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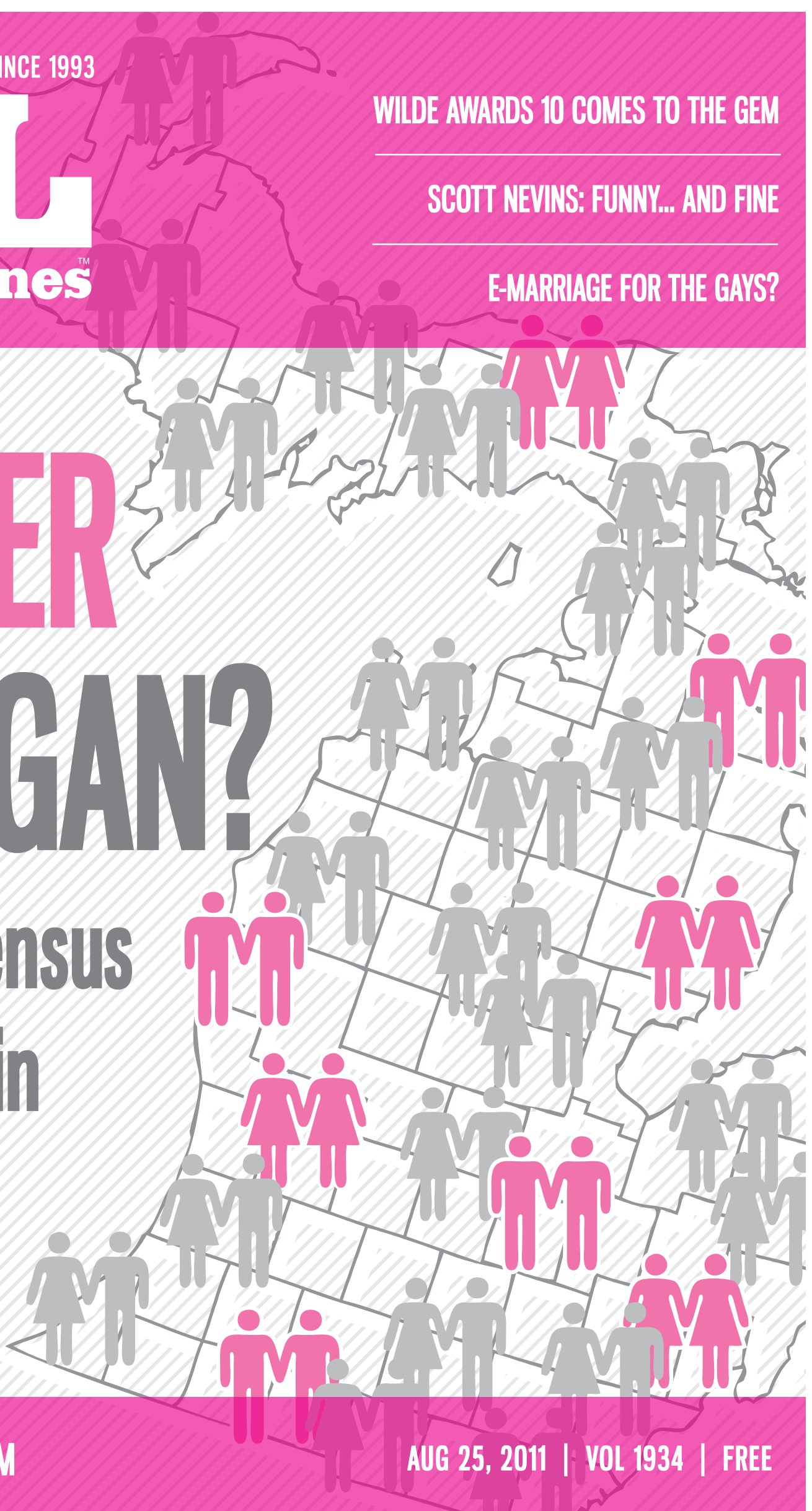
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Between Ourselves

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

George Jonte is the new coordinator for LGBT ministries at the United Methodist Church.



If we can get that one negative phrase taken out of the discipline, everything else will follow.

1 Tell us about your job as the coordinator for LGBT ministries.

I love it. Absolutely love it. It's wonderful just to be working in area about which I'm passionate. How this all came about is the Central United Methodist Church, who has been a reconciling United Methodist congregation since 1996, felt like it was time to do more so that we could work toward an ultimate goal of getting negative language out of our discipline so that we could move forward and be aligned with the other mainstream denominations. We pretty much stand alone as the only Protestant denomination now that does not have full inclusion of our LGBT brothers and sisters – in not only membership and leadership, but in ordination.

In order to try to affect this, the UMC was given a grant from the Arcus Foundation to help. My first year goals were to try to contact at least 35 other United Methodist Churches in the southeastern part of Michigan and try to engage them in some sort of dialog along reconciling lines. It is not our intent to try to coerce a congregation into becoming a full reconciling congregation but to at least look at the issue.

2 How could you look at the issue?

Maybe do a Bible study, a book study, a small group dialog, or at the very least requesting that pastor be able to do an equality sermon in the pulpit at the church. It has gone very, very well. We've exceeded our own expectations. I guess I'm a pretty persuasive individual. (Laughs). But we've come up with all sorts of creative ways for people to do it because sometimes pastors don't want to be involved. They fear being brought up on civil disobedience charges with the church.

3 What are some other difficulties to overcome?

I guess the biggest thing in the UMC is that there's a clause that was inserted in our rules in 1972 by a vote of the general conference to include a phrase that states, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

Quite frankly, it is not incompatible. (That clause) is very discriminatory and inherently not Christian. And I am of the firm belief that if we can get that one negative phrase taken out of the discipline, everything else will follow – marriage and ordination. I think we stand a better chance of getting that phrase out of the discipline in the general conference in 2012 than we ever have before.

Now this didn't happen overnight with those other denominations either. So far what has really ensued within the Methodist denomination is a lot of name-calling, backbiting, a lot of hateful rhetoric instead of discussion and positive debate. That's part of the reason why I was brought in: to try to get Michigan churches more involved in listening and discussion.

4 What are some other programs you'll be starting up?

We'll be initiating several programs for youth. First of all, two new youth directors and I will be going into schools to discuss the issues of bullying. We're going to establish those programs early in the fall. We're also going to have a discussion group, just a place where questioning youth can have a safe and comfortable place.

We're going to establish a gay parents group for those who aren't sure how to handle the issue with their spouse or children. And we will be establishing a group for the transgender community.

5 So you're working on the local level, but you're also working to help change the UMC's policy toward homosexuality at the general conference next year.

The general conference is a gathering of all of the churches globally in the UMC. This includes not only the U.S., but also European, Asian and African churches. We meet once every four years. And general conference is all about making changes, setting doctrine, setting polity for the UMC to discern how we will function over the next four years. It will be held in Tampa, Fla., April 28 through May 4 next year.

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

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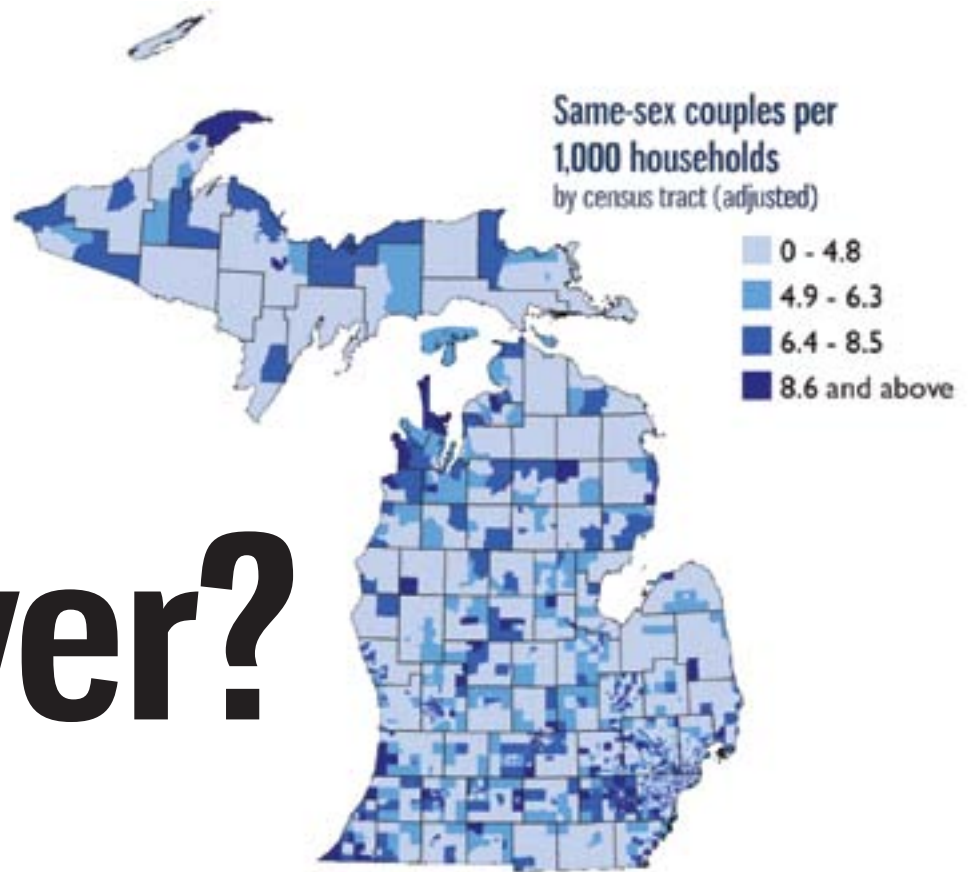


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From Stork to Finish

Is Michigan getting gayer?



Michigan shows a large increase in same-sex couples, according to U.S. census data

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

The 2010 U.S. census data shows that 21,782 same-sex couples call Michigan home, according to a report released by the Williams Institute on Aug. 18. But this is likely just a sliver of the state's LGBT population, which is a difficult community to measure.

The Williams Institute report says on average, same-sex couples make up 5.6 out of every 1,000 households in Michigan. The top five counties and cities that were home to the most same-sex couples in the state are: Washtenaw, Ingham, Allegan, Kalamazoo and Kent; Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Ypsilanti and Royal Oak.

Of those 21,782 same-sex couples in Michigan, 21 percent are raising children. Sixty-nine percent of those parents are female couples, and 31 percent are male couples.

Gary Gates, a demographer at the

Williams Institute, a think tank affiliated with the University of California Los Angeles that specializes in policy research related to sexual orientation, said same-sex couples who are raising children tend to live in rural areas. This trend holds true in Michigan.

"The media image of same-sex parents is of surrogacy, adoption and artificial insemination," Gates said, but the majority of same-sex couples who are parents are raising children from previous heterosexual relationships. "These people are coming out later in life, which is common in more conservative, rural areas," Gates said.

The number of same-sex couples in Michigan appears to be a large increase from the 2000 U.S. census, which reported 15,368 same-sex couples in the state.

Gates, who has studied same-sex couple data since the 1990 census, said there's still no way to get an exact count just yet.

"It's impossible to count people who don't want to be counted," Gates said, adding that the Williams Institute estimates that roughly 15 percent of same-sex couples would not identify as same-sex couples on the census. In fact, Gates is careful not to label the couples as gay or lesbian: "I call them same-sex couples," he said. "That's the only information I know."

Gates said he faced a lot of negative feedback earlier this year when he released an analysis of population surveys that showed that only three to five percent of the U.S. population was gay. But that estimate was of those who self-identify as gay, Gates said.

"The bigger issue is this whole issue of when we use the term LGBT, what do we mean? We don't have a standard definition. In my work I reserve those terms for self-identified people."

Regardless of the difficulties in counting all same-sex couples, Gates said the census

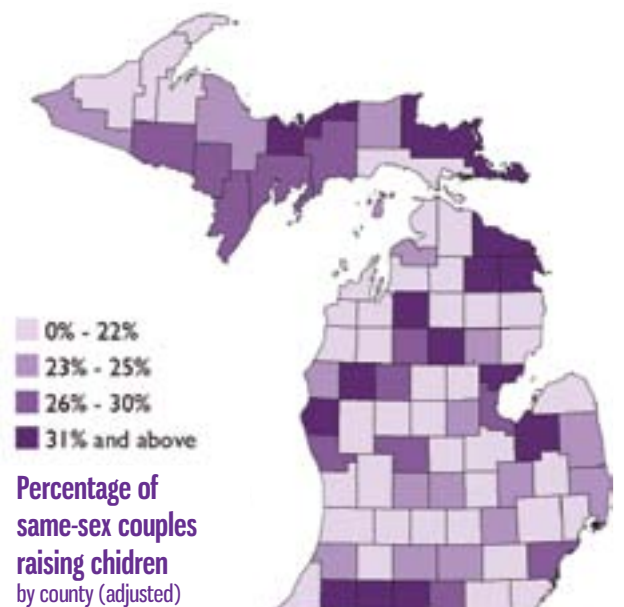
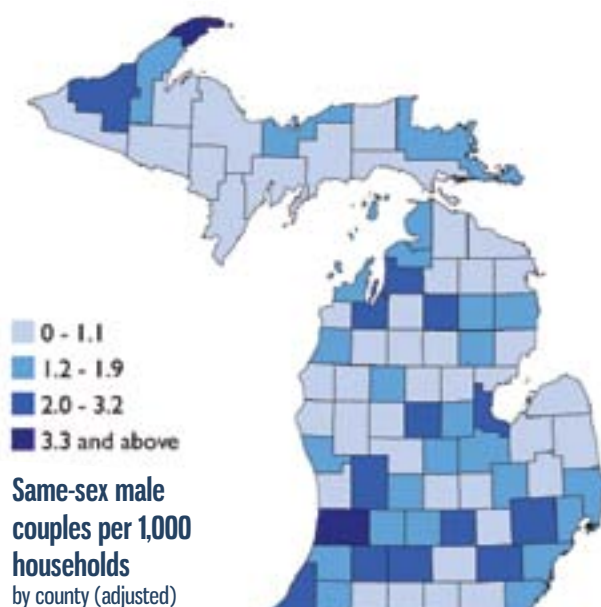
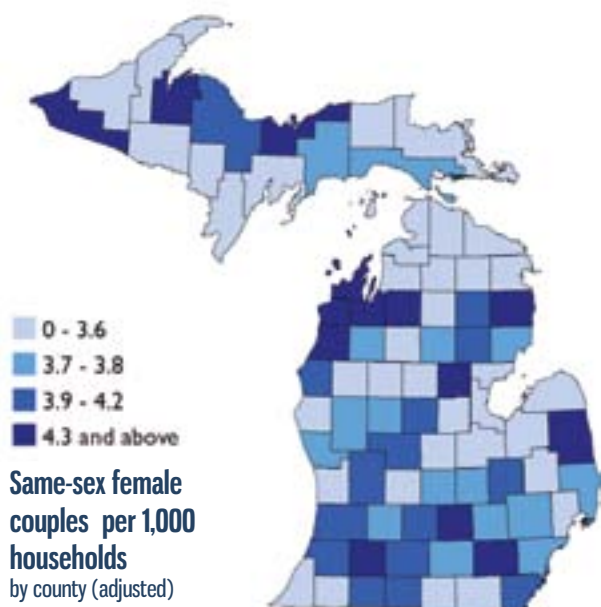
shows a 50 percent increase in same-sex couples self-reporting nationwide, which is a huge jump that he did not anticipate.

"This suggests a pretty substantial shift in the last ten years in this willingness to report," he said. The Williams Institute data is not only adjusted to accommodate the 15 percent of couples who would not report, but also to accommodate the heterosexual couples who accidentally report as same-sex couples. This means that the overall increase in reported same-sex couples is quite remarkable.

The biggest increases are showing up in the most conservative states, Gates said, which brings light to "how very big the closet was" ten years ago: Montana, for example, registered an 88 percent increase in same-sex couples.

The census does not ask individuals about their sexual orientation, but Equality Michigan, a statewide advocacy group, estimates at least

See Census, page 9



Could 'e-marriage' be a way to marry the gays?

Instead of wedding in another state, couples could say 'I do' through video chat

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Gay and lesbian couples in Michigan know that if they want to get married, they have to go to another state where it's legal. These couples also know that the state of Michigan won't recognize their marriage when they get back.

But what if these couples didn't have to travel? What if, by using a video communication service, they were granted a marriage by an officiant in another state – while their feet were firmly planted on Michigan soil?

