum** "Discovering the Civil War" Tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 youth. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 21-Sep. 5. 313-982-6001. [thehenryford.org](http://thehenryford.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Portrait and Presence" Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre's traditional representation of the subject's visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 1-July 20. 269-349-7775. [kiarts.org](http://kiarts.org)

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

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "The Chinese Scholar's Brush" Works from the Albert and Betty Chang Collection. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 7-Aug. 27. 269-349-7775. [kiarts.org](http://kiarts.org)

**Kresge Art Museum** "Hiraki Sawa: Other Dwellings" Sawa's videos are intimate, sometimes hermetic meditations on place and the wonderfully odd activities that can occur in imaginative dimensions. MSU, Auditorium & Physics Road, East Lansing. April 30-July 21. [artmuseum.msu.edu](http://artmuseum.msu.edu). 517-884-0659

**Kresge Art Museum** "Visualizing Sound" Harry Bertoia's sound-producing, beryllium copper sculpture, Sound Piece, 1978, will interact with a digital visualizer in this performative sculpture experience. MSU, Auditorium & Physics Road, East Lansing. April 30-July 21. [artmuseum.msu.edu](http://artmuseum.msu.edu). 517-884-0659

**MOCAD** "barely there" Group exhibition featuring James Lee Byars, Luis Camnitzer, Jason Dodge, Pable Helguera, Christoph Keller, Lee Loazio, Rivane and Sergio, Neuschwander, Wilfredo Prieto, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Adolf Wolfli. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 27-July 31. 313-832-6622. [mocaddetroit.org](http://mocaddetroit.org)

**The Henry Ford** "Emancipation Proclamation" Two-day event. The Henry Ford displays the original Emancipation Proclamation in the Discovering the Civil War exhibit. Museum remains open extensive hours, available online. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. June 20-June 22. 313-982-6001. [thehenryford.org](http://thehenryford.org)

**The Peacock Room** "A Summer Trunk Show" Get a preview of The Peacock Room before doors officially open later this year in Detroit. At one of Detroit's best independent coffee purveyors, Cafe Con Leche. Light refreshments provided, and specialty drinks are available for purchase. 10% of the sales from this event will be donated to Living Arts of Southwest Detroit. Cafe Con Leche, 4200 W. Vernor, Detroit. 4:30 p.m. June 22.

**The Scarab Club** "Blooms, Bugs, Beasts" Popular annual exhibition at the Scarab Club for many years. The theme of the juried exhibition is flowers, insects, animals, landscapes and seascapes. Scarab Gallery, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 18-June 25. 313-831-1250. [scarabclub.org](http://scarabclub.org)

**The Scarab Club** "Benedictions, Blessing, Bombast" Charles Alexander has been a fixture on the Detroit art scene for decades. In honor of Charles' 75th birthday, the Scarab Club hosts a solo exhibition of his work in the second floor lounge gallery. Scarab Gallery, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 18-June 25. 313-831-1250. [scarabclub.org](http://scarabclub.org)

**The Rust Belt Market** "A Pinch of Spice and More" Rust Belt Market for vintage, design, and art. Woodward Ave. & 9 Mile Road, North West Corner, Ferndale. June 25-Nov. 20. 246-622-1621. [apinchofspiceandmore.com](http://apinchofspiceandmore.com)

**University of Michigan** "Amalia Pica" London-based Argentinian artist's investigations into perception, time, and memory, as well as a desire to explore how particular gestures read in different cultural contexts, pursued across a diverse body of work in sculpture, photography, film, and installation, as well as temporary interventions on buildings, monuments, and objects. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. May 28-Sep. 18. 734-763-4186.

