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Publishers
Susan Horowitz
Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

News Editor
Tara Cavanaugh
taracavanaugh@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor
Chris Azzopardi
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Arts & Theater Editor
Donald V. Calamia,
curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor
Benjamin Jenkins
calendar@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director
David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers
Charles Alexander, D.A. Blackburn,
Michelle E. Brown, Zach Childree, John Corvino,
Jack Fertig, Lisa Keen, Jim Larkin, Anthony Paull,
Andrea Poteet, Crystal Proxmire, Bob Roehr,
Hannah Schwab, Gregg Shapiro, Jody Valley,
D'Anne Witkowski, Rex Wockner, Dan Woog

Cartoonists
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

Contributing Photographers
Andrew Potter
Emily Locklear

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales
Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives
Ed Bohach, ed@pridesource.com
Ann Cox, anncox@pridesource.com
Greg Flood, gregflood@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Business Office
Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com
Nancy Blankenship

Circulation & Distribution
Diane Smith

Pride Source Media Group
11920 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200 • Fax 734.293.7201
www.pridesource.com
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Between Ourselves

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Anika Fassia earned her master's in social work and social policy at the University of Michigan. She's taking part in a two-year fellowship with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to advocate on behalf of vulnerable communities in Michigan.



Systems are made of people. The more people we have involved, the more we can shift that dynamic so that it isn't the "old boy's network" anymore.

1 Tell us about your two-year fellowship at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

We are a legislative advocacy organization, so we provide data on behalf of low-income families and foreign-born residents in Michigan. I also do a lot of work around race equity, and integrating that into policy decisions; I present around the state on the papers that I write and will go and testify at hearings. We need to change the way we talk about racial disparities and talk about it from an equity perspective – to bring light to the structural aspect of racism in our society. I think that's really hard to talk about in policy, especially when the majority of people who represent our state and our nation do not really represent our changing demographics – and by that I mean people who identify as LGBT, people of color, women, young people. The fellowship was supposed to increase diverse young voices in policymaking fields. I feel that because I come from a variety of backgrounds, being a young queer woman who was raised Muslim, I think I do bring a very unique perspective to state politics. I'm hoping to run in the next few years.

2 When you go around and present information about underserved populations, who are you talking to?

I do a lot of work with the Alliance for Immigrant Rights and Reform, Global Detroit, Michigan Forward, Detroit Parent Network, the Michigan Minority Health Coalition and the Ingham County Health Department. We present to a lot of nonprofits that do a lot of direct provider work. Since we're on the policy level, we happen to be disconnected from direct service providers, and direct service providers are disconnected from what's going on at the Capitol. So I think it's really important for us to bridge that gap, to know what's going on with parents and families. In terms of vulnerable communities, we don't do any direct work with the LGBT community; we typically work with the economically disadvantaged and immigrants.

3 It sounds like in your variety of work, you manage to educate others about the LGBT community, even if that's not the focus of the information you're sharing.

I think it's kind of happened by default, because I am queer, so I feel like I have to talk about it. It's something that's often looked over, because it's not always so visibly apparent. It's

obvious that I'm a person of color; it's obvious that I'm a woman. It's not so obvious that I'm Muslim and it's not so obvious that I'm queer. I try to bring that to the forefront.

4 What would you be interested in running for in the next few years?

I want to run for local office. As hokey as it may sound, I believe in the power of community. And I think communities have been systematically stripped of their voice. And by communities, I don't just mean a geographic location, I mean all communities in an area. I believe in the grassroots level and I think it gets more convoluted as you work up the different levels of government. But I do think you can be a really effective representative or senator at the state level. My mentor is Rashida Tlaib; she was the first Muslim-American woman to be elected to the legislature in Michigan. She's incredibly involved and I'm learning a lot from her. If I were ever to be at the state level, I would like to be as involved as she is.

5 You're pretty young – 27 – to be so involved with politics and to have political aspirations. What advice do you have for young people?

I think that being civically engaged is so important. I understand that in under-served communities and socially and economically disadvantaged communities, it can be really hard. It can feel like: why even be involved in a system that doesn't even recognize me as a person? But systems are made of people. The more people we have involved – from diverse backgrounds and with unique perspectives – the more we can shift that dynamic so that it isn't the "old boy's network" anymore. And what I love about my job is that I get paid to be involved in the way that our state is run, that our country is run. I feel like to have an influence, to be able to change that, is so vital for young people, especially with the changing demographics of the country. I think we really need to step up to the plate. Young people should read the news, should attend rallies, should be involved, should know what's happening in their community. Even though it's been a really long fight, one small victory can feel so amazing. You'll feel so connected to your community. There are so many different types of community, and we all at the core want to be involved in something. I think being involved with how policies impact your life is really important.

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

Redistricting means trouble for LGBT community in Michigan

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

LANSING— Gov. Rick Snyder signed a new congressional map into law last Tuesday, and the map has Democrats accusing Republicans of gerrymandering.

Under the new districts, Democrats Sander Levin and Gary Peters, D-12 and D-9 respectively, will compete for the same district.

"It is highly disappointing that Gov. Snyder rubber-stamped the Republican gerrymander of congressional districts for the next 10 years in Michigan," Congressman Levin said in a statement. "I testified against this map in Lansing and I will actively support every feasible effort to challenge the legality of this decision.

"If legal challenges are unsuccessful in overturning this map, I will run for re-election in the proposed 9th District, which contains three-quarters of the district that I now represent."

"It just points out in the end the importance of elections. We have to re-elect our friends, win some of these seats back next year so we can continue to try to make progress."

—Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer

Peters has said he also plans to run for re-election.

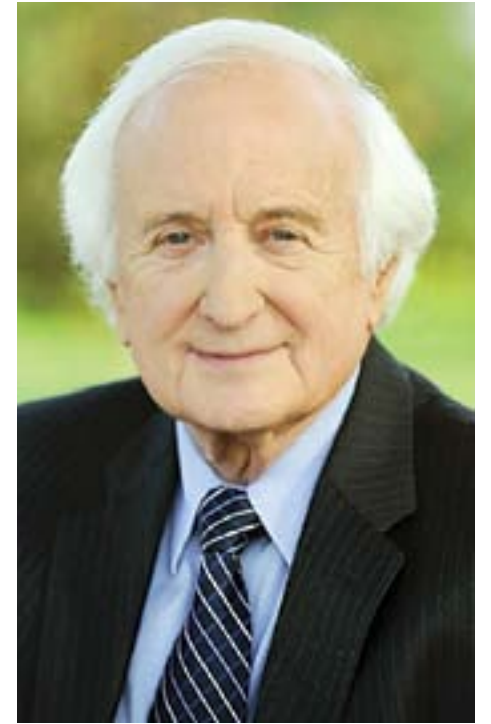
The new plan also redraws the lines of the 14th District so that it meanders in a zigzag pattern from southwest Detroit up to Pontiac.

Michigan loses a House seat next year, due to Michigan's population decrease.

"At our peak, we had 19 seats in Congress. We only have 15 today and next year we are going to drop to 14 because Michigan was the only state in the nation to actually lose population over the last decade," Gov. Rick Snyder said in a statement after signing the new map into law.

The new congressional districts do not bode well for Michigan's LGBT community, said Mark Brewer, chair of the Michigan Democratic Party.

"It really tilts the playing field in favor of Republicans," Brewer said, adding that the Republican Party is "hostile" to the LGBT community. "It's going to make it more



Congressman Sander M. Levin, D-12, wants to challenge the the congressional districts, created by state Republican lawmakers. Under the new districts, Levin will have to run against fellow Democrat Gary Peters, D-9. Levin has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1983. He is currently a ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, which is the chief tax-writing committee in the House.

difficult for friends and supporters of the LGBT community to get elected in the state legislature. Not impossible, but more difficult."

Republicans also created the current congressional map ten years ago, because they held the majority of seats in the state legislature then as well.

"It just points out in the end the importance of elections," Brewer said. "Because Republicans won the elections last year, they get to draw the maps. We have to re-elect our friends, like President Obama, Debbie Stabenow, win some of these seats back next year so we can continue to try to make progress."

A lot of the gay community didn't vote in last year's elections, said Phil Volk, chair of the Michigan Democratic LGBT Caucus. "We have to impress on the LGBT community how important it is to get active politically," Volk said. "We have to get to our people that aren't active, and make them feel like the ballot box is the way to go."

Volk would also like to see the independent voters – which make up roughly 20 percent of Michigan voters – recognize the importance of voting for pro-LGBT-equality candidates. "We've got to explain to the independent voters how little we have," Volk said, "how bad it is for gay people in the schools and in the job places. If they knew how bad it was – most of them have good hearts and they vote."

Grab & Go breaks sushi stereotypes

New café is located in Affirmations Community Center

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE— While lounging in a flexible café chair, watching downtown passersby, sipping a homemade smoothie and nibbling something exotic — perhaps a cream cheese, spinach, bacon and mango roll — it's easy to let one's mind get lost in the blissful paradoxes created by the new Grab & Go Sushi Company, located inside Affirmations Community Center.

Though it may not be what you'd expect to find in a gay community center, owners Joshua Taylor, 23, and Jason Shock, 25, are happy to be in the same building as all of the center's resources. "I'm happy to have a space to work in," Taylor said. "Being able to serve people in a community I'm proud to be part of is a nice thing to wake up to every day."

The athletic-looking young Taylor, who looks even younger than his 25 years, studied under experienced Japanese chefs for six years. "When I was 15, I got a job working as a dishwasher at Nami. On my second day I told them I wanted to be a sushi chef. I worked as an unpaid apprentice for a year under Simon Bennett, who taught me in the classical Japanese tradition. It's a lot like an internship where you work for the honor of being able to learn."

Taylor said people often underestimate his abilities based on assumptions about what a sushi chef should look like. But once customers see the young expert hand roll an order on the counter before them, their doubts diminish.

The other great mind-bender about Grab & Go is the food. Expectations about sushi should be left at the door. "Sushi is not just raw fish," Taylor said. "People always think that." Grab & Go offers vegetarian rolls as well as traditional rolls — some with fish and others without. The menu also features original gourmet creations that will shock and delight the sushi connoisseur. Guests will find rolls with items such as roasted duck, asparagus, goat cheese and spicy mixed greens.

The café offers more than sushi: sandwiches take up nearly a third of the menu. There are also



Grab & Go Sushi Company offers unusual sushi fare, such as this bacon, cream cheese, spinach and mango roll. The new café also offers sandwiches, soups, smoothies and salads. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

"Being able to serve people in a community I'm proud to be part of is a nice thing to wake up to every day."

—Joshua Taylor, co-owner of Grab & Go Sushi Company

salads, smoothies, and homemade soups served in bread bowls.

So why does a place with such a variety of fare call itself "Grab & Go Sushi?"

That's because it began as a catering company that specializes in sushi. Taylor and

Shock also make packaged sushi for local grocery stores. "We approached Affirmations about wanting to rent the kitchen to make rolls for the catering business, and they came up with the idea of doing the café. It's a good opportunity for us both."

Taylor and Shock's creations are also available in Hollywood Markets, Fresh Approach and Ferndale Foods.

The café has partnered with Affirmations in order to generate more support for its Team Affirmations in this year's AIDS Walk Detroit. For each spicy tuna roll purchase, 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to Team Affirmations.

To learn more about Taylor and Shock's catering service, retail products, or their location, check out their website at www.grabandgosushico.com or call 248-825-5338. Grab & Go Sushi is open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Arts, Beats and Eats – oh my!

Annual entertainment festival gets even bigger this year

BY ZACH CHILDREE

ROYAL OAK— The city of Royal Oak is gearing up for its annual Arts, Beats and Eats festival on Labor Day weekend.

"There are so many amazing things happening at the event this year," said Jonathan Witz, producer of the festival. "You didn't think it could go to another level, but you'll see that it does."

The festival boasts 250 entertainment acts this year, up 50 from last year. Among the acts performing on the 11 stages around the city are Poison front man and "Rock of Love" star Bret Michaels, alternative rock band Panic! At The Disco, country singer Vince Gill, George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars as well as '80s rock band Starship and the swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. The festival will also feature local band Devin Scillian & the Arizona Suns and indie favorite Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.

Bringing the "eats" to the festival are nearly 70 restaurants, including Little Tree Sushi, Katana Japanese Steakhouse, Pronto! and Rangoli. The festival will also showcase the culmination of Holiday Market and Mirepoix Cooking School's "The Duel," in which chefs from around Metro Detroit compete in a culinary competition. Similar to the television show "Iron Chef," the chefs will be given a secret ingredient to compose their dishes around. The final rounds will be held Friday, Sept. 2 and Sunday, Sept. 4.

Festival attendees can also help break a world record for the largest Zumba dance and exercise class. A representative from the Guinness Book of World Records will be on hand to verify the record. Event organizers hope to gather more than 1,500 people together for the dance class.

"This is an exciting, high-energy activity to get people moving, have a great time and a chance to make history," said Susan Stokely, a Zumba instructor and co-owner of Vibe Fit. The current record was set in April this year in Brownsfield, Texas, where 1,223 people gathered for a Zumba class.

Also new to this year's festivities is the Citizens Bank Money Booth, where attendees will have a chance to be selected to step inside an 8-foot-tall wind tunnel booth and grab as much cash and prizes as they can before time runs out.

The festival will feature several activities for kids, including a Moonwalk and Kiddie Carnival. The Oakland County Parks Kids Stage, featuring Rosco the Clown, will also make an appearance, as will the Pure Imagination Magic Show and characters from Detroit Public Television.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said he hopes the Arts, Beats and Eats festival will be a good thing for the community in uncertain times. "We need something positive, something that is a fun diversion," Brooks said. "Arts Beats and Eats has always offered that fun diversion. It can't come quick enough."

Check out artsbeatseats.com for a complete list of entertainers and events.

Two Lansing City Council hopefuls earn LGBT endorsements

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

LANSING— Two candidates who are running for Lansing City Council seats have earned endorsements from organizations that support LGBT equality.

Rory Neuner, an at-large candidate for Lansing's 4th Ward, is endorsed by Equality Michigan's Pride Political Action Committee and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Neuner currently manages Transportation for Michigan, a statewide coalition working for safe and affordable transportation.