That's the idea proposed by Mae Kuykendall and Adam Candeub, law professors at Michigan State University, as explained in an article in the latest issue of the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform.

"If people are willing to travel to places like Vermont or Massachusetts from Alabama, it means something to them to undergo an official marriage ceremony," Kuykendall says. "I am arguing it would mean even more to them to do it in Alabama where their friends and family could be there."

Interestingly, there are no specific laws that say e-marriage is legal or illegal: "They tend to say something that implies that you have to be physically present in the state," Kuykendall says. "But one of the issues that arises is: what

does presence mean? Could you be present by telecommunication?"

Kuykendall says that couples, both gay and straight, have already used such "e-weddings." "When straight couples do it, it's treated as an interesting story and something for people to coo about," she says, but when gay couples want to do it, the exact language of laws is scrutinized.

"(The laws) tend to say something that implies that you have to be physically present in the state. But one of the issues that arises is: what does presence mean? Could you be present by telecommunication?"

—Mae Kuykendall, law professor at Michigan State University

Last fall, a gay couple in Texas who married in the state while their officiant was in D.C., where same-sex marriage is legal, was met with a cancelled marriage certificate after their e-marriage became a popular news national news story. The couple had to go to D.C. to have a perfunctory ceremony and to get another license.

"These statutes are being read more broadly by people to meet their needs, and it seems natural to them to use technology to overcome various kinds of barriers, including barriers that might be within the state about whether they can be physically together," Kuykendall says.

"One of my arguments is that states should update the statutes because one of the goals in marriage law is certainty. People want to know that they really did get married."

Kuykendall also says that if a state decides to create a specific law that allows e-marriages, it could charge a fee for those marriages, too. It could also offer background checks – to be certain that the people getting hitched are who they say they are.

But when Kuykendall presented the idea of e-marriage to a Michigan legislator, she was met with a no-way response.

Kuykendall says the lawmaker told her that Michigan is very anti-progressive and wouldn't even consider the idea of allowing e-marriages –



Mae Kuykendall is a law professor at Michigan State University. She's authored an article with fellow MSU law professor Adam Candeub that explains the benefits of e-marriage. Photo provided by MSU.

that Michigan only marries straight couples and although e-marriage would only be for straight couples, it would serve as precedent for a state that does do gay marriage, so Michigan lawmakers would never touch it with a ten-foot pole.



More than 44,000 people attended Motor City Pride in Detroit's Hart Plaza in June. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

Michigan cities, counties with biggest same-sex couple populations

On average, there are 5.6 same-sex couples per 1,000 households in Michigan. But these top 5 counties and cities had higher than average rates of same-sex couples.

Washtenaw 1,518 11.06 per 1,000 households	Pleasant Ridge 66 59.55 per 1,000 households
Ingham 970 8.73 per 1,000 households	Ferndale 335 35.06 per 1,000 households
Allegan 358 8.53 per 1,000 households	Huntington Woods 51 21.72 per 1,000 households
Kalamazoo 754 7.49 per 1,000 households	Ypsilanti 164 20.39 per 1,000 households
Kent 1,533 6.74 per 1,000 households	Royal Oak 382 13.6 per 1,000 households

► Census

Continued from p. 8

287,000 gay and transgender adults live in Michigan. The organization applauded the news of the increase in same-sex couples and reminded Michiganders that LGBT citizens still lack basic protections in employment and housing.

"Gay and lesbian residents live in every region of our state, yet lawmakers continue to ignore them," said Denise Brogan-Kator,

Equality Michigan's executive director. "Many of these couples live in fear of losing a job for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance, or losing access to health care because of anti-gay activists, or being targeted by hate violence."

Another difficulty in measuring the LGBT population is that the census does not count the "T" part of the community – transgender citizens. "We're fighting in so many ways in Michigan to be included in everything, and we are making progress," said Rachel Crandall, director of Transgender Michigan. "However,

this is an example that we still have a while to go."

Crandall said she was unhappy but unsurprised that the census ignores transgender individuals. "How can you address discrimination when you don't even have an accurate count? It's just not possible," she said. "So we're fighting for them to have an accurate count about everything."

Mara Kiesling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said she's working with government researchers to determine the best ways to count

transgender individuals. The NCTE published the largest-ever study about the lives of transgender individuals early this year.

"One of our top priorities is to get our government to start counting trans people in surveys," she said, but it's not as simple as counting them by the census. The Department of Health and Human Services is working with people who do research on transgender individuals to figure out which government population surveys to use, and how to approach the question in each different survey.



BTL Eye on Equality

BY ROLAND LEGGETT

A new sense of pride

This is the time of year that I start to get nervous. We all know what's coming and there is nothing that we can do to stop it... winter is on its way. One of the best ways that I can think of to get my mind off of the impending snowmagedon that will be here in just a few months is to think of how great summer has been. I get butterflies in my stomach at the start of every summer. Thoughts of relaxing vacations, beautiful weather and quality time with friends and family fill my mind. By late spring I can't wait to say goodbye to itchy sweaters and bulky coats. There is, of course, another reason that I get excited for the weather to warm: Pride month! It is without a doubt one of my favorite times of year.

Let's show everyone our new sense of Pride by working together to bring full equality to our great state. And don't forget – it may not seem like it now, but Pride 2012 is just around the corner.

I remember my first Motor City Pride in the parking deck of Oakland Community College in Royal Oak in 1998. We've come a long way since then and it's incredible to see how much Pride month has expanded both here in Michigan and nationally. I'd almost say that it's becoming something of a national tradition. Enough, that is, for President Obama to sign an official proclamation making June LGBT pride month. As we've expanded we've also developed new relationships within our own community. This past summer we came together to celebrate Pride in the heart of downtown Detroit. More than 44,000 people came to Hart Plaza in what can only be described as the biggest and baddest Motor City Pride to date. A month later, Equality Michigan partnered with Black Pride Society and other LGBT organizations for yet another successful and inspiring Hotter Than July. As our Pride month continues to expand, so too must our resolve to work together to bring equality home here in Michigan.

All of the inspiring events of this past summer have given me a new sense of pride. In past years, I was always moved by what happened on the day of Pride. The crowds, the events and the visibility of our community meant the world to me. This year, however, watching our community come together was what inspired me the most. I often say that if we're going to realize full equality here in Michigan, we must remember that we're either getting there together as a community or not at all. So the question remains as summer winds down: how do we sustain the momentum that we've built over the last few months? This answer is simple: get involved!

Give your local LGBT community center a ring and see if they need help a few times a month. Join the planning committee for your local Pride festival for next summer. And, of course, Equality Michigan is always looking for new volunteers. It's up to all of us to make sure that the good work continues.

So while our days on the beach, sunny vacations and lazy afternoons by the pool may be numbered, we've still got a lot of work to do. I invite you to join me in moving Michigan forward. Let's show everyone our new sense of Pride by working together to bring full equality to our great state. And don't forget – it may not seem like it now, but Pride 2012 is just around the corner.

Each month, Equality Michigan shares an update about the equality movement in the state, explained through the viewpoint of different staff members. Roland Leggett is the director of field organizing at Equality Michigan. Learn more about the organization at www.equalitymi.org.

Transgender Pride in the Park 'like a family reunion'

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

FERNDALE— As the summer pride season winds down, one final celebration in Geary Park gives the transgender community a chance to show its pride. Pride in the Park, organized by Transgender Michigan, takes place this Saturday, Aug. 27 from noon to 6 p.m.

"It's like a family reunion for trans people," said Transgender Michigan co-founder Rachel Crandall. She and her wife Susan Crocker formed the statewide organization in 1997, and they have organized the picnic for the last ten years. The first event was held in Lansing, and it changed locations before settling in Ferndale five years ago.

"People come from all over the state

and the surrounding states to be here for the picnic," Crandall said. "For some it's the only time they are able to go out and socialize with other trans people, or the only time they can dress how they want and be themselves."

In the past the event included speakers, bands and other activities, but Crandall said those who attend want to get to know each other. "Don't worry if you don't know anybody," she said. "There are a lot of people there who are really friendly. They go around introducing themselves and making sure everyone feels welcome and has somebody to talk to."

Transgender Michigan provides free hot dogs, veggie dogs, burgers and chips for the picnic. Attendees are encouraged

to bring a side dish to pass, but it is not required. The event is free.

The event is the largest gathering of transgender people in the state, with turnout typically ranging between 50 and 100 depending on the weather. Last year 70 people came out for the event.

Transgender Michigan, which is also headquartered in Ferndale, provides counseling, information, advocacy and networking opportunities for transgender people and their allies. They also hold community events like the Pride in the Park Picnic and the upcoming Transgender Health Fair, which is September 17 from 1-4 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center.

Learn more about Transgender Michigan at its website, www.transgendermichigan.org.

Ties Like Me models Detroit fashions from Joe Faris

FERNDALE— Ties Like Me, a professional networking community for Michigan LGBTs, welcomed "Project Runway" alum Joe Faris from Motor City Denim Company as sponsor of the month at an Aug. 17 fashion show at Via Nove. Faris used Ties members as models, and Ties member Scott Foltz from Azenza Salon & Spa styled hair and make-up. Rich Wright of Wrighteous Jewelry provided his metal creations for the models to wear. Wright has worked with artists such as Kid Rock and Eminem. For more photos, check out our website at pridesource.com.

BTL photos: Andrew Potter.

1. Ties Like Me co-founders Reid Beyerlein and Robert Lalicki look sharp at Via Nove.
2. Scott Foltz styles fellow Ties member Mike Odom.
3. Ties Like Me members Mike Odom, Christopher White, Bruce VanDike and Anthony Deitzen models the clothing creations of designer Joe Faris, center.
4. A sizeable crowd enjoys drinks, appetizers and the fashion of Joe Faris.
5. Christopher White poses on the runway in Motor City Denim and Wrighteous Jewelry.



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RTM Editorial

Let's make us count

So far in 2011, we've seen a dizzying array of numbers that attempt to define the LGBT community.

We've learned that gays make up 3-5 percent of the population, although that number doubles if you take into account the adults who have had same-sex sex, and that number doubles again if you take into account those who admit same-sex attraction. We've learned that 47 percent of transgender individuals have attempted suicide and that 19 percent of them have experienced homelessness.

When it comes to Michigan, we've learned there are (reportedly) nearly 22,000 same-sex couples living in the state, which is a 42 percent increase from ten years ago. We've also learned that there is, on average, a 50 percent increase in same-sex couples reporting themselves to the U.S. census, with some states such as Montana registering increases as high as 88 percent.

Many news outlets across the country have used the recently released data about same-sex couples in the 2010 census as an excuse to proclaim my, how the gay population has grown. That's not quite right. There are still many problems in counting all of us: there's no standard definition of what it means to be LGBT, and it's difficult to distinguish between self-identity and behavior, which are very different things – one is self-definition and

another is action. The large overall increases in same-sex couples being reported in states right now are likely due to people coming out of the

We are here, we are queer, and not only are they getting used to it, but we are too.

closet and deciding to self-identify.

So one thing is for sure: we are here, we are queer, and not only are they getting used to it, but we are too. We are slowly but surely becoming more comfortable reporting ourselves and identifying as L, G, B, T, Q, I, A or whatever other letter we choose.

Most importantly, this means that we need our rights already. We shouldn't have to worry that being outed can mean being fired or evicted. We shouldn't have to worry when we consider marriage and children – we ought to be able to plan for these things with all the same joy as heterosexual couples.

We deserve all these things not just because our Constitution says that all of us are created equally, but also because, as the studies will continue to show, *we are here*.



RTM Transmissions

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

I'm not laughing

Recently comedian and former host of The Man Show Adam Carolla went on a bit of a tear during his podcast. The eight-minute rant, starting in response to an online petition to let Bert and Ernie get married on Sesame Street, covered a lot of ground. Carolla told us about his testicles, about anime cartooning and even conversations he has with his penis.

As entertaining as those may be, the bigger issue were comments made about transgender people.

While asking “when did we start giving a shit about these people,” Carolla nevertheless suggested that the acronym GLBT be replaced with YUCK, told the transgender community to “shut the fuck up,” and generally displayed his ignorance about the queer community and transgendered individuals in general.

It was not long for activists to react to Carolla's rant, with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation taking a lead role in pushing for an apology from Carolla.

It was not long after GLAAD got involved that Carolla issues a brief apology, stating, “I'm sorry my comments were hurtful. I'm a comedian, not a politician.”

To their credit, GLAAD called him out further, noting that he had a history of similar comments, and claimed that his “empty apologies” are just a part of Carolla's routine.

From anything I've seen of Carolla over the years – which, to be honest, isn't much – I have to agree with GLAAD. He seems a low-rent comedian cut from the same cloth as a Howard Stern or an Andrew Dice Clay. He bases his humor on being crude, ignorant and insulting, with a healthy helping of misogyny, racism, and queer-phobic commentary. That's his schtick, as some would say.

With that in mind, GLAAD and others – yes, including myself for having already written some 250 words or so above – have simply given Carolla a boost. By even discussing this, we're giving him credibility amongst his core demographic: others who wish to champion being crude, ignorant and “politically incorrect.” None of the anger based on what he said will really harm him in the long run.

So now that I too have gone on about him, I'm going to move on, in part because I don't think he deserves any more free publicity from my hands. Instead, I'd like to talk about the words of another celebrity in recent days, another attempt at humor at the cost to transgender people, and yes, another half-hearted apology.

American rock group Matchbox Twenty, headed up by Rob Thomas, has an official Twitter account. Like most celebrity accounts on Twitter, there is a mix of promotional tweets and social interaction with the members of the band.

On Aug. 18, the band tweeted: “Enjoying a song & found out it's a band I hate. It's like making out with a hot girl & finding out she has a penis.”

Setting aside the obvious conclusion that perhaps you don't really “hate” that band after all

and maybe, y'know, you should give them another try, comparing music you hate to “making out” with a transwoman just doesn't feel right to me. Perhaps I've seen way too many people use the “transgender panic” defense to ever be comfortable with this.

For those unfamiliar with the transgender panic defense, this is a bit of legal maneuvering that comes up in the case of anti-transgender violence. Supposedly a person is so panicked when they discover the person they're sexually intimate with is not the gender they suspected that they fly into a rage, and simply cannot control their urge to kill. Yes, this defense has worked many times, so much so that a law was actually enacted in California to limit its use after the Gwen Araujo murder trial brought so much attention onto that defensive technique.

For some reason I don't really feel much like laughing, but I will most definitely not shut the fuck up.

Matchbox Twenty quickly recanted when people cried foul, saying, “It was a joke. I apologize if it was taken seriously. It was not meant to be. we do not hate anyone. The joke was about the surprise – and it is sad to me that it was taken as such. Like oh, “I wasn't expecting that” not “oh I hate transgender” seemed kind of obvious to me. I guess it wasn't. So I leave it at this. We love everyone, we support all choices. We have always been vocal about that. Still are. Also, I say lighten up.”

I'm glad they did respond and tried to set things straight. Nevertheless, the “lighten up” comment at the end sticks a bit in my craw. It kind of turns this into a non-apology apology: you must not have a sense of humor, and gosh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Much like with Carolla, GLAAD was contacted. Unlike the former, GLAAD opted to not speak out about this, saying in an email to various activists that they “were planning on reaching out to Matchbox Twenty,” but won't bother to do so, given the band already apologized. GLAAD will not be speaking publicly about the incident at all.

In the end, we have one comedian who will reap the rewards of being offensive to transgender people, and we have a musical group who will likely not face any issues for their ill-conceived “joke” about transgender people.

For some reason I don't really feel much like laughing, but I will most definitely not shut the fuck up.

Gwen Smith really does have a sense of humor, somewhere. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.

Supports collect signatures for gay marriage ballot measure in Maine

Activists get 5,000 signatures during petition drive's first day

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)— The renewed effort to get gay marriage approved in Maine kicked off Saturday, Aug. 20 as petition-gatherers fanned out across the state, targeting farmer markets, parades and festivals in communities from York to Bangor.

EqualityMaine says the effort targeted a number of communities including Portland, Kennebunk, Biddeford, York, Bangor, Ellsworth and Brunswick.

The idea was to target heavily attended festivals. Thus, signature-gatherers were at a street festival in Biddeford, an art festival in Brunswick and the Bob Dylan concert in Bangor.

"We are everywhere," EqualityMaine spokesman Timothy Rose said Saturday. He said one volunteer at the Portland Farmers Market reported that some people were pushing others out of the way to sign the petition. By Saturday night, 5,000 signatures had been gathered, he said.

