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Popular “Southern Baptist Sissies” opens season Sept. 9. Photo: Ringwald

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# Between Ourselves

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**Brandon Dowdy** is a 17-year-old graduate from Detroit City High. He participates in the Ruth Ellis Center's Out and Up Front Leadership Academy, and he has testified before state lawmakers for enumerated anti-bullying legislation. He has also testified before the Detroit Public Schools board in favor of an anti-bullying policy. He aspires to get his Ph.D in psychology.



I've always been a person who stands up for myself and for other people. If I can help I always will try to.

## 1 Tell us about testifying in the state legislature. What did you testify for?

For an enumerated bullying policy. It was a good experience, but it was kind of nerve wracking at the same time. When I talked to the state representatives, I felt like I was a little person going up against all of these powerful people. At first I thought they wouldn't listen to what I had to say, or they wouldn't give me the time of day. But a few of them actually listened. I even made this one lady cry. Just hearing my story about how I was bullied in school.

## 2 Did you feel like you got through to them?

I did. I felt like I touched a couple of them, got through to them, helped change their minds in the decision that they were going to make, to put in the enumerated policy with more detail. I think I accomplished something.

## 3 What did you tell them about yourself?

I told them my life through elementary, middle school and high school. The whole bullying thing, harassment about my sexual orientation, things like that.


## 4 Can you tell us about the Out and Up Front Leadership Academy?

It's a group of four of us who all are taking a stand to people in our community to make a difference and to make our community safer and more of a helpful unit. We all were a part of changing the bullying policy in the public schools. We came up with new words to put in it. We also did workshops with other people, other organizations, teaching them things about how to handle certain situations.

## 5 You sound like a leader. Why is that?

I don't really know. I've always been a person who stands up for myself and for other people. And I can't just walk by and let somebody be in distress and not do anything about it. If I can help I always will try to. For the issues that have been going on in the whole school system and the community, period, it's like OK. If I want this to change, somebody is going to have to take a stand and do something.

*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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# VOICES

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---

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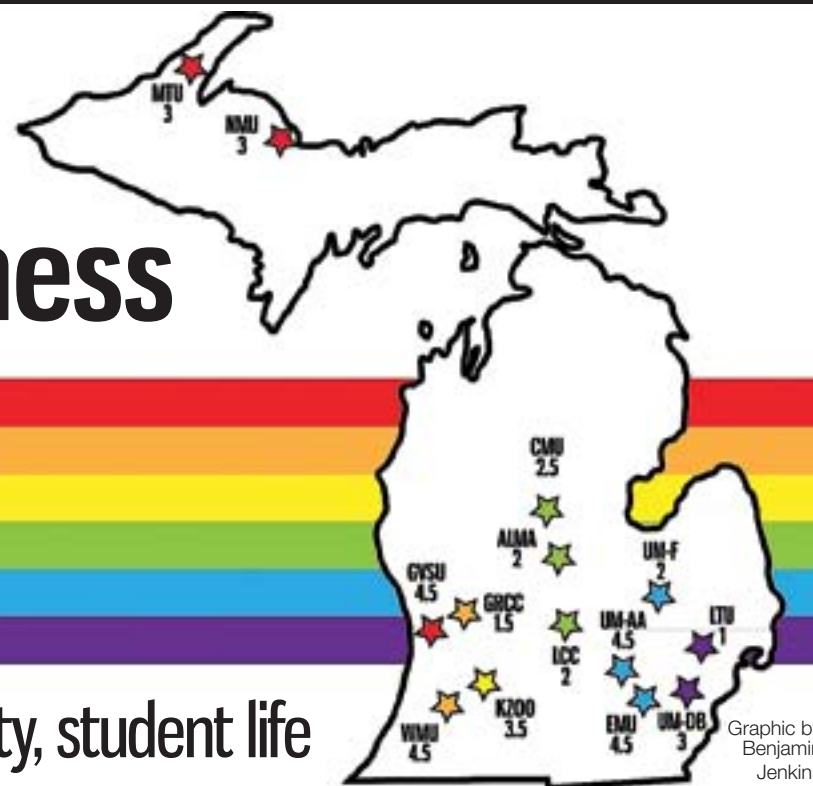


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*From Stork to Finish*

# Michigan schools ranked on gay-friendliness



Graphic by Benjamin Jenkins

## Campus Pride Index assesses 14 schools on safety, student life

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

With more youth speaking out about LGBT rights and creating GSAs in their high schools and colleges, universities are realizing the importance of creating gay-friendly campuses. Michigan schools are also making LGBT-inclusive environments, and 14 of them are ranked on a recent Campus Pride Index.

The Campus Climate Index Survey is a project of Campus Pride, a national nonprofit that assists student groups and leaders who want to create more inclusive campuses.

The index rates schools on eight criteria

### How does your school rate?

Regardless of where these 14 schools are listed, it is good that they chose to participate in the annual Campus Pride Index Survey, said Shane Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride and founder of the Campus Pride Index. Windmeyer also said that schools that receive a 5-star rating are in the 90th percentile – so they still have room for improvement, too.

- Lawrence Technological University: 1
- Grand Rapids Community College: 1.5
- Alma College: 2
- Lansing Community College: 2
- University of Michigan – Flint: 2
- Central Michigan University: 2.5
- University of Michigan – Dearborn: 3
- Michigan Technological University: 3
- Northern Michigan University: 3
- Kalamazoo College: 3.5
- Grand Valley State University: 4.5
- Western Michigan University: 4.5
- Eastern Michigan University: 4.5
- University of Michigan: 5

that promote LGBT-friendly campuses: policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life, housing, campus safety, counseling and health, and recruitment and retention efforts. The survey consists of 55 questions covering those eight areas in depth; the schools then self-report on the areas and Campus Pride verifies their responses.

Shane Windmeyer, the executive director of Campus Pride and the founder of the Campus Pride Index, said when the index first came out in 2007, only 30 universities participated. Nearly 300 were ranked in the 2011 index.

“Colleges have to want to take the assessment,” he said. “We don’t force them to do it. We don’t (fill the survey out) for them.”

Not only is participation voluntary, but so is being listed in the public index, Windmeyer said.

“We don’t put any pressure on campuses to have to come out, just by taking the assessment. We did that as a way to (encourage) campuses that were maybe more conservative, or that we still wanted them to have the value of taking the assessment. We still have their data, and we know as an organization which colleges those are, but the general public does not.”

Each school that participates receives a 14-page individualized report, which can be used to provide a roadmap for improvement – and to convince administrators to support and fund programs that support LGBT students.

Shannon Dettore, the director of the Office of LGBTQ Services at Central Michigan University, was less than pleased with the school’s 2.5 star ranking. The highest rating is 5 stars.

“There’s definitely things that the index says our campus doesn’t have, that we actually do have, and so that’s kind of where I think the number is a little different,” Dettore said, noting the school offers trainings to faculty and staff around sexual identity and gender identity.

Dettore also said that the index doesn’t take into account all of the programs that will soon be implemented: “We definitely had a lot of room to grow, so now we’re working and really making strides.”

Dettore is creating a mentoring program that connects LGBT student teachers with LGBT professional teachers. She’s also planning a “first year experience” class specifically for LGBT

students. A current first-year-experience class is offered to CMU freshmen.

Part of the benefit of taking part in the index is also seeing what other schools are doing to promote LGBT inclusion. Dettore said CMU administration often asks her what other schools are doing in that area. “So we have to have those conversations – are we going to be the benchmark school in Michigan, or do we need to follow after what these other schools have done?” she asked.

Windmeyer said Campus Pride wants the index to help schools connect with and learn from one another. “Our whole philosophy was by highlighting the positive campuses, that are doing positive work, we can bring many other campuses out of the closet, to do more LGBT-inclusive work,” he said.

“Any campus that’s on the index, whether they have one star or five stars, deserves praise for the fact that they want to become better,” Windmeyer said. “They have taken the time to say: we may not be perfect but we want to become better.”

“Campuses that are not part of the index have chosen to say: we don’t know how well we’re doing, we don’t have the time to take this index, LGBT students aren’t important.”

Windmeyer said the index survey will likely see some changes in the next few years, including additional questions about how the school

“Any campus that’s on the index, whether they have one star or five stars, deserves praise for the fact that they want to become better.”

–Shane Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride

accommodates transgender students. He said 33 schools received 5-star ratings this year, which could mean that the index should encourage schools to reach even higher standards.

“The index was never meant to be static,” Windmeyer said. “We always knew that things change and that ... the questions that we had would be good for five years, to establish a bar of expectations, but ultimately we’d have to raise that bar.”

Campus Pride also offers students and prospective students scholarships, college fairs and much more. Go online to [www.campusclimateindex.org](http://www.campusclimateindex.org).

### The Michigan Higher Education Consortium for Equality

The Michigan Higher Education Consortium for Equality is a group of schools that support one another as they work toward creating LGBT-inclusive campuses.

The Arcus Foundation funds the project, which began as a partnership between the University of Michigan and Grand Valley State University. The project is in its second year, and eight schools have jumped on board so far: Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Western

Michigan University, GVSU and U-M’s Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn campuses.

One of the consortium’s chief goals is getting all Michigan universities to earn a 5-star rating on the Campus Pride Index. Another goal is to create a unified voice of universities who support LGBT equality.

Colette Seguin Beighley, director of GVSU’s LGBT Resource Center, said universities do not need to have LGBT programming in order to participate in the consortium. “We recognize that each institution faces its own challenges, and there’s not a cookie cutter way of getting there,” she said. “But they all need support and can benefit from the experience of other centers.”

For more information about the consortium, go online to [miconsortium.org](http://miconsortium.org).



A mural on the Ruth Ellis Center is on the cover of its publication "Voices," which includes poems and art from LGBT youth who use the shelter's services. Image provided by the Ruth Ellis Center.

## Benefit aids Ruth Ellis Center, homeless LGBT youth shelter

### Youth share their original art and writing published in poetry anthology

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**DETROIT**— At a Sept. 22 benefit at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Detroit, youth from a local shelter will get a chance to share their poetry, experiences and accomplishments — all captured in their very own poetry anthology titled "Voices."

The youth participated in a poetry program at the Ruth Ellis Center, one of the only three shelters for homeless LGBT youth in the country.

"We believe in the power of creative expression, and what can come from young people," said Laura Hughes, executive director of the center. "We've seen young people who are so, so talented, and have a lot of trauma in their life, and are wise beyond their years with the things they've experienced."

The center partnered with Inside Out Detroit, a literary project that puts poetry into communities. Inside Out sent poets to Ruth Ellis to work with youth on their creative writing.

The youth also were able to work with David Blair, an accomplished poet and folk artist from Detroit. Blair, who won a national Poetry Slam championship, passed away this summer. He was only 43.