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



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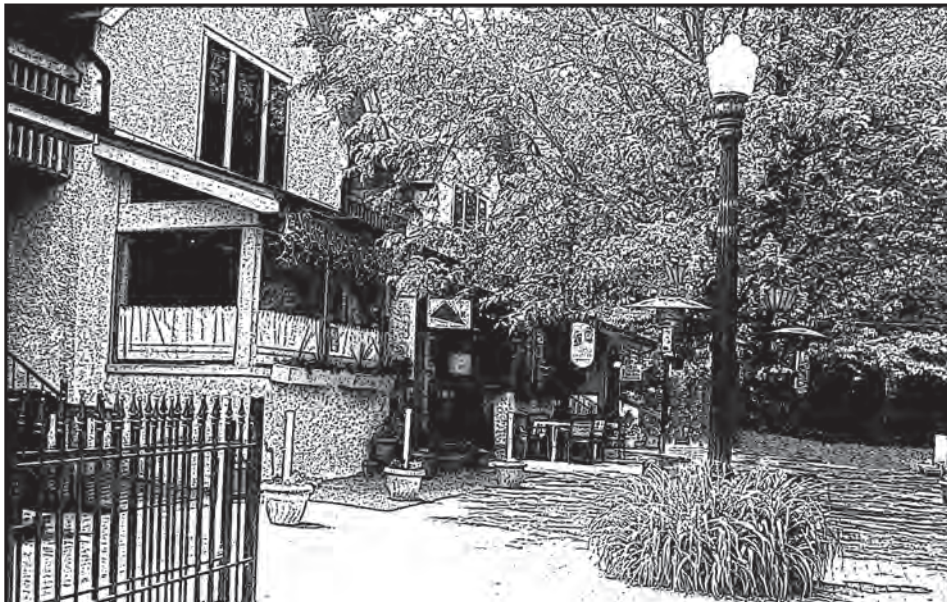
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# BTL

## Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

### All alone

**Q:** Before I get into my problem, first of all let me tell you a little about myself: I'm a 32-year-old woman. I have been teaching second grade for eight years; I am a good teacher and love my job. I was even voted Teacher of the Year at my school last year. I have been in a committed relationship for five years with a woman I'll call "Ellie." Everything is fine in our relationship. Ellie and I get along great, even though we don't have much time together – she works long hours and travels quite a lot. Ellie got a promotion last year so now she is a lot busier with work than she used to be.

Ellie and I bought a house together four years ago; it was a fixer-upper. For a couple of years after we bought our house, we spent almost all our spare time fixing it up, and finally finished last year. Other than just maintaining things, we don't really have anything else we need to do to the house. We don't have a lot of friends, now. We used to have more, but we just don't seem to go out much anymore, and have lost touch with people. We quit socializing when we became so busy with fixing up our house. Now it seems like it is just easier to stay home than to go out.

As you can see, everything is really fine in my life. But despite not having any real problems, I am lonely. I come home after teaching all day and spend my evenings doing things around the house, work on preparation for my next day's classes, and after that I usually I read or watch TV, then go to bed. If Ellie is home I pretty much do the same thing. The next day it's the same thing all over again.

One of the things about teaching is there's little time to socialize with other teachers during the day. All the teachers are so busy with the kids or doing their planning, that we usually don't talk about anything other than what is going on in the classroom. The rest of the day I am with 7 year olds, which is fun but doesn't fulfill my need for adult conversation or socialization.

Because everything is good in my life, I feel guilty about feeling bad about my life. However, thinking about living the rest of my life like this is depressing to me.

Am I just a complainer? Do I not know when life is good?

*Lonely*

**A:** Feelings are just feelings, nothing to feel guilty about. But feelings can be warning calls to us – to change things, do what we need to do in life – if we'll take them seriously. Reading your description of your daily life, I can understand why you feel lonely, as you have little adult interactions during your day. And even when Ellie is home, it doesn't seem like you talk much or do anything together. In addition, you have very little going on in your life, other than your teaching. In five years you have gone from being in a new relationship, buying a house with Ellie, fixing up your house, interacting with friends, having Ellie around every day, to coming home from work, sitting around home, reading and watching TV.

It's important in life to have things we're enjoying on a daily basis, as well as have things to look forward to. I don't see this in your life. (Though you are lucky to love your job, you need something outside your work as well.)

Spend some time thinking about what you want your life to look like. What kind of changes would you like to see happen? Tell Elle what you have shared with me. See how she is feeling about your life together, as well as her own life. Let her know what you would like your time together to be like, and see what she'd like too. After you have a picture of what you want, spend time mapping out what you need to do to get there. It will take time to get your life in a way that pleases you, but with some time and effort, you'll get there.