Rose channeled Bob Dylan in his comment that he believes Mainers are coming around to the idea of gay marriage after rejecting it in 2009: "The times they are a-changing. The great thing for us is that hearts and minds are changing on marriage equality."

Maine is currently the only state in New England that doesn't allow either gay marriage or civil unions.

To get gay marriage on the 2012 ballot, organizers need to collect at least 57,277 voters' signatures by Jan. 30. The bill

would first go to the Legislature, which would have an option to pass it.

"The times they are a-changing. The great thing for us is that hearts and minds are changing on marriage equality."

—Timothy Rose, EqualityMaine spokesman

Carroll Conley Jr. of the Christian Civic League of Maine said the organization is disappointed to see Maine put through another referendum on gay marriage, but said "we also see this as an opportunity to promote the merits of natural marriage to a society."

"I know that a lot of times we're accused of imposing our morality but in a Democracy, nobody imposes morality — you make the case for it. There are very few of our laws that don't have some sort of moral implication. We'll make the case," he said.

Cleve Jones to be honored at State Equality Dinner

DEARBORN— On Oct. 22 Equality Michigan will present the highly anticipated 2011 State Equality Dinner event "Out on the Town" at The Henry in Dearborn, Mich.



Cleve Jones

The gala evening is Equality Michigan's signature fundraiser. In addition to a VIP reception with live entertainment, the evening's festivities will feature a silent auction, formal dinner and afterglow celebration.

The dinner program will include keynote speaker Cleve Jones and an awards ceremony celebrating recent achievements for Michigan's LGBT equality movement.

The evening starts at 6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased by going online to <http://equalitymi.org/dinner>.

Equality Michigan (formerly the Triangle Foundation and Michigan Equality) works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in the state of Michigan regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. For more information, visit www.equalitymi.org.

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Michele Bachmann says she'd happily bring back 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' if she were president. Also: is it just us, or do her photos keep looking crazier?

Does she hate just US, or are there others she is not discussing? She is crazy and the photos prove it. I can't wait for the next couple of weeks' pics...

–Donald Campbell

Just sad. Why do people have to feel superior or threatened?

–Tracy Davis

Is she really so stupid that she does not realize gays are fighting wars for us?

–Larry Johnson

This woman is seriously from another planet.

–Holly Weasel

Yes she is looking crazier, it's not just you.

–Sandra Pawloski

She is not a witch, she is not a witch, she is not a witch. It's just those photographers, they must be part of the conspiracy.

–Steve Duerksen

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

Immigration, bigotry



Sujey and Violeta Pando

"I feel relief, and I thank the judge because she is a human being. If I was straight they would be helping me keep her here. I do feel relief today, and I am happy our marriage was being recognized a little bit at least."

–Sujey Pando and Violeta Pando, a lesbian couple legally married in Iowa, faced with Pando's deportation as an undocumented immigrant until the federal judge stopped the proceedings because of a sudden Obama Administration policy change that considers undocumented immigrants who pose no security risks with family in the U.S., including lesbian and gay families, to be low priority for deportation, denverpost.com, Aug. 20.



Sea Gate Community Chapel

"I love the gays. I love everybody."

–Anna Benson, author of a church roadside sign posted outside of the Sea Gate Community Chapel, in Wilmington, N.C., that stated: "God loves gays, but hates a perverted life style. Romans 1:26-27. Turn or burn." www.wect.tv, Aug. 15. Benson said the sign wasn't meant to offend anyone because she feels no animosity towards homosexuals.



Fred Karger

"They need to understand that not only is it OK to be gay, it's also possible to be gay and an unflinching candidate for the nation's highest office. I want to send the message to gay younger people and older people and everyone in between that you can do anything you want in life, and don't feel bad about yourself and don't feel you have to live your life the way I did."

–Fred Karger, Republican candidate for president, a retired political advisor and closeted for most of his 61 years who knows he stands no chance of becoming the Republican nominee, but wants to use the platform to let LGBT people know it's OK to be gay and to aim high in life, in an article titled "Gay presidential candidate Fred Karger has a message," latimes.com, Aug. 9.



Dennis W. Wiley

"Suggesting that 'civil rights' is a black issue and 'gay rights' is a white issue implies that LGBT equality is not a priority for black people. One of the problems with this 'either/or,' 'black' or 'white' approach is that it creates a false dichotomy between LGBT issues and other issues of social justice. It fosters a hierarchy of oppression in which certain matters are placed at the top of the political agenda while others are tabled. The greatest problem with this approach is its failure to highlight how multiple forms of oppression are interconnected. This failure to 'connect the dots' deceives black and other marginalized groups into believing that dealing with vital issues impacting our communities can, at best, be postponed indefinitely, or, at worst, be ignored completely."

–The Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Wiley, in his column titled "Why LGBT Equality Is Not a 'White' Issue," americanprogress.org, Aug. 17.

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Michele Bachmann

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Michele Bachmann

My dear Gaymericans, it has come to my attention that there is some concern about a woman named Michele Bachmann. The scuttlebutt is that she's anti-gay and possibly insane and that should the End of Days occur and she become President of the United States, LGBT people would be in very serious trouble.

I'm here today to assure you that Bachmann does not judge. She said so herself on Meet the Press. She said it right to David Gregory's face.

And you can't lie to a man with a face like that. I mean, look at him. He looks like a silver-haired Labrador retriever puppy in a necktie. Not even Michele Bachmann would lie to a dog wearing a tie.

But she might evade his questions. Which she did, though her unwillingness to stand by her past comments about lesbian and gay people only proves how non-judgmental she truly is in her heart and her soul.

"I am running for the presidency of the United States. I am not running to be anyone's judge," Bachmann told Gregory. "I ascribe honor and dignity to every person no matter what their background. (Gays and lesbians) have honor and they have dignity."

See? Homos have honor and dignity. So kind of her to notice. But for some reason, Gregory just wouldn't let the whole "you've said super shitty things about gay people in the past" thing go. He dragged out comments she made in 2004, like when she called being gay "a very sad life" that's "part of Satan."

She also said, "It leads to the personal enslavement of individuals. Because if you're involved in the gay and lesbian lifestyle, it's bondage. It is personal bondage, personal despair, and personal enslavement. And that's why this is so dangerous."

Um, okay. I can see how she might think that bondage is dangerous, though it might just be that her only experience with bondage is that scene from Pulp Fiction. Still, enough with the bondage talk, lady.

Oh, and, "We need to have profound compassion for people who are dealing with the very real issue of sexual dysfunction in their life, and sexual identity disorders."

But, I mean, so what? That was then and this is now. She's not judging gays now, end of story. Well, I mean, there is that whole issue of Bachmann's staunch support of the anti-gay marriage amendment to the Constitution. And the weird thing about her husband running a mental health clinic that tries to "cure" gays with prayer.

And then there's that "Marriage Vow" she signed in Iowa that, among many other things, affirms her "vigorous opposition to any redefinition of the Institution of Marriage — faithful monogamy between one man and one woman — through statutory-, bureaucratic-, or court-imposed recognition of intimate unions which are bigamous, polygamous, polyandrous, same-sex, etc."

For example, can we really hold it against her that her straw poll win in Iowa is largely credited to "Christian" GOP organizer Peter Waldron, who happens to have ties to Bishop Martin Ssempe, who happens to be one of the main proponents of the "kill the gays bill," a measure that seeks to make homosexuality punishable by death in Uganda?

But hey, we're talking about a woman who considers John Eidsmoe, her professor at Oral Roberts University, a mentor. Eidsmoe's views about homosexuality are extreme, to say the least. As Right Wing Watch points out, this guy is a big believer in ex-gay therapy and thinks that gays are out to destroy society and "will recruit our children into homosexuality, voluntarily or involuntarily."

This is, of course, utter bullshit, as any sensible person knows. But we're not talking about a sensible person here. We're talking about Michele Bachmann so it's only fair that the standard not be so high.

ACLU steps up fight against overzealous school Internet filters

Says filtering violates students' First Amendment rights

BY LISA KEEN

The ACLU on Aug. 15 filed a federal lawsuit against a public school district in Missouri that blocks school computers from access to LGBT supportive organizations.

The ACLU charges that the school district's web filtering violates the First Amendment rights of its students.

"It is well-established," says the lawsuit, filed Aug. 15 against the public school district in Camdenton, Mo., "that the First Amendment prohibits public schools from censoring school library resources in a manner that discriminates against disfavored viewpoints."

The ACLU brief cites a 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Board of Ed v. Pico*, in which a majority held that the First Amendment puts limits on a local school board's authority to remove books from the school libraries.

Camdenton public schools use software on its library computers to block students from accessing obscene or pornographic sites. The school district told a local paper two weeks ago that it allows students to access some blocked sites at students' request.

The ACLU says that public schools across the country are often using Internet filter software by Lightspeed Systems that blocks websites with LGBT-supportive content. The ACLU says Lightspeed has agreed to modify its software to provide a viewpoint-neutral filter that doesn't block LGBT-supportive sites. Five other companies also produce software that filters out LGBT-supportive sites: Blue Coat Systems, M86 Solutions, Fortiguard, Websense and URL Blacklist.

The ACLU lawsuit, *PFLAG v. Camdenton*, says the Camdenton school district filter blocks student access to the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays website, the Matthew Shepard Foundation,

Campus Pride and Dignity USA. The filter does not block access to anti-gay websites.

A chart on the ACLU.org website identifies a number of states, including California, Texas, Illinois, Georgia, Ohio and Michigan, in which it is either

"It is imperative that LGBT youth who are experiencing discrimination and bullying be able to access this information for their own safety."

—Joshua Block, staff attorney with the ACLU's National LGBT Project.

investigating or sending demand letters to school districts that are using overly restrictive filters. The letters are part of the ACLU's national "Don't Filter Me" campaign that was launched in February.

In Oroville, Calif., the ACLU sent a demand letter in May saying that it had received complaints from students about a "Lifestyle" filter from M86 Security that blocks access to LGBT-supportive organizational websites. The letter notes that the ACLU has found that some school districts around the country have been blocking LGBT-supportive sites without even realizing it.

The ACLU said the filter used by Oroville had been configured to block access to the GSA Network, Campus

Pride, Day of Silence, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Safe Schools Coalition and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Some school districts receiving the letter say the ACLU is mistaken about its filter. In Michigan, an attorney for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools responded to a demand letter in April, saying that students can access the website for the Gay-Straight Alliance if they are "properly logged on."

But in others, school officials have taken immediate steps to correct the problem. In Adine, Texas, school superintendent Wanda Bamberg responded immediately to a demand letter in May, saying the block on LGBT websites had been removed.

The federal Children's Internet Protection Act, passed in 2000, requires that public schools receiving certain federal funds use an Internet filter to block access to websites that include obscene or pornographic material. The ACLU says that Camdenton cannot prove its blocks were reasonable methods of complying with CIPA.

The National Conference of State Legislatures notes that 25 states also have state laws requiring Internet filters in public schools and libraries.

Joshua Block, a staff attorney with the ACLU's National LGBT Project, said many students in public schools don't realize that blocking their access to LGBT-supportive sites violates their First Amendment rights.

"Schools not only have a legal duty to allow students access to these sites," said Block in a press release, "it is also imperative that LGBT youth who are experiencing discrimination and bullying be able to access this information for their own safety."

Bi-national lesbian couple in Colorado gets more time to fight unfair deportation case

Homeland Security Dept. releases new guidelines for deporting immigrants

DENVER (AP)— New immigration guidelines from the Homeland Security Department helped a lesbian couple get more time to fight a deportation case in Colorado, their attorney said Aug. 19.

Attorney Lavi Soloway said Denver immigration Judge Mimi Tsankov told the court that lawyers from both sides of the case should take additional time to review the case in light of an announcement by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Aug. 18 that illegal immigrants without a criminal

record could be allowed to stay in the country if they face deportation. Soloway said the judge also cited recent questions surrounding a law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Soloway said his client Sujey Pando was expecting a ruling in her case on Aug. 19, but Napolitano's announcement won them more time.

"It definitely impacted the courtroom and I think to some extent it mellowed the position of the trial attorney," Soloway

said. "This was a Hail Mary pass and we got very, very lucky that this hearing was scheduled the day after Napolitano's statement."

Pando now has a hearing in January and he said he will argue she should be allowed to stay because her spouse, Violeta Pando, is a U.S. citizen. The couple married in Iowa last November.

Soloway said before Napolitano's announcement he expected Pando was

See Colorado, page 18



Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Candle queens remembered

“I’m burning my candle at both ends. It will not last the night. But, oh, my foes, and, ah, my friends. It gives a lovely light!”

These words are by bisexual poet Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), the subject of the fascinating best-selling biography, “Savage Beauty,” by Nancy Milford (Random House). Her poetry – touching, independent, light, feminist, sardonic – is once again reaching new, younger, audiences, many LGBT.

My acquaintance with her poetic gifts began with the sonnets. When I was getting over my first “big affair,” I memorized Millay’s “Time does not bring relief/ All you have lied who told me time would ease me of my pain./ I miss him in the weeping of the rain/ I want him in the shrinking of the tide.”

Pain indeed. I was 23 and into my third year of a rewarding affair when I was dumped by my partner Ernie for a soldier on leave named Joe. As a keepsake memento Ernie gave me a two-record LP recording of Tchiakovsky’s “Sleeping Beauty Ballet.” It was elaborately packaged in silver lamé wrapping.

(I never played the damn thing. We didn’t speak for nine years. The last time we got together, a few years back, was in celebration of his mother’s 100th birthday. Ernie’s living somewhere in Florida, president of VAI: Video Arts International.)

Soon I met new friends at the Woodward Bar, circa 1959: Tom, Paul, and Jonya, each of whom I found out was a bona fide candle queen. My first dinner in their company was midsummer. It could just as well have been Christmas for all the flickering-fairy, highlighted enchantment I walked in to.

I think I counted three dozen candles of varying sizes, shapes, scents in strategic places of the living room. The effect was wonderful, but I began to worry. Was a group seduction planned? Was all this flicker and flare to enhance the taste of mediocre food? (Another tuna casserole!) We’re we going to have an impromptu rosary?

The simple truth is that these guys loved candles. Jonya, who was Dutch, took pride in a family heirloom, once hidden during the Nazi occupation of his country. He called the silver candle holder a “SHANdalabra,” which made his lover Paul smile indulgently. (Jonya was also given to saying, “Vell, Paul, I just jurn for you.”)

I think I saw Jonya genuflect as he lit the candles gracing the dining table. A carpenter by trade, his rough hands loving arranged flowers as well, of which there was also an abundance on display that festive night.

Tom, who was with Paul before Jonya (and the son of a Detroit precinct police captain) took pleasure in an elaborate dime store-bought fountain in the living room. He called it Miss Trevi. It held plants, glass beads, ice cubes, gold fish. The water color varied from day to day, party to party, frequently augmented by leftover Manhattans.

Little wonder that Miss Trevi gurgled, occasionally burped and wheezed. Compliments given to this bubbling contraption usually resulted in amply free-poured drinks by proud-owner Tom.

Alone in my cluttered art studio these days I often light a candle and watch shadows dance softly, silently, swiftly, on my wall. Images of the past appear; wink, and vanish.

Paul has been married for 37 years to Susan, “an understanding wife.” Jonya died of a heart attack aboard ship during a return visit to Amsterdam. Tom, who in 1972 was told that because he had an abused pancreas his next drink “would be it,” ignored the warning. He was 36.

Me? I’m still burning my candle at both ends. But, if you really must know, well, my vanilla-scented wick has somehow grown shorter. But it flickers ever so brightly.

Charles@pridesource.com Have a rainbow day.