"We as a staff grieved, we as a community grieved, and our young people came and shared their writing they had done with Blair and the inspiration he had had on their lives," Hughes said.

"What is so powerful about their writing, and spoken word, is that they share with folks in a way that folks aren't able to respond immediately — it calls for the audience to reflect on what they're sharing with you," Hughes said. "I think for adults, it can be easy for us to jump in, to say

it'll get better, or we'll fix it.

"If we spent more time allowing spaces for young people to share with us, and teach us what they're experiencing, and teach us what the solutions are, I think that's the real power."

The anthology also incorporates youth art and pictures of a mural they helped make on the center's Highland Park structure.

Four students will share their poetry at the benefit. The event will also feature the first-ever Ruth's Angel Award, which will be given to someone who demonstrates dedication to the LGBT community.

The benefit takes place Thursday, Sept. 22 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Detroit. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org) or call 313-252-1950.

"If we spent more time allowing spaces for young people to share with us, and teach us what they're experiencing, and teach us what the solutions are, I think that's the real power."

—Laura Hughes, executive director  
of the Ruth Ellis Center

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## Eye on Equality

BY NUSRAT VENTIMIGLIA

### Protection is first priority for transgender prisoners

Rep. Tom Hooker last week introduced a bill that would outlaw the use of public funds to pay for sex reassignment surgery for incarcerated people, among others. Hooker didn't bother checking with the Michigan Department of Corrections on whether such surgeries have ever even been performed for prisoners (the answer is – wait for it – never!), whether the department already has a policy covering the provision of such medical services to prisoners (it does), or whether his proposed bill would even pass constitutional muster were it enacted as law (it wouldn't; see Wisconsin's big fail in this arena). With his complete failure to conduct even cursory research before proposing his bill, Hooker's presumed motivation becomes clear. He hopes to earn a name on the backs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people he can, not just targeting prisoners (as is often done by opportunists), but by targeting transgender prisoners, who are the most vulnerable prison population. Hooker confirmed his bigoted motivation when aligning himself with the American Family Association and Gary Glenn, the head of the AFA's Michigan chapter.

To be clear, MDOC has already laid out policies surrounding medical treatment and housing for transgender inmates. The policy directive covers hormone treatment, which is generally allowed if the prisoner was receiving such treatment prior to incarceration or upon recommendation of the chief medical officer, and sex reassignment surgery, which is generally not allowed except in extreme circumstances and if approved by the chief medical officer. As for placement, transgender prisoners are housed according to the gender assigned at birth unless the individual in question has undergone sex reassignment surgery. This means that prisoners who identify as female can and do end up in male prisons, even if they have a stereotypically feminine appearance, as is true of prisoners who identify as male. Considering the many reasons that some transgender individuals choose not to have surgery, or for whom surgery has never been an option, the result is that transgender prisoners are trapped where their bodies and their safety are in a constant state of limbo.

The road to prison for transgender men and women is well worn. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth are far more likely to end up homeless at a young age (around 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT). They experience increased rates of incarceration prior to adjudication, higher rates of unemployment, higher rates of drug use and depression, and are far less likely to find shelter due to outright rejection. Ending this bleak string of statistics is the increased

incarceration rate for gender variant and transgender people in general. According to the Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project, approximately 65 percent of transgender women in San Francisco spent time in prison or jail, as did 29 percent of transgender men. Once in prison, transgender people are disproportionately targeted for abuse. Within the prison hierarchy, those with traits perceived to be stereotypically masculine hold a privileged status, while those with traits stereotypically associated with femininity are devalued and subject to abuse. A study of six California prisons found that 67 percent of respondents who identified as LGBT reported sexual assault by another inmate (this was 15 times higher than the rest of the prison population). Prisons, as is true of other institutions, have a shameful history when it comes to treatment of transgender people. Though prisons have come a long way in the U.S., transgender and gay prisoners are still preyed upon and, in most prisons, struggle for survival. It is unlikely that a facility for transgender prisoners with drug or prostitution offenses, such as the one built near Florence, Italy, will be built here any time soon.

### In prison, transgender people are disproportionately targeted for abuse.

A number of steps can be taken to further protect transgender and gay prisoners from abuse in prisons. Recommendations by organizations such as Just Detention International are an excellent example of what corrections facilities can and should do to protect LGBT-identified or perceived inmates. These recommendations include housing guidelines (including separating violent offenders from non-violent offenders) as well as protocols for staff training. The Michigan Department of Corrections has taken a healthy approach to the incarceration of LGBT individuals. Rep. Hooker's bigoted bill not only undermines the responsive action of MDOC, but the bill – if passed – would further unconstitutionally erode protections for an already vulnerable group.

*Each month, Equality Michigan shares an update about the equality movement in Michigan, explained through the viewpoint of different staff members. Nusrat Ventimiglia is Equality Michigan's director of victim services. Learn more about the organization at [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org).*

## Letter: I got yo' 'T' Detroit!

BY RYAN "KARIMU" OLIVER

I might be a little late on this one, but it's nothing like the present, right? So I ran across this brilliant, youthful, energetic, vibrant video, Motor City Pride, by Team Detroit, featuring some of Detroit's own LGB entrepreneurs, young professionals, and dope MC's all representing Detroit under the umbrella of social activism and collective upward mobility for a "GAY" Detroit. My first impression: beautifully done! My second impression: where was the "T"? Not only was there no "T", but transgender was said once in the entire 7 minute and 16 second video.

Being an out black, trans man, this made me think. First, I needed transgender people to be visible. Second, I at least needed someone in the video to acknowledge that this community exists. "Gay" has become the default term in our GLBT movement and it's killing me! No really, it's literally killing me. Every time a transgender person has to empower themselves to speak up for their visibility in our collective GLBT movement, it is safe to say that most lesbian, gay, and bisexual people have left us out to be killed, to be targeted, to be identified as the group messing everything up for the socially acceptable, normalized gays.

Well, this self-proclaimed "weirdo," abnormal, socially-unacceptable tranny boi is completely fed up! It is irresponsible of our community to continue to ignore the movement of transgender identity, and gender fluid expressive individuals. The lack of unintended disrespect goes deep for me and dehumanizes my gender freedom and expressive self. It is this blatant disregard for those outside of the cisgender vision of society that are left to pick up the crumbs left by our assumed well-intended, good natured, or "I just forgot to mention you" lesbian and gay family members.

I rather you outwardly hate me and tell me that I am a distraction from your seemingly flawless movement toward your gay rights and selective equality, instead of making me feel like a loved family member during election time or as a topic that you want to "learn more about." I don't know how many panels and groups I have been a part of since coming out as transgender or how many people I have talked to about transgender issues in our beloved Detroit, yet still trans people can't catch a break, and it's not just me. Many of my brothers, sisters and gender queers have been doing this for years. In fact, we were the first!

Need I remind you that it was the transgender and gender non-conforming folks that threw the shoe to ignite the Compton's Cafeteria Riot in 1966, three years before the Stonewall Riots.

### Transgender people are also a part of the fabric of our society and need to present and be accounted for by our LGB family members.

My point is that transgender people are also a part of the fabric of our society and need to present and be accounted for by our LGB family members. We are a part of the march to move this country forward into a progressive movement that is inclusive and representative of everyone. Our transgender and gender non-conforming youth are our visionaries, trailblazers, and NOW leaders of a city that is always evolving and changing to bring to life GLBT existence. Our youth represent a new age of gender freedom, sexual fluidity, and non-conforming gender expressive love. They must be represented. We are trans people that are same sex/gender attracted, queer, equal gender-loving people as well. We are doctors, lawyers, carpenters, hunters, students, teachers, coaches, musicians, singers, poets, therapists, mechanics, professors, and the list goes on. Why are we not visible among your movement? Why are we not represented? Why didn't an ally write this letter before I did?

It is not by coincidence that my transgender sisters of color are four times more likely to be victims of a hate crime or viciously raped or attacked in our GLB normalized communities. It is this lack of education, awareness and visibility that kills our trans women of color. In spite of all this I can envision a GLB community that stands with its transgender family and marches to bring awareness and visibility to the "T" that has been ignored, pushed to the side, and told to wait your turn. I need my lesbian, gay, and bisexual cisgender family to stand up and stand out and to represent for the "T" where the "T" isn't represented.

Detroit, I got yo' T!

## Help fight HIV/AIDS in September

There are plenty of opportunities to support HIV/AIDS organizations this month, so support a good cause while enjoying the outdoors and getting some exercise.

### Steppin Out's AIDS Walk Detroit

Sunday, Sept. 18  
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Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24-25  
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- Genesee County/Flint, University of Michigan-Flint University Center, starts at 2 p.m.  
- Lansing, Valley Court Park, starts at 10 a.m.  
- Traverse City, Medalie Park, starts at 11 a.m.  
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[aidswalkmichigan.org](http://aidswalkmichigan.org)



Photo of last year's AIDS Walk Detroit by Jessica Carreras.



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## RTI Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

### After celebrating Labor Day, remember ENDA

Despite the parades celebrating the accomplishments of workers and unions held in cities across the country, for most people Labor Day traditionally means the end of summer, the time to put away your summer cottons and break out your tweeds and wools, the time to return to the day-to-day business of the world, the time when vacations end as we return to the humdrum pace of school and work. It's that one last long weekend to hit the beach, picnic, fire up the grill and party with friends.

We've come to take for granted the 40-hour work week with eight-hour days with compensation for overtime, clean and safe work environments, benefits, paid time off and fair wages. But it wasn't always that way.

Before Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, the average American worked twelve hour days, seven days a week and even then barely eked out a basic living. Children as young as five and six worked in factories and mines for pennies. Even today's worst working conditions could not compare to the unsafe working conditions in the early days of the industrial revolution that often had insufficient access to fresh air and sanitary facilities. The work place was not an environment for workers' rights, let alone human rights.

Thanks to the historical efforts of labor unions, workers today in general enjoy safe, healthy work environments, with wages including benefits such as paid time off and medical benefits for themselves and their families. The lot of today's workers, particularly in the U.S., is enviable to poor countries and individuals worldwide.

Workers' rights have come to represent both legal rights and human rights that not only provide protections for workers but have also provided a springboard for the inclusion of basic human rights in the community at large.

From laws prohibiting child labor to protecting employees against sexual harassment and providing equal opportunity in hiring, firing and advancement, labor rights, gained through union negotiation and/or federal/state legislation, have paved the way in protecting rights and expanding social justice.

There is a case to be made that labor/business practices have advanced more for LGBTQ equality than legislation. Many companies now offer domestic partnership benefits, have LGBTQ affinity groups, and are major donors to our centers and organizations.