**Do you feel lonely most of the time? Want to know how to escape the grips of loneliness? Find 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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# BTL Horoscopes

## Be clear, Libra!

BY JACK FERTIG

For the next few months we get a taste of the Uranus-Pluto square that will dominate the next five years. Recent political turmoil has just been the set-up for major crises and changes ahead. Astrologically looks a lot like 1848, 1939 and the sixties. Buckle your seatbelts; it's gonna get bumpy!

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** Be very sure that your career is in line with your real ambitions. Being unhappy on your jobtrack will get you de-railed. Contempt for authority may be well-deserved but think ahead and pick your battles strategically.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** “Bad religion” is a subjective experience. Keep an open mind, but trust your own instincts. Focus on your own personal beliefs; know where you find, clarity, support and reassurance. Respect others on their own paths while finding your own.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** As scary and dystopian as the future looks, you'll find a way to thrive and be helpful. Trust your own instincts and reconsider the most important lessons you learned from your mother. Talking with siblings can clarify that.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Frustrations in love and career are too big to solve by yourself. Fortunately you have some very wise and resourceful friends. As odd as their ideas may seem, the likelier they will help.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** It's too easy to worry yourself sick. Arguments only make it worse. Focus on your career. Working through sexual issues can also be very healing. Quiet time alone will give you space to think clearly about what you need to do.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Sharing your innermost thoughts with some friends will open up new ideas and ideas for creative fun. On the way you may open up some difficult childhood memories. Resolving an ugly past can clear the way for a better future.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Your home and partnership are heading for big changes. Be very generous and comforting in bed. Even if family commitments need to change, be clear on what those are. Focus on your career goals and be adaptive at work.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Obsessing on details and losing sight of the big picture can lead to accidents and misunderstandings. Don't neglect the important details; just keep it all in perspective. Your partner's advice and practical support will prove helpful.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Now's the time to find a job you enjoy. Channeling your sexual charisma into the job search is helpful, but if you already like your work that charisma can go back to what it does best.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Trying to manage your family or community will backfire. Focus on having fun, offering (not pushing!) your partner and friends to join in. If you're looking for love, play at being moody, broody and intense; but remember, you're playing!

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Conversations, especially with siblings or other “sisters,” can open up deep psychological insights. Don't be afraid to ask questions of your family, no matter how odd. Releasing old tensions could have surprising health benefits.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Worrying about the future won't help you in the present. Reality is challenging your values and your plans, but that's life, baby! Adaptability and a sense of humor will help you stay true to your core while everything else goes crazy.