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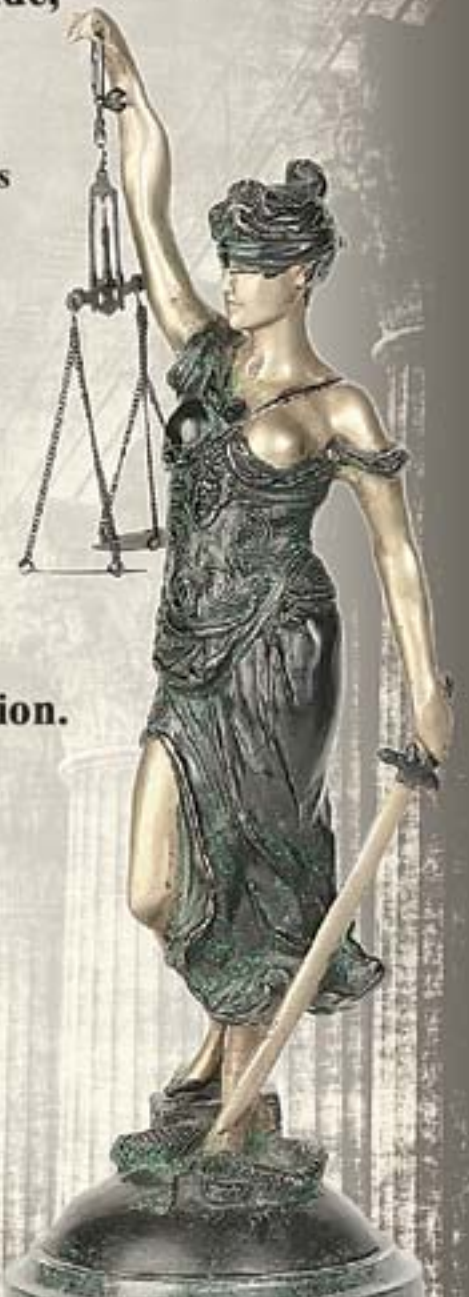
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Change in immigration practice could prevent gay foreign nationals from being deported from U.S.

U.S. won't recognize gay marriages due to Defense of Marriage Act

BTL STAFF

Senior members of the Obama Administration announced Aug. 19 a new process to review and potentially stay deportations of certain non-criminal immigrants, including bi-national same-sex couples.

Roughly 300,000 immigrants are currently in the deportation process. The new program would individually review those cases, seeking those who are not criminals, those who have not re-entered the country after a prior deportation and those who did not recently enter the country. These non-criminal, "low-priority" cases would then be eligible for a stay of deportation.

According to the Washington Blade, "Administration officials will weigh a person's ties and contributions to the community and family relationships. During a conference call with media outlets, a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said these criteria are inclusive of LGBT families and same-sex couples."

The move comes after years of congressional inaction on comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM

Act. While this decision will not bring a permanent solution to the problem, its proper implementation could help many families who have lived, worked and paid taxes in the U.S. for many years from being torn apart by deportation.

Cindy Estrada, international vice president of the United Auto Workers,

"We certainly should not be wasting our time or tax dollars targeting immigrant families who are simply working hard, raising families, and paying taxes."

—Ryan Bates, Director of the Alliance for Immigrants Rights & Reform in Michigan

reiterated the call of comprehensive immigration reform. "This is certainly a step in the right direction and a victory for immigrants and their families. We thank the president for recognizing the need for this humane change in policy. Implemented properly, this directive will keep families together and our communities safe. However, we must continue the fight for comprehensive immigration reform that will finally protect immigrant and American workers, keep families together, and allow students to achieve their dreams."

Some unanswered questions remain regarding the program, including the timeline for implementation, the composition of the committee and the exact criteria for relief.

"We're glad that the president has acted to reform some of the flaws in our immigration enforcement. We certainly should not be wasting our time or tax dollars targeting immigrant families who are simply working hard, raising families, and paying taxes," said Ryan Bates, director of the Alliance for Immigrants Rights & Reform - Michigan. "If properly and swiftly implemented, this process could restore some much-needed balance and fairness to our system."

► Colorado

Continued from p. 16

going to be deported, or that the government would have appealed the ruling had she been allowed to stay.

Napolitano announced Aug. 18 that the department will focus on deporting illegal immigrants who are criminals or pose a threat to national security or public safety and those who have no criminal record could be allowed to stay and apply for a work permit.

Sujay Pando came to the attention of immigration officials when she was pulled over in 2008 for a traffic violation.

Napolitano announced the plan in a letter to a group of senators who support revamping the immigration system. Under the change, approximately 300,000 deportation cases pending in immigration court will be reviewed case by case.

The decision – which sparked an outcry from Republicans – came amid protests from immigrant communities and others that the administration has been too focused on deporting people whose only offense is being in the country without the proper documents or who have been arrested for traffic violations or other misdemeanors.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement referred questions about the case to the Department of Homeland Security. Officials there did not immediately return a call for comment.

In May, Attorney General Eric Holder set aside the ruling of an immigration judicial panel in the deportation case of Paul Wilson Dorman, a gay man illegally in the U.S. who wants to stay with his partner, whom he married in a civil union in New Jersey.

Holder asked the panel to reconsider the case, and whether Dorman's civil union or same-sex partnership would qualify him as a spouse under immigration law were it not for the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Obama administration has declined to defend in court. It defines marriage as between a man and woman.

Taiwan hosts biggest-ever same-sex wedding party to encourage legalization

BY BTL STAFF

TAIPEI— Nearly 80 lesbian couples married in Taiwan's largest same-sex wedding ceremony on Aug. 20 at an event called "Barbie and Barbie's wedding." Organizers of the event hoped to convince Taiwan to become the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. The event attracted more than 1,000 supporters, friends, family and gawkers.

The ceremonies went smoothly, uninterrupted by police or protests. The couples received an unofficial certificate from event organizers that certified their marriages.

"I feel very hopeful that Taiwan will legalize same-sex marriage soon," said one of the brides, 32-year-old stylist Celine Chen, according to global news agency AFP. Chen said she planned to honeymoon in New York.

Another woman, Carol Huang, told the AFP that the weddings "were fun but not real" and that she intends to legally marry her partner in a European country.

The AFP also reported that Taiwan is becoming more open-minded towards its homosexual population, and the island's gay rights groups last year said they had hosted Asia's biggest gay pride parade, with a turnout of 30,000.



A same-sex female couple cut their cake during a mass wedding at a night club in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011. Organizers said that nearly 80 same-sex female couples tied the knot during this mass wedding. Taiwan does not legally recognize same sex marriages. AP Photo by Wally Santana.

Mexico City reaches 1,000th gay marriage

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Mexico City has marked its 1,000th same-sex marriage since lawmakers in the capital approved such unions in March 2010.

The city government says in a statement that about 6 percent of those getting married in same-sex weddings in the city are foreigners.

Officials had predicted an influx in tourism when they enacted the first law in Latin America explicitly allowing same-sex marriages.

The first 1,000 weddings involved 548 gay couples and 452 lesbian pairs. About 85 percent of the marriages were between partners age 31 and older. Mexico's average marriage age is 28 for men and 25 for women.

The 1,000th wedding took place Sunday, Aug. 20, uniting a 37-year-old Mexican university researcher and a 29-year-old Dutch man.



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– Oscar Wilde

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BEST MUSICAL

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Kurt Stamm,
director, Mason Street Warehouse

Dracula, A Rock Opera, Travis W. Walter,
director, Meadow Brook Theatre

The Drowsy Chaperone, Carla Milarch,
director, Performance Network Theatre

Parade, Kathy Mulay, director, Farmers
Alley Theatre

Plaid Tidings, Mark Martino, director, The
Gem Theatre



BEST ORIGINAL ONE- ACT COMEDY OR ONE- PERSON SHOW

Dixie's Tupperware Party, Patrick
Richwood, director, Mason Street
Warehouse

Fish Dinner, Dave Davies, director, Planet
Ant Theatre

F\$\$\$ the Holidays: A Seasonal
Retail Story, Joe Plambeck, director,
SweetLove Productions

Late Night Catechism 3: 'Til Death Do Us
Part, Marc Silvia, director, The Gem Theatre

Sister's Christmas Catechism, Marc
Silvia, director, The Century Theatre



BEST NEW SCRIPT

Mitch Albom, Ernie, City Theatre

Kim Carney, The War Since Eve,
Performance Network Theatre

William Missouri Downs, Forgiving John
Lennon, Detroit Repertory Theatre

Michael Brian Ogden, Corktown, The
Purple Rose Theatre Company

Sean Paraventi, The Current, Magenta
Giraffe Theatre Company

2011 - 2012 Season

The Dead Guy by Eric Coble

September 29 - October 30, 2011

A wicked satire skewering reality TV shows.
Find out what happens when the unluckiest guy in the world
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This Wonderful Life by Steve Murray

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John Lepard returns to the Williamston stage in his
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Dead Man's Shoes by Joseph Zettelmaier

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Book & Lyrics by Alan Gordon Music by Mark Sutton-Smith
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The Understudy by Theresa Rebeck

May 22 - June 22, 2012

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Red, White And Tuna

by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard

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BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTRESS – DRAMA

Milica Govich, Sonia Flew, Performance
Network Theatre

Linda Rabin Hammell, Seascape,
Blackbird Theatre

Alysia Kolascz, Equus, Blackbird Theatre

Kelly Komlen, Proof, Tipping Point
Theatre

Samantha Rosentrater, The Cider House
Rules, Parts I & II, Hilberry Theatre

BEST DESIGN – COSTUMES

Dominique Rhea Glaros, An Italian Straw
Hat, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre

Liz Moore, SHOUT! The Mod Musical,
Meadow Brook Theatre

Liz Moore, The 39 Steps, Meadow Brook
Theatre

Melinda Pacha, A Life in the Theatre,
UDM Theatre Company

Suzanne Young, The Drowsy Chaperone,
Performance Network Theatre

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTOR - LGBT THEMES OR CHARACTERS

Jon Ager, Mercury Fur, Who Wants Cake?
Theatre

Joe Bailey, Fatal Attraction: A Greek
Tragedy, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

John Bonner, Beyond Therapy, The Acorn
Theater

Joe Plambeck, Love! Valour!
Compassion!, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Matthew Turner Shelton, The Little Dog
Laughed, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

Jennifer Graham, Equus, Blackbird
Theatre

Alison Gritz, On Broadway: A Modern
Songbook, Tibbits Summer Theatre

Phil Simmons, The Drowsy Chaperone,
Performance Network Theatre

Kurt Stamm, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,
Mason Street Warehouse

Kathryn S. Williams, Parade, Farmers
Alley Theatre

BEST TOURING PRODUCTION

Dreamgirls, Fox Theatre

Les Miserables, Fisher Theatre

Mary Poppins, Wharton Center

Richard III, University Musical Society

Wicked, Miller Auditorium

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTRESS – COMEDY

Kathleen Bode, The Merry Wives of
Windsor, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare
Company

Angela Dill, 1940s Radio Variety Show,
Capital TheaterWorks

Henrietta Hermelin, The War Since Eve,
Performance Network Theatre

Laurel Hufano, The Model Apartment,
The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

Suzi Regan, While We Were Bowling,
Williamston Theatre

See Nominations, page 24



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Musical!



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Major Barbara

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Ivy Haralson

Beth Lackey

Alyssa Lucas

Anna Marck

Amanda McFarland

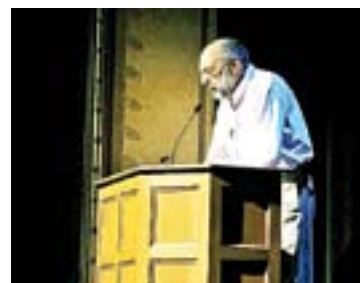
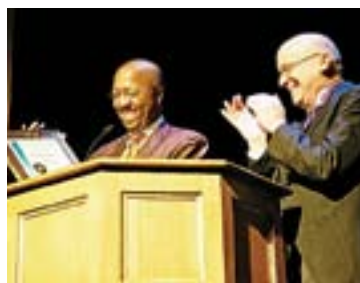
Jackson McLaskey

Jared Schneider

Randy Stewart

Tania L. Velinsky

*Time
for one
Wilde night*



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10th Wilde Awards Program

Welcome and Introduction

Awards Presentations:

Best Musical

Best Performance, Actress - Drama

Best Design - Costumes

Best Original One-Act Comedy or One-Person Show

Best Performance, Actor - LGBT Themes or Characters

Best Choreography

Best New Script

Best Touring Production

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Awards Presentations:

Best Comedy

Best Performance, Actor - Drama

Best Music Direction

Best Performance, Actor - Original One-Act Comedy or One-Person Show

Best Performance, Actress - LGBT Themes or Characters

Best Design - Sets

Best Ensemble

WILDE-r Awards

Awards Presentations:

Best Performance, Actress - Comedy

Best Design - Lights

Best Production of a New Script

Best Performance, Actress - Musical

Best Design - Props

Best Teamwork

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Awards Presentations:

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Best Performance, Actor - Comedy

Best Performance, Actor - Musical

Best Drama

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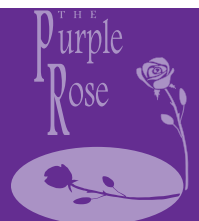
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► Nominations

Continued from p. 20

BEST DESIGN – LIGHTS

Mark Choinski, A Life in the Theatre, UDM Theatre Company

Reid G. Johnson, Dracula, A Rock Opera, Meadow Brook Theatre

Joe Plambeck, Mercury Fur, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Steven V. Rice, Nevermore, The Encore Musical Theatre Company

Thomas H. Schraeder, Of Mice and Men, Hilberry Theatre

BEST PRODUCTION OF A NEW SCRIPT

Best of Friends, Guy Sanville, director, The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Corktown, Guy Sanville, director, The Purple Rose Theatre Company

The Current, Molly McMahon, director, Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company

Ernie, Tony Caselli, director, City Theatre

The War Since Eve, David Wolber, director, Performance Network Theatre

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTRESS – MUSICAL

Naz Edwards, The Drowsy Chaperone, Performance Network Theatre

Beth Glover, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Mason Street Warehouse

Jessica Grove, Club Morocco, The Encore Musical Theatre Company

Barbara Marineau, A Catered Affair, Farmers Alley Theatre

Whitney Wade, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Farmers Alley Theatre

BEST DESIGN – PROPS

Kirstin Bianchi, Salvage, Planet Ant Theatre

Monika Essen, The Drowsy Chaperone, Performance Network Theatre

Dixie Longate, Dixie's Tupperware Party, Mason Street Warehouse

Jeri Price, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Farmers Alley Theatre

Charlie Sutherland, The Piano Lesson, Performance Network Theatre

BEST TEAMWORK

Sandra Birch, Barton Bund & Brandon Piper, Oedipus, Williamston Theatre

Stephen Blackwell & David Schoen, Waiting for Godot, The Abreact

Matthew David & Michael Brian Ogden, Corktown, The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Carmen Decker & Cosmo Greene, Kimberly Akimbo, Stormfield Theatre

Chris Korte & Eric W. Maher, True West, The Abreact

Evan Mann & Lee Stille, Equus, Blackbird Theatre

BEST COMEDY

Boeing-Boeing, Nathan Mitchell, director, The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Circle Mirror Transformation, John Seibert, director, Performance Network Theatre

Ding Dong, Travis W. Walter, director, Meadow Brook Theatre

The Model Apartment, Lavinia Moyer Hart, director, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

True West, Charles Reynolds, director, The Abreact

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTOR – DRAMA

Erman Jones, Of Mice and Men, Hilberry Theatre

Hugh Maguire, Proof, Tipping Point Theatre

John M. Manfredi, Oedipus, Williamston Theatre

Andrew Papa, The Cider House Rules, Parts I & II, Hilberry Theatre

David L. Regal, A Life in the Theatre, UDM Theatre Company

BEST MUSIC DIRECTION

Patrick Coyle, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Mason Street Warehouse

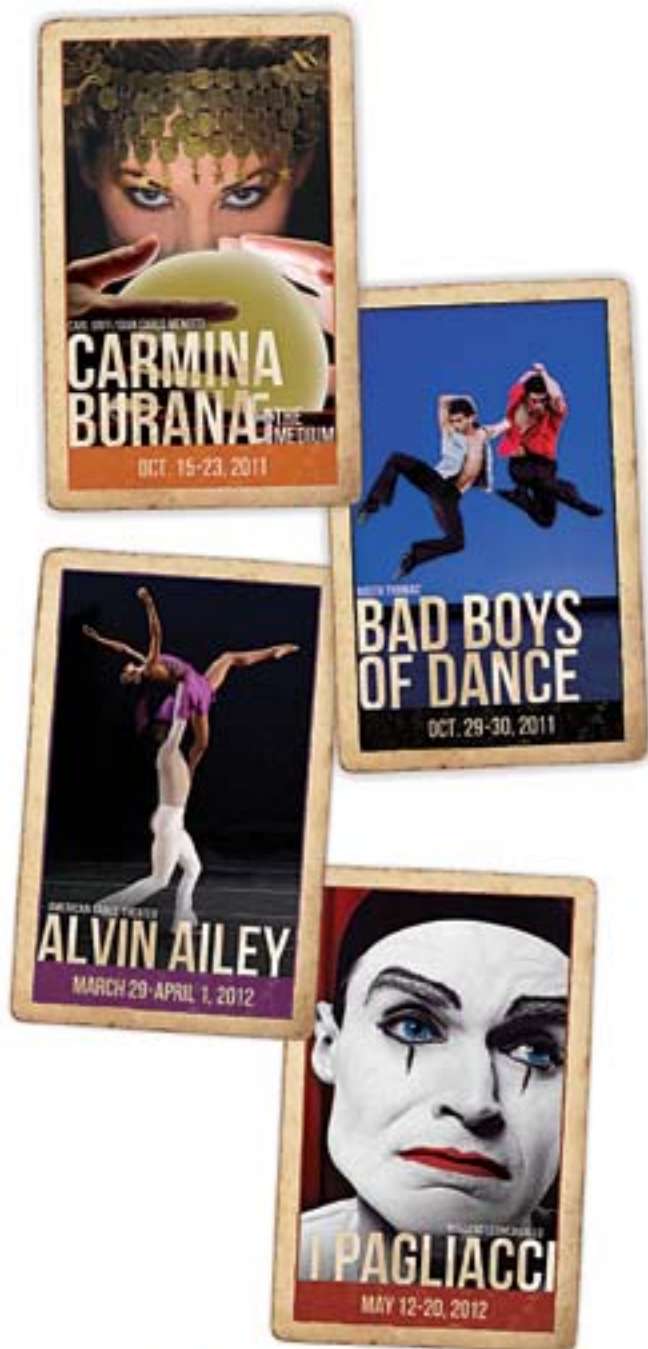
Tyler Driskill, Club Morocco, The Encore Musical Theatre Company

Eleonore Ellero-Groth, The Last Five Years, The Box Theatre

Harvey Kahl, Plaid Tidings, The Gem Theatre

Cheryl VanDuzen, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Tibbits Summer Theatre

See Nominations, page 26



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 Sunday April 1, at 2:30 p.m.