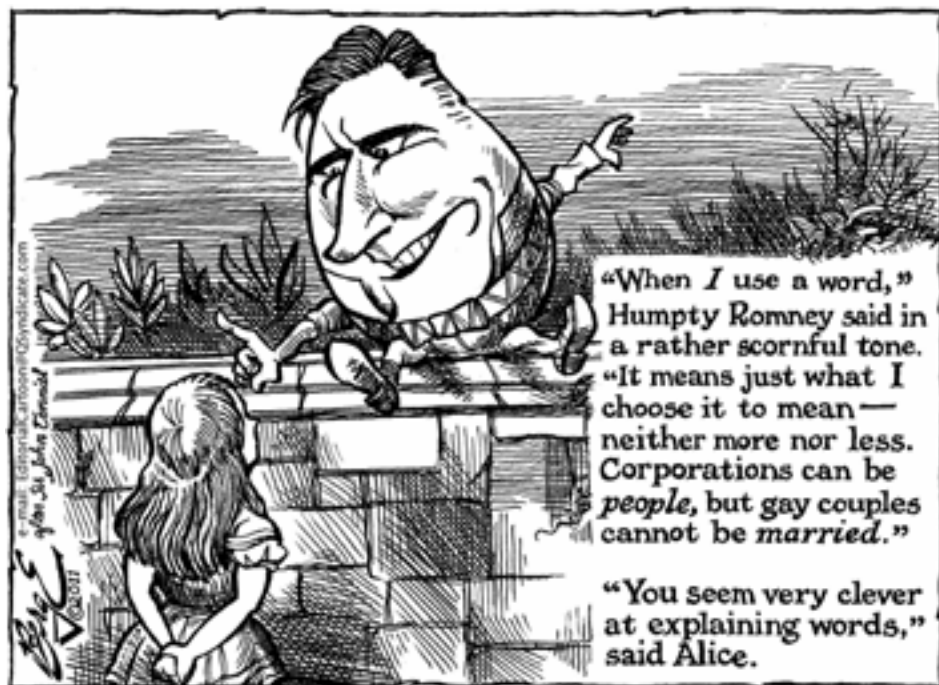
Lynne Martinez, who is running for the First Ward seat, is also endorsed by Equality

Michigan's Pride PAC. Martinez is a former state representative and Ingham County commissioner.

"Candidates Rory Neuner and Lynne Martinez have proven to be dedicated leaders in Michigan's capitol," Equality Michigan said in a statement. "Their reasoned approaches and ability to work constructively toward quality policy in otherwise tenuous political spheres is a testament to their ability to consider the long-term impact of policy changes in their community. The Equality Michigan Pride PAC appreciates Martinez's tested record of public service and looks forward to witnessing the fruits of newcomer Neuner's informed investment in Lansing."



Photo of Rory Neuner provided courtesy of her website, www.roryneuner.com.



RTI Editorial

Put your voting cap on

It may sound silly to be encouraging our community to vote right now, when the next major national election is more than a year away. But now is the perfect time to remind all of us that we must get to the polls.

Last week, Gov. Rick Snyder signed a new redistricting plan into law. What does this mean? It means that Republicans, who have the majority in the state legislature, were able to draw the map that dictates how people choose their representatives in the U.S. House. The GOP used its power to make sure that two popular Democrats will have to compete for the same district next time they run. The GOP also turned the 14th District into a strange zig-zag from southwest Detroit up to Pontiac, which makes no geographical sense but helps the GOP politically.

So why should we care about redistricting? Because this means that Republicans have a more convenient map, drawn to benefit their party, for the next ten years. Often, when we decide to go to elections or sit them out, we think of the immediate effects of voting – of not knowing much about the candidates, of hating to waste time waiting to vote on that particular day. But we don't think much of the long-term effects. One effect of the LGBT community sitting out last year's elections is that it's now more difficult for us to elect pro-equality candidates – and it will be for the next decade. That's a long time.

What is especially frustrating about the new districts is that Republicans were also able to draw the last district map ten years ago, when they also had the majority in the state legislature. This means that Republicans were able to redraw the districts that they crafted to their advantage in the first place.

We know it's not popular to be political. We also know it's not easy. Trying to read news stories about politics can be like reading sports stories; if you know little about the team or the sport, it's hard to follow along. But there's too much at stake for our community to not care about politics. We can be fired or denied a place to live just because we're LGBT. We can't get married, and if we choose to adopt, our children are allowed only one legal parent. Michigan won't even recognize our marriage if it was performed legally in another state.

We know it's not popular to be political. We also know it's not easy. But there's too much at stake for our community to not care about politics.

We have to wake up and be responsible in choosing the right leaders who will fight for our rights. This means voting – and not just in the national elections, but in our state and local elections too. The more Democrats we have on our city councils and in our state legislature, the better off we will be. Every little bit helps.

It's so easy to vote: take an hour out of your day to pencil in a few circles or boxes. The effect will be felt for years to come.



RTI General Gayety

BY LESLIE ROBINSON

Same gender means some problems

You might enter into a same-sex relationship thinking you know all the troubles that lie ahead. Discrimination, rejection by family and friends, spending eternity in hell – none of that is news.

But I'll bet you never considered the bundle of difficulties caused by being in a relationship with someone who's a lot like you. Someone with whom you share everything from chromosomes to conditioner.

Here's an example of what I mean: My partner and I have the same name. Her first name is Anne, which is also my middle name. It took me a while to get comfortable saying her name. I felt like I was calling myself, and having attacks of egomania.

Opposite-sex couples can experience this trouble too, of course. A woman named Jordan can marry a man named Jordan, or a Jean can connect with a Gene. But the chances of twin names are much increased with gay couplings.

We all know a Mike and a Mike, or a Sarah and a Sarah. The other day I heard a lesbian couple referred to as "the Rachels." Anyone who's adamant about maintaining individuality might have to rethink this gay thing.

I suppose preventive action is a possibility. A lesbian could legally change her name before starting a relationship, pick a name that no other woman is likely to share. Like Augustina. Or Pittsburgh. Or Cementmixer.

Then there's the issue of clothing. Back when I was in a straight relationship, my boyfriend was too tall and too male to borrow my clothes.

Now all bets are off.

Anne has borrowed everything from bras to hats. She so covets a shirt of mine she whimpers a little when I wear it. I'll soon know what it means to give someone the shirt off my back.

She and I aren't the same size, nor do we have identical taste. For these reasons, I know my entire wardrobe won't go missing.

But I can imagine what it must be like for, say, a femme couple with similar proportions where one woman is constantly pilfering and the other can never find what she planned to wear. On a morning when the latter can locate nothing to wear to work but pumps and a nightgown, the fur will fly.

I'd be remiss if I didn't note that sometimes it's a boon, clothing-wise, to be in a same-sex

couple. You can double your wardrobe. But only if you have like builds and taste. I suppose there are women out there who assess a potential partner for kindness, respect and to-die-for pencil skirts.

Turning to accessories, our friend Susan recently told Anne and me that she has begun carrying a purse again. The problem is her partner Joyce uses a purse that looks the same. Now each woman can find herself leaving the house with the wrong life.

Straight couples don't have this trouble.

While anti-gay activists argue that male and female genitalia were meant to go together, they're ignoring a more compelling biological argument. Two women going through menopause should never live together.

On another subject, while anti-gay activists argue that male and female genitalia were meant to go together, they're ignoring a more compelling biological argument. Two women going through menopause should never live together.

Between us, Anne and I have every menopause symptom going. When she's having a hot flash, I'm too busy obsessing over my weight gain to notice, let alone sympathize. In straight households where the woman is experiencing menopause, it's the man's job to be sympathetic – when he isn't driving his girlfriend around in his new Ferrari.

Anne and I don't get sympathy, but we aren't being cheated on, so I guess it's a wash. Overall, though, I feel it's only right for young people to be alerted to the complications inherent in same-sex relationships. If the prospect of hell doesn't scare twinks, the prospect of sharing hair gel might.

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Olga Diaz, Director

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Bert & Ernie are not gay, and they are not getting married, says Sesame Street. What do you think of the news?

What a lame, corporate response.
–David Paul Rudzinski

Right. And Michele Bachmann's husband is straight, too.
–Jeanne Ruzzin

Anderson Cooper is not gay, either.
–Nicholas Michael Bashour

Aren't they supposed to be like 5 years old? I should HOPE they're not getting married. Sheesh!
–Bridgette Redman

They are puppets for children and are neutral in sexuality. Like Batman and Robin.
–Dan Scaife

Does this mean they are on the "DL"? How disappointing.
–Stephen Jefferson

I call "BULLSHIT"!!!
–Gina M. Driggers

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

Coming out, 2012 elections



Steven Petrow

"Coming out is about telling people something very important about who you are, not about flaunting anything. How you do it is one of the most personal decisions you'll ever make, and it's a decision you're likely to have to make over and over again as you come out to different people at different times in your life. There are plenty of ways to come out, and no one way is better than any other. Some people blurt it out in a pent-up burst of emotion, others craft careful letters of explanation and revelation, and others toss it off as casually as a Facebook update. How you handle your own coming out is completely up to you. Whether you've been planning for years how to tell your parents you're gay, or you find yourself exploding with the joy of falling in love and needing to shout it from the rooftops, go ahead – come out!"

–Steven Petrow, author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette," gaymanners.com.



Michele Bachmann

"I don't judge them, I don't judge them. I am running for presidency of the United States. I am running for the presidency of the United States. I'm not anyone's judge. That's all I can tell you is that I'm not judging. When it comes to marriage and family, my opinion is that marriage is between a man and a woman. I think that's been my view. All of these kind of questions are not really about what people are concerned about right now."

–Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-MN, Republican presidential candidate and winner of the Iowa Straw Poll, on Sunday morning talk show Meet the Press, responding to host David Gregory's questions about her views on gay and lesbian Americans, minnesotaindependent.com, Aug. 15.



Bert and Ernie

"Bert and Ernie are best friends. They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are very different from themselves. Even though they are identified as male characters and possess many human traits and characteristics (as most Sesame Street Muppets do), they remain puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation."

–Sesame Workshop, in a Facebook statement, commenting on a widely-circulated online petition encouraging the "Sesame Street" roommates to marry, facebook.com/SesameWorkshop, Aug. 11. Best friends and roommates since Sesame Street was created, fans have speculated for years about the close relationship between the popular Muppet pair.



Jennifer Finney Boylan

"If transgender people are sometimes at odds with their gay and lesbian allies, they're also at odds with themselves. The community is rife with disagreements about whether transsexuals (individuals who change, or wish to change, their gender via medical intervention, and whom some define as simply having a 'birth challenge' like, say, a cleft palate) even ought to be grouped, politically, with 'transgenders' (an umbrella term that includes cross-dressers and drag queens)."

–Jennifer Finney Boylan, author and civil rights advocate, in her column titled "We Want Cake, Too," nytimes.com, Aug. 11

Poll shows opposition to NY gay marriage law softening

GOP New Yorkers split on whether law should be overturned

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)— Now that the protests are silenced, the politics is over and scores of gay weddings are in photo albums, a poll shows opposition appears to be softening against New York's landmark gay marriage law and even Republicans are split on whether it should be overturned by a pending lawsuit.

Those are the findings of a NY1-YNN-Marist College poll released last Wednesday night. The poll shows Republican voters who had been the strongest opponents are now split—48 percent to 47 percent—on whether the law should be overturned.

That split exists even though most Republicans—52 percent—still oppose gay marriage.

The poll also found that 63 percent of adults don't want the law overturned, almost twice as many adults who do want it overturned. Even 59 percent of New York voters older than 45 years old want the law to stay in place. Older voters had been the most strongly opposed to gay marriage.

Overall, the poll finds that 55 percent of registered voters support the measure signed into law June 24 by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The poll also finds that 71 percent of registered voters would attend a gay wedding of a friend or relative—including nearly 7 in 10 Republicans.

"I think that clearly the numbers now don't reflect the depth of the controversy of the last few months," said Lee Miringoff of the Marist poll.



Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a law allowing gay marriage in New York in June. Recent polls show opposition to gay marriage softening in the state. Photo by Lev Radin.

"It's still controversial, of course, but there is a much clearer sense across the regions that this is something people support and they don't want to undo anything or turn the page backward."

The New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms group is pursuing a lawsuit that would strike down

the entire law. The group has opposed gay marriage on religious grounds, but its lawsuit cites violations in the state Senate's own rules that severely limited debate on the night of the final legislative vote.

The group's leader, the Rev. Jason McGuire, has said the process showed gay marriage was being forced through the Legislature while many New Yorkers still opposed it.

"If truly the legislation can stand on its own merits, then it should be able to withstand being deliberated publicly," McGuire said after the vote.

He didn't immediately respond to a request for comment to the poll.

Opposition remains strongest among older, Republican New Yorkers who are also among the most reliable voters. Forty-three percent of Republican voters say they would be less likely to vote for a state senator who voted for gay marriage, which could be a major factor in heavily Republican districts. Just four of 32 Republicans did, providing the winning margin needed for Democrats.

"There's been so much publicity regarding marriages that have occurred since it passed and that might have had some impact on people's sentiments," Miringoff said. "And there is also the sense that this is done now, let's move on."

The poll questioned 516 voters on the phone from July 28 to July 31 and made sure each county was represented in proportion to its population. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Four Michigan schools listed among top gay-friendly universities in the nation

According to the 2011 Campus Pride Climate Index, four Michigan universities are among the top gay-friendly schools in the nation.

Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan, Western Michigan and Grand Valley State University each earned a 4.5 star rating or higher on the index's list. Nationally, only 33 universities across the country received a perfect rating of five stars this year.

"We are incredibly proud of our Campus Climate ranking," said Mary Larkin, EMU's LGBT Resource Center program coordinator. "The assessment provides us an opportunity to really look at the programs, events and services that we offer to our LGBT students and allies. In order to maintain this ranking, we must continually strive to educate our campus community to create and sustain an inclusive environment."

The Campus Climate Index ranks nearly 300 public colleges and universities based on policies, programs and practices related to inclusion and friendliness. Each college fills out a voluntary survey submitted to Campus Pride.

Campus Pride, which was founded in 2001, is the leading national nonprofit organization for student leaders and campus groups working to create a safer college environment for LGBT students.

"Campus Pride's Index is the only one of its kind," said Campus Pride Executive Director Shane Windmeyer, an author, speaker and researcher on LGBT campus issues. "Unlike other, commercially-driven rankings, our ratings are done for and by LGBT people and set in a foundation of solid research practice."

Campus Pride's 2010 State of Higher Education, a report documenting the experiences of more than 5,000 college students, faculty, staff and administrators, showed that only seven percent of universities nationwide have institutional support for LGBT students.