We have jobs. We lead industries but still it remains legal in 29 states to discriminate based on sexual orientation and in 35 states to do so based on gender identity or expression. That's the right. LGBT people face serious discrimination in employment, including being fired, being denied a promotion, and experiencing harassment on the job. And just like advances in the workplace led to greater civil rights in our communities, this bias in the work place helps perpetuate discrimination and homophobia.

In the past when corporate America has dragged its feet on issues of human rights, legislation has been enacted to ensure equal rights

particularly when the issue affected the common good of Americans.

When the issue was child labor the most sweeping federal law to restrict the employment and abuse of child workers was enacted in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. Several sections of Title VII were amended in the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 to provide for the recovery of compensatory and punitive damages in cases of intentional violations of Title VII.

Again and again laws have been enacted and become standard operating procedure in corporate America to protect workers, their rights and their safety, yet still in 2011 one group of Americans has no protection in 35 states.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act offers Congress the opportunity to ensure workplace equality by protecting LGBTQ workers

Talk to your coworkers, friends and family about ENDA. Too many, including some gay folk, don't realize that in 35 states we can still be fired just for being gay.

from employment discrimination. It would ban employment discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender expression and protect workers from discriminatory hiring, firing, promotion or compensation practices, and retaliation for reporting such practices.

When Congress has found such discrimination, it has repeatedly passed laws to restore civil rights by ensuring arbitrary considerations do not determine access to employment. But when it comes to ENDA, Congress just can't get it done.

So maybe it's time for labor to flip the switch, time for the American workers and corporate American citizens to show Congress the right thing to do.

Talk to your coworkers, friends and family about ENDA. Too many, including some gay folk, don't realize that in 35 states we can still be fired just for being gay.

Don't shop or patronize businesses that don't actively stand for equality. Tell them to end the corporate silence and lobby for equality.

We can do this. We have the power to be the change we want to see. So after the marching and picnics are done, let's use our power to leverage the intersection of labor rights and LGBTQ equality to get ENDA passed NOW!

## RTI Editorial

### Michigan schools must accommodate their LGBT students

We are incredibly pleased to learn about the increasingly LGBT-friendly campuses at Michigan schools. With the recent release of the 2011 Campus Pride Index, we can see that some schools are excelling at creating LGBT-inclusive environments, and that many more schools are on their way.

While the ratings of the 14 Michigan schools that participated in the survey are all over the map, we're more concerned about the schools that chose not to take part in the index. The schools that aren't on the list did not take the time to assess their campus environments, and were not interested in getting specific feedback from Campus Pride. It is possible that some Michigan schools did participate and chose not to make their results public. Still, we would prefer to see all Michigan schools participate on the index and make transparent their efforts to be inclusive.

The index has grown in popularity: school participation has increased nearly tenfold over four years. That's likely due to the change in our schools, which is coming from pressure from our active LGBT youth. These students are demanding inclusive campuses in high school, and they are taking that same spirit with them to college. This means that these students will also demand inclusive workplaces, policies and laws when they are full-grown adults.

Of course, these ambitious students need the help of the adults around them, and this is where we still have work to do. Not every campus participated in the index, and not every campus has an LGBT student office or offers LGBT programming. This may be because LGBT rights are still uncharted waters for many college

administrators – the folks who make the financial and programming decisions.

All students should be able to access resources that will help them be successful. Universities need to take all students' needs into account, especially the students who may be overlooked or disadvantaged.

Universities are especially important for students because they provide education and opportunity. All students should be able to access resources that will help them be successful. Universities need to take all students' needs into account, especially the students who may be overlooked or disadvantaged.

Michigan universities need to keep this in mind perhaps most of all. Our state still doesn't recognize LGBT citizens, still doesn't offer them their rights to marriage and parenthood, and doesn't guarantee protection from discrimination in employment and housing. A great place to start healing our state is in its schools.



## **BTL** Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### What's past is prologue

Back in the mid-70s I met Stephanie Cranford, introduced to me by Gordon Petersen, then Assistant Concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Stephanie was Michigan's first male-to-female transgendered person. Slender, gracious, bilingual. Black.

She was also a gourmet cook, artist's model, watercolorist. Her Forest Avenue upper flat was filled with dozens of lush, exotic, floral oil paintings, of which she worked on several at a time, while singing blues ballads, French torch songs.

Stephanie sold clothing at one of Downtown Detroit's finer stores. She was outed by "hush-hush, whisper whisper" rumors; then let go. She moved to New York City, continued painting, modeling, and for a time appeared as vocalist, Serenity Amour, in a French bistro. (Present whereabouts unknown.)

My first FTM "sharing" happened in 1985 at MCC-Detroit, then located in Birmingham. Dave, whom I had often greeted while ushering – he was sporting a bright red tie for Pentecost that Sunday – asked if I thought it curious that a straight couple was worshipping there.

"Not in the least. Why?" I asked, over after-service coffee. "Well, I just felt moved to share. I'm a transsexual. My partner's not." His answer startled me. I hadn't a clue. Dave had a beard, crew cut, looked like Joe Average (but brighter).

Sorry to say, his partner, Laura, who was pleasant, a little older, went back home for a family visit one long weekend (too long for Dave) and called to say she was marrying her straight high school sweetheart. Dave was devastated.

In the early '90s I was friends with Dr. Jack, a D.O., member of the Motor City Business Forum. It occurred to me one night in a crowded bar that Jack had plucked his eyebrows. Hmmm; How curious, I thought. Months went by without seeing him. I came home to find borrowed books left for me at the lobby desk, with a patchouli-scented note, "Thanks! How things have changed for me! Love, The New Jackie."

I learned from his roommates that Dr. Jack, in his late fifties, waited until his mother's death to transition gracefully into Dr. Jackie. His daughter, Faith, then 21, was supportive.

Now years later, I'm enriched to know several T-persons. I count among activist friends the courageous and witty Rachel Crandall, MSW, who counsels persons seeking reassignment surgery; and Susan, Rachel's soft-spoken partner, who regularly (and knowledgeably) attends art openings and DIA museum events.

Michelle Phillips-Fox and Esper are also LGBT community members and attend MCC-Detroit. (Ahem!) Religiously.

It's estimated one per 30,000 adult males and one per 100,000 adult females of the total American population seeks sex reassignment surgery. It's usually a three- to five-year process from contemplation to change, involving in-depth psychological counseling, living as the opposite sex in dress, speech, makeup, manner, undergoing hormonal treatment (with lifelong "upkeep") and undergoing transforming – and costly – surgery.

It takes commitment – guts, really – and a deep sense of one's authentic personhood to achieve the hidden "you" that's long waited patiently in the wings. Coming out as a T-person is in many ways more radically demanding mentally, physically, than coming out as gay, lesbian, or bi – particularly for those youths who lack role models, access to professional counseling (or, tragically, who barter sex on the streets to survive).

As a gay male I'm fully aware that I have a feminine side: highly creative, mostly passive in my erotic adventuring, attuned to gender-opposite beauty of line, color, texture, temperament. A "T" psychic component of sorts. A kinship that's there to enjoy.

As gays, lesbians, bi's, T-persons, it's taken us decades to realize that our lives, if honestly and openly lived, can be reasonably fulfilling. These days we can chose to live proudly. Determined. LGB, and T: together! Have a rainbow day!

Charles@pridesource.com

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**Lady Gaga is one of the most powerful women in the world, according to Forbes. She's #11 – do you think she deserves that spot?**

She deserves higher!  
–Gar Peterson

Sadly, after Angela Merkel and Hilary Clinton, there are not a lot of female world leaders actually in power. Ummm, it's 2011, isn't it?  
–Jeanne Ruzzin

Wait. You say it's a Forbes list? Aren't those made by interns?  
–Joe Posch

I love how they categorize Palin as "celebrity/lifestyle" and not politics. BTW, Joe, I don't see Madonna on the list...  
–Rachel Lutz

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

# Trans violence, politics



**Sen. Merk Leno**

*"This poll absolutely confirms every other research I've seen, which all conclude that those under 30 support our full equal rights to a greater degree than those over 65 oppose it, and that as the demographic shift occurs, the debate evaporates. And that is exceedingly encouraging news."*

–California State Senator Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, about a new national report titled "Generations at Odds: The Millennial Generation and the Future of Gay and Lesbian Rights," that shows 18-29 year olds, also known as "millennials," are more supportive of marriage equality than older generations, The Bay Area Reporter, <http://ebar.com>, Sept. 1. More than 62 percent of millennials favor allowing same-sex couples to marry; 69 percent favor permitting gay and lesbian couples to adopt. Only 31 percent of seniors favor allowing same-sex marriages; 36 percent favor permitting gay and lesbian couples to adopt children.



**Sen. Roberto Arango**

*"Why, Senator Arango! Your asshole is looking so slim these days! You simply must share your workout routine with me!"*

–Dan Savage, in his blog titled "Reading Slog at Work on Monday Morning! Wanna See an Anti-Gay Republican Senator's Butthole? Sure Ya Do..." about anti-gay Puerto Rican GOP territorial Sen. Roberto Arango, who displayed explicit naked photos of himself on a gay hookup phone app and dismissed the revelation by saying he was documenting his weight loss regimen, [slog.thestranger.com](http://slog.thestranger.com), Aug. 29. Arango has resigned his Senate seat.



**Ja'briel Walthour**

*"I feel compelled to ask the question, how long? How long must we wait for a change to come? How long must other transgender women of color, like myself, be subjected to the hands of hate, the vestige of violence, and the devastating effects of discrimination? As a transgender woman of color, I know all too well the violence, ignorance and discrimination that accompany the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. There isn't much that compares to the humiliation, rejection and fear of living your life as an out and proud transgender woman of color. To face discrimination and biased attitudes is one thing; to stare down the barrel of a loaded weapon is another."*

–Ja'briel Walthour, transgender advocate, in her column titled "One Day Our Change Will Come: A Call to Raise Awareness and End Violence Against Transgender Women of Color," about the recent murders of Camila Guzman and Lashai Mclean and violence faced by transgender and gender non-conforming people, [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com), Aug. 30.



**Peterson Toscano**

*"Growing up as a guy who felt attracted to guys and who was always a bit of a sissy, I moved in and out of public school, Christian college, the Roman Catholic and then Evangelical churches, and the mission field, but I understood that these worlds did not fully welcome me. My admittance and subsequent service in these came with conditions — namely I had to straighten myself out. I needed to be a heterosexual, masculine (gender-normative) man. In essence, I had to strap myself into a Straight Jacket. Not that there is anything wrong with straight folks; it's just that I wasn't one and did everything in my power (and God's power) to change all that."*

–Peterson Toscano, in his blog titled "Lazarus, Come Out!," about his experiences as an ex-gay treatment survivor, [petersontoscano.wordpress.com](http://petersontoscano.wordpress.com), Aug. 10.