THE PEARL FISHERS

BY GEORGES BIZET

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Saturday April 14, at 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday April 18, at 7:30 p.m.
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ALL NEW PRODUCTION!

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Saturday May 12, at 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday May 16, at 7:30 p.m.
 Friday May 18, at 7:30 p.m.
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Nominations for 2011 Wilde Awards for Excellence in Professional Theater



► Nominations

Continued from p. 24

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTOR - ORIGINAL ONE- ACT COMEDY OR ONE- PERSON SHOW

Chris DiAngelo, Best Damn Holiday Show, Go Comedy! Improv Theater

Garrett Fuller, Sirs, Go Comedy! Improv Theater

Quintin Hicks, Fish Dinner, Planet Ant Theatre

Joe Hingelberg, F\$\$\$ the Holidays: A Seasonal Retail Story, SweetLove Productions

Jamen Spitzer, Sirs, Go Comedy! Improv Theater

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTRESS - LGBT THEMES OR CHARACTERS

Lauren Bickers, Sordid Lives: It's a Drag, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Katie Dufresne, Beyond Therapy, The Acorn Theater

Suzan M. Jacokes, The Little Dog Laughed, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Cassandra McCarthy, Mercury Fur, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Crystal Rhoney, The Little Dog Laughed, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

BEST DESIGN – SETS

W. Douglas Bickle, Escanaba in Da Moonlight, Farmers Alley Theatre

Joseph P. Flauto, Into the Woods, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre

Brian Kessler, Dracula, A Rock Opera, Meadow Brook Theatre

Peter Schmidt, Of Mice and Men, Hilberry Theatre

Daniel C. Walker, Circle Mirror Transformation, Performance Network Theatre

BEST ENSEMBLE

Scott Barnhardt, Bradley Beahen, Jared Gertner, Kevin Vortmann, Plaid Tidings, The Gem Theatre

Sandra Birch, Hazen Cuyler, John Leopard, Maggie Meyer & Nick Hinz, Home: Voices from Families of the Midwest, Williamston Theatre

Sandra Birch & Dave Davies, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Tipping Point Theatre

Steve Blackwood, Janet Caine, Ruth Crawford, MaryJo Cuppone, Christopher Howe & Julianne Somers, Ding Dong, Meadow Brook Theatre

Terry Heck, Sarah Ann Leahy, Taras Michael Los, Mark Rademacher & Eva Rosenwald, Circle Mirror Transformation, Performance Network Theatre

Denene Mulay Koch, Amanda Martin, Ann Sanders, Sandy Zwier, The Marvelous Wonderettes, Farmers Alley Theatre

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTRESS - ORIGINAL ONE- ACT COMEDY OR ONE- PERSON SHOW

Melissa Beckwith, F\$\$\$ The Holidays: A Seasonal Retail Story, SweetLove Productions

Nonie Breen, Sister's Easter Catechism: Will My Bunny Go To Heaven?, The Gem Theatre

Suzan M. Jacokes, Ferndale 2-4-8, Go Comedy! Improv Theater

Dixie Longate, Dixie's Tupperware Party, Mason Street Warehouse

Mary Zentmyer, Late Night Catechism 3: 'Til Death Do Us Part, The Gem Theatre

BEST PLAY WITH LGBT THEMES OR CHARACTERS

Beyond Therapy, Michael Fernandez, director, The Acorn Theater

Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy, Joe Bailey, director, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Love! Valour! Compassion!, Keith Paul Medelis, director, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Mercury Fur, Joe Plambeck, director, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Sordid Lives: It's a Drag, Jamie Richards & Joe Plambeck, directors, Who Wants Cake? Theatre



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Joseph Albright, While We Were Bowling, Williamston Theatre

Rusty Mewha, The 39 Steps, Meadow Brook Theatre

Joel Mitchell, Christmas on Mars, Who Wants Cake? Theatre

Michael Brian Ogden, The God of Isaac, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

Jim Porterfield, Some Couples May..., The Purple Rose Theatre Company

BEST PERFORMANCE, ACTOR – MUSICAL

Steve DeBruyne, Damn Yankees, The Encore Musical Theatre Company

Paul Hopper, Dracula, A Rock Opera, Meadow Brook Theatre

Tony Perry, Parade, Farmers Alley Theatre

Phil Powers, The Drowsy Chaperone, Performance Network Theatre

Bernie Yvon, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Mason Street Warehouse

BEST DRAMA

The Cider House Rules, Parts I & II, Blair Anderson & Lavinia Hart, directors, Hilberry Theatre

A Life in the Theatre, Arthur J. Beer, director, UDM Theatre Company

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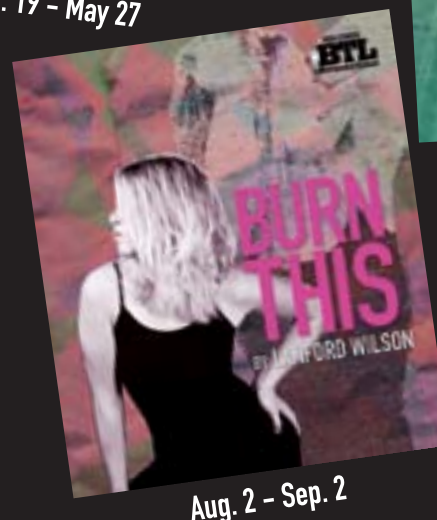
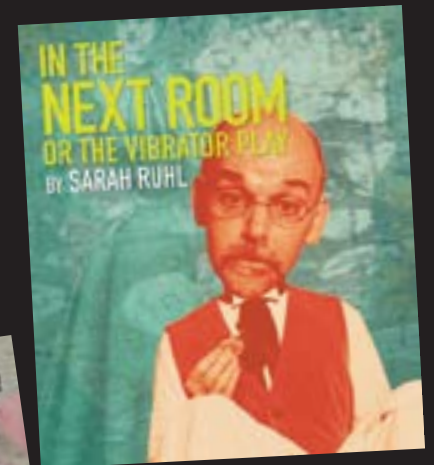
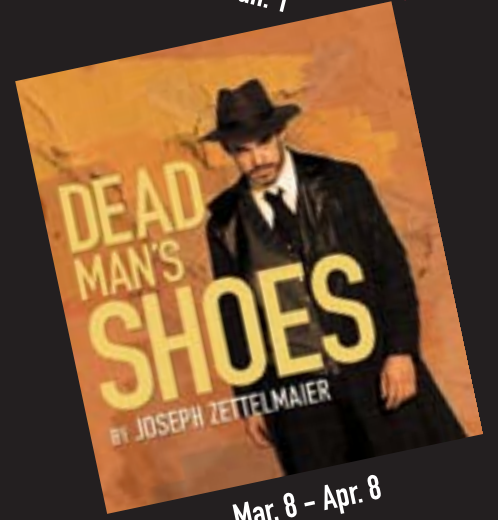
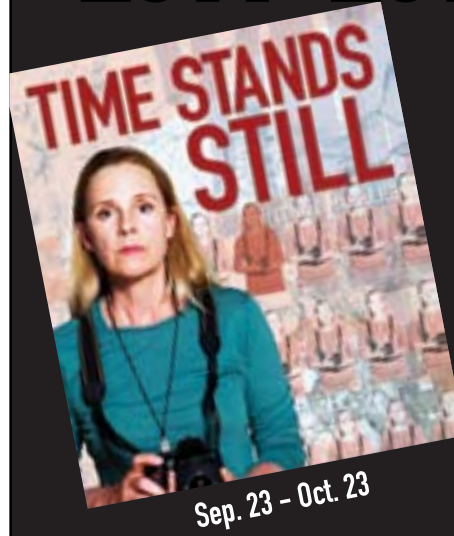
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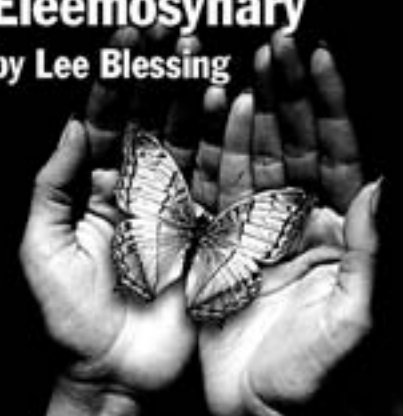
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Fine, funny... and 'fat'?



Photo: Mark Bradley Miller

Comedian talks Saugatuck shows, age phobia and why you should read this article

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Scott Nevins has a special request: "Make me sound funny in the article so people come see my stupid ass." But Nevins, a comedian who's been called a younger, sexier, gayer Kathy Griffin, is very funny without our help. And based on the rest of his body – those washboard abs, that bone structure, those pecs (it's called research, people!) – we're betting his ass ain't stupid.

But you can be the judge of that Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31-Sept. 4, when Nevins performs his show, "Scott Nevins: One Night Stand," at the Mason Street Warehouse in downtown Saugatuck. Nevins tells us that he's never done a run like this before, where it's a nightly Broadway-style thing. "So," he says, "by the end of the run I could literally sound like Harvey Fierstein."

While he's there, Nevins plans on scoping out the area, maybe even making a trip to the beach, where he likes to spend as much time as possible when he's back home in Los Angeles. "I'm so interested to get there," he says of Saugatuck. "I've heard it's beautiful, so I can't wait to get there and do the shows and meet everyone."

And see how gay it is?

"I don't like the gays," he says in a mocking tone. "I'm with Michele Bachmann. I say we just get rid of them all. Extinguish all of them."

"She is something else, isn't she? Like Sarah Palin... with a different wig. It's going to be such a good season on 'Saturday Night Live.'"

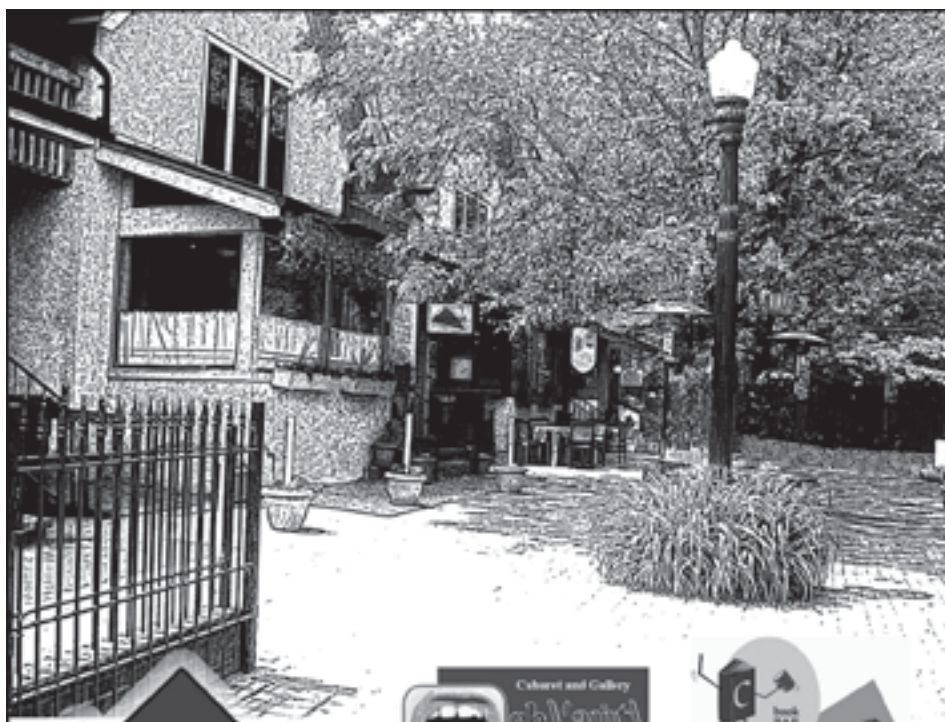
These rips are part of Nevins' stage shtick, though he insists he's not as cutthroat as Kathy Griffin. "I love Kathy, but my stuff isn't as mean as hers," he says. "I find she skewers really mean. But I'm usually the butt of my own joke before I make fun of somebody else."

In our conversation alone, he slams a bunch of gay icons, including Mariah Carey ("She can't hit no high notes. It's air. She's literally pushing out air, and it squeaks") and Lady Gaga ("She's a Muppet, and I think the second album is proving how long she's really gonna last. It's not that great.").

"I go after a lot of the big divas in my show," he says. "I'm Irish-Catholic, so if you like someone you make fun of them. That's the standard Irish-Catholic rule."

When he's not ridiculing people, he's imitating them – lots of them, from Judy Garland to Cher and Tina Turner. Notice they're all women, which has done a number on Nevins' voice. "I call it the 'List of How Scott Got Vocal Nodes,'" he says. "My poor vocal chords are strained and probably look like Michele

See Scott Nevins, page 32



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Scott Nevins says he's still that "awkward fat kid." Photo: Ryan Holbert

▶ **Scott Nevins**

Continued from p. 31

Bachmann's face."

And they very well might during that last show in Saugatuck. "It could be hilarious; I could have a mental breakdown by the end of the run," Nevins says. But the comedian still promises that the shows won't strictly follow a script, so if you can't get enough Nevins, the only thing that will be exactly the same are those abs and that smile – and who's gonna complain about that?

"If someone in the audience is really into something, I will go with it and the show will completely change direction," he says. "It keeps things exciting for me."

He doesn't just like to mix it up onstage, telling stories about his personal and professional business, including gossip from his celebrity encounters. Variety is what Nevins lives for. "If my career could be me selling yogurt that helps you poop, I would be so thrilled. Or I would love to be the spokesperson for Cheesecake Factory. I will do anything. I will perform at a gas station. I have no qualms. A gig is a gig is a gig." (And money for the new laptop he wants.)

But he chose comedy, a career that includes a spot on truTV's "The Smoking Gun Presents," as host to many Hollywood events and a cover story in *Instinct* magazine. It all grew out of Nevins' childhood infatuation with showbiz and celebrity obsessions and knowing he wanted to be part of it, even if he didn't want to act.

"I figured out you can do this thing called hosting where you're not really an actor, you're playing yourself," he says, "and that's how that career started. People kept saying, 'You're really funny and you should really try this one-man show thing.'"

But when his dad died, so did that idea. Not long after, though, a producer called him up and urged him to get back into it. What began as a one-night only engagement in New York for friends and family snowballed into 12 weeks of sold-out shows. Nevins was hot stuff, and not just because of his looks.

In fact, he didn't always look like a page from an UnderGear catalog.