"According to our national research, more than a third of transgender and 13 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual students, faculty and staff fear for their physical safety on campuses across the U.S.," Windmeyer says. "As a result, more than a third of these students and faculty have seriously considered leaving their school. We must do better."

For more information on Campus Pride's Campus Climate Index, visit www.campusclimateindex.org.

Eastern Michigan University was featured in BTL's University Project, which rates Michigan colleges on their LGBT-inclusive practices and resources. To learn more about the project, go online to www.pridesource.com.

Transgender inmates win appeal

Court: denying hormone treatments 'amounts to torture'

BY SCOTT BAUER

MADISON, Wis. (AP)— A federal appeals court on Aug. 5 upheld a ruling striking down a Wisconsin law banning publicly-funded hormone therapy for transgender inmates, saying denying the treatment amounted to torture.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision came in a case brought by a group of female inmates who identify as transgender. They argued they needed the hormones to treat their gender identity disorder and not having them would lead to severe health problems.

The state appealed after a federal judge struck down the 2005 law last year.

On Aug. 5, a three-judge panel of the appeals court upheld the ruling, saying the law violates a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment because it denies medical treatment.

"Surely, had the Wisconsin Legislature passed a law that DOC inmates with cancer must be treated only with therapy and pain killers, this court would have no trouble concluding that the law was unconstitutional," the appeals court judges wrote. "Refusing to provide effective

treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture."

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal, a national gay rights group, praised the ruling.

"Too often the medical needs of transgender persons are not treated as the serious health issues that they are," said ACLU attorney John Knight in a prepared statement. "We are glad that the appeals court has found that medical professionals, not the Wisconsin Legislature, should make medical decisions for inmates."

A spokesman for Republican Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said the office was reviewing its legal options. The state could ask the full 7th Circuit court to hear the case or it could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We don't believe the Constitution requires prison officials to provide hormone therapy and sexual reassignment surgery to prisoners," DOJ spokesman Steve Means said in a written statement.

Department of Corrections spokeswoman Linda Eggert said the ruling would have to be reviewed before anyone would comment.

While similar prison policies in other states

have been challenged successfully, the ACLU and Lambda Legal said the law was the only one of its kind in the nation that denied such medical care to transgender inmates.

Supporters of the law, which passed in 2005 with bipartisan support and was signed by then-Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, warned that paying for the therapy would open the door for taxpayer-funded sex changes for inmates, which the law also blocked.

Doyle signed the law after an inmate who had received hormone therapy filed a lawsuit to try to force the prison to pay for his sex change.

U.S. District Judge Charles Clevert issued a temporary order weeks after the law went into effect, blocking prison officials from ending the therapy for inmates already receiving hormones while the lawsuit was pending.

Some of the plaintiffs had been on hormones for years before the law was passed. They included Andrea Fields, who had been taking hormones since 1996. Before the law was blocked, the inmate's hormone dosage was cut in half, which led to nausea, weakness, loss of appetite and hair growth, according to court records.



BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A real hum jobber ...

I've occasion to escort friends Roger and Lloyd, visiting from summer-sweltering Florida, to what's euphemistically known among dance mavens as "the Windsor ballet."

Our much anticipated cultural outing, because of family visitation commitments, unfortunately falls on a Tuesday evening, when not much usually happens in first, third, or fifth positions among the scheduled "ballet" dancers.

Roger, Lloyd, and I have passports in hand; agreeing as cover story that our visit is to one-armed mechanical casino bandits rather than for multi-limbed appeasement of our voyeuristic needs (well-mannered visitors representing America's best cultural interests in a foreign country).

As we each focus our smiling, affidavit faces at the checkpoint attendant – a handsome chap, given no doubt to sizing up our touristy, equivocating kind – we're quickly, merrily, on our way. ("Oh, Canada, Our Home and Native Land, etc.")

Possessed of an exacting memory for placement, pieced together from multiple previous visits, I guide us directly to our destination, arriving at 9:15, only to be told that show time's at 10:00; and, apologetically, only one dancer, an athletic 22-year-old, succinctly named Max, is appearing as Maple Fig Leaf soloist.

To pass time before Max's entre acte takes place on a polished brass pole extending some ten feet to ceiling, center stage, I engage a stranger sitting to my left in conversation. Attentive listener that I am (when you're my age what else can you do but listen) he provides casual details of his life.

Jeremy says he's a chemist, age 36 (though he looks ten years younger), is involved with a 28-year-old school teacher, who, he sighs, has as yet not asked for a committed relationship. "I just stopped in for a nightcap after another boring work day," he adds. He's friendly. We slip into easy conversation.

Perhaps it's the conversational closeness, but I feel an intimacy that triggers my own past relationship thoughts, and how I miss having someone special to care for. It's vicarious moments, with Jeremy as a surrogate stand in. (Innocent of physical contact or intent, yes; but for me gently touching nonetheless.)

Dancer Max struts center stage. Scantily clad (to say the least), he quickly climbs to the top, topsy-turvy turns about, and deftly, acrobatically, climbs facing down. I'm impressed. Jeremy's bored, and, out of the blue (so to speak), says, "Have you heard of the 'Windsor hum' in your neck of the woods?"

As I haven't, he explains. "The Windsor hum's a rumbling sound that comes deep out of nowhere, lasts for annoying minutes at a time. It happens frequently. No one seems to be able to pinpoint where it originates. A mystery. Google 'Windsor hum' and see what you get."

Back stateside, fondly remembering the reverie Jeremy unknowingly touched in my memory bank, I eventually do google. There are several entries, one a Facebook listing. Seems the throbbing phenomenon has been occurring for some time.

A few days later, I also find to my surprise that the September 2011 issue of my favorite oddball phenomena magazine Fortean Times carries an article, "Durham (England) is humming: A noise like a distant engine."

FT reports the groaning's not new, with reported cases dating to 1727! "The most famous in the UK was 'the Bristol Hum' in the 1970s when more than 2,000 people complained of a consistent drone causing nosebleeds, sleeplessness, headaches."

In America, footnotes FT, unexplained rumblings, grumbling, growlings, grindings, grunting have been ear plugging for residents in Hueytown, Ala., Taos, N.M., and Green Bay, Wis.

(Just maybe, the Dow-Jones could use a good-feely hum job, or an agile goose up the NASDAQ brass pole for Max, er, maximum full throbbing effect. With lotsa financial lube, of course.)

Charles@pridesource.com Enjoy a rainbow day!

Riot Youth teens show off their art

ANN ARBOR— The Neutral Zone will host "Out of the Box: [More than Queer]," a showcase of art by NZ's Riot Youth Summer Storytelling Project. The event will be held on Thursday, Aug. 25 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Neutral Zone, 310

E. Washington St. in Ann Arbor. The art focuses on social identity and storytelling by a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied youth from Washtenaw County and the surrounding areas. In addition to art, the evening will

include performances by the youth and an open mic for storytelling. The event is free and open to the public; all members of the community are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Neutral Zone at 734-214-9995 or go to www.neutral-zone.org.

Lawsuit alleges gay bullying in Anoka-Hennepin schools

Schools are in Rep. Michele Bachmann's district

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)— The Anoka-Hennepin School District is being sued again over the alleged bullying of a gay or lesbian student.

Minnesota Public Radio News reports a new lawsuit filed by the National Center for Lesbian Rights says school officials failed to help a 15-year-old student at Jackson Middle School.

The lawsuit claims the teen was being harassed and physically assaulted by fellow students because of her sexual orientation and perceived gender nonconformity.

Executive Director Kate Kendell says the center is also representing five other students in a similar lawsuit and will ask

to have the two cases consolidated.

The lawsuit seeks punitive damages and asks the district to change its policies to prevent harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender.

School officials have said the district's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies cover sexual orientation.

Last month, the magazine Mother Jones published an exposé on gay bullying in the Anoka-Hennepin schools, noting widespread anti-gay animus in the area and connecting the animus with the area's U.S. Representative, Michele Bachmann, who is seeking the Republican nomination for the 2012 presidential election.

The lawsuit seeks punitive damages and asks the district to change its policies to prevent harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender.

Man who stabbed Seattle lesbian couple sentenced

SEATTLE (AP)— A man who viciously raped a lesbian couple in Seattle two years ago, killing one of the women, has been sentenced to life in prison without release – the only possible sentence because prosecutors weren't seeking the death penalty.

Isaiah Kalebu was convicted last

month of aggravated murder in the attack on Teresa Butz and her partner, Jennifer Hopper. Kalebu, who has a history of mental illness, climbed in the window of the couple's home and raped and stabbed the couple. Hopper survived.

The Seattle Times reports that Hopper addressed Kalebu in court Friday,

saying, "I do wish you peace. I don't hate you."

Hopper wasn't identified by name in media accounts until last week, when she wrote a personal essay in the Seattle weekly newspaper The Stranger titled "I Would Like You to Know My Name."

Starbucks CEO cancels church speech

BY RACHEL ZOLL

NEW YORK (AP)— Starbucks' chief executive cancelled a high-profile church appearance after an online protest over the congregation's views on homosexuality.

A Starbucks spokeswoman says Howard Schultz did not plan to appear at the The Global Leadership Summit, but she wouldn't say more. The annual conference is organized by Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago.

However, Willow Creek pastor Bill

Hybels said at the event last Thursday, Aug. 11 that Schultz withdrew after an online petition claimed the church was anti-gay and called Schultz' participation unacceptable.

Hybels insisted the megachurch is not anti-gay. Two years ago, Willow Creek cut ties with Exodus International, which offers to help gays become heterosexual.

The Leadership Summit is a prominent annual conference that in the past has included former President Bill Clinton, GE's Jack Welch and rock singer Bono.

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz withdrew after an online petition claimed the church was anti-gay.

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Creep of the Week

Phillip Hinkle

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Phillip Hinkle

If I close my eyes and try really hard, I can almost transport myself back to a time when gay sex scandals involving anti-gay Republicans were shocking. Well, “shocking” is maybe too strong. How about “surprising” or even “unexpected.” You know, it’s getting to a point that in order to prove their heterosexuality Republicans are going to have to go all out with the pro-gay thing. The opposite strategy is obviously not working.

And so it is that Indiana State Rep. Phillip Hinkle, a supporter of an anti-gay marriage amendment to Indiana’s constitution, finds himself embroiled in a pot calling the kettle gay story.

I know, I know. “Yawn,” right? We’ve heard this tale before. It’s been done. And yet there’s something about blatant, naked (literally, in this case) hypocrisy that never gets old.

Hinkle, 64, allegedly found an ad in the men seeking men section on Craigslist by 18-year-old Kameryn Gibson that declared, “I need a sugga daddy.” Apparently thinking himself such a daddy, Hinkle answered the ad and offered Gibson \$80, adding, “for a really good time, you could get another 50, 60 bucks. That sound good?”

Um, no. That does not sound good. Not only does that not “sound good” for Hinkle’s career, but it also falls way short of sugar daddy levels. Granted, I am not myself a sugar daddy nor have I ever sought one, but I think we can all agree that a maximum pay out of \$140 does not a sugar daddy make. Also, 50 or 60 bucks? Would a “sugga daddy” really quibble over ten dollars?

In any case, this is presumably how Gibson and Hinkle ended up in a hotel room together. One thing led to another and Hinkle ended up wearing nothing but a towel and Gibson ended up retreating to the bathroom to call his sister, Megan, to get him out of there and how Megan ended up cursing Hinkle out and threatening to call the media and how Hinkle ended up offering up his “iPad, a BlackBerry and \$100 in cash,” according to the Indianapolis Star.

Okay, wait. This kid and his sister are threatening to expose you so you give them your cell phone? Your personal cell phone your wife calls you on and is now being answered by someone who is super pissed at you and who tells your wife you’re a homo? Smooth move, Hinkle.

Hinkle has not denied anything at this point, though he has called the whole thing “a shakedown.” His fellow Republicans are all, “Dude, resign.”

Indiana Stonewall Democrats President Aaron Schaler told the Star, “This is almost a textbook example of what happens when someone is not allowed, by either community attitudes or by personal conflicts, to be open about their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Perhaps. Though maybe folks like Hinkle don’t actually want any of that openness and acceptance stuff. All of those votes against LGBT rights, all of that co-sponsored anti-gay marriage legislation, all of those claims that gays are nothing but sex perverts with too much political power – maybe it isn’t “hypocrisy” after all. Maybe it’s just an accurate representation of their sad, pathetic lives.

Think about it. If your only experience as a gay man was spent steeped in lies and disgust and contempt, why wouldn’t your public policy reflect your private shame? Why wouldn’t you use your political power to shape the world into the vision of the very anti-gay hell you see as your life?

It’s no excuse, mind you. But considering the pandemic of anti-gay closet cases in the Republican Party and the party’s decidedly anti-gay platform, I think it’s fair to say that the entire GOP has a big internalized homophobia problem. And judging from the GOP presidential hopefuls that are parading around, it’s only going to get worse.

Hundreds rally in Nepal for sexual rights

Ralliers march to rural areas to spread message of acceptance

BY BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

NARAYANGHAT, Nepal (AP)— Hundreds of gay, lesbian and transgender people marched with supporters in a southern Nepal town Sunday, Aug. 14 to demand equal rights under a new constitution the country is in the process of writing.

The estimated 500 demonstrators danced, chanted slogans and marched around Narayanghat, a town about 100 miles south of the capital of Katmandu on Sunday, which is also Nepal’s traditional festival of Gaijatra honoring the dead.

The gay community has been holding demonstrations on the festival day in the capital, but it was the first time that activists have organized a rally outside the capital.

Gay rights activists and parliament member Sunil Pant said their main aim was to spread their campaign outside the capital city.

Nepal, a traditionally conservative, mostly Hindu nation, has only recently begun accepting homosexuality. The country is also in the process of writing a new constitution which could include provisions to guarantee rights for sexual minorities.

Pant said the major political parties have agreed to include the rights of the sexual minorities in the new constitution. However, the new constitution that was

due to be promulgated last year has been delayed following differences among the political parties on various other issues.

In the town of Narayanghat, the rally was led by two decorated elephants which was followed by musical bands drawing the local people to the streets. Many of them wore saris that were bright red, pink, yellow.

They danced to the music, and holding banners that said: “Sexual rights for all. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender right are human rights.”

“We want spread awareness among the people in the rural areas too. People in the capital mostly accept the idea but we need to spread the awareness,” Pant said.

Anee Lama, who had traveled all night on a bus from her hometown in east Nepal with her friends, said it there were positive changes being made in the country but there was still more that needs to be done.