# Fifth Annual Ties Like Me Business EXPO

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This is your opportunity to network with business owners and see what is new in the market. Local non-profit agencies will also have helpful information to hand out. For more information please contact Robert Lalicki at 248-379-9527 or visit the website: [www.tieslikeme.org](http://www.tieslikeme.org).

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# Creep of the Week

## Rick Perry

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

So how about that Gov. Rick Perry, eh? Awesome alert! Am I right?



Rick Perry

National Organization for Marriage president Brian Brown. And if there's one thing gays want to destroy, it's marriage.

Brown made his declaration after Perry signed a NOM-sponsored pledge that he would do everything in his power to keep marriage out of the clutches of the queers.

"Perry makes crystal clear that, contrary to the conventional wisdom, gay marriage is going to be (an ) even bigger issue in 2012 than it was in 2008," Brown said about Perry's pledge signing, "because the difference between the GOP nominee and President Obama is going to be large and clear."

I would like to make a comment about how the people of America have far more important things to worry about in 2012 than ladies marrying ladies and guys marrying guys, but no doubt this is a big concern for folks who really need to pull their heads out of their NOM-holes long enough to take a good look around.

Still, no matter who gets the Republican nomination, I guarantee that the difference between them and Obama will be pretty obvious. Marriage pledge or no.

By signing the pledge, Perry has vowed to support an anti-gay marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution, defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court, support the overturning of Washington D.C.'s marriage equality law, and, most bizarrely, to round up a posse to "investigate harassment of traditional marriage supporters." Because that's apparently a problem so big that it needs to be handled at the executive branch level.

The American Civil Liberties Union's Ian Thompson hit the nail on the head when he declared that NOM's marriage pledge was nothing more than a wish list for a group seeking "a free hand to attack the legitimacy of gay and lesbian couples and their relationships through the spread of fear and disinformation while remaining free from public scrutiny, accountability, or even active, organized opposition."

Personally I think we should be concerned about a presidential candidate who pledges to personally get involved in the squabbles that arise from uncivilized discourse. Yes, comments on all sides of the marriage debate can be ugly. But that's not a national emergency worthy of a president's attention. Plus, NOM's assertion of constant harassment isn't even based in an objective reality.

"While organizations like NOM would like to have people believe that their supporters face systematic harassment and intimidation because of their anti-gay views, the reality is quite different," Thompson continued. "Any incidents of actual harassment or political violence employed as part of a political campaign is entirely unacceptable, but ... this is not the same thing as constitutionally protected (if heated) disagreement, criticism, and advocacy."

Thick skin doesn't seem to be NOM's strongpoint. Being criticized, lampooned, or even called names isn't the same thing as systemic harassment worthy of national attention. Now if they were constantly compared to pedophiles, or denied the right to visit their loved ones in the hospital because they "aren't family," or were fired from their jobs simply for being in a relationship with someone of the same sex, well, that would be something to worry about.

Mind you, Perry is not the first GOP presidential contender to sign the pledge (Michelle Bachmann, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum have as well), signaling that the GOP is banking hard to the right as usual. As for whether or not Perry has anything in his life that will embarrass the anti-gay right, well, only time will tell.

"I wish Rick Perry was my daddy and/or boyfriend," say all gays everywhere, obviously.

Not that Perry is gay. In fact, he recently pinkie swore that he wasn't gay by telling a group of conservatives, "I can assure you that there is nothing in my life that will embarrass you if you decide to support me for president."

Not that folks aren't trying to dig stuff up. "Rick is a closet homo" rumors have been flying for years, but nothing has really stuck.

Of course, Perry can't be gay. After all, he is "a marriage champion," according to

## Transgender Health Fair returns to Affirmations

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

FERNDALE— The second annual Transgender Health Fair comes to Affirmations community center on Saturday, Sept. 17.

At the fair, which is organized by Affirmations and Transgender Michigan, community organizations and guest speakers will provide information about AIDS prevention, counseling, anti-aging, hair removal, gender reassignment surgery, support groups and free health care to the public. Local businesses and sponsors will offer giveaways and distribute information regarding how they tend to the needs of transgendered individuals.

The health fair will also offer a special three-part informational session on hormone therapy. Rachel Crandall,

executive director and co-founder of Transgender Michigan, will talk about the process of becoming eligible for hormone therapy in Michigan and the obstacles individuals considering therapy face. BioMed Specialty Pharmacy pharmacist Mazen Baisa and nutritionist Cheryl Sikina will discuss the need for proper nutrition during hormone therapy as well as the side effects of different hormone treatments.

"We're interested in reaching out to anyone that is seeking information — transgendered individuals, family members and allies trying to learn about the transgender community," said London Bell, Affirmations' health and human services coordinator.

Last year the Transgender Health Fair attracted attendees from Ohio and Indiana. "Reaching people from out of

state is something we hope to do again," Bell said. "With our new sponsors, we've been able to start publicizing earlier than last year."

Among the new sponsors this year are CVS Pharmacy, BioMed Central and Detroit Legal Services. Medical students from Wayne State University will also attend the fair, providing free basic screenings of heart rates and blood pressure to fair attendees.

The Transgender Health Fair runs 1-4 p.m., Sept. 17 at Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road in Ferndale. Admission, healthy food and product giveaways will be free. For more information, contact Affirmations' Health and Human Services Coordinator London Bell at 248-398-7105 or go to [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).

## GLSEN Southeast Mich. gets service learning grant

FERNDALE— The State Farm Youth Advisory Board announced that GLSEN Southeast Michigan will receive a \$28,044 service-learning grant for the Breaking the Silence Initiative, a natural and societal disaster preparedness service-learning project.

GLSEN — the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network — of Southeast Michigan is one of 64 community organizations to receive a youth-led service-learning grant across the U.S. and Canada.

"GLSEN Southeast Michigan is so excited to receive this grant and appreciates the dedication of the State

Farm Youth Advisory Board to help us ensure safe schools for all students regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression," said Jane Kelley, GLSEN Southeast Michigan co-chair. "This project was conceptualized by our youth board, the GSA Alliance of Southeast Michigan." Students wrote the grant request and will implement the project during the new school year.

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board has granted more than \$20.7 million in grant money since its inception in 2006, empowering youth to implement service-learning projects in 331 communities.

Applications are available for passionate youth aged 17-20 to become a Youth Advisory Board member. More information can be found at [www.statefarmyab.com](http://www.statefarmyab.com). Applications must be submitted online by October 3.

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is a diverse group of 30 youth, ages 17-20, who were chosen through a competitive process to lead and oversee this \$5 million/year signature service-learning initiative. The Youth Advisory Board identified the issues, issued competitive grants and will now provide technical assistance, communication and oversight to grantees.

## White House honors The Trevor Project, GLSEN for their work in suicide prevention

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Last week, the Trevor Project and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network were honored at the White House as for being "Champions of Change" for their work in suicide prevention.

The White House Champions of Change initiative profiles Americans from all walks of life who are helping the country rise to the challenges of the 21st century. Suicide takes the lives of nearly 34,000 Americans every year. The White House's Champions of Change are working to lower that statistic, to combat bullying in schools

and sports, to provide resources for communities, and to educate individuals and groups across the country. For more information, please visit [www.whitehouse.gov/champions](http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions).

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBT young people. In August 1998, James Lecesne, Peggy Rajski and Randy Stone, the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film, "Trevor," founded The Trevor Project. Their film, a story about an LGBTQ teen who attempts suicide, was set to begin airing nationally on HBO, and the filmmakers wanted to include a number to a suicide lifeline for young people that might feel like the character "Trevor." Finding no such number existed, the filmmakers opened the Trevor Lifeline. Since that time, The Trevor Project has received hundreds of thousands of calls from young people in crisis.

In addition to operating the only national crisis lifeline for LGBTQ young people, the organization is the first to offer suicide prevention services nationally to youth in digital spaces, including counseling via

instant message through TrevorChat, and the largest online social network specifically for young LGBTQ people, TrevorSpace. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services appointed The Trevor Project to a leadership role in the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and the organization is a lead resource for the White House initiative, StopBullying.gov.

For more information about The Trevor Project and to get involved, visit [TheTrevorProject.org](http://TheTrevorProject.org).

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established in 1990, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. GLSEN seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes to creating a more vibrant and diverse community. For information on GLSEN's research, educational resources, public policy advocacy, student organizing programs and educator training initiatives, visit [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).

The White House  
Champions of Change  
initiative profiles  
Americans from all walks  
of life who are helping  
the country rise to the  
challenges of the 21st  
century.

# Mistrial declared in Calif. gay high school student killing trial

## Jury split on whether to convict of murder or manslaughter

BY THOMAS WATKINS

LOS ANGELES (AP)— At the outset, prosecutors presented it as an airtight case of murder: Brandon McInerney, driven by homophobic rage, shot a gay classmate in the back of the head during a school class.

But ultimately, after an eight-week trial and six days of deliberations, jurors could not decide if the slaying was murder or manslaughter.

A judge declared a mistrial Sept. 1 after jurors failed to reach an unanimous decision on the degree of Brandon McInerney's guilt for killing 15-year-old Larry King.

The nine-woman, three-man panel said they took a series of votes — the last one with seven in favor of voluntary manslaughter and five jurors supporting either first-degree or second-degree murder.

Prosecutors must now decide whether to re-file murder and hate crime charges against McInerney, now 17 but 14 at the time of the killing, who was tried as an adult. They had offered a deal of 25 years to life if he pleaded guilty, but his lawyers passed. A first-degree murder conviction carried a maximum sentence of more than 50 years in prison.

King's family rushed out of the

courtroom after the judge declared a mistrial. They looked horrified and confused and declined comment as sheriff's deputies escorted them to an elevator.

Outside court, McInerney's friends said prosecutors tried to sensationalize the case by calling it a hate crime by a budding white supremacist.

One juror, who identified himself only as juror no. 10, told The Associated Press that several members of the panel thought McInerney should never have been tried as an adult.

"I don't think so," the juror said, when asked if the district attorney should have pursued an adult prosecution. "He was 14. Just trying to get in the head of a 14-year-old (is hard.)"

Ventura County prosecutor Maeve Fox did not comment after the trial. She contended McInerney embraced a white supremacist philosophy that sees homosexuality as an abomination. Police found Nazi-inspired drawings and artifacts at his house, and a white supremacist expert testified the hate-filled ideology was the reason for the killing.

Fox also argued the attack was premeditated, noting at least six people heard McInerney make threats against King in the days leading to the shooting.

She said McInerney told a psychologist hired by defense lawyers that he wanted to kill King after he passed McInerney in a school hallway and said, "What's up, baby?"

"He's basically confessed to first-degree murder in this case," Fox said during her closing argument.

Defense attorneys acknowledged McInerney was the shooter but explained that he had reached an emotional breaking point after King made repeated, unwanted sexual advances. McInerney snapped when he heard moments before the shooting that King wanted to change his name to Latisha, the lawyers said.