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 30

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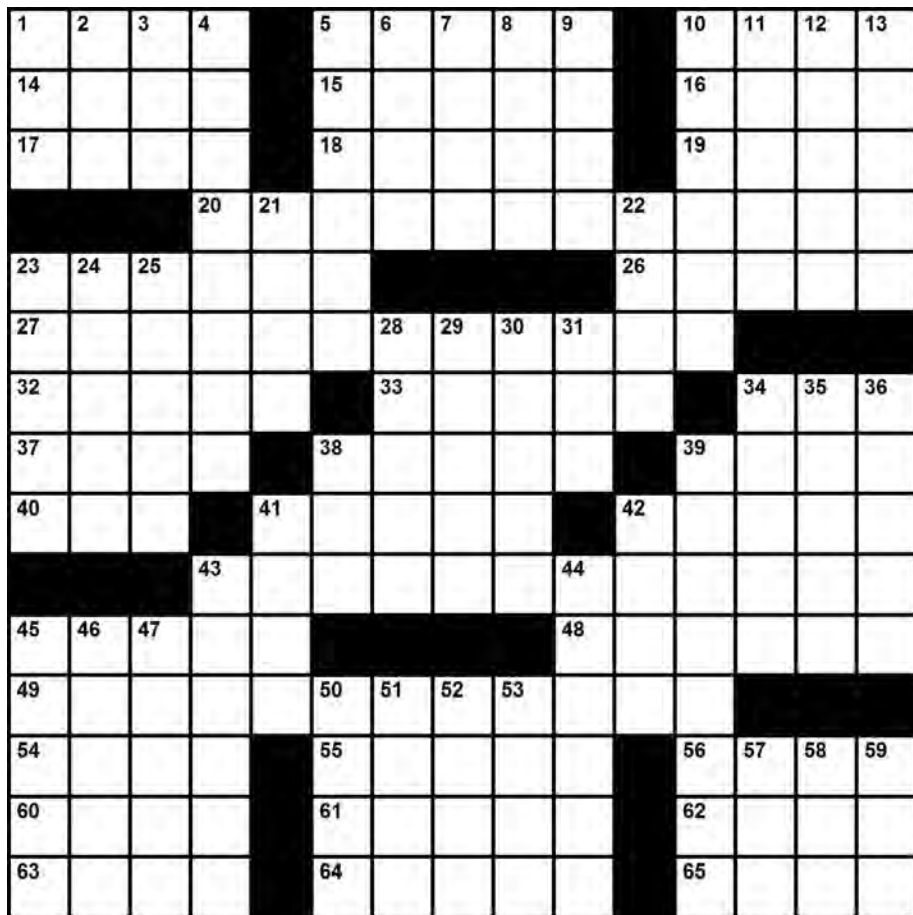
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# Alas, Poor Doric

## Across

- 1 Sally portrayer of "Cabaret"
- 5 Puts the finger on
- 10 Blows away
- 14 Lysol target
- 15 Eat away at
- 16 To \_\_\_ (unanimously)
- 17 Ginsberg's "Gay Adult Coloring \_\_\_"
- 18 Big splash
- 19 "Here it is!"
- 20 Doric Wilson's first play
- 23 Not like the sound of music, traditionally
- 26 Degauss a tape
- 27 Wilson play of 2000
- 32 Fancy parties
- 33 Blow away
- 34 CBS forensic drama
- 37 Date of March madness?
- 38 People not in Caesar's class
- 39 Kellogg's selection
- 40 Hrs. in P-town

- 41 Oyster center
- 42 What Oliver begged for more of
- 43 Wilson play of 1961
- 45 Nationality prefix
- 48 Kushner's "\_\_\_ in America"
- 49 Wilson play of 1980
- 54 \_\_\_ bene
- 55 Not a medalist
- 56 They're performing, in "Fame"
- 60 Cole Porter's Miss
- 61 Painter Frida
- 62 Sexual partners, crudely
- 63 Biblical you
- 64 Test the air
- 65 Able to bend over

- David Leavitt
- 5 Tattooist's tool
- 6 Bishop prefix in a Cather title
- 7 Marilyn Monroe facial feature
- 8 Red rind contents
- 9 Finland's queer rights org.
- 10 "Divine" director John
- 11 Beach near Utah
- 12 Goes in only partway, at the beach
- 13 Catch in a trap
- 21 Slangy refusals
- 22 Stag party?
- 23 Harmon once of "Law & Order"
- 24 Sticky-tongued critters
- 25 One of the little hooters
- 28 Self-contradictory bra size?
- 29 Quick on the uptake
- 30 How a queen acts
- 31 Trig. ratio
- 34 Car class
- 35 Wizard's weapon

- 36 Lesbos and more
- 38 This makes ink pink
- 39 "The L Word" et al.
- 41 Que. or Ont.
- 42 Trait carrier
- 43 Tickle pink
- 44 Cruise in a cruiser
- 45 Otherwise
- 46 Zipper piece
- 47 Shaw of swing
- 50 Civic group
- 51 Come and go
- 52 Queens tennis stadium
- 53 Hit bottom
- 57 Exerciser's unit
- 58 Road top
- 59 Oink pen

## Down

- 1 Soft toss
- 2 Possible commitment ceremony vow
- 3 Park for petting, perhaps
- 4 Novella collection by

Solution on 29

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**Bloomfield Hills-Thursday**

7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

**Detroit-Tuesday / Friday**

8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

**Farmington Hills-Monday**

8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed/Discussion.