“In the past three years we have seen a lot of changes for people like us. We could not have imagined taking part in a rally like this just few years ago or being accepted by family and friends for who we are,” Lama said. “But now we are campaigning for the people in the villages and rural parts to come out and join us.”

Until a few years ago, gays and lesbian and transgenders were not able to

declare their sexual choice in the open. According to the Blue Diamond Society, which advocates for sexual rights in Nepal, transvestites were beaten by both the public and police and were discriminated.

Pant said more people are coming out in the open to declare their sexual preference in the urban areas, but people in rural villages are still afraid.

“We could not have imagined taking part in a rally like this just few years ago. But now we are campaigning for the people in the villages and rural parts to come out and join us.”

—Parliament member Sunil Pant

Chile leader proposes civil unions, including gays

Big step toward equality lauded in conservative country

BY EVA VERGARA

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)— Chile’s conservative president proposed civil unions legislation on Aug. 9 that would give unmarried partners many of the rights now enjoyed only by married couples in the South American nation.

Gays and lesbians lauded Sebastian Pinera’s signature on the proposal that he is sending to Congress as a big step toward equality.

But the leaders of Pinera’s center-right coalition were so upset that they refused to attend the signing ceremony.

Chile only legalized divorce in 2004, which is one reason why about 2 million people live together without legal recognition in the socially conservative country.

Pinera, who fulfilled a campaign promise with the civil union bill, insists

the initiative doesn’t change the concept of marriage in conservative Chile, which only recognizes marriages between a man and a woman.

But all couples “deserve respect, dignity and the support of state,” he said in a speech at the presidential palace that was followed by prolonged applause.

If the bill is approved as written by both houses of congress, then couples who sign “agreements to life as a couple” before a notary or at the civil registry would be able to resolve legal problems with inheritances, social welfare issues and health care benefits.

Leaders of the right-wing Independent Democratic Union and center-right National Renovation party are already uncomfortable with the project, and some lawmakers said they would try to change or stop the effort. Chile’s influential Roman

Catholic Church also is opposed.

Gay rights activists are hopeful it will become law.

“There is a majority in congress that believes that couples of the same sex have the same right to be happy as the rest of the couples in our country,” said Pablo Simonetti, president of the Equality Foundation.

Rolando Jimenez, leader of the Homosexual Liberation and Integration Movement, still wants gay marriage, but said Pinera’s proposal is a good first step.

Argentina went a step further last year, becoming the first country in Latin America to recognize marriages between couples of the same sex. Brazil’s supreme court ruled in May that homosexual couples deserve the same rights as heterosexuals. Ecuador, Uruguay and Colombia also have some version of civil union laws.

BTL Fall Pet Issue



Dr. Glynes Graham, who has owned the Patterson Cat and Dog Hospital for 26 years, discovered her love for animals when she volunteered at the clinic while trying to earn a Girl Scout badge. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

Michigan's oldest vet clinic howls with history

BY ANDREA POTEET

In the Motor City, it can be easy to forget that “horse power” was once delivered by actual horses.

But a window to the city's roots can be found in a surprising place: a local veterinarian's office.

“If you look outside the building, you can probably tell it was once a stable,” Patterson Dog and Cat Hospital owner Dr. Glynes Graham says. “On the alley side there's an old pulley for pulling up bales of hay. The old barn doors are not there anymore, but you can see where they once were.”

In operation since 1844, the clinic, located at 3800 Grand River Ave., is more than a state-of-the-art hospital for Detroit's four-legged friends – it's a living piece of history. Its records show it is the oldest continuously operating small business in Detroit, the oldest veterinary hospital in the state, and one of the oldest hospitals of any kind in Michigan.

Originally opened at 71 West Columbia by English immigrant Dr. James W. Patterson, the business has moved only three times. In 1901, Patterson's son Elijah took over the business and

moved it to 591 Grand River Ave. Eight years later, he purchased property down the street and moved the hospital to its current location, a two-story brick building meant to house 25 horses downstairs and 50 dogs upstairs.

In 1926, Elijah's son James E. Patterson joined the practice and gave the facility its only renovation, converting the now-archaic horse stalls into examination rooms and boarding kennels for cats and dogs.

But the hospital's history doesn't end with its architecture. Current owner Graham is as much of a fixture in the hospital as the surroundings, having worked in the office since she was 15. What began as a part-time job cleaning cages in order to earn a Girl Scouts badge quickly became a lifelong passion.

“That decided me,” Graham says. “Before, I thought I might like to be a dentist.”

Graham stayed on working summers at the clinic until she earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1983. She then moved to West Virginia to practice for the next two years, before a visit back to Detroit for Christmas turned fateful when she

dropped into the hospital to chat with her former boss, Dr. Eugene Miller, who had purchased the hospital in 1966. When he casually mentioned his plans to sell the clinic and retire, she jumped on the opportunity to fulfill her dream of owning a clinic.

“That was always my goal, to own my own clinic,” she says. “I got a little derailed by the trip to West Virginia, but it was always my plan to end up here.”

Since, then, Graham, a Detroit native, has built up a loyal following of long-time and new customers. She said one of her favorite parts of her job is seeing familiar faces – furry and otherwise.

“I love the fact that I get to see patients when they are puppies and take care of them throughout their whole lives,” she says. “We create real relationships with their owners and with the puppies. I'm like a family doctor.”

Graham said she also loves that the small, ten-member staff allows her to wear many hats.

“My favorite part of my job is that I get to do lots of different things,” Graham says. “I get to see patients, take care of puppies. I get to do

“I love the fact that I get to see patients when they are puppies and take care of them throughout their whole lives. We create real relationships with their owners and with the puppies. I'm like a family doctor.”

–Dr. Glynes Graham,
owner of Patterson Dog and Cat
Hospital in Detroit

See **Roots and woofs**, page 16

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The Patterson Dog and Cat Hospital first opened in 1844. It's the oldest veterinary hospital in the state of Michigan, and the oldest continually operating small business in Detroit. The building still has horse stalls and a pulley system for hay, which serve as a reminder of the days when it primarily served horses. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

► Roots and woofs

Continued from p. 15

surgery, I get to take X-rays and do blood work and give vaccinations. I love all of that. I'm not limited to what I can do."

Though the hospital is named for dogs and cats, Graham said there are some exceptions. Occasionally, a reptile will show up, but Graham — who, funnily enough, is allergic to most animals — limits the menagerie.

"I don't see birds or little pocket pets," she says with a laugh. "I'm really allergic to animals. It's kind of a silly thing, so I find if I limit my exposure to just a couple of species, I do all right. When I start adding in lots of other furry and feathery creatures, it gets a little out of hand."

Another important aspect of the hospital, Graham says, is its staff, some who have worked at the office for more than 30 years. Katie Major, a vet technician, says the relaxed atmosphere keeps clients and staff coming back.

"We have people come here for many, many years, longer than I've been here," Major says. "You know their first and last names and all their pet's names. And then we constantly have new people coming all the time. Dr. Graham basically does the same thing with the clients as she does with us. She really works with you to make you happy."

Graham said most clients are from the surrounding neighborhood, which she has watched blossom into a thriving, trendy downtown, with nearby Wayne State University drawing lots of foot traffic.

"When I was 15, we didn't walk out of the building by ourselves," Graham says. "The doctor that I worked with felt the neighborhood was really dicey. But lots of things have changed."

What hasn't changed, though, is her staff's commitment to its patients.

"They just all love what they do," she says. "They love working with animals and they love the atmosphere we have. They love our clients and our patients."

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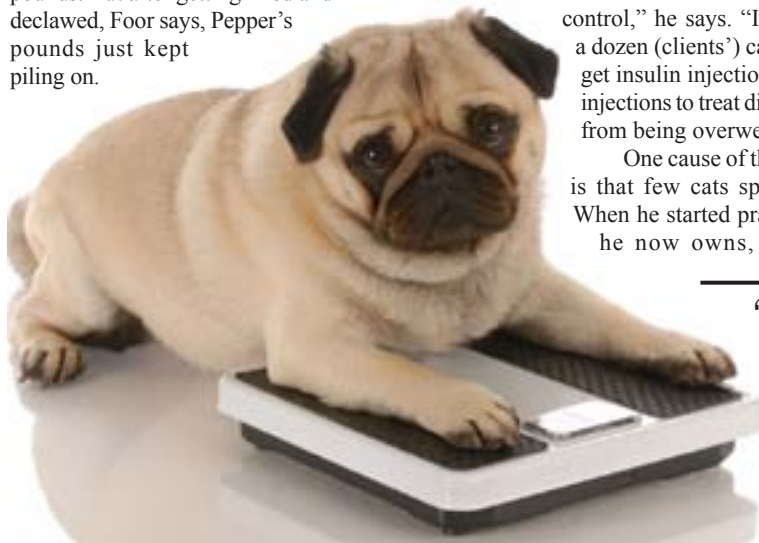
What to do when there's more to love

Slimming down can be as complicated for pets as it is for people

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Don't call Angela Foor's 30-plus-pound cat fat; that upsets him. Instead, Foor says, he prefers to be called "soft."

Pepper the cat hasn't always been this big. In fact, when he first came to his Ann Arbor home at three months, he was average-sized at just four pounds. But after getting fixed and declawed, Foor says, Pepper's pounds just kept piling on.



Foor says her family has tried everything to slim Pepper down, from diet food to outdoor walks on a leash, but still, he's as "soft" as ever.

Pepper isn't alone in his weight loss difficulties. According to veterinarian Mike Petty, the pet population is seeing higher rates of weight problems in cats and dogs – well, especially in cats.

"Cats have really spiraled out of control," he says. "I have at least a half a dozen (clients') cats that are having to get insulin injections." The cats get the injections to treat diabetes, which results from being overweight.

One cause of this, Petty speculates, is that few cats spend time outdoors. When he started practicing at the clinic he now owns, Arbor Pointe Vet

Hospital in Canton, Mich., more than 20 years ago, it was unusual to have a totally indoor cat. "Now it's the exception to have an outdoor cat," he says. "Partly it's that people act like it's evil to let your cat outdoors."

With traffic, isn't it dangerous to let a cat out? "It depends on where you live, I guess," Petty answers. "But I think most of us live in neighborhoods that have low traffic. Cats are usually pretty wary of things like vehicles."

Getting a cat or a dog to slim down isn't as simple as encouraging more outdoor time, Petty warns. In fact, with a dizzying array of options – from special diet food to medications – getting a pet back in shape can be as complicated and time-consuming as getting a human back in shape.

"The first thing that someone should do is go to their veterinarian for help, before any animal

starts on some kind of a diet, especially cats," Petty says. "They need to be very aware of the animal's health status. They also need to know what pitfalls to watch for as they're trying to get the animal to lose weight."

What kind of pitfalls? Well, for one: death.

Cats can suffer from a fatal liver disease if they stop eating in protest of a new diet food they don't like, Petty says. If not fatal, it's expensive to treat, and can result after a just a four-day hunger strike.

"You can't force a cat to do a lot of things," Petty muses, "including eating what you want them to eat."

So how does a pet owner get a cat or dog to accept the diet food?

"You slip in the diet food, a few kibbles at

See **Fat pets**, page 20

"Dogs that are on the low side of normal – in other words, skinny dogs – live on average two years longer than dogs that are not."

–Dr. Mike Petty, a veterinarian and owner of Arbor Pointe Vet Hospital in Canton, Mich.




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► Fat pets

Continued from p. 18

a time, get that taste in their mind that it's OK to eat that stuff," Petty says. Over a period of a week – or even longer, depending on how finicky the pet – owners can start feeding more of the diet food and less of the regular food.

Different food brands take different approaches to weight loss, just like with humans, Petty says: "There's high fiber diets, there's low calorie diets, there's high protein diets, there's all sorts of approaches to it. And not every one will work for every animal, so sometimes it's really frustrating."

Some special diet food is even available by prescription, but even that isn't always a sure cure.

One prescription that Petty highly recommends is called Slentrol, which is only

available for dogs. It targets a molecule in dogs' bloodstreams that turns off their appetites.

"Dogs that are on this often don't finish their food, they eat only when they're truly hungry, and we've had some really good successes from it," he says. But his clients are usually reluctant to put their pet on Slentrol.

"People are emotionally tied in with their animals," Petty says. "The dog expects five treats a day, and if you suddenly cut those out, they stare at their owners, their owners feel guilty..." Petty trails off. He's not being judgmental; he understands the difficulty in helping a pet lose weight.

"When I first got out of veterinary school, I said, 'The dog doesn't open the refrigerator, the dog can't get out the can opener and open up a can of food, so what's the issue here?' But it's not just about calories in and calories out," he says. "It's about the dynamic between a dog and the owner."

Scaling down the scale

Weight loss is a gradual process, says Dr. Michael Petty, a veterinarian who has practiced for more than 20 years. "They didn't put it on in a month, they aren't going to lose it in a month," he says. (Sound familiar?) Petty encourages owners to keep up a healthy pet lifestyle for at least one year before achieving big weight loss goals. Along the way, here's some help:

Diet food

Pet food now comes in as many diet varieties as human food: low fat, low calorie, high fiber, high protein, over-the-counter or by prescription. But what works for one pet may not work for another, Petty warns, so anyone who is trying to help a pet slim down should consult a veterinarian.

The great outdoors

Yes, even cats – who are natural hunters – can and should go outside to get their exercise.

Medication

Slentrol is a prescription medication for dogs that helps suppress appetite, and is very effective, Petty says. The only side effect clients have reported is that some dogs feel so full they vomit; this side effect usually subsides within a week.

Another pet

"I probably see less overweight cats in two cat households, where they have someone that they play with," Petty says. Doesn't this sound like a fabulous excuse to buy another puppy or kitten?

Just like in humans, losing weight isn't just about making a few small changes – it's about changing a lifestyle.

Petty says it's not difficult to convince owners that their pet needs to lose weight, but it is difficult to move the owner to action and to keep up with a pet's weight loss goals, which can take a year or more to reach. He cites a study from pet food brand Purina, which showed that "dogs that are on the low side of normal – in other words, skinny dogs – live on average two years longer than dogs that are not," he says. That's often an incentive that spurs pet owners to action.

But back in Ann Arbor, Pepper the cat is

pretty comfortable with his lifestyle, and he doesn't seem to want to change it any time soon.

He's been cut off of wet food and people food, and his last indulgence seems to be his dry food, which he eats right up. "We have to fill his bowl every day," Pepper's owner Angela Foor says. "You take that away, and he could wake up the dead with his howling."