"I'm a former fat kid," Nevins admits, talking about all the complimentary adjectives – "incredibly gorgeous," "handsome" and "leading-man good looks" – used in his press materials. "It's all so silly, because I feel like I'm the goofiest person around. But I'm very flattered that people think that and it's very sweet

Scott Nevins: One Night Stand

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of them, but inside I'm the awkward fat kid that I always was."

Obviously he's past the fat phase, but when did that happen? "It hasn't," he says. "I'm sitting here eating right now."

Now 30, Nevins' outlook on age is different than most of his gay peers, who seem to think getting older is a death sentence.

"Gay men freak out about age," he says, "but I think getting older is amazing. I never liked being in my 20s, but when I turned 30 there was a tiny bit of clarity that started to happen. I always was an old soul, so I never felt my age to begin with. I'm starting to feel like I'm catching up to my age as I get older."

But he still fondly remembers what it was like to be a kid, which is why he works closely with LGBT youth to empower them and speak on AIDS awareness, both through HRC and by giving lectures at schools around the country. "I was always very fortunate," he says. "I had two or three great gay role models growing up, and I feel now that I'm putting myself out there in the public eye that I have a responsibility to be somewhat of a role model, and it's gratifying."

"My life is an open book, and I talk about everything onstage," he continues. "I don't have anything to hide, and if I can help a kid feel better about him- or herself by being open and being honest, then I'll do it."

Talk about open – we found out everything from what Nevins shamelessly ate last night for dinner (a truffle burger with fries that was "better than sex"), the Botox he's had to maintain his "TV face" and how much of an outcast he used to be. And he knows that most of you won't make it through this article – but, as we remind him, the photos should help.

"Sadly that's all you need for the gay boys," he says. "I think we can work on that. We gotta get them reading. Reading is fundamental. No child left behind in the gay community! I'll hand out *Hooked on Phonics* at my show."

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'Bare' emotions highlight pop musical

BY JOHN QUINN

If "bare" (aka "bare: A Pop Opera") is any indication, Catholic school is a lot more fun than I remember. Well, scratch that; I'm not sure drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll is "fun" so much as leading a bunch of innocents to walk the edge of a dangerous precipice. Definitely they're facing challenges simply never discussed in my day. In "bare," an ambitious production at The Box Theatre in Mount Clemens, that includes "the love that dare not speak its name."

With lyrics by Jon Hartmere Jr. and music by Damon Intrabartolo, "bare" debuted at the Hudson Theatre in Los Angeles in the fall of 2001. It was produced off-Broadway at the American Theatre of Actors in the spring of 2004. Superficially, it could be described as "Glee" meets "Spring Awakening," but it predates those cultural touchstones. The musical confronts the clash between a homosexual relationship and traditionalist Catholicism.

Peter (Steven Ross) and Jason (Jeff Bobick) share a room at St. Cecilia's, a Catholic boarding school. They also share a secret relationship. If we have any doubts that they are in for a bad time, we should pick up on the hint that the spring play their senior year is the quintessential tale of star-crossed lovers, "Romeo and Juliet." Jason is playing Romeo; Peter, his "best friend," Mercutio. The role of Juliet falls to Ivy (Jillian Hoffman), who

REVIEW

bare

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

www.theboxtheater.com



"bare" continues at The Box Theater through Aug. 27. Photo: What's That Smell?

is infatuated with BMOG Jason. The triangle is actually a wrecked tangle since Tybalt, Romeo's enemy, is being played by Matt (Alex Pedica), who is jealous of the attention Ivy showers on Jason. As the drama proceeds, Peter is becoming more at ease with his sexual identity, while the conflicted Jason cannot come to terms with the societal pressure. And you thought YOU had problems!

First and foremost: This production succeeds in spite of the material's weaknesses. There are 36 numbers and reprises in the show, some good, some not so good. Some should have been jettisoned by the composers to sharpen the focus on their theme. In the spirit of opera, there is little spoken dialogue, so the lyrics must convey the drama. They are at time pedestrian; "Just think about tonight/When everything's all right" comes to mind. The score is drawn from multiple genres, but tends toward long recitative in minor key that can all begin to sound the same. That's why the 180 degree change of pace in Michael Stoyanoff's

snappy rap number "Wonderland" and the high-octane Gospel turns by the sharp-tongued but savvy Sister Chantelle (Shondra Tipler) are so delightful.

Outstanding for more than just her florescent-streaked hair is Jojo Tuzzo as Jason's brash, "Plain Jane" sister, Nadia. Nadia is the most fully developed character in the script, and Tuzzo plays the subtext just right. Her first act ballad, "A Quiet Night at Home," self-accompanied on guitar, was an audience favorite.

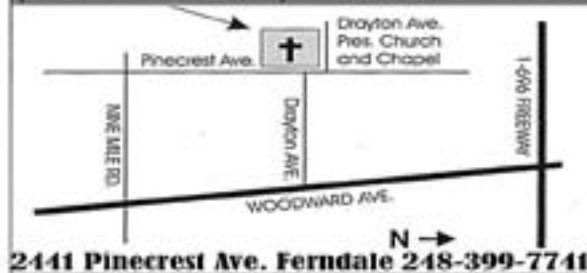
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'Twelfth Night' started with great promise

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

The exuberant beginning featured tie-dyed hippies and spaced-out peaceniks grooving out to '60s music in what promised to be one big party. Had the party continued in that vein, Shakespeare West's opening night performance of "Twelfth Night" would have been an evening of delightful, comedic fun. Instead, poor vocal performances let the air out of this comedy of separated twins and mixed-up love polygons.

The play's concept works well. It is easy to see Illyria as a place of free love where revelers light up strange substances, with hair and clothing that is long and flowing. It is especially effective to have the dour steward Malvolio, played by Director Barton Bund, duped not just with words, but with LSD poured into a burrito that he finds and consumes. His madness becomes not just that of doomed, misguided love for his mistress, but that of an overdose of drugs that plays havoc with his senses.

No matter how or where it is set, Shakespeare's plays live and die in the words, which must capture the audience and drag them into the story. There were some actors on the stage who could do this, most notably Bund; Qmara Peaches Black, the actress playing Maria; Marisa Dluge, the actress playing Olivia; and

REVIEW

Twelfth Night

Blackbird Theatre/Shakespeare West at West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh, Ann Arbor. Thursday-Saturday through Aug. 27. \$25. 734-332 3848.

www.blackbirdtheatre.org



Dan Johnson and Peaches Qmara Black in "Twelfth Night." Photo: Jamie Weeder

Dan Johnson, the actor playing Sir Toby Belch. Most, though, lacked the necessary vocal chops.

Divin Huff's Viola moved in a stately, controlled fashion that brought beautiful contrast to those around her, helping to make her stand out as a stranger in Ilyria and one who captured the eye of the fair Olivia. Yet her voice was so soft, that she often could not be heard. This situation was at its worse when she played the scenes closest to the audience, as her volume raised when she moved back to the band shell. While the scenes in which she attempts to seduce Olivia for Orsino were sultry and amorous, the words which she used were lost.

Danny Friedland's Sir Andrew Aguecheek delivered his lines at a machine gun pace, spitting out the words rapid-fire and trampling over the puns and foolishness that make Aguecheek the unwitting clown and gull to Feste's more clever and wise fool. Linda Rabin

Hammell filled the role of Feste in this production. The look and costuming were marvelous, visual comedy that fit in perfectly with the world of this Ilyria. Her delivery, though, was marred by the constant "ums" that littered her speech, making her sound uncertain and taking away the punch to her puns.

Black and Johnson were fun to watch as the connivers whose practical jokes won them revenge on Malvolio and as lovers whose attraction to each other was played immediately and with fervor. It is no surprise at the end when they marry, for they are partners with great chemistry throughout the show.

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

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Savings passes can also be used only at macys.com. For more information, call 248-398-7105 ext. 224 or go to goaffirmations.org.

Music & More

Ke\$ha has gone from backup singer-songwriter for Britney Spears and Miley Cyrus to star of the stage all in just two years. After singing for Flo Rida's number one single "Right Round," her talent and personality became apparent and within months production of her debut album "Animal" began.

Her first single, "Tik Tok," was released in late 2009, and reached number one in 11 countries. In 2010, Ke\$ha released her lead single from her mini-album, "Cannibal," titled "We R Who We R," claiming the track was an ode to bullied gay teenagers.

Ke\$ha performs 7:30 p.m. Aug. 26 at DTE Energy Music Theatre. Tickets are available for both pavilion and lawn seating. For more information, go to palacenet.com.



Theater



Old Hollywood glamour will come alive in the Barn Theatre premiere production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Sunset Boulevard." Popular daytime television star Kim Zimmer will star as iconic silent film star Norma Desmond.

"Sunset Boulevard" follows the story of legendary silent film star Norma Desmond (Zimmer), her relationship with young writer Joe Gillis (Eric Parker), and her ever devoted servant, Max (Roy Brown). A young ambitious female reporter, Betty Schaeffer (Elyse Moon), enters the picture, and sparks fly in this tale of love, lust and revenge.

The production marks Zimmer's eighth appearance at the Barn. Her portrayal of Reva Shayne on "Guiding Light"

earned her four Daytime Emmy Awards, as well as the Soap Opera Digest Award in 2000 for Outstanding Lead Actress. Currently, daytime drama lovers can find her resurrecting her role of Echo DiSavoy on "One Life to Live."

"Sunset Blvd" plays Aug. 23–Sept. 4; tickets are \$34. For tickets or more information, call 269-731-4121.

OUTINGS

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. Gltbooks.com

Friday, Aug. 26

Unnatural Causes, 6 p.m. Affirmations Youth Program discussion regarding how socioeconomic and demographic factors can affect health. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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 proceeds benefit Affirmations AIDS Walk Team. Affirmations and Macy's, Participating Macy's, **Online and In-Store**. 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**. 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 cruises 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, 12 p.m. Celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot. All Trans people and Allies welcome. Free to all. Beverages and food provided. Transgender Michigan, 1198 Earl Blvd, **Ferndale**. 517-420-1544. transgendermichigan.org

Sunday, Aug. 28

GOAL Metro Beach Ride, 9 a.m. Follow 16 Mile (Metro Parkway) until it ends at Lake St. Claire. Enter the park and meet in parking lot by nature center. Helmets and park sticker required. GOAL, 31300 Metro Parkway, **Mt. Clemens**. 248-943-2411. Getoutandlive.me

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

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

Wine, Food & Beer of Germany, 5 p.m. Evening mingling at Sweet Lorraine's for the LGBT social group GOAL (Get Out and Live). Register by Aug. 26. Admission: \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members. GOAL, 29101 Greenfield, **Southfield**. Getoutandlive.me

Monday, Aug. 29

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

Wednesday, Aug. 31

GOAL Bowling Night, 7 p.m. Both games and shoes cost \$1 each. Karaoke in alley's bar to follow. GOAL, 2101 E. 12 Mile Road, **Warren**. Getoutandlive.me

Silent No More: Transgenders Speak!, 7 p.m. Part of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell: The Unspoken Policy in the Black Church" dialogue series which explores the impact of silence on the African American LGBTQ community. Agape Spirit Life Ministries, Noah's Ark, and the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 248-825-6149. agapespiritlifeministries.org

Thursday, Sep. 1

Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends, 7 p.m. LGBT group discussing issues impacting the LGBT and allied community. Meets 1st Thursday of every month. The Jewish Gay Network, 6600 West Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Friday, Sep. 2

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film-Vickie Shaw. Riffing on the madness of menopause to helping your kids come out about your sexuality, Vickie says that when your kid's friends ask, "Is your mom gay?" look them in the eye and ask, "Why? - Does your mom want to date her?" Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

S.P.I.C.E., 7:30 p.m. S.P.I.C.E. works to empower and enhance the lives of women of color in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning community in Metropolitan Detroit, by eradicating the health, social and educational barriers facing them. Meetings are on the first Friday of every month. S.P.I.C.E., 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Imagination Station "Barefield String Quartet" Two Formerly Blighted Houses Provide Setting for Summer Soiree in Detroit Robocop, Art, Music, Culture: The Creative Transformation of Detroit. Tickets: \$10-50. Imagination Station, 2230 14th St., **Detroit**. 3 p.m. Aug. 28. 313-891-2514. Facethestation.com

Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra "Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Auditions" The MPYO (formerly Plymouth Symphony's Celebration Youth Orchestras) will be holding auditions for the 2011-2012 Season for students seeking to raise their playing to a new level of performance. MPYO has four ensembles - the MPYO Youth Orchestra,

the most advanced orchestra, with strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion (at least three years of ensemble playing experience is recommended for the Youth Orchestra); the Sinfonia for intermediate level string players who have begun shifting and have had at least two years of ensemble playing experience; the Strings for string students who can read music and have played for at least 1-2 years and the Flute Choir, which is open to intermediate and advanced flute students. Contact Jane Libbing (jane@michiganphil.org) to audition. The Plymouth Arts Center, 774 N. Sheldon Road, **Plymouth**. 12 p.m. Aug. 25. 734-451-2112. Mpyo.org

COMEDY

Meadowbrook Music Festival "Laugh-A-Palooza" Featuring comedian Ted Alexandro. Tickets: \$19.50 reserved, \$10 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, **Rochester**. 8 p.m. Aug. 26. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

CONCERTS

DTE Energy Music Theatre Singing legend Aretha Franklin performs at the DTE. Tickets: \$55-75 pavilion, \$15 lawn. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, **Clarkston**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Ke\$ha" "Get Sleazy Tour" with special guest LMFAO and Spank Rock. Tickets: \$49.50-29.50 pavilion, \$19.50 lawn. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, **Clarkston**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 26. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Rhythzm 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/Rhythzm-in-Riley-Park

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

Magic Stick Justin Townes Earle, with background in both blue grass influenced acoustic and rock genres, Nashville born musician Justin Townes Earle. Tickets: \$13-15. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Ark "Orpheum Bell The Red Sea Pedestrians" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sep. 2. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "FishTank Ensemble" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sep. 1. 734-761-1800. theark.org

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

FESTIVALS

Detroit Jazz Festival "32nd Detroit Jazz Festival" Subtitled "We Bring You the World," the Detroit Jazz Festival will celebrate jazz's influence on the world and the world's influence on jazz. Detroit Jazz Festival, Hart Place to Campus Martius Park, **Detroit**. Sep. 2 - Sep. 5. 313-447-1248. detroitjazzfest.com

RAW Festival Detroit- Storytelling "RAW Festival" is the exploration & exhibition of Detroit artists over 3 nights. Storytelling night is dedicated to storytelling in various forms songs from a new rock opera, poetry reading, stand-up, monologues, and more. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 24. 248-410-2850. <http://tinyurl.com/3hvcuck>

RAW Festival Detroit- Impact "RAW Festival" is the exploration & exhibition of Detroit artists over three nights. \$5 suggested donation goes to Kyle Holton Memorial Scholarship at WSU. Impact includes an ensemble of actors performing three new plays by Extra Mile Playwrights. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-410-2850. <http://tinyurl.com/3hvcuck>

RAW Festival Detroit- Exploration "RAW Festival" is the exploration & exhibition of Detroit artists over three unique nights. Exploration includes a series of performances happening simultaneously throughout the night in every nook and cranny of the space. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 26. 248-410-2850. <http://tinyurl.com/3hvcuck>

FILM & VIDEO

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. 1:30 p.m. Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Aug. 30. 734-668-TIME. michtheatre.org

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. 1 p.m. Aug. 25, 7 p.m. 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

THEATER

FESTIVALS

Fireside Festival of New Works \$10 or pay what you can. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 28 - 31. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

The Summer New Work Series The New Theatre Project at Mix Performance Space, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Aug. 29 - Sep. 1. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

43 Summers \$25. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Aug. 26 - 28. 517-264-7469. crowell.org

Moonlight Serenade This show is a Dessert Night Only. \$20. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Aug. 26 - 27. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

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

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

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

Heroes Previews Aug. 31 - Sept. 2. \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Aug. 31 - Sep. 18. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

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 Sep. 4. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Posing Contains strong language, simulated sex, drug use and nudity. No one under the age of 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. \$15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Performance Space, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Aug. 28. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

Scott Nevins: One Night Stand \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 31 - Sep. 4. 269-857-4898. masonstreetwarehouse.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.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 Mystery of Irma Vep Previews Sept. 1-2. \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Sep. 1 - Oct. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

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

Twelfth Night \$25. Blackbird Theatre/Shakespeare West at West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh, Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 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. Saturdays 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

TIBBITS YOUNG AUDIENCES - auditions for "The Monster Hunters," Aug. 26-27, 517-278-6029.