**Ferndale-Monday /  
Wednesday / Friday**

11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

**Ferndale-Wednesday**

8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.

**Ferndale-Saturday**

1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

**Livonia-Friday**

8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

**Pontiac-Tuesday /  
Thursday / Sunday**

8 p.m., Pontiac Gay AA, Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 West South Blvd. Closed/Discussion.

**Warren-Monday**

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# The president comes out

The president has come out. No, not the president of the United States. (Though Barack Obama does have a better bod than, say, Newt Gingrich.)

It's the president of the Phoenix Suns. And though this is only an NBA franchise, not the leader of the free world, a tipping point may have been reached.

When Rick Welts revealed last month that he's gay – in an in-depth, insightful story in The New York Times, among other media – reaction was almost glee.

League commissioner David Stern – who knew for years, but never said anything directly to Welts, his former assistant – was strongly supportive. The legendary Bill Russell – a mentor of sorts – told Welts he would do anything to help. There was nary a peep from the NBA; the usual pseudo-“balanced” news coverage, including quotes from an anti-gay player or official, was absent.

According to Outsports.com, Welts' announcement capped “the gayest sports month ever.” Since the beginning of the year, the LGBT sports website has logged over two dozen coming-out stories.

They range from Boston Herald sportswriter Steve Buckley and Olympic skater Johnny Weir (duh), to an English cricketer, a Scottish cyclist, a Swedish professional soccer player, a Dutch racecar driver, and several high school and college athletes and coaches.

This is not a drip-drip-drip of gay athletes. It's an avalanche, covering nearly every sport, level and circumstance.

No gay male athlete, currently competing in a major team sport, has yet come out. But the cumulative effect of this way-gay year is paving the way for that inevitability. And paving always creates a smoother path.

That path has been smoothed too by straight allies like Grant Hill and Jared Dudley. They filmed a public service announcement in support of the “Think Before You Speak” ad campaign, targeting the use of anti-gay language by teenagers. Simply, directly yet quite forcefully, the NBA stars send a message: “That's so gay” is passé.

Hill and Dudley play for the Phoenix Suns. Welts is their boss. It's unclear whether their PSA had anything to do with his sexuality, or if they even knew. (It was taped long before his public announcement.)

But that's immaterial. What matters is that the ad aired during Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals – the most-watched NBA game in cable history. Over 11 million viewers saw a no-nonsense condemnation of homophobia – in a venue that meant something to them.

The tipping point came closer – and the path to acceptance, even celebration, grew smoother – when New York Rangers star Sean Avery recorded his own video. He offered rousing support for the latest New York state campaign to legalize same-sex marriage.

The New York Times called Avery a “fashion-conscious, on-ice agitator.” He has lived in West Hollywood and New York's Chelsea neighborhood. He interned at “Vogue,” and because of his aggressive playing style has been voted the “most hated player” in the National Hockey League.

Yet those contradictions pale in



In this Feb. 9, 2009 photo, Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts kneels in front of US Airways Center near a light rail train wrapped in the All-Star logo in Phoenix. AP Photo: The Arizona Republic, Michael Chow.

comparison to his video's unequivocal message: “I'm a New Yorker for marital equality. I treat everyone the way I expect to be treated, and that applies to marriage.”

Baseball is hopping on the LGBT media bandwagon too. The San Francisco Giants became the first professional sports team to film an “It Gets Better” video, bringing hope to YouTube-watching gay youth while building awareness that anti-gay bullying is not cool.

The Giants had been thinking of making a video – joining thousands of individuals, and companies like Apple and Google in nearby Silicon Valley. When lifelong fan Sean Chapin got 6,000 signatures on an online petition drive in favor of the idea, the reigning World Series champs quickly agreed.

The Giants had been stung a few days earlier when Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell taunted three men in the Giants' stands with homophobic comments and suggestive gestures.

And Welts' announcement came just a few days after Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant called a referee “faggot.” NBA commissioner whacked Bryant with a \$100,000 fine.