Foor keeps up with 7-year-old Pepper's regular vet visits, making sure his joints are OK – especially his hips and knees, which are often problematic for overweight pets. "We've had all that checked out," she says. "Everything is fine. He's just... a big cat."

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Photo: Giles Keyte

One (Gay) Day with Anne Hathaway

‘Brokeback Mountain’ actress talks new film, Catwoman role and her gay ‘pod’

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Gays adore Anne Hathaway for more than her sweetheart sensibility and frumpy-to-fashionable underdog role in “The Devil Wears Prada.” She’s practically an honorary member of the community, contributing to the “It Gets Better” project, receiving an award from the Human Rights Campaign and quitting Catholicism for her gay brother.

And then consider the super gay trajectory of her career: “Brokeback Mountain” and, as reported, an upcoming role as Judy Garland in the gay icon’s biopic and a stint on “Glee,” as Kurt’s lesbian aunt.

Hathaway is cast as Emma Morley in her latest movie, the lovely screen adaptation of David Nicholls’ bestselling novel “One Day,” which chronicles her relationship with Dexter Mayhew (Jim Sturgess of “Across the Universe”) on the same day every year for two decades.

The day after the premiere in New York City, the actress cheerfully breezes into a suite at the Waldorf Astoria, appearing so tiny you could put her in your pocket. And lesbians everywhere just might want to after seeing her sexily vacuum-sealed in a vinyl cat suit for “The Dark Knight Rises,” which she’s currently filming. When Hathaway sits down, she’s her usual bubbly self, discussing the most significant day in her life, her upcoming role as Catwoman (as much as she can, anyway) and the enduring power of love for *all* people.

Even though this is a story about a straight couple, how do you think it can resonate with a gay audience?

Love is universal. Anybody who has a heart can relate to what it is to have it broken again and again and again, and like I said, that’s universal – gay, straight, questioning, whatever you are.

Do you know a gay couple that has that type of enduring relationship like Emma and Dexter?

Oh my god, yes – I went to Vassar! I have like a pod now, and we’ve all been in each other’s lives for 10 years – and they don’t admit it, but I have gay friends that I think are secretly in love with each other.

And now, gay relationships are finally recognized in this state.

Yes, yes! Round of applause for New York! I was so happy. I couldn’t believe it. All the pictures of the couples who have been together for so many years – some people for over 60 years, like those two ladies that got married first – adorable! And that wonderful couple who had a profile done on them – one gentleman is in his 80s and the other is in his 70s and they’ve been together for over 65 years or something like that and they met at Juilliard – it’s just beautiful. Long overdue but so welcome. Now the rest of America, get on it! Enough with your nonsense and foolishness.

What can people take away from “One Day”?

It’s up there with the classic love stories. It requires you to open your heart and feel, and a lot of movies don’t mind if you feel. I personally think there are few things more satisfying in life than crying in a dark room with strangers. That sounds a little funny, but go to see “One Day” at 4 o’ clock on a Wednesday and you’ll know what I’m talking about.

Emma’s arc follows her through many years, from college to potential motherhood. What about her did you cling to throughout all those years?

The book! I clung to the book – tightly. (Laughs) The thing that I clung to about Emma was that she’s a survivor. She is somebody who gets up when you knock her down, she is somebody who wants to grow, she’s somebody who wants to be her best self, she’s somebody who, contrary to what she might profess, believes that things are going to turn out OK.

How did you bring Emma to life?

The accent was key. It informs so much about Emma and Dexter’s relationship that we don’t necessarily talk about in the movie.

To understand her education, one of the things I did was I tried to read as many books that David mentions by name in the novel – but I’m a really, really good reader and they were a little arduous. (Laughs) I much preferred

Dexter’s (reading material), like *The Face* magazine. And then I just went to England as early as I could and went up to every single person that I could meet from Yorkshire and asked them as many questions as I could.

Were you familiar with the book before you got the part?

I was sent the script first and then, as soon as I read the script, I was deeply in love with it, and then I read the book and I fell even more deeply in love with the whole idea.

Do you think if Emma and Dexter had hooked up in the early days their relationship would have lasted as long?

No, not at all. Definitely not. It’s one of the bittersweet parts of the story – they couldn’t have gotten together a day before they do.

Emma and Dexter change from year to year, but there’s still something about them that stays the same. What about you do you see changing most from year to year? And what is something that always stays the same?

I’m happier. I get happier every year. I find that as I get older, I take in life more and I think that’s making me a better person. As I get older I, funny enough, become more trusting, but I trust fewer people. The people that I do trust, it’s

See Anne Hathaway, page 26

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Green Cruise provides eco-friendly alternative to annual Dream Cruise

Event organizers say other ways to travel don't create pollution

FERNDALE—More than 600 people came out for the 2011 Green Cruise in downtown Ferndale on Saturday, Aug. 13 to celebrate non-motorized forms of transportation and other environmental causes. The annual event featured community bike rides, a Green Parade, a family activity area and a “Green Alley” with many vendors and demonstrations.

The event is held as an alternative to the Dream Cruise taking place next weekend, where up to a million people flood the cities along Woodward Avenue to drive around and look at classic cars. “We want to show people there are many ways to get around that don't create pollution,” said event coordinator Douglas Christie of the Sierra Club. “Bikes, skateboards, roller skates, they all provide great exercise and do less harm to the environment.”

Shopping locally is another way that people can help sustain the planet. At the parade, family-owned grocer Western Market made a statement about its efforts to recycle and focus on local products. The produce guys pushed giant recycling bins while other employees walked with shopping carts spilling over with hanging basket ferns and Michigan-grown sunflowers sprouting from the top. They were led by Whitney Harris, the store's head cashier, donning a gown and tiara made out of produce.

The lettuce dress was made of a re-used nightgown adorned with stripes of green and purple leaf lettuce and ruffles made of kale. The tiara had a base of kale and points made of wheat grass. Jewelry was made of radish, okra and red pepper. The 25-year-old fashion student carried organic carrots for a bouquet.



Whitney Harris, a 25-year-old fashion student, donned a gown and tiara made of produce. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

“I love fashion because it gives people a way to feel good and express themselves,” Harris said. “But when it can be used to make a statement like this it's even better. We try to keep things fresh.”

The cruise also featured unique bicycles, including a six-person contraption that resembled a crab crawling along a beach. There were groups of unicyclists, and an over-sized four-person dune-buggy style

bike. “I really liked the specialty bikes. The way people customize and personalize their rides can be really interesting. Some even had radios and speakers built into the handle bars. Lots of great ideas,” Christie said.

To learn more about the annual Green Cruise event, check out the Sierra Club's website at http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/Green_Cruise.html.

Ferndale gets 'Funky' for annual art fair

Integrity Shows presents the 2011 Funky Ferndale Art Fest from 4-9 p.m. Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 16 and noon-5 p.m. Sept. 17. Artists are located all along Nine Mile from Woodward to Planavon.

The festival is a juried show; over 300 artists from across the country applied for the 100 open spots. Included are paintings, jewelry, photography, sculptures and much more. The work is selected with an eye toward the Ferndale sentiment. “We are twice as ‘funky’ as the average fine art show,” said event coordinator Mark Loeb in a press release. “We focus on quality art, with a focus on work that is a bit more contemporary and edgy.”

One part of the show that is expanding this year is the newly renamed Art Scholars section. Jordan Congligiaro has graduated from being a student artist to coordinating this year's section. “I have been exhibiting in student art shows for nine years,” she said. “I was ready for a new challenge, so this year I am running the section.” Congligiaro's duties range from recruiting public school

age artists to marketing the section. Her final job will be to select a student artist to train next year to take over the section.

The festival focuses on acoustical music designed to enhance the experience, rather than to compete with the viewing. Food participants are chosen to provide a variety of local flavors, from Ethiopian food to more traditional offerings.

The kids' art area this year is expanding to include the entire family. Two interactive projects are planned, including toilet paper mache – which is just what you think: Festivalgoers are invited to create a small face out of this specialized paper. When it hardens it becomes a permanent work of art. “We plan to exhibit hundreds of these at the Ferndale Library,” said Loeb. “Since there won't be time to paint, we will have a variety of food colors that people can dip their paper in to provide some color.”

The second project will be ransom poetry. Essentially, patrons will cut words and pictures out of supplied magazines to create short poems that fit on 5” by 8” cards.



“It's kind of a mix between Twitter, haiku and mystery novels,” according to Loeb.

The Funky Ferndale Art Fest has been a local tradition that has grown each year. Tens of thousands attend the festival, and even more are expected this year. True to its Fashionable Ferndale roots, the event continues to be funky and fabulous.

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DRAG QUEEN BINGO

Barbra Streisand still going strong on new album. Plus: Joss Stone starts over on 'LP1'



Barbra Streisand, 'What Matters Most'

Five decades into her career and Barbra Streisand still doesn't need much else to sell a song than her voice. And so it goes, launching her first album since 2009, an all-new, 10-tune LP with her favorite Alan and Marilyn Bergman-written songs (also available in a deluxe edition with already-released tracks), with just that sublimely enchanting, untouched-by-time instrument of hers. The Academy Award-winning song, called "The Windmills of Your Mind," is breathtakingly beautiful with its gradual orchestra swell that never feels like too much, wisely letting Streisand's voice carry the melody. She also fully commands on the following track, "Something New in My Life," which reaches that diva climax that gets so many of her gay fans going. The same goes for "The Same Hello, The Same Goodbye," which catapults into a string-surgingly wallop that has her opening her voice enough to swallow the world – it's gorgeous. Streisand mostly sticks to ballads, but they're broken up by the buoyancy of "That Face," originally written in 1957 and made popular by Fred Astaire, and Frank Sinatra's "Nice 'n' Easy," which eases into the traditional take with just some slinky instrumentation. Anyone who's loved Babs before is bound to love this perfect-for-a-rainy-day project; it's simple, elegant and so Streisand, who – despite the timeless songs and full orchestra – is clearly what matters most on this album. *Grade: B+*



Joss Stone, 'LP1'

Joss Stone tore up the Grammy stage with Melissa Etheridge years ago during "Piece of My Heart," and that must have been enough for the lesbian rocker to rub off on the British 24-year-old. No, Stone isn't lezzie, too – but she's a gritty spitfire on her latest album, newly independent, without the commercial sheen and, as addressed on set-starter "Newborn," ready to do her own thing (she's the girl who "doesn't give a shit" on this one). This new rocker-chick direction finds Stone going all out with the guitars, a shift from the R&B run she had ever since the release of "The Soul Sessions" in 2003. Eight years later, she's talking like she's out for blood; on "Karma," which sounds like an Etheridge song through and through, she has a "loaded gun" for her man who's "the bitch." They sound like true threats coming from Stone, who sings with

as much conviction as a Southern Baptist preacher. That's especially true of "Last One to Know," which practically bursts at the seams during the final third of the song, building into a drum-banging, belt-crazy lash out. But for all the hard-ass edge on Stone's "LP1," the music itself feels a little too linear and without enough variety to sustain its 10 tunes. But you have to start somewhere, and it's not a bad place for a new beginning. *Grade: B-*

Also Out



'Glee: The 3D Concert Movie (Motion Picture Soundtrack)'

What can't "Glee" do? It can champion in ratings, churn out hits and piss off homophobes. And it can sell out live shows, which is what the show did this year, resulting in a movie – and this soundtrack. Essentially, it's not any different than listening to the polished covers on the umpteen compilations. But now there's something extra for you: the sounds of screaming, Finn-crazy girls. It's the price you pay, Gleeeks, if you want to hear live takes on show faves like "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Somebody to Love." And it's also worth it when Rachel belts out "Don't Rain on My Parade" and duets with Kurt on "Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy." Fine, "Glee," you win... again.



Graffiti6, 'Annie You Save Me'

The four songs on this EP is all it takes for this British duo to leave an impression. The title track, and first single, busts out of pop confines with a cool psychedelic British soul vibe, sung in Jamie Scott's sexy, emotionally resonant voice. The dude looks as good as he sounds, even when he's tempering Blackstreet's "No Diggity" – the kind of cover that reality-show TV judges go crazy over. Besides a wonky, space-y remix of "Annie You Save Me," there's the acoustic "Free," a wonderfully soulful ditty done on guitar. At just a few songs, there are enough appetizers here to make you hungry for the full meal.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com

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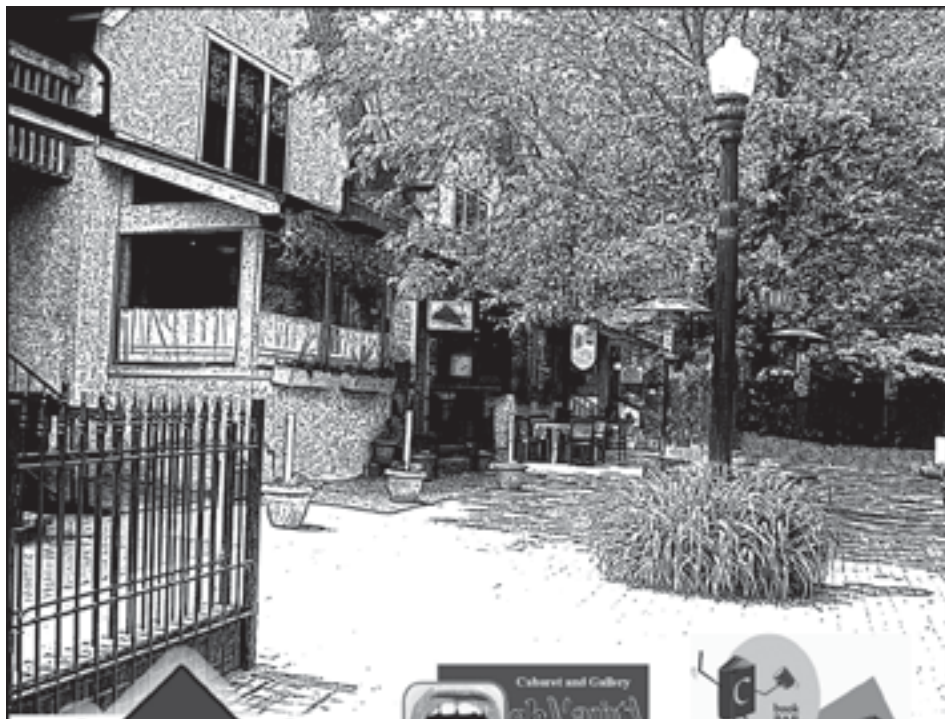
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Jim Sturgess and Anne Hathaway star as Dexter and Emma in the romance "One Day," a Focus Features release directed by Lone Scherfig. Photo: Giles Keyte.