The defense psychologist said he was in a dissociative state — acting without thinking — when he pulled the trigger at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard, northwest of Los Angeles.

McInerney's lawyers also said he suffered physical abuse at home from his father, who has since died, and didn't receive the proper supervision that would have kept him out of trouble. They said the Nazi imagery was part of a school project on tolerance.

King's family sued the school district for failing to protect their son. The lawsuit is pending.

# Calif gay history referendum faces uphill battle

## Half million signatures needed to stop mandatory teaching about gay rights

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— At churches, shopping centers, schools, and local tea party meetings in California, fired-up volunteers have started gathering signatures for a ballot referendum that would repeal the nation's first law requiring public schools to include prominent gay people and gay rights' milestones in school lessons.

Organizers of the Stop SB48 campaign (Senate Bill 48 was the law approved by the California Legislature and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in July) are telling would-be voters the new mandate would inappropriately expose young children to sex, infringe on parental rights and silence religion-based criticisms of homosexuality. Those are talking points successfully used by proponents of Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure that banned same-sex marriage in California.

But so far, Mormon and Catholic church leaders and conservative groups who spearheaded the Proposition 8 campaign have not joined the effort to qualify the gay history referendum for the June 2012 ballot, leaving less-experienced Christian conservatives to lead the charge without the organizational prowess and

funding to hire paid signature gatherers.

Political operatives say they can't recall any citizens' initiative that made the state ballot without professional petition circulators in almost three decades.

"If someone wrote a million-dollar check, we would be guaranteed to get this on the ballot," said Pacific Justice Institute President Brad Dacus, whose legal aid firm wrote the proposed measure and is co-sponsoring the signature-gathering effort. "That's not the case at this point... We are counting on people in churches and communities and families making the extra effort to get it done."

Supporters have until Oct. 12 to collect 504,760 signatures from registered voters to qualify the measure for the ballot. Conventional wisdom among political consultants is that it will be difficult to meet the requirement with such a short window and only volunteers.

Sacramento political consultant Wayne Johnson, whose firm has worked on more than a dozen ballot initiative campaigns, said that with the same-sex marriage ban tied up in the courts, a presidential election on the horizon and many Christian parents with children in private schools, conservative groups with the most cash and experience

may sit out this fight.

"We are in a different environment and a different economy," Johnson said. "How much of your resources and energy can be devoted to preserving the status quo?"

Still, no one is ready to write off the repeal attempt, especially if a donor steps up in the next few weeks to fund professional petitioners. If ever there was a measure that could galvanize the electorate, it's one dealing with gay rights and school children.

"On an issue like this one, sometimes an abundance of passion, on both sides, can make up for a lack of money," said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California and a former GOP campaign spokesman. "A well-organized and very emotionally committed grassroots base may be able to get this on the ballot even without significant funding."

The new law takes effect Jan. 1 but state education officials say it is unlikely to be fully implemented until at least the 2015-16 school year. It adds lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people, as well as European Americans and people with disabilities to the lengthy list of social and ethnic groups whose "roles and contributions" California public

See California, page 16

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► California

Continued from p. 15

schools must include in California and U.S. history lessons and teaching materials such as textbooks.

The law also prohibits any instructional materials that “reflect adversely” on gays or particular religions. Because of the state’s budget straits, the California Department of Education’s timeline for adopting new textbooks has been pushed back until 2015. The work of revising the history and social studies curriculum framework that determines what students learn and at what grades has been suspended until further notice.

Fears that kindergartners will be hearing about prominent gays in history are misplaced, said Sherry Skelly Griffith, governmental relations specialist for the Association of California School Administrators.

Currently, California students do not receive any significant social studies until they study state history in fourth grade. They begin learning about U.S. history in eighth grade, but do not study 20th Century social movements, the most logical place for gay history to receive a serious treatment, until they are juniors in high school.

Educators who devise the curriculum are unlikely to include the sexual orientation of historical figures unless it is relevant, Griffith said.

“Frankly, there isn’t time to get into people’s personal lives...” she said. “Your textbook needs to address broad-brush themes.”

The group organizing the petition drive is the Capitol Resource Institute, a nonprofit organization that has fought gay rights bills, including measures that recognized slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk’s birthday. Three years ago,

the institute unsuccessfully attempted to qualify a referendum that would have overturned a law prohibiting discrimination in schools based on sexual orientation.

Founded in 1987 as an anti-abortion lobbying group by two wealthy Christian businessmen from Orange County, former California Senate Republican leader Rob Hurtt and banking heir Howard Ahmanson Jr., the group has also championed a bill that would have made it more difficult to obtain a divorce in California and opposed others that would have made spanking a crime and stiffened penalties for hate crimes.

Its annual income in 2009, the last year for which information was available, was a little over \$282,000.

Karen England, the institute’s executive director, said that along with the Pacific Justice Institute, several other staunchly conservative groups with long histories of activism have endorsed the repeal and are rallying their members. England said she is convinced that the group will succeed. “We are going to do what it takes to ensure victory to get the referendum on the ballot,” she said.

Equality California, the state’s largest gay rights group, has launched a web site to counteract the information being put out by the campaign.

Executive Director Roland Palencia said his group assumes the measure will be on the ballot, given the organizational muscle that evangelical churches demonstrated during the Proposition 8 campaign. Gay rights activists will try to portray the backers of the repeal as extremists who are out of step with most Californians.

“If it qualifies ... we will put up a fight.” he said.

# Baldwin announces Senate bid

## Candidate would be first openly gay U.S. Sen.

BY LISA KEEN

The news became official Tuesday: U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is running for the U.S. Senate in 2012.

Baldwin made her announcement, which has been highly anticipated for weeks by the LGBT community, on her campaign website [tammybaldwin.com](http://tammybaldwin.com) and via email to supporters Tuesday morning.



Tammy Baldwin

In her video announcement, Baldwin promised to listen to constituents, stand up for the middle class, and fight the “special interests.” She noted that, in 1998, she was the first woman from Wisconsin elected to Congress. A headline clipping on the video also notes, “Baldwin’s election opens doors for gays.” Baldwin also notes in her video that, 12 years ago, she voted against repealing the Glass-Steagal Act that prevented banks “from engaging in the types of risky practices that led to our financial crisis.”

“If others had stood with us, to take on Wall Street,” said Baldwin, “we could have avoided much of the mess we’re in today.” Baldwin also voted against the war in Iraq in 2006.

“Now, I believe it’s time to bring our brave men and women home from Afghanistan,” said Baldwin. “It’s clear the billions we’re spending there could be used here at home to reduce our deficit and help get our economy moving again – because isn’t that what we should all be focused on right now?”

Baldwin’s announcement makes her the first Democratic candidate for the seat being vacated by incumbent Senator Herb Kohl. Kohl made a surprise announcement in May that he would not seek re-election in 2012.

Baldwin’s announcement also makes her the first lesbian to run for the U.S. Senate. The first openly gay candidate was Ed Flanagan, who ran against incumbent Senator Jim Jeffords in Vermont in 2000.

If elected, Baldwin, who turned 49 in February, would become the first openly gay person in the U.S. Senate.

Recent polls have indicated she has a good chance. A Public Policy Poll released August 17 showed Baldwin is a favorite over two other potential candidates for the Democratic nomination – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind and former Rep. Steve Kagen. Thirty-one percent of 387 Democratic primary voters in Wisconsin said they’d support Baldwin to replace Kohl if Feingold declined to run. Kagen earned only 22 percent, and Kind garnered only 15 percent.

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# MATT WIXSON: A ska anomaly



## There's more to Shelby Township singer-songwriter than Phelps bashing

BY ANDREA POTEET

**M**att Wixson isn't complaining. Despite lyrics packed with rants about topics from failed relationships to homophobic Westboro Baptist church pastor Fred Phelps, the 27-year-old frontman for local punk-ska band Matt Wixson's Flying Circus is really kind of an OK guy, he promises.

"I'm usually friendly, smiley, full of jokes and everything in my day-to-day life," Wixson says. "I think all the negativity channels itself into my songs. I usually end up with something I can think positively about after I've written the song."

As a solo artist since 2005, Wixson had used his music as an outlet for his griping and, until 2007, as a place to subtly discuss his sexual orientation.

"I was definitely singing songs about guys," Wixson says, "but I was doing the old pronoun trick, singing to 'you' instead of 'him.' It was a cheap way to do it, and rather unsatisfying."

But his view of music as a place he could "get away with it" changed when his friend Jeff

Rosenstock of New York-based punk band Bomb the Music Industry! released the song "Save the War," a gay rights anthem that made Wixson reconsider his privacy stance.

"I thought, 'If this guy is making gay rights music, I have no reason not to,'" Wixson says.

The result was the 10-song release from Wixson's electronic-ska-reggae side project Babylon Party Machine, "God Hates Babylon Party Machine," released on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, in 2007. The album was nominated for a Detroit Music Award that year.

Between bashing closeted gay Republicans and Phelps, he said the disc was his attempt to find other people like him.

"I really didn't have anybody to look up to like that," Wixson says. "There's been gay-fronted punk bands for a long time, but at the time – and even now – I don't know of anyone singing openly gay ska music."

After coming out, he said his friends, most of whom had also been in the dark, gradually "caught up." Fans and friends alike have been mostly supportive. He said the liberal leanings of most ska and punk listeners have helped.

"My musical preferences really benefited me, because I was going right into an accepting scene," he says. "Some people have suggested that people won't buy shirts because I'm gay and maybe there's some sort of connotation with that or people might not come to the shows for that reason, but that's not really something I see."

Wixson, who lives in Shelby Township, started his self-named band over a year ago with drummer Mike Land and bassist Josh Young of local ska-punk band Cbj. The project paired Wixson's lyrical tirades with his folk and ska influences and Land and Young's deceptively bouncy beats. The group has hit local venues and toured around the country. A full-length album, recorded during a stop in New Jersey last summer, is awaiting finishing touches before its release. Their first six-song EP, "Jeffy," was released last month on New Orleans-based Community Records and can be downloaded at [www.communityrecords.org](http://www.communityrecords.org).

"My drummer suggested we name it as if it were a child of ours," Wixson says. "The first name out of his mouth was 'Jeffy.'"

At first, Wixson said audiences who had

attended his solo shows seemed put off that they were hearing mostly punk-based songs instead of the ska they had come to expect. As time went on, he said crowds have warmed up to the band.

Land said he's seen nothing but positive responses from crowds, and Wixson's orientation has helped bring a topic not often heard in punk lyrics to the forefront.

"I've never heard anyone say that because he's gay I'm not going to hear his music, or any other negative feedback from what we're trying to bring to the table," Land says. "If anything, it brings something that isn't really talked about very much at a lot of punk shows."