ART 'N' AROUND

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

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

Cass Cafe "6 Degrees" Exhibit of paintings by Detroit-based artist Craig Paul Nowak. The show features a range of works in a variety of media, and features large-scale portraits drawn from the artists' circle of family and colleagues. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Oct. 29. 313-831-1400. casscafe.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinen House and Garden" rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature's 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/calendar/exhibition.aspx?id=2681&iid=

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/Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Farmers-Artisans-Market

Ford and Citizens Bank "Arts, Beats & Eats" Four day long celebration of Metro Detroit area art, food and music. More information available at artsbeatsats.com. Washington St., On Washington between Lincoln and 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Sep. 2 - Sep. 5. 248-334-4600. artsbeatsats.com

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

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes" This exhibition will display Karsh's best portrait subjects in the prints he himself preferred. The 100 photographs in the exhibition are drawn from a set of over 200 master prints given to the Art Institute of Chicago as a promised gift by his widow, Estrellita Karsh. This exhibition tour is organized by Curatorial Assistance, Pasadena, California. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 2 - Sep. 3. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Drawn to the Figure: Sigmund Abeles" A selection of work by Sigmund Abeles held in conjunction with his visiting artist workshop in the Kirk Newman Art School Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 19 - Aug. 27. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Portrait and Presence" Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre's traditional representation of the subject's visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 1 - Sep. 17. 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

Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery "The Face of Detroit" Metro Times photographer Bruce Giffin photographs of Detroit. A third of all subjects are homeless, though Giffin argues it is unimportant to know which they are. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. Sep. 1 - Sep. 30. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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 their 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 exhibit 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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mike Kelley: Day is Done" UMMA inaugurates its New Media Gallery this fall with Mike Kelley's "Day is Done," which continues the artist's career-long investigation into the relationships between order and transgression, popular and avant-garde culture, while touching on contemporary notions of trauma and repressed memory. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 27 - Dec. 31. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "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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AIDS Walk Detroit coming Sept. 18

AIDS Walk Detroit, a Steppin' Out fundraiser that raises money to fund grants for HIV/AIDS agencies, will begin at 8 a.m. Sept. 18 at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market.

The funds raised allow Steppin' Out, a prevention/education programming funder, to provide grants to HIV/AIDS agencies. These agencies use the funds to offer services to those living with HIV/AIDS in the metro Detroit area.

Steppin' Out also offers a more immediate funding to AIDS service

providers through its "Agency Walk Team Program." Agencies that form teams of 10 or more walkers will receive 97 percent of their pledges to use as seen fit.

This year's walk also commemorates Steppin' Out's 20th anniversary. Created in 1991, the agency has granted over \$3 million to a variety of agencies throughout Michigan.

Many groups and organizations have already raised significant amounts of pledges. Those include Affirmations,

Dignity Detroit, Health Emergency Lifeline Programs and Franklin High School of Livonia.

Last year, AIDS Walk Detroit raised nearly \$160,000. For this year's walk, teams and individual walkers have already raised \$81,000. Steppin' Out anticipates over 3,500 participants for the Sept. 18 walk.

The Royal Oak Farmer's Market is located at 316 E. 11 Mile Road in Royal Oak. For more information on AIDS Walk Detroit 2011, visit aidswalkdetroit.org.

Book Marks: 'Two Krishnas' turns gay fiction on its head

BY RICHARD LABONTE

"The Two Krishnas," by Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla. Magnus Books, 348 pages, \$14.95 paper.

A closeted husband, an unsuspecting wife, an achingly needy younger lover – the three pivotal people in Dhalla's second novel are stock gay-fiction standards transformed into wrenchingly real characters by the author's mastery of human emotion. Banker Rahul, outwardly a staid Hindu husband, is leading a double life; still in love with his wife, Pooja, he nonetheless is consumed by a secretive affair with a much younger bookstore clerk, Atif, a Muslim who has overstayed his student visa – and who is the same age as Rahul's hothead son, Ajay. The narrative nimbly encompasses disparate settings, among them Pooja's cardamom-scented traditional home life and the secular whirl of West Hollywood and gay love – two cultural flashpoints destined to collide. In a universe of easy-reading entertainment, true love blossoming after the closet door opens would be the outcome. But in this novel's more nuanced, more honest, more poetic universe, duplicity has consequences and tragedy is inevitable. This is not a happily-ever-after story; its heartbreak is magnificently cathartic and enthrallingly inevitable.



the site of homosexual dalliances in which he participates. In Lyn C.A. Gardner's "The Adventure of the Hidden Lane," Watson expresses his love for Holmes with the plaintive statement, "But I'm not sure I can live this way forever. I'm the sort of man who needs a companion of the heart, not just the mind." And in the anthology's most ambitious story, "The Well-Educated Young Man," a young rent boy's attraction to Sherlock inspires lives that bridge decades. DeMarco has taken the concept of fanfiction – a genre where straight characters are re-imagined as gay – and elevated it to an admirably inspirational literary level.

"Red White Black and Blue," by Richard Stevenson. MLR Press, 232 pages, \$13.99 paper.

Impetuous private investigator Donald Strachey and his more straitlaced lover, Timothy Callahan, first saw print in 1981, and they've aged well – though perhaps not as much as they would have in real life. The stalwart series has also aged well, its plots drawn over the years from such queer touchstones as outing, AIDS and aversion therapy. After an excursion to Thailand in his last book, "The 38 Million Dollar Smile," Stevenson returns in this eleventh mystery to its series roots – the hurly-burly of Albany, New York politics. Strachey is hired to dig up dirt to muddy the Tea Party-backed gubernatorial primary campaign of a conservative Democrat cowering deep in the back of a sexual hypocrisy closet – he's cheating on his wife with young men, who he regularly abuses and then discards. Stevenson treats the topic of abuse with the respect it's due, but the author's trademark twinkle-in-the-eye tone – and his cantankerously comfortable relationship with Timmy – remain. As for keeping up with the times? At mystery's end, Andrew Cuomo's is elected governor of New York.

for J remains a constant – until new girl Hannah arrives at school mid-term. In the hands of a less assured writer, using a diary as a storytelling device might lead to monotony. But Payne captures Clemmie's voice – an engaging blend of teenage angst and saucy self-assurance – with full-throated style.

"A Study in Lavender: Queering Sherlock Holmes," edited by Joseph R.G. DeMarco. Lethe Press, 342 pages, \$20 paper.

Ignore that academic title. This "study" is a brilliant blend of pastiche and homage in which Holmes and his companion-in-sleuthing, Watson, are relocated by 11 contributors from foggy Victorian streets to an alternate storytelling universe. In Stephen Osborne's "The Adventure of the Bloody Coins," for example, Sherlock's mysterious brother, Mycroft, has "the conversation I've avoided for far too many years" after his men's club is revealed to be



"365 Days," by KE Payne. Bold Strokes/Soliloquy, 234 pages, \$13.95 paper.

In this digital age, do effervescent 16-year-old girls still write daily in a diary, penning new entries from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31? Let's assume so, for the

sake of this quirky coming-out chronicle's plausibility. The year-in-a-life is penned by Clemmie, a British lass with mundane parents, a snotty, slightly older sister, a best friend with whom she has increasingly less in common – and with a near-obsessive crush on aloof "J", a gorgeous schoolmate of the female sort. Clemmie tries to squelch her feelings for J by embarking on a couple of tragic dates with a boorish boy named Ben, whose text asking her out ("Kool! Letz do 2moz @7 @McDeez") is about as articulate as he gets. But the girl's daily-diaried desire

FEATURED EXCERPT

Okay, so I know nothing will happen "immediately," it's not like I'll wake up tomorrow and find a badge pinned to my pj's saying "welcome to the club" or anything, but what I mean is that "something" has to happen next, right? I mean, 'cos, like, it's obvious to me that I'm gay, so does that mean it'll be obvious to other people? I suppose at some point I'll have to tell Mum and Dad, any my friends of course, but how's everyone going to react? Will they expect me to shave my head and start wearing dungarees? OMG, what if I suddenly start dancing like Ellen DeGeneres at inappropriate moments???

—from "365 Days," by KE Payne

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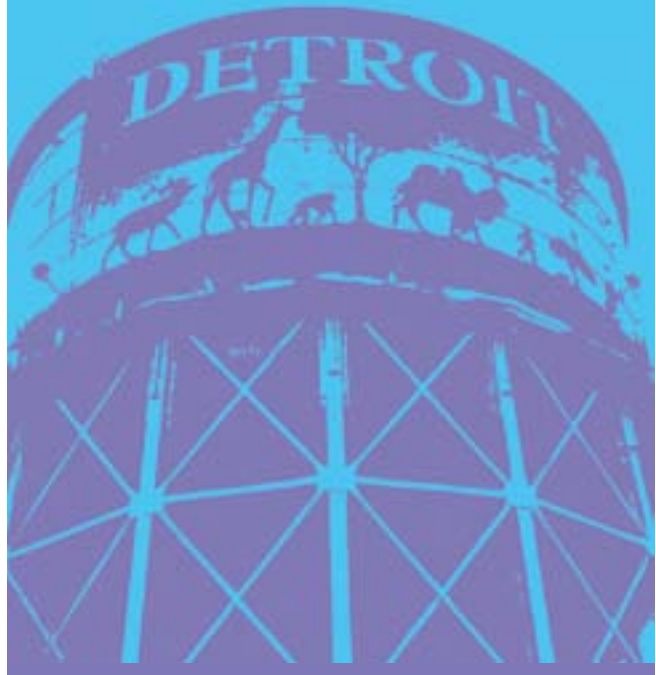
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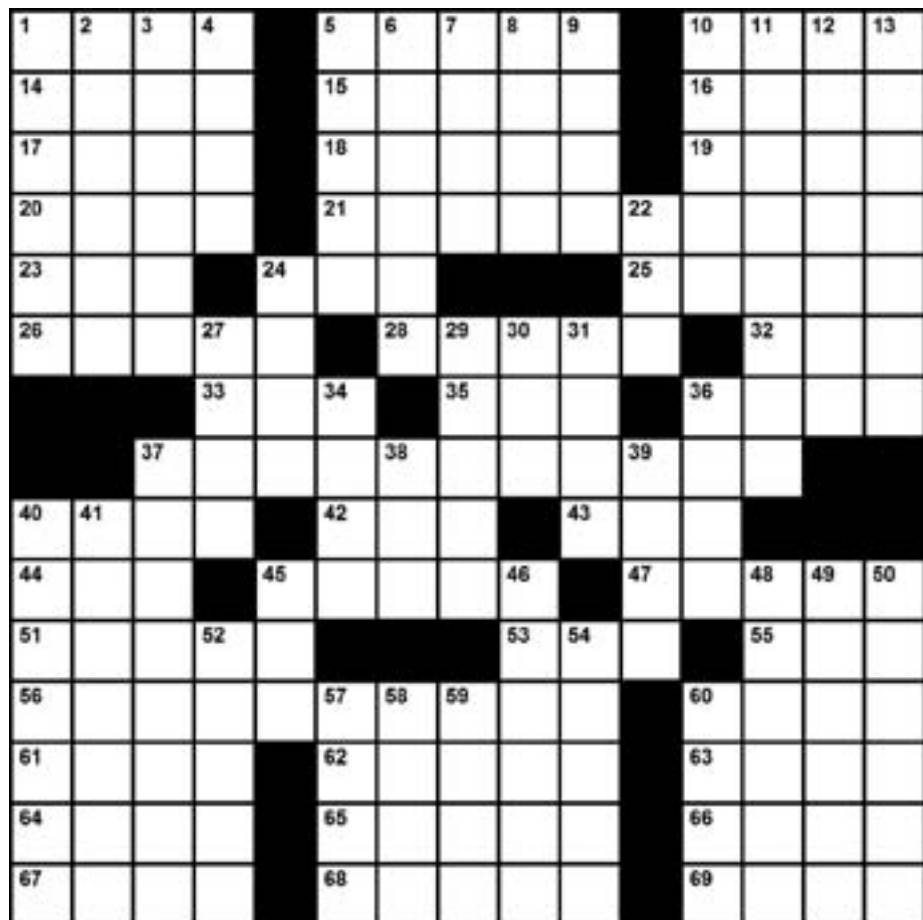
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Family Feud

Across

- 1 With 69-Across, one side of an alleged feud
- 5 Fruit that hangs out at a vinyard
- 10 Hit boxers
- 14 Carpet layer's calculation
- 15 Dent in an orange
- 16 Duchamp's staircase descender
- 17 Robin Williams TV role of old
- 18 Cheri once of SNL
- 19 "___ Three Lives"
- 20 Top targets in Tottenham
- 21 With 56-Across, act that is the subject of the feud
- 23 Some forensic evidence
- 24 Turner of channels
- 25 Range of the Rockies
- 26 Will Truman's Grace
- 28 Snatches
- 32 Blemish, slangily

- 33 Your, to Proust
- 35 Columbus coll.
- 36 Four-posters for foreplay, for some
- 37 The other side of the feud
- 40 Guy under Hoover
- 42 The Crimson Tide's st.
- 43 Sinking ship's call
- 44 Common Mkt.
- 45 Initial gay bar activity
- 47 Apres-ski treat at Aspen
- 51 Alcohol for Lucy's pal?
- 53 George Michael's john
- 55 Pirate's potable
- 56 See 21-Across
- 60 "La Dolce ___"
- 61 Dutch painter Frans
- 62 Band members blow them
- 63 Hacker's cry
- 64 Part of, as a plot
- 65 Say "nothin'," say
- 66 Split
- 67 Mostel of "The

- Producers"
 - 68 Traffic cop's tool
 - 69 See 1-Across
- ## Down
- 1 L, as in family?
 - 2 Noel Coward's "___ the World in Eighty Days"
 - 3 For skin
 - 4 Chatters on and on
 - 5 Fairy story figure
 - 6 Like "Finding Nemo"
 - 7 State with certainty
 - 8 Hair curler
 - 9 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
 - 10 Rudely sarcastic
 - 11 Edward Albee's ___Seascape___ prize
 - 12 Deep throat tissue
 - 13 Colony inhabitants
 - 22 "___ De-Lovely"
 - 24 Moderate pace
 - 27 "___ Cowgirls Get the Blues"
 - 29 Caesar or Antony
 - 30 "Just ___ thought"

- 31 Baby bloomers
- 34 Corset part
- 36 Kiss from Kahlo
- 37 James Buchanan, notably
- 38 Giant quarterback Manning
- 39 Nuts
- 40 "Wow!"
- 41 Marsh gas
- 45 Allen-wrench shape
- 46 Baum's good witch
- 48 Ukraine peninsula
- 49 Orientation revelation
- 50 Bearse of "Married ... with Children"
- 52 Simple kind of question
- 54 Brian of figure skating
- 57 She played gay in "Silkwood"
- 58 "Hi" to Lorca
- 59 Wanting water
- 60 St. named for Queen Elizabeth I

Solution on 41

Pet of the Week



Meeet Bindi! An 8-year-old Maltese mix, Bindi weighs only 11 pounds - the perfect size to curl up in your lap on those cool autumn evenings. Cuddly and friendly, Bindi is very outgoing and loves being with her people. Come meet her today! Her adoption fee includes sterilization surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 13501466. Photo by Heidi Waeschle.

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BTL Horoscopes

Be yourself, Taurus!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus and Sun entering Virgo should point the way to clean, simple aesthetics, but aspecting Uranus and Pluto on the way could trigger some very drastic housecleaning. Thorough is good; ruthless, not so much. "Pirate Jenny" captures the dark side. Nina Simone sings it on YouTube.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Rushing to succeed, you could easily step on colleague's toes. Take time to apologize, or save time by exercising some foresight and consideration. Your consideration and teamwork skills are key to maximizing your own accomplishments.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your idea of fun may have more to do with embroidery or repairing furniture than shaking your bootie at some club. Be yourself. Willingness to take on new challenges doesn't mean following a herd. Your real friends love you as you are.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Reconciling family issues and sexual values can be more complicated than hiding the "toys" when Mom comes to visit. When tempted to criticize relatives, especially parents, try asking questions instead – if you think you can handle the answers!

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Dressing and acting like a martinet could start a hot scene in the bedroom; in real life it's a major turn-off. Revolution is brewing. Keep your eyes and ears open; your words well-measured and discrete.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Sexual healing can be real; retail therapy isn't. New shops are a danger to be avoided. Amorous adventures at least offer possible rewards along with the risk. Think ahead about your financial, spiritual and physical health in any event.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Every birthday brings you a step closer to... yes, but also your greatest remaining accomplishments. Consider how you can change the world, or at least one small part of it. Your most daring ideas need harnessing and work. What's stopping you?