► **Anne Hathaway**

Continued from p. 21

gone much deeper. What stays the same? I'm a really curious person. I believe that imagination is not something you grow out of, and I find that stays the same. Oh, and I love books!

How quickly did you and Jim click?

It's very hard not to get along with Jim. If you don't get along with Jim, there's something seriously wrong with you. We have a lot of friends in common, and you know when there are those people that when their name is mentioned everything stops, people grab you by the shoulder, they peer deep, deep, deep into your eyes and they think they're talking to your soul but really they're just looking kind of bugged out and they just shake you a little bit and describe their love for this person? That happened to me when I told people I was working with Jim, so I knew I was going to be meeting someone pretty awesome. And he did not disappoint. Now I'm one of those "bugged out, I'm gonna take you and tell you to like Jim Sturgess!" people.

Talk about the costuming in the movie.

In the Persian scenes, everything I wore was vintage or recreated from vintage and the look was informed by the book. You know, we didn't have a very large budget on this movie, especially considering all the change that had to happen – you would expect over 20 years to have a huge budget but we had geniuses working. I don't know how they did it. They literally spun gold from pennies.

Who are your favorite designers?

My favorite designers are Valentino, of course, and Isabel Marant, Vivienne Westwood – gosh there's so many – and Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen. Thank you so much for giving us Kate Middleton's wedding dress. It's been a highlight of this new decade!

You really had to convince director Lone Scherfig to cast you in this film. What was the casting process like for "The Dark Knight Rises," and how would you describe your interpretation of your character in it, Selina Kyle?

I can't talk about the interpretation, because that is just a hermetically sealed secret – I

mean, if you want to take on (director) Chris Nolan, you're more than welcome to, but I'm intimidated. But the process for getting "Dark Knight Rises" was: Chris met with a bunch of girls and then he called the list down to do screen tests, so everyone with an XX chromosome in Hollywood was just literally sitting on pins and needles for three-and-a-half months, and then I understood he screen tested a few of us. I felt bad because we tested, I think, on Thursday and the Golden Globes was that Sunday – and I didn't mean to, but wherever I went that whole weekend I just kept bumping into Chris and I'm like, "I swear I'm not stalking you!"

A few days later I was back in Brooklyn, and my manager called me and I answered the phone and she goes, "Meow." And I was like, "Haha! Oh no, wait! Really?!" And she said, "Yes!" One of the best days in my life. And I really should know that date. January... something. (Laughs)

Do you believe in a soul mate?

Of course I do. What a drab life you would have if you didn't. I don't know that I necessarily believe that traditional romantic view that there's one person out there for everyone. I think that we have many soul mates. But I think there is probably one soul out there that lights up your soul more than any other one, and I think that's just what a soul mate is – someone who lights you up and who you light up in return.

But traditionally, it's said that we only have one soul mate and if you don't meet them, we'll never be satisfied.

That's like the most saddest thing ever! So, no! The idea of having a soul mate is truthful, but to limit it to one is a mistake. And by the way, my friends are my soul mates. My dog is my fucking soul mate!

Do you have a date that's as significant as the one in the book?

Aug. 3, 2001. That's when "Princess Diaries" came out, and that date changed my life. Every Aug. 3 for the past 10 years, I just give thanks to the universe – a big, big openhearted thank you – because that was the day that my dreams came true for me. There's a lot of aspects to my life that are very real, but there are a lot of aspects to my life that are very fairytale, and that was the day when my fairytale started. How embarrassing would it be if it were actually Aug. 5? (Laughs)

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From Stork to Finish

Barn Theatre's 'Cinderella' enchants audiences

BY JUDITH COOKIS RUBENS

Both little princesses and their adult companions will find something to love about the Barn Theatre's current production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

Director Brendan Ragotzy's ambitious, fresh staging feels plenty modern, while keeping several, must-have traditional elements. In this telling, we get a more in-depth look at favorite characters. There's the wonderfully helpful Fairy Godmother (here she whizzes by on roller skates and pushes the concept of free will and personal responsibility); a Prince who likes to stroll the streets as a commoner; and a vain Stepmother with an eye out for her own prince. Oh, and some cute singing mice puppets.

This musical was a smart choice for the Barn, which enjoys a large apprentice cast. The mix of veteran players and up-and-comers means bubbly energy and plenty of hands to make visual magic.

The musical version was created by Rodgers and Hammerstein specifically for TV in 1957 (it starred Julie Andrews), but two later TV movies followed (1965, with Lesley Ann Warren, and 1997, with singer Brandy). The Barn production seems to have combined elements of past movies, while adding some new messages about following your heart and empowering yourself, rather than the "prince will save you" message that so often gets Cinderella in trouble with feminists.

REVIEW

Cinderella

Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta.
Tuesday-Sunday through Aug. 21. \$34.
269-731-4121.

www.barntheatre.com

The main players are all standouts. Annie Wessendarp has a true Cinderella-like transformation from first-year apprentice to major star in her title role. She is one to watch and infuses Cinderella with self-confidence and ingenuity. Jamey Grisham makes a wonderfully reflective Prince Christopher, and he doubles as show choreographer. Another first-year apprentice, Amy Harpenau, delivers big laughs as the no-nonsense Fairy Godmother.

Hans Friedrichs has a delightful turn as the prince's put-upon steward, Lionel, while Emily May Smith and Roy Brown make a fine pair of meddling parents, as the Queen and King.

But it's the nasty trio of evil stepmother and two stepsisters who threaten to steal the show from under Cinderella's very capable glass slippers. Penelope Alex is a deliciously vile and vain Stepmother, constantly picking at her ditzzy, lazy daughters. Miriam Henkel-Moellmann, as stepsister Joy, and Natalie Sparbeck, as stepsister Grace, are a superb comic duo and they deliver a pitch-perfect rendition of the "Stepsisters' Lament," one of the show's best numbers.



"Cinderella" continues through Aug. 21. Photo: Barn Theatre

With such strong acting and tight musical values, this show is already a winner. But the Barn goes further, creating a magical land where singing mice morph into fanciful horses, a pumpkin becomes a sparkling stagecoach, and a pink castle glows in the distance.

Dusty Reeds' well-designed sets and fantastic props by Amy Harpenau and crew are a big part of the magic. Michael Wilson Morgan's rainbow-hued costumes harken to vaudeville style, but viewed as a whole in the big ball scenes, they add colorful energy. Wig and hair design by stylist Garrylee McCormick (especially the sisters and stepmother) assist the fantasy.

Grisham's pleasing choreography, especially the grand ball scene, is well suited for the tight constraints of this stage.

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

Attitude, theatrics give old movie new life

BY SUE MERRELL

Forget everything you remember about Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 spy thriller, "The 39 Steps." All you need to know about the outrageous stage adaptation at Saugatuck's Mason Street Warehouse is all the roles, from the train conductor and hotel maid to the Nazi spy and handsome hero – an estimated 150 characters – are played by four actors.

Four actors with attitude and a lot of good, old-fashioned stage theatrics.

David Spencer and Richard Price, the versatile duo who juggle most of the parts, are shuffling three hats apiece at one point to carry on a crazy conversation between constable, conductor, paper boy and train passengers. That's when Joe Somodi, who portrays the show's wide-eyed hero, Richard Hannay, steps out of character long enough to call an end to the ridiculous banter and demand "get on with it."

Nothing in this film noir spoof is meant to be taken seriously. The plot, which actually follows the movie closely, is definitely secondary to silliness. When the hero lifts the window shade to see a pair of trench-coated spies under a street lamp, Spencer and Price, in trench coats, haul a lit street lamp onto the stage, lean against it, and then haul it off again when the shade is lowered. You can imagine how silly it gets when the hero keeps peeking behind the shade.

REVIEW

The 39 Steps

Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St.,
Saugatuck. Tuesday-Sunday through Aug.
28. \$26-\$39.75. 269-857-4898.

masonstreetwarehouse.org

Perhaps a more appropriate title would be "The 39 Scenes," because the cinematic story covers at least that many locations from the windy moors of Scotland to a wild chase scene over the top of a moving train and the hero's plunge from the shadowy railroad bridge. The fun comes in when the actors flap their jackets to the roaring sound effects of wind. Or sway and bounce with rhythmic precision to simulate the train's movements. The real wonder is how director Kurt Stamm managed to orchestrate all the timing so perfectly to create such hilarious effects. You know there have to be at least four more people backstage pulling all the strings.

In the story – if you even care about plot – Hannay, a bored Brit with too much money and good looks, goes to the theater to see a presentation by the amazing Mr. Memory who can rattle off the answer to any question. Shots are fired and in the ensuing panic, Hannay rescues a beautiful woman who turns out to be a German spy fleeing a Nazi villain with a shortened



"The 39 Steps" continues through Aug. 28. Photo: Mason Street Warehouse

pinkie finger.

Jamie Morgan does a great job playing the show's three beautiful women – the overly dramatic German Annabella; the shy Scottish farmer's wife Margaret and the blonde British bombshell Pamela, who ends up handcuffed to the hero she hates. Morgan seems to have no trouble making her three accents believable – or at least as believable as anything in this over-the-top show.

Somodi also is convincing as the stereotypical spoiled Brit who can slip out a window, scamper over the moor or sleep in a chair without mussing his suit or hairstyle.

To read the complete review, log on to ...
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Outings

Community-focused bookstore Common Language presents "The Last Bookstore Standing," a fundraising event benefiting their business. Catered by the neighboring DINE \aut\ Catering services, all ticket sales support Common Language in their efforts to support LGBT readers, authors and publishers.

There will be a silent auction of items donated by authors and publishers with a relationship to the bookstore. As independent bookstores become few and far between in Ann Arbor and LGBT bookstores become nearly extinct country-wide, this fundraiser provides the opportunity to support a bookstore which has supported the LGBT community for over 20 years.

"The Last Bookstore Standing" begins 6 p.m. Aug 25. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at Common Language at 317 Braun Court in Ann Arbor or online at GLBTbooks.com. More information is available online or by phone, at 734-663-0036.



Music & More

On their full-scale North American tour, Grammy award-winning bands Train and Maroon 5, along with special guest Nikki Jean, perform Aug. 21 at DTE Energy Music Theatre.

With chart-topping singles such as "If It's Love," "Marry Me" and the biggest selling single of 2010 "Hey Soul Sister," Train's latest album, "Save Me, San Francisco," has sold more than one million albums worldwide. Maroon 5 and frontman/"The Voice" coach Adam Levine have also experienced great success, with gold and platinum releases in more than 35 countries around the world.

Maroon 5 and Train will perform at 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7773 Pine Knob Road. Tickets range from \$25-\$55 for pavilion and \$25 for lawn seats. For more information, visit palacenet.com.



Theater



The Renegade Theatre Festival returns to Old Town Lansing in August with two dozen productions presented by independent and area theater companies for three nights and one afternoon of free theater.

Audiences will see a wide variety of shows in traditional and non-traditional spaces, as theaters and theater artists experiment, test out new works and produce things that might not be ready or appropriate for their regular seasons.

Performances are at 7 and 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18; Friday, Aug. 19; and Saturday, Aug. 20, with music at 6 and 8 p.m. each evening at the Turner Mini-Park. On Saturday afternoon, Renegade Kids will feature family-friendly shows at 1, 2 and 3 p.m., along with music and Potter Park Zoo story-telling activities.

Performance venues are the Old Town businesses that generously open their doors to the performers at no cost – so the performances are free to the public. Specific show times and locations can be found at www.renegadetheatrefestival.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 18

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

Friday, Aug. 19

Bisexual Peer Group, 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday. Discussion relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Building is handicapped accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. biprideannarbor@gmail.com

Democrats LGBTQA Caucus Hosted Voter Registration Drive, 10:30 p.m. The Michigan Democratic Party's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Caucus hosts an LGBT voter registration drive to prepare for the 2012 national elections. The Michigan Democratic Party's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies (LGBTQA) Caucus, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-545-3768. necto.com

Sunday, Aug. 21

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

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

Monthly Fellowship Pot Luck, 3 p.m. Adodi Detroit is dedicated to growing an inclusive, nurturing, and compassionate community among same-gender-loving men of African descent in the metropolitan Detroit area. Adodi Detroit Fellowship for Same Gender Men of African Descent, **Detroit**. 734-846-6545.

HARC provided HIV/AIDS testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734 6782478. hivaidresource.org/hiv-testing

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Transgender Life Support, 7 p.m. Support group for transgendered people and allies. Transgender Life Support, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, Aug. 24

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 Rd, **Ferndale**. 248-996-1053. 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, Aug. 25

The Last Bookstore Standing, 6 p.m. A fundraising event to benefit Common Language, catered by DINE \Aut\ Catering, followed by a silent auction with items donated by authors and publishers with a relationship to the bookstore. Tickets: \$30. Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0036. Glbbooks.com

Friday, Aug. 26

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film-Dark Habits. Acclaimed Spanish director Pedro Almodovar delivers another fantastical story in this film about Yolanda, a singer who sells heroin on the side and goes on the lam when a deal goes awry. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Aug. 27

Shop for a Cause, 12 a.m. Purchase a \$5 savings pass at Affirmations of online at GoAffirmations.org. This pass saves customers 25% all day on regular, sale and clearance items, and 10% on electronics, furniture, mattresses and rugs/floor coverings. All remaining proceeds benefit Affirmations upcoming AIDS Walk Team. Affirmations and Macy's, Participating Macy's, Online and In-Stores. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Healing Detroit IV, 8:30 a.m. Healing Detroit is an African-American LGBT initiative developed to address barriers and social constraints that have impacted the growth and development of Detroit's African-American LGBT community. KICK, St. Regis Hotel, **Detroit**. E-kick.org

Detroit Zoo Outing, 12:30 p.m. Afternoon at the zoo with the 20 Something's. Meeting at front gate. Admission: \$12. Vehicle Parking: \$5. LGBT 20Somethings, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Det20somethings@gmail.com the20somethings.org

New Affirmations Volunteer Meeting, 2 p.m. Meeting for new volunteers at the Affirmations center. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Queer For Books, 2 p.m. Discussing Go Tell It On The Mountain by James Baldwin. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. shinzon100@hotmail.com

Detroit River Boat Cruise, 8 p.m. Riverboat 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

Transgender Pride in the Park, 11 p.m. Celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot. All Transpeople and Allies welcome. Transgender Michigan, 1198 Earl Blvd, **Ferndale**. 517-420-1544. Transgendermichigan.org