Though he has played music since he first taught himself the piano as a child, Wixson doesn't know if there will ever be enough demand for him to turn it into a career, but he said he's happy just to get the chance to share his songs with audiences.

"I feel like music is probably not going to be a career for me," Wixson says. "It would be great if it were, but I'm realistic enough to not really expect that. I try to enjoy it as much as I can, whenever I have the opportunity."

# 'Queer History of the United States' depicts gays' long existence

**"A Queer History of the United States,"** by Michael Bronski. Beacon Press, 287 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

From the Puritan imposition of intolerant sexual mores on the land that was to become America, to angry activism in the face of the nation's initial neglect of AIDS, Bronski's cerebral hop, skip and jump assessment of LGBT presence across the centuries is an astute, succinct depiction of the truth that queers have always been everywhere – and everywhen. Starting from the defensible position that gay people are intrinsically different from straight people – something, says the author, that Native Americans accepted in the days before Christopher Columbus – Bronski weaves gay, from the poems of Walt Whitman to the letter pages of physique magazines, into his eclectic narrative. Most intriguing: the anti-Puritan community of Merrymount, where settlers celebrated sexuality with an 80-foot phallus. Bronski's invaluable history of queers, concluding formally in the 1990s, is a fine blend of passionate and informed, and blessedly free of Judy Garland – though that particular icon is cited, insightfully, on a single page: "Men could often find one another at Marlene Dietrich and Judy Garland concerts."



**"Trick of the Dark,"** by Val McDermid. Bywater Books, 396 pages, \$14.95 paper.

McDermid returns to her lesbian-sleuth roots (the six-novel Lindsay Gordon series) in this standalone novel. Clinical psychiatrist Charlie Flint, suspended from her job while facing charges of professional impropriety, is moping around the home she shares with her wife of seven years – until she's drawn into off-the-books sleuthing with roots in her university past. Imperious Oxford don Corinna, her one-time teacher, wants Charlie to investigate the wedding-day death of the man who had just married her daughter, now smitten by a ball-busting businesswoman and memoirist with several suspicious deaths in her own past. And, as if her professional life were not conflicted enough, Charlie must confront emotional and sexual confusion – she is being wooed, too tantalizingly, by another woman. McDermid brings her hallmark complex plot to this accomplished thriller, which is a switch from recent police procedurals in that it is dominated by mostly female and several lesbian characters, rather than by the actual crime.

**"From Where We Sit: Black Writers Write Black Youth,"** edited by Victoria A. Brownworth. Tiny Satchel Press, 336 pages, \$16.95 paper.

Editor Brownworth slots this anthology into the Young Adult genre, and, sure, teen characters are the focus of the stories. But there's an elder sensibility in several that ought to entice older readers as well. That's certainly the case with Jewelle Gomez's "Caramelle 1864," a spin-off from her celebrated 1991 novel, "The Gilda Stories." Two young girls are at the story's heart, but the theme of African-Americans defying repression – one that suffuses the collection – touches all ages. Craig Laurance Gidney's "Bereft," in which a black scholarship student at a Catholic school defies white bullies, is more youth-focused, as is Becky Birtha's "Johnnieruth," in which a tomboy's sensed sexuality is stirred when she glimpses the shared affection of two women. Each of the 20 stories deals with what it means to be African-American, but the most searing is Lowell Boston's "Ten to One," in which a schoolboy, after defending himself from a white boy's attack, is singled out by his redneck principal as the troublemaker. Asked to write an apology to the school, he scrawls, "I am not a nigger."



**"a + e 4EVER,"** by Ilike Merrey. Lethe Press, 214 pages, \$18 paper.

Girl is attracted mostly to girls. Boy is attracted primarily to boys. But girl is falling in love with boy. That's the genderqueer essence of this remarkable graphic novel, the engrossing story of two high school outcasts who find solace and strength in each other's company. Eulalie – she prefers Eu – is a survivor in the school's mean hallways. Asher, blessed (and cursed) with an androgynous beauty, is every bully's victim. And every beating comes with a double terror – the stick-thin boy has an intense fear of being touched. A shared passion for art at first connects the odd couple, and their friendship deepens as Ash, urged along by Eu, comes out of his loner shell and into his queer sexual sell – a self, to Eu's dismay and despair, that doesn't, after all, include her. Merrey's dazzling style, combined with an intricate narrative, results in work that is both an ebulliently graphic story and a powerful young adult novel, a narrative about the ambiguity of love and the shadings of queer.

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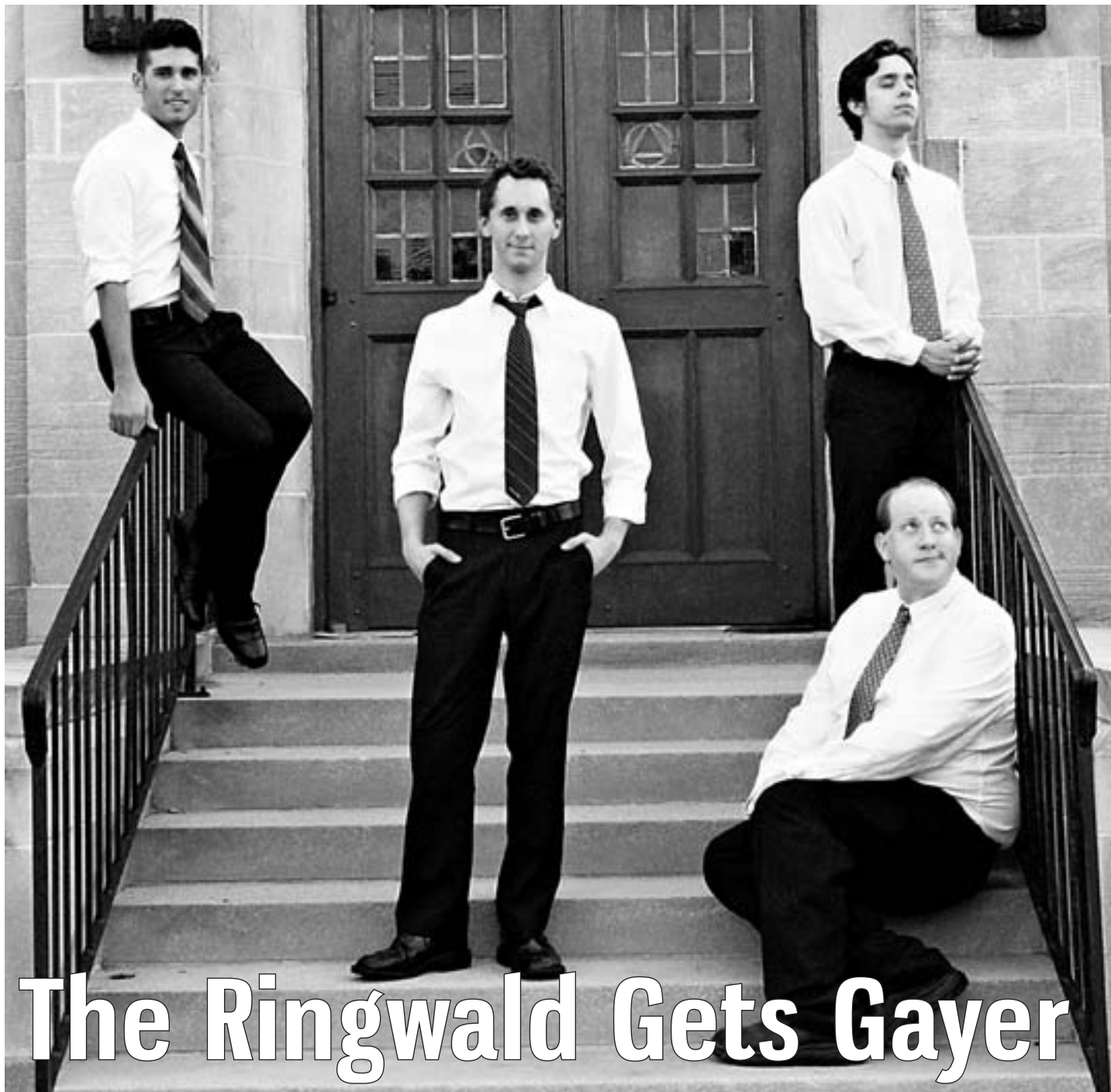


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# The Ringwald Gets Gayer

Popular 'Southern Baptist Sissies' opens season Sept. 9

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Artistic director Joe Bailey and company member Joe Plambeck aren't willing to pigeonhole *Who Wants Cake?* as a gay theater, but they readily admit they are the gayest theater in Southeast Michigan.

"We are the gayest overall in terms of doing the most predominately gay stuff from show to show," Bailey said. "But when I think of a gay theater, that's all they do."

Bailey pointed to their performances of such shows as "House of Blue Leaves" and "Killer Joe," saying there is a whole canon of non-gay shows that they produce.

"I agree we do a lot of gay shit," said Bailey, "but by saying we're a gay theater, there is the implication that we only do gay shit."

Plambeck said the mix of shows helps with audience development. "We started off wanting to do lots of gay material that we knew hadn't been done or hadn't been done for awhile. We're eclectic, we're doing a little of everything that we as a company love. We are doing a lot of gay shows this season."

The upcoming 2011-2012 season at the

## Southern Baptist Sissies

Friday-Monday through Sept. 26  
*Who Wants Cake?* at The Ringwald  
 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale  
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[www.whowantscaketheatre.com](http://www.whowantscaketheatre.com)

Ringwald Theatre celebrates all their audiences have come to love about the Ferndale store-front theater. There are drag shows poking fun at iconic films, a musical tribute to a drag queen and shows that explore issues such as religion and AIDS. These include "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "Silent Night of the Lambs," "The SantaLand Diaries," "Angels in America: Part I," "It's Liz-a-Palooza," "Speed the Plow" and "The Divine Sister."

The season opens Sept. 9 by bringing back "Southern Baptist Sissies," exploring the attempts of young gay men to reconcile their sexuality with their religion and culture. *Who Wants Cake?* cites this show as the production in their first season that put them on the map.

The show welcomes back several people

reprising their roles, along with three new "sissies" in the main roles. Plambeck returns as Andrew, a character conflicted about his identity.

"The discussion of religion and sexuality is one that so many people get involved in," Plambeck said. "It does a really nice job of exploring how the Southern Baptist upbringing affected four different gay boys who went in four different ways. It isn't against church or religion, it's about finding the balance and realizing that God loves everyone. It isn't a harsh play at all. It leaves people feeling warm and moved at the end."

Bailey emphasized that the Southern Baptist part is superfluous, that it was chosen only because the playwright Del Shores grew up as Southern Baptist.