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Your situation at home can provoke anxieties. Focus on your responses, how and why you're reacting. With some work and focus, you can

minimize the angst. With clearer insights you can also improve the external situations triggering them.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): When friends get on your nerves, it's usually best to shrug it off. Turn that irritability into productive criticism at work. Think ahead before speaking, to improve techniques and productivity without dissing your colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): If you must channel Bette Davis at work, be harder on yourself than everyone else. Being brilliant doesn't get you ahead; getting the job done does. Stay on track and get the job done brilliantly, like Bette!

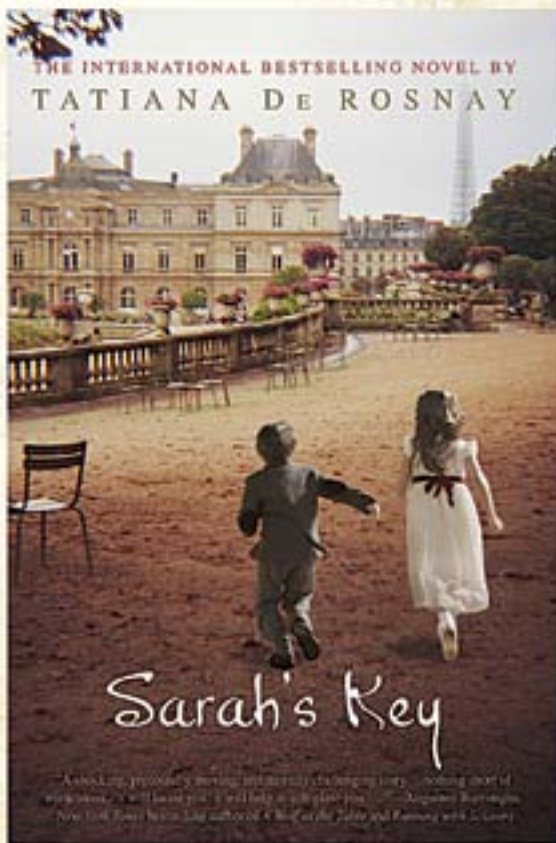
CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Turn that critical mind not on those around you, but on your own roots, your sense of your childhood and family. Talking with siblings can help if you can listen with open heart and mind. It may not be easy!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Take time out to focus on issues of sexual health, both physical and psychic. A complete physical check-up is always a good thing. Meditate also on your needs and desires. Are they at odds? Are they realistic? You may have some hard choices.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Planning a financial future is dodgy for anyone these days. Working with others is challenging, but offers synergistic opportunities. Feeling the pinch can strain a relationship. As long as your partnership comes first, pooling resources makes any future more affordable.

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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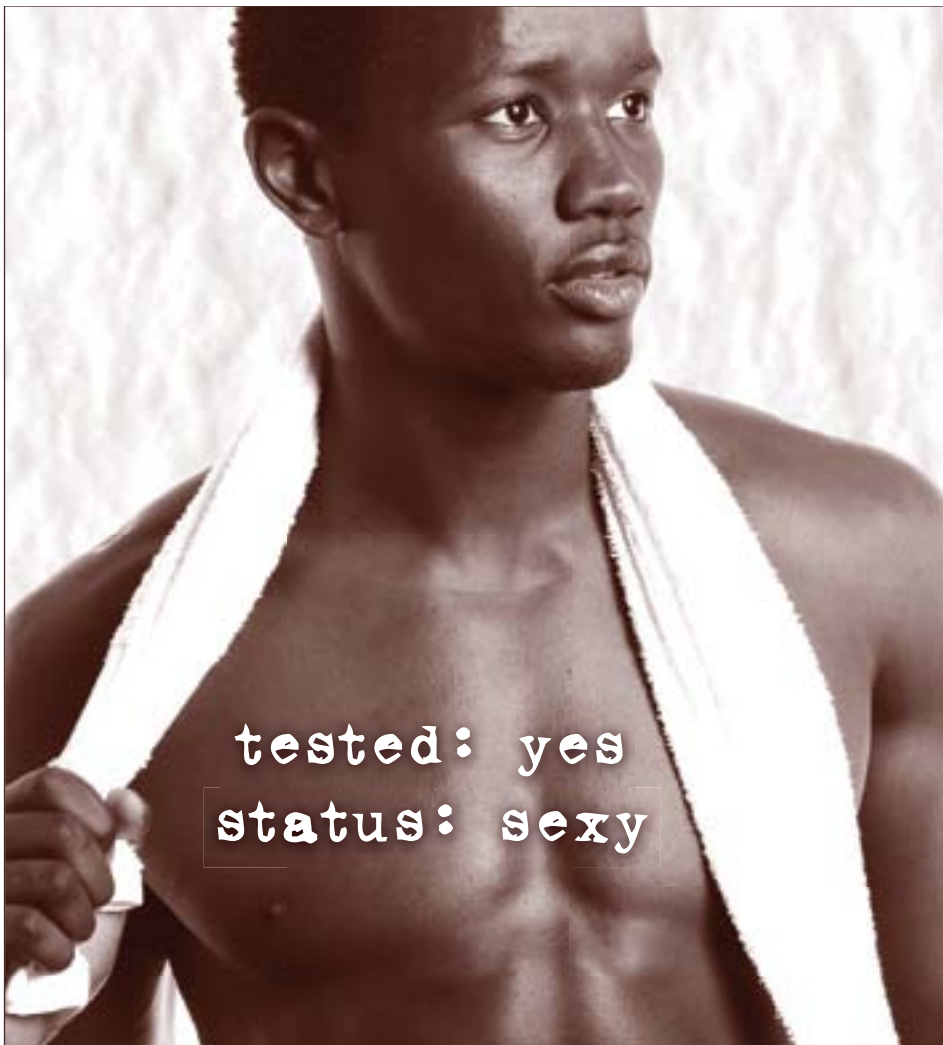
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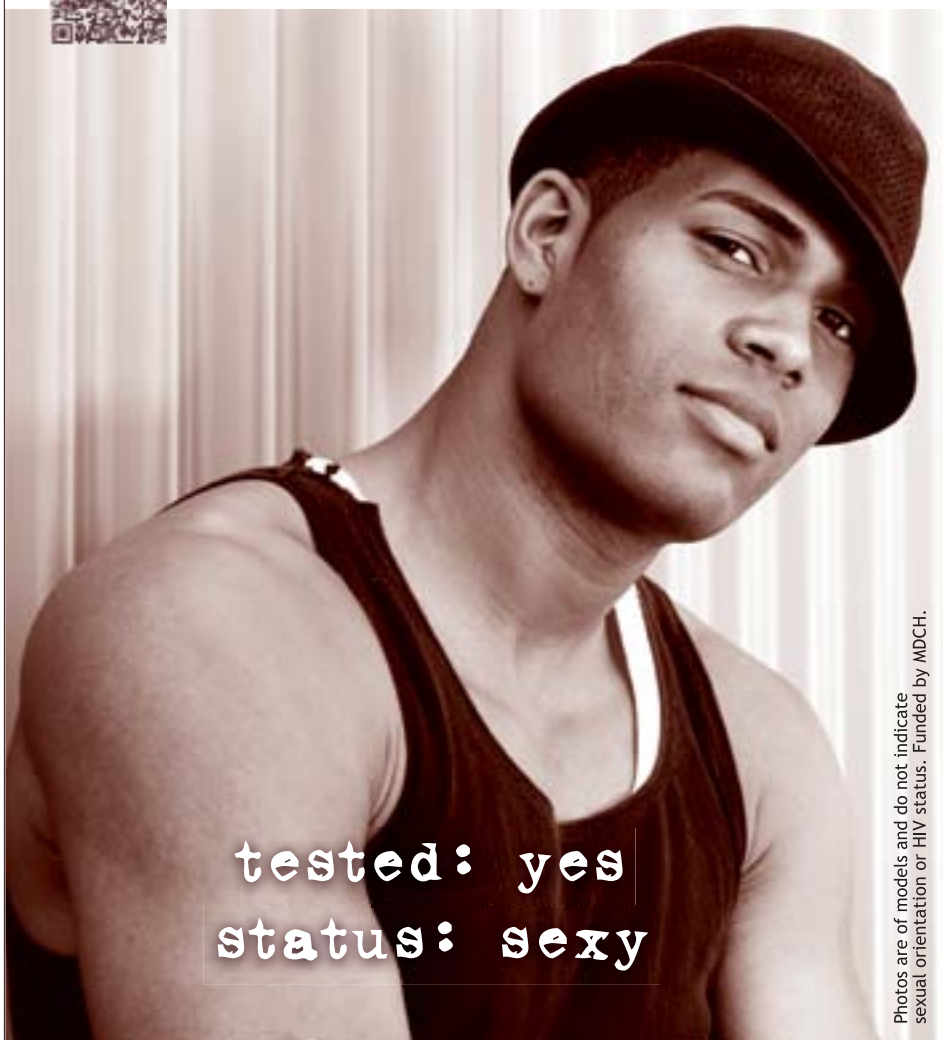
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BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

Just flirty fun?

Q: I have a friend, "Jorge," whom I work very closely with. He's gay, too. I really like Jorge and we have a lot of fun at work. (Just in case you're wondering, we do get our work done, and done well. Fun is just part of it.) We have been working together for over a year. In the past few months, things seem to have changed with Jorge. He has become quite flirty with me. I mean that it's beyond our usual having fun and goofing around kind of stuff. It's been, like, sexual innuendos, asking me to go out for a drink after work – which I've never done – and other things that are hard to describe, like body language and off-the-cuff kind of statements. (Not any one thing he says or does would indicate much; it's the totality of it all.)

Jorge knows that I'm in a relationship with "David," and I have been with David for four years. Jorge has been to David's and my place for parties, and he has never seen me fooling around or flirting with other guys. I'm happy with my relationship and don't need anything – other than friendship – outside of my relationship with David. David and I have a monogamous agreement and I don't ever intend on dishonoring our arrangement. I love him very much and I feel like he is my soul mate. In fact, we're planning on going to Canada to get married next year.

Since it is difficult to pinpoint any one behavior as "coming on" to me, I don't know how to deal with this situation. I haven't told David about it, since I don't want David to get upset with Jorge, because I'm not really sure what this is all about, or if I'm just imagining it all. As you can see, I even begin to doubt my own perceptions.

Jody, how can I find out what's going on with Jorge without making him feel bad, or making myself feel like a fool, or destroying a good work relationship that I have with Jorge?

Is He Flirting With Me or Not?}

A: You need to sit down and have a talk with Jorge. Let him know how much you

enjoy and value his friendship. Then tell him that you are feeling uncomfortable with what you perceive as "flirty" behavior on his part. Ask if he has indeed been flirting with you, or if it's your imagination. Also let him know – even if you believe he already knows – that you are happy in your relationship with David, and that it is monogamous.

You might also check out with Jorge if you are sending off signals that made him feel like you'd welcome his flirtation. I understand from your letter that you love and intend to honor your monogamous relation with David, but ask yourself if you are somewhat attracted to Jorge. If so, it might be showing. It doesn't mean you'd do anything about it, but your feelings could cause you to be sending out those kinds of signals to Jorge; something he's picking up on and sending back to you.

The healthy way in any relationship is to bring concerns out on the table and deal with them in a kind and respectful manner, as well as accepting your part in the problem. Not addressing problems just makes them fester and grow worse overtime. Also, addressing problems in an upfront sort of way keeps relationship honest and builds trust – no matter what kind of relationship it is. It's hard work, but it is worth it.

Dear readers: Periodically, I get a letter or email from someone who asks me to put his or her name, address or phone number in this column in an effort to communicate, in some way, with others. It's my policy to never share names, addresses or phone numbers in this column. Real names are always changed to a pseudonym.

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.

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Solution to puzzle from page 38

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Deep Inside Hollywood



Kristen Wiig. Photo: Universal Pictures

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Darren Criss succeeds in 'Business' and with 'Bridesmaids'

It's good to be Darren Criss right now. Gleeks already know the news that the New Directions collective fantasy of starring in a Broadway show will soon be realized by... a Warbler (yes, Lea Michele and occasional guest Jonathan Groff are already "Spring Awakening" stage vets, but just go with it). Criss will be the one getting his shot in January 2012, as the "Glee"-propelled overnight sensation takes over for Daniel Radcliffe in "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" when the "Harry Potter" star finishes his stint in December. Meanwhile, Kristen Wiig's follow-up to her hit summer surprise "Bridesmaids," titled "Imogene," has cast Criss as her younger love interest. Wiig will play a woman who has to go back to New Jersey to live with her tacky mother (Annette Bening) and winds up falling for twentysomething Criss. File this one under: Snowballing Careers. Remember to take your vitamins, Darren Criss. And stay away from anyone named Lohan.

Reality bites Logo

All current signs point to Logo straying the tiniest bit away from its LGBT roots with an eye to snagging more single – and presumably heterosexual – female viewers, who have apparently been drawn in by shows like "Drag U" and "1 girl 5 gays." The channel's upcoming slate of reality shows seems to bear that out, with titles like "Big Loud Lisa" (a reality show about newlywed stand-up comic Lisa Lampanelli going on the road with her husband) and "Design My Dog," which will pair up four dog owners with fashion designers to create canine couture. Also on deck is "Ballet Beach," about a dance troupe in Miami Beach stretching their physical and emotional limits, along with the Carol Leifer sitcom "Out in the Burbs." Leifer's not the only TV vet (she was a "Seinfeld" writer and co-producer) behind these new shows: "Lisa" comes from Chelsea Handler's production company, "Dog" has the backing of "America's Next Top Model" mogul Ken Mok, and "Ballet" will be co-produced by former NBC president Ben

Silverman. But frankly, if any of these beat "The A-List: Dallas," "The A-List: Los Angeles" and "The A-List: Freeport, Maine" to the air, then a grave injustice will have been done to television.

Kate Moennig going to 'Gone'

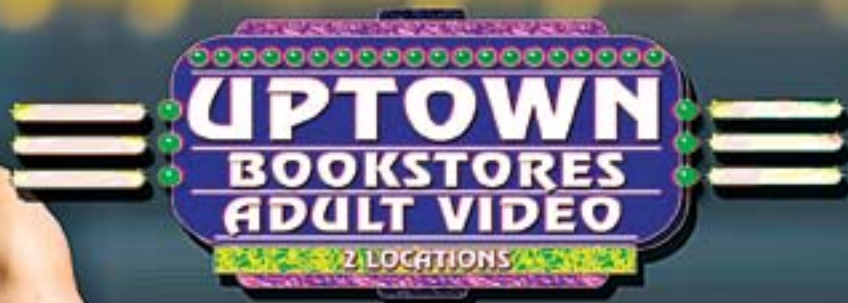
Kate Moening, "The L Word" vet whose lesbian fan base remains as strong as ever, was last seen in a small, pivotal role in the Matthew McConaughey legal thriller "The Lincoln Lawyer." But she has another project coming up titled "Gone" that should help boost her recognition on the big screen. She stars alongside Amanda Seyfried in the Heitor Dhalia-directed thriller about a woman who arrives home one night to find that her sister is missing, kidnapped by the same man who tried to kidnap and murder Seyfried's character two years earlier. With no assistance from police, Seyfried must find and confront the killer. No word on which character Moennig will play (The kidnapped sister? The killer? A cop? The clue-giving woman at Dunkin Donuts?), but it sounds just like the kind of popcorn thriller audiences eat right up. Well played, Shane.

Cynthia Nixon conquers world without end

It's apparently a boom time for fantasy on television, and we're not just talking about Real Housewives who think people can't tell that they've had plastic surgery. "Game of Thrones" was a big hit for HBO, and Starz's "The Pillars of the Earth" miniseries did well enough to spawn a sequel, "World Without End." Tea Party types may be thrilled to know that "World," set 200 years after "Pillars," deals with ordinary people rebelling against the high taxes from the King and the Church of England (not to mention a little thing called the Black Plague), but those same conservatives may be less excited about the fact that proud lesbian and vocal gay-marriage advocate Cynthia Nixon has been cast in a lead role. The impressive ensemble also includes Miranda Richardson, Ben Chaplin and Peter Firth, under the direction of Michael Caton-Jones ("Rob Roy"), and will be premiering on Starz in 2012.

Romeo San Vicente never bites; he devours. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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