Sunday, Aug. 28

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

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Train and Maroon 5 with special guest Nikki Jean. Tickets: \$55-25. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 21. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Rhythzmz 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/ Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Rhythzmz-in-Riley-Park

Ford Field Kenny Chesney & Zac Brown Band. Country Music's biggest summer entertainer brings "Goin' Coastal" Tour to Ford Field. Tickets: \$28.50-129.50. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., **Detroit**. 4:30 p.m. Aug. 20. 1-800-745-3000. Detroitions.com

com/ford-field/concerts-events.html

Fox Theatre "Tony Bennett" Tickets: \$55-85. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Hisway Records & Diamond Mine Entertainment "An Evening of Song With International Recording Artist David" Evening of jazz, pop, gospel and r&b with singer and recording artist David. Tickets: \$5. First United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 7 p.m. Aug. 27. 248-545-4467. Hiswayrecords.net

Kerrytown Concert House "Janelle Reichman Quintet" Backed by highly renowned Ann Arbor-based musicians Tad Weed, Paul Finkbeiner, Paul Keller and Pete Siers, Janelle will perform original music from her new CD as well as some of her favorite jazz standards. Tickets: \$30-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 26. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown District Association "5th Nashbash 2011" Annual showcasing of the music of Nashville, headlined by country musician Paul Burch. After glow at Braun Court and Aut Bar. Ann Arbor Farmers Market, **Kerrytown, Ann Arbor**. 5 p.m. Aug. 18. 734-769-2999. Kerrytown.com



Simon & Garfunkel, to be tributed by AJ Swearingen and Jonathan Beedle

The Ark "Simon & Garfunkel Retrospective" Performed by AJ Swearingen and Jonathan Beedle. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Sumkali" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 18. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Brother Sun" Featuring Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Quartet: The Canterbury House Jazz Ensemble" House band of the Canterbury House, the Episcopal student center for the University of Michigan. Forum, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 17. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

DANCE

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Masters of Tap" Featuring the Scott Gwinnett Trio, Bril Barrett, Denise Caston emcee and director, Karen Callaway Williams, Detroit Tap Repertory Jenefer Miller, Sarah Reich, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Gregg Russell, Professor Robert L. Reed, Honoree Professor Ardie Bryant and Rod Ferrone. Tickets: \$25. Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 20. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

FILM & VIDEO

Ann Arbor Michigan Theater "The African Queen" Shot mostly in Africa, the film united the formidable talents of the stars with those of director John Huston in an outstanding adaptation of the C.S. Forester 1935 novel of the same name. Tickets: \$9 general, \$7 senior, \$7 student. Ann Arbor Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Aug. 21-Aug. 23. 734-668-TIME. Michtheater.org

Ann Arbor Michigan Theater "National Velvet" The story of Velvet Brown, played by a young Elizabeth Taylor, who saves and grooms a horse for the Grand National, aided by her father's hired hand, a young drifter named Mi Taylor, played by Mickey Rooney. Tickets: \$9 general, \$7 senior, \$7 student. Ann Arbor Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 28-Aug. 30. 734-668-TIME. Michtheater.org

Penn Theatre "Chicken Run" Summer Cinema Series: Sponsored by Community Financial and Packaging Corporation of America. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Aug. 18-Aug. 18. 734-453-0870. Penntheatre.com

Penn Theatre "Great Muppet Caper" Summer Cinema Series: Sponsored by Community Financial and Packaging Corporation of America. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Aug. 25-Aug. 25. 734-453-0870. Penntheatre.com

OTHER

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

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 x.1117. Facebook.com/eastsidefarmersmarket

Windover Women's Resort "6th Annual Ethnic Site Hop" Visit sites for food, beverages, fun and music. If interested in being a stop, call for details. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, Owendale. 3 p.m. Aug. 20. 989-375-2586. windoverwomensresort.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

At Home at the Zoo Free; donations are welcome. Center Stage Jackson at The Fourth Wall, 701 Page Ave., Jackson. Aug. 19 - 20. 517-817-9974. centerstagejackson.org

PROFESSIONAL

bare \$20. What's That Smell? Productions, The Box Theater, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Aug. 19 - 27. 586-954-2311.



"The African Queen," playing at the Ann Arbor Michigan Theater

theboxtheater.com

BoxFest Detroit 2011 \$10 per day or \$30 festival pass. BoxFest Detroit at The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St., Detroit. Through Aug. 20. boxfestdetroit.com

Cinderella \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 21. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

Consider the Oyster \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Sep. 3. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Ernie \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 21. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

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

Henry IV Part 1 \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Aug. 19 - 21. pcsakespeare.com

Hot Dog Mondays \$5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Manifest Destiny! (there was blood on the saddle) \$15. The Hinterlands at The Jam Handy Building, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Aug. 27. 313-454-1756. thehinterlandsemble.org

Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh \$27-\$41. Performance Network, 120 East Huron St, Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 28. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Opera at The Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Posing \$15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Performance Space, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Aug. 21. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

Renegade Theatre Festival Free. Renegade Theatre Festival at multiple venues throughout Old Town, Lansing. Aug. 18 - 20. renegadetheatrefestival.org

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

Sunset Boulevard \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Aug. 23 - Sep. 4. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

The 39 Steps \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 28. 269-857-4898. masonstreetwarehouse.org

The Sex Maniac \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Aug. 20. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Aug. 25. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

Twelfth Night \$25. Blackbird Theatre/Shakespeare West at West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh, Ann Arbor. Aug. 19 - 27. 734-332-3848. blackbirdtheatre.org

YOUNG AUDIENCES

Banana for Turtle \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Aug. 27. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Rapunzel 'UnTangled' \$15 reserved & \$10 general. Etico Productions at Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Aug. 25. palacenet.com

AUDITIONS

ALL-OF-US EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE - auditions for "Dracula: The Vampire Play," Aug. 25-27, 517-333-2580, ext. 0; CENTER STAGE JACKSON - auditions for Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," Aug. 29-30, centerstagejackson.org; DOWNRIVER

YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - auditions for Disney's "Cinderella Kids," Aug. 28-29, 734-362-8153; **KALAMAZOO CIVIC YOUTH THEATRE** - auditions for "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," Aug. 28-29, 269-343-2280.

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum "Incredible Insects" Discovering the world of insects and arachnids with hands-on activities and live insects. Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 12 p.m. Aug. 28. 734-995-5439. aahom.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinen House and Garden" rare integration of art, architecture, design and natureXa total work of art. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills. May 2-Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. 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-Sep. 25. 313-833-7900. Dia.org



The Detroit Institute of Arts houses "It's a Zoo in Here" until Sep. 25

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 entries. A non-refundable \$15 entry fee is required for all entries. Exhibit begins Sept. 8. Wyandotte Arts Center, 2306 4th St., Wyandotte. May 1-Aug. 31. 734-324-7278.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally produced honey, handcrafted 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

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

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

Lawrence Street Gallery "Sherry Adams Foster" Luminous new work of LSG Gallery member Sherry Adams Foster. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Aug. 31-Oct. 1. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Riverside Arts Center "Image as Metaphor" 2D/3D mixed media show. This is a Juried Exhibit for southeast Michigan artists who live in the counties: Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne. Each artist has presented a three-piece composition along with a statement sharing his or her Metaphor concept. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Aug. 11-Aug. 27. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

The Gallery Project "Imagined Communities" A multimedia exhibits in which over 20 local, regional, and national artists explore ideas of community in the digital world. Artists are challenged to represent the myriad forms of new linkages generated by social media. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 10-Sep. 18. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

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

UMMA and AAAC "Japanese Brush Painting" Techniques and observations on making the dynamic and simple brush strokes of Japanese art, taught by Ron Davis. Registration: \$27 UMMA and AAAC members, \$27 UM students, \$35 general. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. 12 p.m. Aug. 19. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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 "Art making Workshop" Considering central themes of Buddhist and Shinto culture as students learn basic woodblock printmaking and create a set of hand printed notecards. Registration: \$27 UMMA or AAAC members and UM students, \$35 non-members. Advance registration required. UMMA's Multipurpose Room, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 11 a.m. Aug. 26. 734-763-4186. Annarborartcenter.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Multiple Impressions: Contemporary Chinese Woodblock Prints" 114 works by 41 artists, including Xu Bing, Kang Ning, Song Yuanwen, Chen Qi, He Kun, and Fang Limin, as well as many other accomplished printmakers. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. July 16-Oct. 23. 734-763-4186.

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Oscar Speech

Across

- 1 They get laid only once
- 5 Flat tops
- 10 Barneys event
- 14 Hide a mike on
- 15 Off to one side
- 16 What Israelis may shoot off
- 17 Artist Schiele
- 18 Shaft worker
- 19 Swallow eagerly
- 20 Start of a quip by Oscar Levant
- 23 B&O and others
- 24 Words before about
- 25 Posed for Annie Leibovitz
- 28 Peters out
- 31 Run like a stud
- 35 More of the quip
- 38 Green stuff
- 39 In a lazy way
- 40 Where Franklin, Winston, and Josef had a threesome

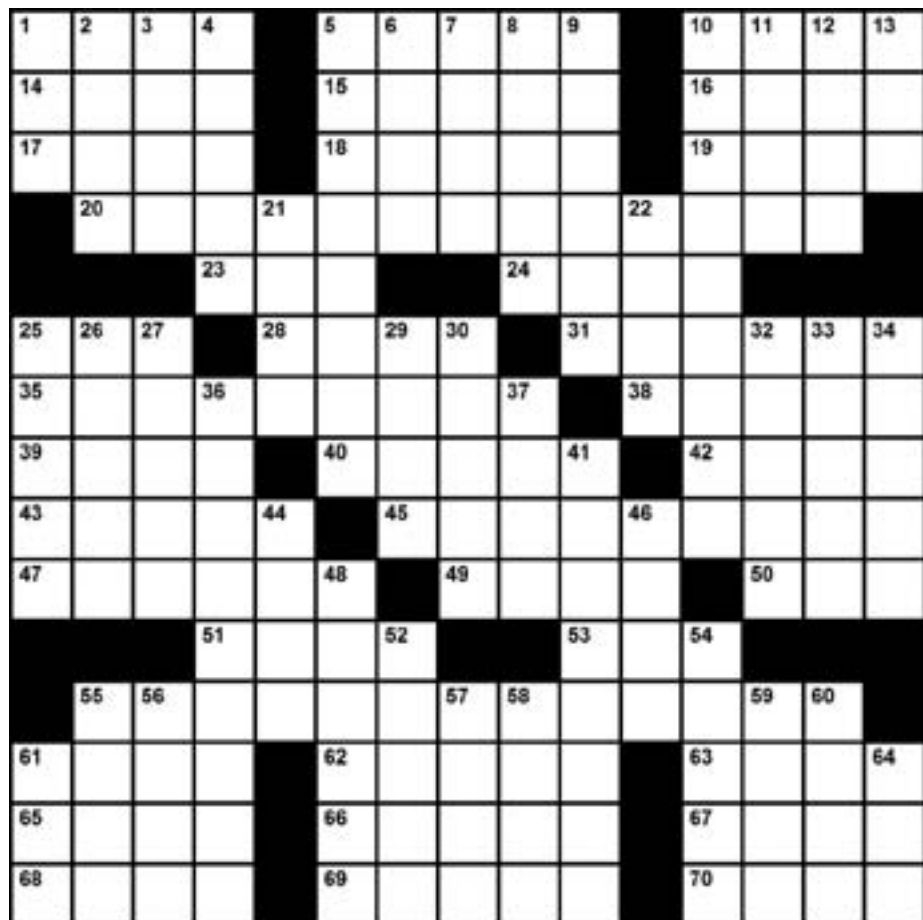
- 42 With mouth wide open
- 43 "... a ___ deferred" (Hughes)
- 45 More of the quip..
- 47 Three couples in bed?
- 49 Clothing closure
- 50 Old protest org.
- 51 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 53 Cause for overtime
- 55 End of the quip
- 61 Request from one's knees
- 62 Injures with a horn
- 63 Hit with hand motions
- 65 Serengeti sound
- 66 Totally absurd
- 67 Terrific, in slang
- 68 Cry of one in bondage
- 69 Boston ball handlers, briefly
- 70 Went lickety-split

Down

- 1 Meadow mama
- 2 Colette's Parisian heroine
- 3 Pirate drink
- 4 Madrid mister
- 5 Wuss
- 6 Larger-than-life
- 7 Went down
- 8 Playground retort
- 9 Like a muscle Mary
- 10 Rio's mountain
- 11 France's Côte d' ___
- 12 Composer Boulanger
- 13 Medium skill
- 21 Practiced heterosexuality
- 22 Head given in a bar
- 25 Loses traction
- 26 "Corydon" author Gide
- 27 Old message sender
- 29 Davis of "Querelle"
- 30 Eliot's Marner

- 32 HRC's equal sign, and others
- 33 Supplication start
- 34 Knights' attendants
- 36 He shot off at the OK Corral
- 37 Eye problem
- 41 Barbed barricades
- 44 Sneaky Pie cry
- 46 Islamic leader
- 48 Like Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"
- 52 In harmony
- 54 "Aida" setting
- 55 Fruit flavor for gin
- 56 Emulate Dr. George O'Malley
- 57 Russian inland sea
- 58 Blowhole
- 59 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 60 Home st. of Maupin
- 61 Ask too many questions
- 64 Absorbed, as a loss

Solution on 33



Pet of the Week



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BTT Horoscopes

Stay focused, Scorpio!

BY JACK FERTIG

Good news: Sun, Mercury and Venus lining up in Leo promote bold, fun flirtations and creative efforts. Bad news: Mars in Cancer in semi-square to those three undermine confidence and promote ill-considered aggressive efforts. Solution: Be willing to be vulnerable, start amorous overtures with a meal (or share some candy).