"The questions are really bigger, more universal in terms of organized religion, not just the Southern Baptist section of Christianity. It deals with how you reconcile your sexuality with your religion. Anyone who has questioned something in the Bible or what they were taught from a religious standpoint...can really get something out of this play."

In other words, like the theater itself, the show may be gay, but straights can come too.

## Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald: 2011-12 Season

**Sept. 9-26**

### Southern Baptist Sissies

The journey of four gay boys in the Baptist Church.

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### Hedwig and the Angry Inch

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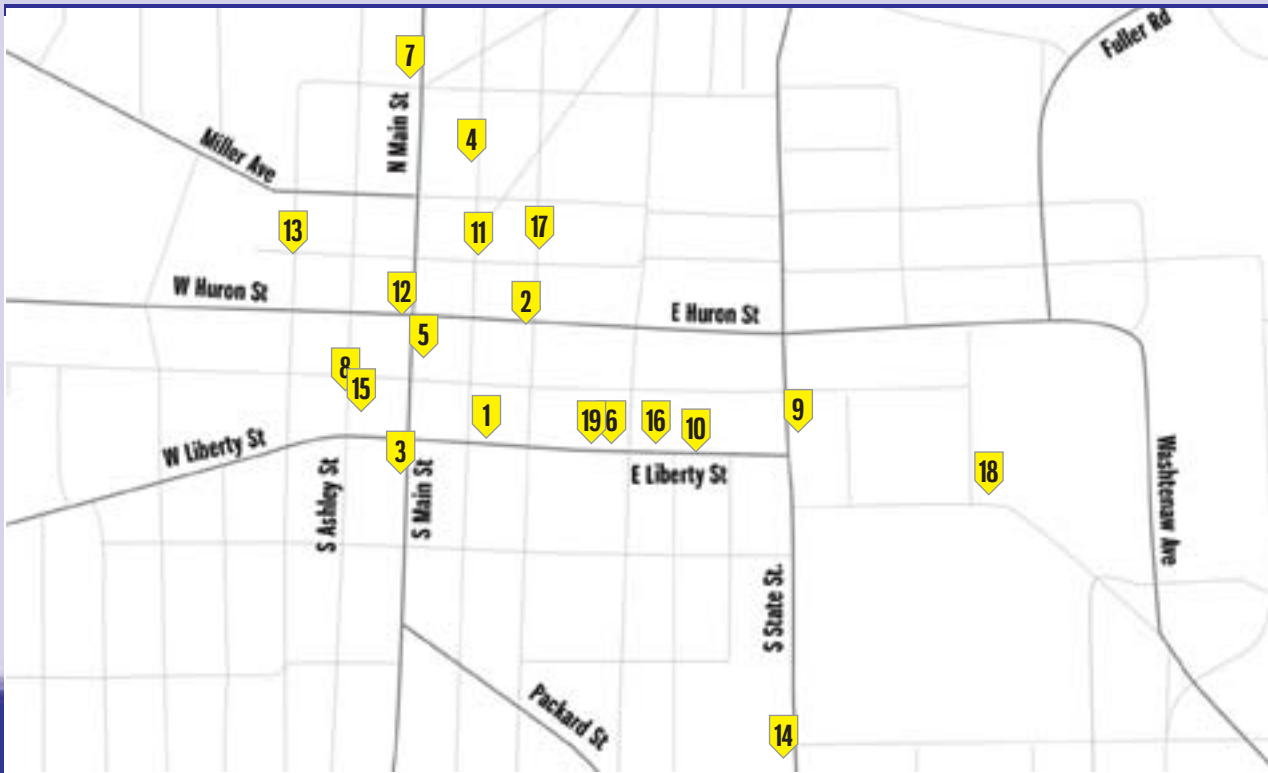
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# Kerrytown Bookfest showcases local talent

The ninth annual Kerrytown Bookfest returns to Ann Arbor Sept. 11 at the historical Kerrytown district's Farmer's Market.

The annual festival's goal is to illustrate Ann Arbor's history in both the writing and printing of literature and to exhibit local Michigan individuals, businesses and organizations that continue to operate within the region.

The Kerrytown Bookfest celebration of both readers and writers of literature has grown in size, garnering more attendees and exhibitors every year since its 2003 genesis. Last year the festival presented over 100 exhibitors and hosted to over 4,500 attendees.

The festival's theme this year is "Michigan Voices," showcasing the talent of Michigan's writers, many of which have been Michigan Notable Book Award winners and New York Times best-selling authors.

Speakers will run workshops in the main tent and Kerrytown Concert House to discuss writing and publishing in a variety of genres such as science fiction, biography, thriller and, more specifically, Michigan Civil War history and Victorian history. At 1 p.m., John Gallagher, author of "Re-imagining Detroit"; Sean Doerr and Dan Austin, author and photographer of "Lost Detroit," respectively; and NPR reporter Kate Davidson will host a workshop titled "Detroit Voices," which will focus on the changing face of Detroit, as well as the city's future.



Shoppers at Ann Arbor's Farmer's Market, where speakers will run workshops in the main tent at the annual Bookfest.

A variety of other activities have been scheduled for the 2011 Bookfest, including drawing workshops with children's book illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw, the announcement of the fourth annual Book Cover Contest Award winners and an open reception within the Ann Arbor District Library for their Bookfest related exhibit, "Michigan Voices: Native Americans in Michigan."

Kerrytown Bookfest begins 11 a.m. Sept. 11 at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, 315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor. For more information, visit [kerrytownbookfest.org](http://kerrytownbookfest.org) or call 734-794-6255.

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## BTI Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

### Adult Education

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Yes, being a writer is glamorous and interesting, but sometimes I feel like I've written myself in a role I can't fulfill. I ask myself, "How did I become a dating expert?" Nightly, my friends call with questions about their fluctuating love lives, and I find myself forming answers, but I can't tell if I'm truly helping.

"Don't get him wet. He'll multiply!" I advise my friend Cindy. At her condo, we toast to her first date with a doctor.

"What does that mean? He's not a gremlin."

"Just use protection."

From a drawer, Cindy locates a condom, waving it in the air. "You mean this?" A novice at dating, she beams.

"Yes, but remember... you can't get pregnant from oral."

"Oh, I know that." Still, last week she took the morning-after pill because she gave some random guy a blowjob. She thought the semen might burn a hole in her intestines and travel to her uterus. Apparently, she forgot to take that health class in high school. "But I thought you said no 'sucky-sucky' on a first date."

"That depends. Do you want a second date?"

Cindy nods. "Then you can't take it anywhere further than a kiss."

"Why not?"

"Guys like a challenge."

"Oh," she says. Still, I see her filling up her Just-In-Case bag. You know, just in case she decides to bend the rules. A condom, a breath mint, a fresh pair of panties — it's all in there. However, I can't call her out; I'm the one who gave her the idea.

Later at the club, my friend Matt gives me hell for it. "Let me get this straight. You forbid her to have sex, including oral, BUT you had her bring a condom, a breath mint, and a fresh pair of panties?"

"Yeah, and a douche."

"A DOUCHE?" He hiccups his beer. "Oh, that'll get her laid."

"Hey, that was my dad's suggestion."

"Yeah, that's why your dad's single." He slugs a beer as a young gay attempts Adele on the karaoke machine. Cigarette smoke blurs the crowd. "Look dude. You're steering that girl all wrong. You don't wait for sex. That's like holding off dinner. You know you'll end up at IHOP, eating some nasty shit at midnight if you do that."

Matt speaks from experience. You see, he's the lonely type who finds a guy on Grindr, plans a meet-up and then pretends to care what the guy's first name is just to get him in bed. On most occasions, they skip the date altogether, ending up in the pretzel position before Matt realizes he despises the guy. Now, each night, his phone buzzes with an arsenal of texts from men he can't stand. Tonight, at the club, it's like dodging bullets each time these men try to make contact.

"Just keep looking straight ahead. Look at me. Don't turn your head. Laugh," Matt instructs, in the midst of karaoke hour. Past experience tells me this is code red for a prior trick that wants a second treat.

"Maaaaat!" A slinky gentleman with a black faux-hawk wraps an arm around his back,

pulling him in for an embrace. "Are you trying to avoid me?"

"No. I didn't see you. What's up?"

The man, Pete, snake eyes me as competition before closing in. "I was thinkin' we should get together tonight."

Matt speaks from experience. You see, he's the lonely type who finds a guy on Grindr, plans a meet-up and then pretends to care what the guy's first name is just to get him in bed.

"Can't. Hanging with Anthony."

"Oh." He feigns indifference. Still, I see steam rising from his ears, or perhaps that's just his cigarette being exhaled from a new hole.

Yes, Pete has a bevy of talents. For instance, just when I think he's moved on, he's cleverly maneuvered his way back into our inner circle, talking about ordering a pizza. Meanwhile, Matt is hiding by the stripper pole in a dark corner. "I can have the pizza here in five minutes. I know the owner," he boasts. "Where's Matt? What does he like on his pizza?"

I cage the absurdity, fighting off laughter. "Probably vegetables," I reply. "He's a vegetarian."

His brain triggers him to raise a finger. "Mushrooms! Matt likes mushrooms!" Then, he's on his phone, placing his order and pacing back and forth, while shouting about where to drop off the pizza. It's a 10-minute ordeal, followed by five minutes of him telling everyone about the "great" pizza until it arrives. Then, it's his pizza, and no one can try it because it's for him and Matt. "Matt likes mushrooms," he instructs a friend. Then, accompanied by the pizza, he charges into the bathroom after Matt.

Me, I'm wonder why this is happening. Is it a joke, or is Pete just taking Matt on the date that Matt forgot to include in the initial offer of sex? It seems, Matt forgot one of the realities of sharing an intimate experience. It doesn't matter if you skip a few steps, break a few rules, when it comes to sex, we all end up in the same tangled place when seeing an old conquest again. Rules are rules are rules, and no one likes giving up ass without a little return.

As for Matt, he doesn't want to talk about it. Exiting the bathroom, he acts as if nothing happened. Pete and the pizza are nowhere to be found.

"So, how was your first date?" I question. "Was it hot?"

"Yeah," he states. "I gave him head."

I think of the pizza and the dirty stalls. "Gross! Are you serious?"

"Hey, they're your rules," he says. "I was just making sure there's not a second."

# Supernatural shenanigans in 'Irma Vep'

BY JOHN QUINN

Who knew we've been camping it up for so long? As early as 1909, the Oxford English Dictionary cited "camp" as "ostentatious, exaggerated, affected, theatrical; effeminate or homosexual; pertaining to, characteristic of, homosexuals." If the American theater had a king (or queen, both titles would be suitable), it was actor-playwright-impresario extraordinaire Charles Ludlam. His body of work for the Ridiculous Theatrical Company was a rude, crude, lewd sock to the chops of conventional theater and the common culture. Only one of his plays has entered the theatrical mainstream: a send-up of Gothic horror tales, "The Mystery of Irma Vep," now showcased at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville.