So – despite all the positive signs – bumps still litter the gay-acceptance road. Though high school and college athletes are coming out in record numbers, many remain closeted. All the Grant Hill, Jared Dudley and Sean Avery videos in the world may not overpower the words young players hear from Kobe Bryant and Roger McDowell.

On the other hand, they may. Rick Welts is not a household name, but his position – president of a successful NBA team – is powerful. When he joins professional athletes in support of LGBT issues – uniting many sports and many levels of achievement in a common cause – the message is clear.

And it's not “It Gets Better.” It's “It Already Has.”

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the “Jocks” series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).*

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## Deep Inside Hollywood



Naya Rivera. Photo: Fox

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Chloe Sevigny summons her killer instinct

With "Big Love" behind her, Chloe Sevigny seems to be ready to let the bodies pile up. She's been talking about producing and starring in an HBO project about ax-murderer Lizzie Borden – who may or may not have been a lesbian – and now she's set to play a pre-op MTF trans assassin for a new, as-yet-untitled Irish miniseries from some of the people behind the scandalous BBC show "Skins," which was remade for not-at-all-ready-for-it American audiences by MTV. (Sevigny is also rumored to be appearing in one of gay comic Drew Droege's lovingly satirical "Chloe" YouTube videos, but that's another story.) Regarding her transgender hit lady, Sevigny says the producers very intentionally didn't cast a male actor, so she's going to play it feminine and glamorous – and in an Irish accent, to boot – so we totally can't wait for the show to make it to these shores.

### Bryan Singer wants Jaime Winstone to kill

Bryan Singer, as ever, remains as busy as a very gay bee – he's directing "Jack the Giant Killer" starring Nicholas Hoult of "X-Men: First Class" (which Singer produced), and he signed on as an executive producer of the much-anticipated queer documentary "Activist: The Times of Vito Russo," about the groundbreaking author of "The Celluloid Closet." Also on Singer's substantial "to do" list is producing – and here's a title for the Internet generation – "uwantmetokillhim?," about two teen boys who meet online and wind up hatching a murder plot. No word yet on who will play the homicidal adolescents, but the cast will include the glamorous Jaime Winstone, who played an auto worker and would-be model in last year's UK sleeper "Made in Dagenham." Get ready to tweet an invite to your friends to go see "uwantmetokillhim?" when it opens next year.

### Naya Rivera of 'Glee' goes solo

Another fresh week, another wisely-timed, brand-sustaining nugget of "Glee"-related news. The kids are spending the summer touring the nation and their show will be captured for a live 3D concert film due in August, but now news has emerged that Naya Rivera – who's stolen countless scenes this season as the tart-tongued and secretly lesbian Santana, the terror of Lima Heights Adjacent – will be releasing a solo album. Columbia Records is behind her CD, which she'll start taping after the summer tour; the not-yet-titled record makes her the third of "Glee" gang to go solo, following Mark Salling (Puck) and Matthew Morrison's forays into the field. No one's talking about what style of music Rivera will be recording, and given the range of material she's performed on the show – "River Deep, Mountain High," "Landslide," songs from "Rocky Horror" – it's anyone's guess. But if she can bowl over audiences with her singing and her comic abilities, so much the better for her post-"Glee" career.

### Somebody please let Amber Heard 'Drive Angry' again

Patrick Lussier, the director of the not-seen-by-nearly-enough-people "Drive Angry" is currently in the business of doing two things: 1) promoting the DVD/Blu-ray release of that movie and 2) teasing lustful lesbians everywhere with the promise of a sequel, one that should, by rights, be titled "Drive Angry 2: The Angriering." And a sequel would mean more Amber Heard, who may be the sexiest and youngest openly lesbian actress Hollywood has right now. Lussier told MTV news that depending on the home viewing receipts the movie scares up, a sequel to the crazy save-the-baby-from-a-satanic-cult-via-fast-driving action movie could very well shift into gear. He also promises to kill every single character in it if it happens, which would mean no more Amber for part three. But whatever, somebody in Hollywood with money needs to give this shlocky visionary the green light his project deserves.

Romeo San Vicente understands that women are just way more interesting than men. Sorry guys. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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