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Some of those voices from your childhood saying “you can’t” could be correct. Just some, not all. Nobody can do everything. Make a list of your talents and another of your weaknesses. Improve where you can and forge ahead with your strengths.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Take the lead on family or community events. Siblings and neighbors might flake. Work around that and forgive them. Are you expecting too much? Sharing a goal doesn’t mean they have your level of enthusiasm. Accept their contributions with good grace.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Is what you’re talking about really important? And does that matter? Idle chatter and gossip can be fun, but what do you really want to discuss? What did you want to learn as a child but never got around to? It’s never too late.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): “Retail therapy” is just shopaholic double-talk. Whether you take one step back from the counter or 12 steps is up to you. Where is your ego wounded? You already have what you need to heal that. Consider your strengths and resources.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Charged up and roaring, but about what? Are you fully as bold and confident as you appear or are you covering some hurt, some fear? True courage would welcome a confidant to help resolve that hidden pain.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Friends will disappoint you; they’re only human. Sometimes you disappoint them too. At some point it’s all about forgiveness. Extend that sense of charity. Recruit some of your pals to help the poor and hungry.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Problems at work, frustrating your ambitions there, complicate your long-term plans. Some backtracking may

be necessary to correct your course. Even if your boss is clearly wrong, remember who’s the boss! You can be critical, but be tactful.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Opportunities are opening up for you. Stay focused! Be careful of moody distractions, wanderlust and half-baked innovations. Avoid arguments! Your big challenge is to state your opinion with some flexibility, without looking wishy-washy or sycophantic.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Your love of loquacity is cranked up to full blast. You might be even more entertaining than you think, revealing deep personal secrets you’d really rather not. Listening quietly lets you be the one to get the deep insights.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): You’re a tiger in bed. Your partner may prefer a kitten. Negotiating something mutually satisfying could be very difficult. Being humble and generous is a challenge now, but is sure to have benefits later.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Sure, you’re a prize catch, but how well can you clean the kitchen? Relationships blossom on high romance but survive on very dreary details. It’s hard work. Hold your end in that department too!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Trying to make work fun can backfire badly. Better to concentrate on the work at hand and take pride in doing the best you can. Communication with colleagues can get easily confused. Keep it clear and simple.

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

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Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

Should I help her through it?

Q: I have had a loving, sometimes tumultuous, relationship with "Leslie." We have had an unconventional relationship, I guess you'd say.

Leslie and I have an open relationship. We started out with a monogamous relationship, but a few years into our relationship, it changed. It all started when Leslie had a fling with another woman. I found out about it, but never confronted her. I was really hurt by it but afraid to say anything for fear she'd leave me. After about six months it was all over between the other woman and her.

Then I had a fling. I guess it was my way of getting back at Leslie. My affair went on for quite a while until Leslie found out about it. She wasn't afraid to confront me, and did. I told her she had nothing to complain about because she had had an affair, too. It was a difficult time in our relationship, but we worked through it, and our relationship has not been the same since. That's when we agreed that we would allow each other the freedom of other women on the side. Frankly, I wasn't in love with this idea, but it was the only way I thought that Leslie would stay in the relationship. So, I went along with it, and I have to say, had a few more flings of my own.

We both have had lovers throughout our 16 years of being together. As it has worked out, our lovers have come and gone with no big problems. Though, for sure, there's been some jealousy at times, resulting in instability in our relationship, it hasn't been long lasting.

However, this last relationship of Leslie's has gotten to me. She had been seeing "Ellen" for over a year, I'm guessing. (We don't tend to announce, to each other, the beginnings of a new relationship.) The problem started about a month ago after Ellen committed suicide. I have no idea what happened, or why.

Anyway, the problem is that Leslie has become very depressed over Ellen's death. She's not eating or sleeping well, and is missing a lot of work. I understand that it is difficult to have someone close to you die, especially suicide. I'm not sure what happened to cause Ellen to commit suicide, or if Leslie feels guilty in any way about her suicide, but it has really put Leslie in a funk.

I have always felt it was my duty, as Leslie's partner, to support her. She has supported me when I've need it. Neither of us has asked for, nor gotten, any support regarding issues with our lovers. But then, nothing this big has happened either.

So, my question to you is: Do you think I am obligated to support Leslie in her grief over the death of Ellen? If so, how?

Just Asking

A: I can understand how difficult it would be for you to support her in this circumstance. However, I think you could support her in some ways, and not in others. I don't think you should play a big role in the emotional support area; given the circumstances, it probably wouldn't work well. But you could help her find some resources for emotional support, such as helping her to find a grief counselor and encourage her to go. Also, there are groups for people who have had to deal with suicide in their lives; you could help her find this kind of group.

At some point, you may want to revisit your relationship set-up. You said that you weren't happy with this kind of open relationship, but entered into it because you didn't want to lose Leslie. Ask yourself if this is still the case, and are you getting what you need with Leslie, and with an open relationship? If not, you might rethink what you would like to see happen, and discuss it with Leslie. I recommend it be done in a couple's counseling session.

Whether you go into counseling together, I think you would benefit from counseling, at this time, to help you get through this period and provide you a time to evaluate your needs.

To learn more about open relationships, go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.

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



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**101-ANNOUNCEMENTS
LGBT AA MEETINGS**

Ann Arbor-Friday
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/
Discussion.

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
7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA,
Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ,
12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover.
Closed/Discussion.

**112 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VOLUNTEERING**

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**116 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- EVENTS**

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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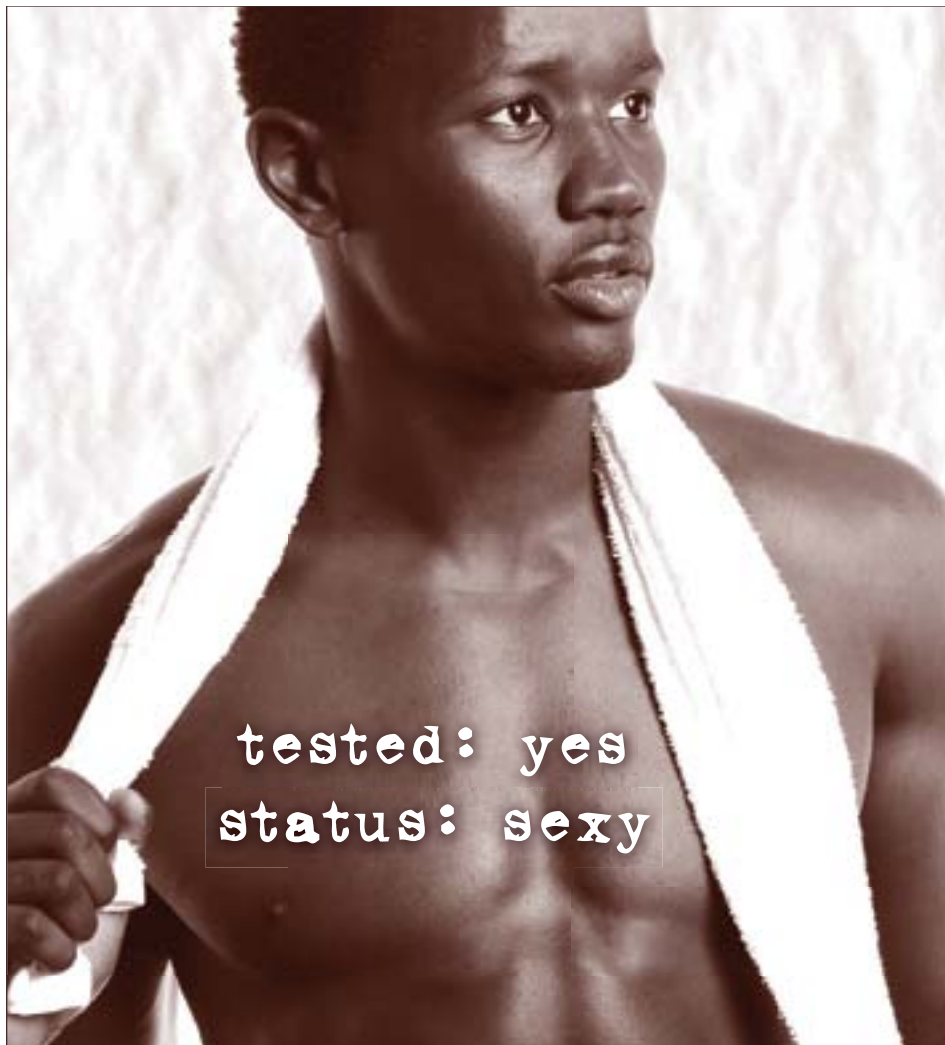
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RTM Cocktail Chatter



Dark and Stormy

BY ED SIKOV

"Old Storrrr-my! Old Storrrr-my!" Craig was insufferable. But he was so perfectly Santana that I laughed despite myself. "Shut up!" I begged, but that only spurred him on.

All was not well. Last Sunday afternoon, Sammy blurted out something horrifically specific about my having shtupped Jack Fogg after the four of us – Jack, Sammy, Dan, and me – had spent a perfectly delightful French-sex-farce weekend together during which everyone but Dan knew about *mon petit bout a derriere avec Jacques le Brouillard*. Well, I suppose it wasn't so delightful for Dan, who was humiliated. He packed up and left while I was still at the beach and drove home alone. (I respect his rage, and I'm totally at fault and all that, but couldn't he at least have driven me back to the city?)

"I'm making the cocktails tonight," Craig said after crowing the final syllable of the wretched "Stormy." "It's all the rage. Wanna know what it's called?" This was obviously a set-up.

"What?" I spat.

"The Dark and Storrrr-my. Old Storrrr-my!"

"Piss off," I snarled and headed upstairs, inwardly marveling at his talent.

I'd actually had my first Dark and Stormy during the week at Bar Henry, a wonderful place on Houston Street in the Village. Jon, the hunky bartender (blond, cute, middle-weight wrestler's body, frat-boy-turned-MBA-turned-chic-bar-investor, tragically straight), talked me into trying one. Made of dark rum and ginger beer, it wasn't the sort of drink I usually order, but Jon swore by it, and since I was dazzled by the thick tuft of light blond hair poking out of his open collar, I tried one. It was perfect for a night of guilt, shame and solitude – spicy-sweet and

refreshing, the ginger beer's fizz cutting through the dark rum's thickness.

I returned from my pout before dinner and made my own Dark and Stormy. Or two. Actually, four. I was plastered from the rum and bursting at the seams from all the ginger beer when Dan stomped in. "It's my house, too," he said without glancing in my direction and headed for the unoccupied guestroom off the kitchen. We call it the ABD – short for the Ann B. Davis Suite, in honor of Alice from "The Brady Bunch," who lived in a similar place. (Question: If the man named Brady was an architect, why did all six kids have to share one bathroom?) He threw his briefcase and backpack on the ABD's single bed and slammed the door.

Craig made dinner that night – fettucine Alfredo, two loaves of garlic bread, no vegetables and a giant-size bag of Oreos. Paolo and Chipper both gasped at the carbs-'n'-fat menu but ate their share anyway. Dan was so theatrically wrathful that nobody dared talk. Just as Craig ripped open the Oreos, the sky opened too, and we were pounded by a frighteningly intense shoreline thunderstorm. You know you're in big trouble when nature itself turns against you in a rage.

The Dark and Stormy

Dark rum
Ginger beer
Lime wedge for garnish (optional)

Pour as much chilled ginger beer as you like into a glass with some ice cubes in it, then float the dark rum on top. Or, if you're on the outs with your boyfriend, pour a large quantity of dark rum over ice and add a splash of ginger beer to the top.



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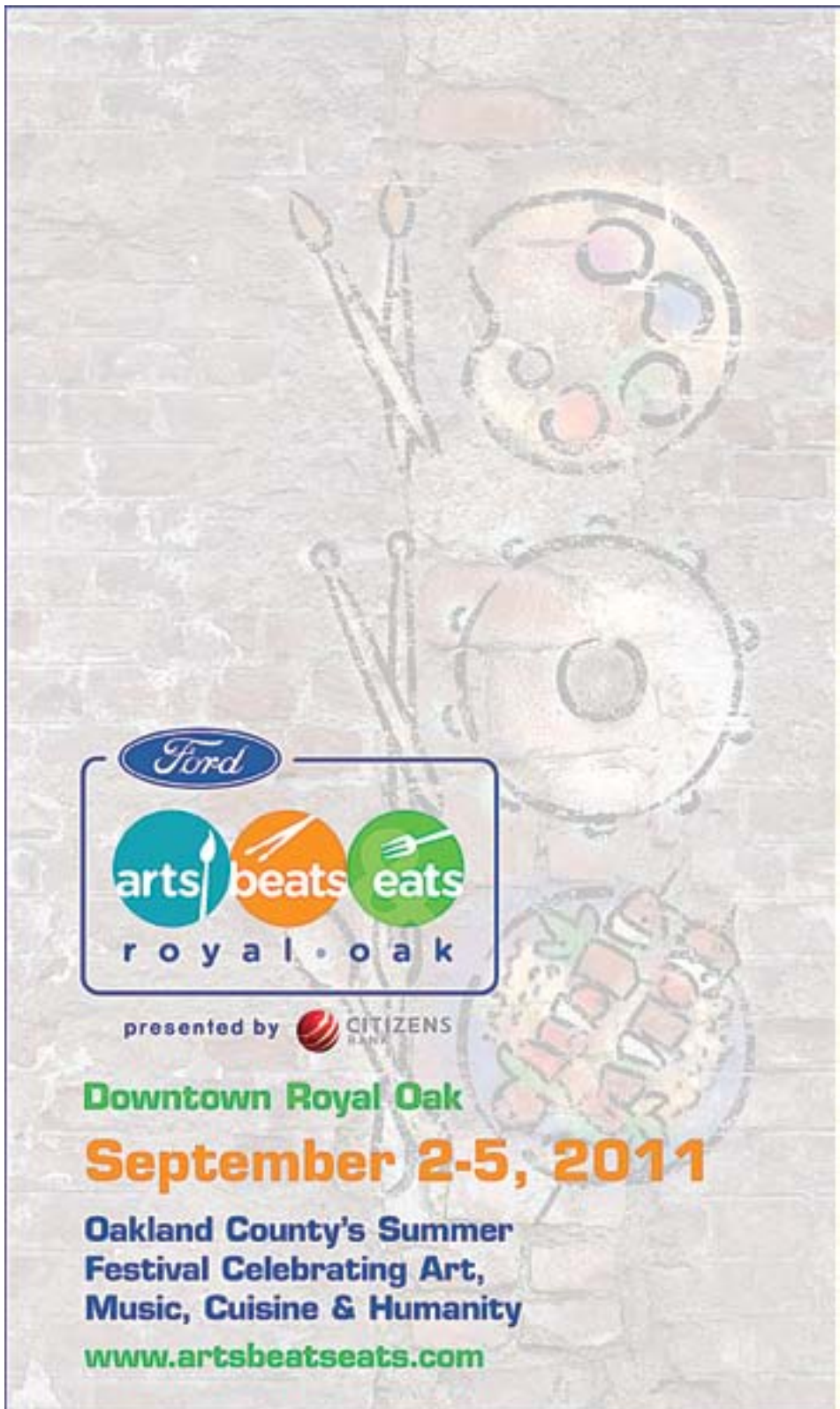


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