"Irma Vep" has a nodding acquaintance with Hitchcock's "Rebecca," spiced with a heavy dose of b-movie schlock. The widowed Lord Edgar Hillcrest has brought his new bride, Enid, to his remote estate on the foggy moors. But over Mandacrest looms the memory of the first Lady Hillcrest, the beautiful Irma Vep. In a series of dark and stormy nights (with a brief sojourn to Egypt), we learn about her sad

## REVIEW

### The Mystery of Irma Vep

Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 9. \$28-\$30. 248-347-0003.

[www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

life and tragic death, largely through the conversations of her faithful servants, Jane Twisden and Nicodemus Underwood. Toss in some pregnant pauses, veiled innuendo and werewolves and you have your standard Saturday late-night show, right? Wrong. "Irma Vep" has seven characters played by only two actors.

The result is a madcap parody of cross-dressing, quick-change artistry and dizzy dialogues in which an actor can end up talking to himself. A hearty congratulation is due to the "running crew" (Caitlyn Macuga, Natividad Salgado and Katie Terpstra) for keeping this ship of fools running on an even keel. And a big round of applause for the outrageous performances of Brian P. Sage and Kevin Young, men of many hats – and wigs. They have set the bar for "teamwork"



Brian P. Sage and Kevin Young star in "The Mystery of Irma Vep" at Tipping Point Theatre. Photo: Howard and Charlotte Meyer

in the new season.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep" is an adventuresome choice for the Tipping Point and, in the capable hands of director James R. Kuhl, a successful one. Camp, though, is by nature a silly genre and doesn't need much more silliness to sell it. In fact, it is often at its best when performed with all the earnest conviction of your favorite female impersonator. But fasten your seat belts, you're in for a funny night!

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

[www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

# A nostalgic look at love at Stagecrafters

Stagecrafters opens its 2011-12 season with a nostalgic look back to the early 1900s with the musical production of "Meet Me in St. Louis," which runs Sept. 16 through Oct. 9 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

Based on the classic MGM movie musical starring Judy Garland, "Meet Me In St. Louis" is a joyous celebration of love, family and community featuring the standards "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Trolley Song" and "The Boy Next Door." The show was written by Hugh Martin, Ralph Blaine and Hugh Wheeler. The turn of the last century will come alive on the Baldwin stage as a year in the life of the close-knit Smith family plays out against the backdrop of their beloved hometown of St. Louis as it prepares to host the 1904 World's Fair.

This simple story of family and nostalgia is the inspiration for director Dolly Scheibelhut and the production staff. "The show has no villain or major conflict. What makes it so special is the characters who are so familiar and the very simplicity of a story that is so universal and relates to everyone," she says.

Advance tickets for regular performances are \$18 and \$20.

In addition to the 14 scheduled performances, Stagecrafters is hosting a Ladies Night Out on Thursday, Sept. 15. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and guests will be served light hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages as they stroll among displays of select Royal Oak retailers. Also included for the evening is a hat contest, a cash bar and the final dress rehearsal of



Stagecrafters presents the musical treasure "Meet Me In St. Louis" Sept 16 through Oct 9. Photo: Lance Luce

"Meet Me in St. Louis." Tickets are \$25.

For complete information, call 248-541-6430.

# Straight, gay and confused at Farmers Alley

**KALAMAZOO**— Come celebrate the opening of the Farmers Alley Theatre's fabulous fourth season Sept. 16 with the Midwest premiere of an original musical, "The Extraordinary Ordinary," which played off-Broadway this past year.

Farmers Alley Theatre's favorite composing team, Scott Burkell and Paul Loesel, are bringing their brand new musical to Kalamazoo, straight from New York City. "The Extraordinary Ordinary" follows a group of college friends – straight, gay and confused – as they face the challenges of life in Manhattan and explore everything from dating and sex to marriage and starting a family. Filled with humor, heart and hope, Burkell and

Loesel bring their songwriting talents back to Michigan in this Drama Desk award nominated production. It's "Friends" meets "thirtysomething" with a musical twist!

"The Extraordinary Ordinary" will be directed by lyricist and writer Scott Burkell ("A Cared Affair"). The cast includes Chicago and New York professionals Alison Mahoney, David Niles and Jack Sweeney, as well as area talents Amanda Martin ("Urinetown"), Sandy Zwier ("Blood Brothers") and Nik Spayne.

"The Extraordinary Ordinary" runs Sept. 16 through Oct. 9. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Farmers Alley Theatre Box Office at 269-343-2727 or by visiting [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)



Farmers Alley Theatre presents the Midwest premiere of "The Extraordinary Ordinary" beginning Sept. 16. Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

## The Whipping Man

By Matthew Lopez  
Directed by Gary Anderson

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Mr. It is Sain, the older of the two former alone and a man of strong, answering faith who leads the ceremony.

Little by little we find out that Sain and the younger John learned to work in the halls of their names, the family of Cash. John. He also see the splendors of a new world you find before our eyes. Don't miss this!

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(Charge by phone at 800-745-3000)

**CALL FOR TICKETS (734) 763-TKTS**  
In person at Michigan Union Ticket Office and Herb David Guitar Studio Online at [TheArk.org](http://TheArk.org). Doors open 1/2 hour before showtime. Call The Ark hotline at (734)761-1451.

# RTM Happenings

## Outings

The Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality presents a unique discussion event open to the public titled "Policy to Practice: Why Diversity and Inclusion are Good for Business in Kalamazoo."

As one of Michigan's top-five metropolitan areas, serving as the hub of southwestern Michigan's financial, educational, health and scientific services, Kalamazoo's local businesses are placed in an optimal position. This discussion will show how proper hiring practices, internal employee welfare, community outreach and effective diversity policies, can help these businesses flourish.

The evenings keynote speaker is Eric Peterson, Diversity and Inclusion Manager at Society for Human Resource Management. Joining Eric will be Brad Gorman, a Communication and Engagement Specialist; James L. Liggins, a litigator, and Carrie Hoch-Mortlock, Executive Director of Human Resources at Greenleaf Hospitality.

Policy to Practice begins 6 p.m. Sept. 15 at Borgess Medical Center-Lawrence Education Center, 1521 Gull Road in Kalamazoo. For more information, go to [kalamazooalliance.org](http://kalamazooalliance.org).



## Music & More

Canadian musician Ember Swift's last album, "Lentic," delivered an entirely unique sound filled with organic acoustics and electronic rhythms that can only be identified as "folktronica." Swift's music is the manifestation of both her Canadian roots and her affinity and background in Chinese culture and music. "Lentic" features both Mandarin Chinese and English lyrics, and uses Chinese instruments such as the guzheng in addition to Western instruments.

This year, Swift presents her newest material on a North American tour, stopping by Ann Arbor's The Ark on Sept. 15. "The show includes a lot of stories and language discussion – as well as lots of music, of course," says Swift. "This project is even more of a 'cultural bridge' between my home in the West and my adopted home in the east of Beijing, China."

Ember Swift performs at 8 p.m. Sept. 15 at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., in Ann Arbor. For more information, visit [theark.org](http://theark.org).



## Theater



The musical "Follies" opens the 89th season of Village Players on Sept. 16. The popular community theater, which likes to call itself "Birmingham's best live theater," is an appropriate venue for this Stephen Sondheim classic.

"Follies" is all about theater. It takes place at the 1971 reunion of performers of the great Follies shows of the past. The occasion is the closing and demolition of the theater where they performed. Musical theater is used as a metaphor for life. Follies were the shows, but they were also the foolish undertakings of life. Youthful performers of the past are "reunited" with the people they have become.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Sept. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and Oct. 1, with 2 p.m. matinees on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 at the Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham (two blocks south of Maple). Tickets are \$19. Call 248-644-2075 for tickets or more information.

## OUTINGS

### Wednesday, Sept. 7

**Ladies Who Lunch**, 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., **Kalamazoo**. [kgfrc.org](http://kgfrc.org)

### Friday, Sept. 9

**MI Response to Hate**, 7:30 a.m. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Michigan led the nation in 2010 with the highest number of anti-government extremist groups at 50. This conference will provide a structured opportunity for Michigan to develop community-based response systems and address the needs of our communities and victims of bias motivated incidents. Registration is free. The Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 55 S. Harrison Ave., **East Lansing**. 517-432-4000. [miaahc.com](http://miaahc.com)

**Artist Opening Reception for The Face Of Detroit**, 6 p.m. Metro Times photographer Bruce Giffin has been shooting photos in the city of Detroit for almost 30 years. He's garnered attention in recent years for his Face of Detroit portrait project. The artist states one-third of the subjects are homeless, but that it's not important to know which are. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105 224. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

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

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. Film-Sappho. Recently married Sappho can't imagine a more perfect union than the passionate relationship she shares with her sensitive husband. That is, until they spend the summer on the Greek island of Lesbos. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, Sept. 10

**Until Love is Equal: All You Can Eat Pancakes**, 8 a.m. Fundraiser for Until Love is Equal's efforts to create a non-discriminate Holland, Michigan. Tickets: \$5. Until Love is Equal, 3851 Alpine Ave., **Comstock Park**. [untilloveisequal.com](http://untilloveisequal.com)

**"Circle...Home" Book Release**, 12 p.m. Melissa Dey Hasbrook releases Circle...Home, a collection of poetry rooted in mid-Michigan. Circle...Home is a collaboration with Women's Center of Greater Lansing, and supported in part by a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-897-5833. [deyofthephoenix.com](http://deyofthephoenix.com)

### Sunday, Sept. 11

**PFLAG Detroit Meeting**, 2 p.m. Support groups, social gathering, community announcements, program presentations, guest speakers, and dinner. Every 2nd Sunday of the month. PFLAG, 3333 Coolidge Hwy, **Troy**. 248-656-2875. [pflagdetroit.org](http://pflagdetroit.org)

**GOAL Book Club**, 4 p.m. September's choice: "Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides. GOAL, 515 S Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. [getoutandlive.me](http://getoutandlive.me)

**Rainbow Book Club**, 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. [Catherine.herne@gmail.com](mailto:Catherine.herne@gmail.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. [HivAidsresource.org/hiv-testing](http://HivAidsresource.org/hiv-testing)

### Monday, Sept. 12

**LGBT Adoptive Parent Support Group**, 7 p.m. Meet with other LGBT families and be supported in your adoption process or adoptive parenting. Hands Across The Water Adoption and Social Services Agency, 2890 Carpenter Road, Suite 600, **Ann Arbor**. 734-477-0135. [Hatw.org](http://Hatw.org)

### Tuesday, Sept. 13

**Dress for Success**, 12 p.m. Designed for jobseekers who would like to brush up on their interviewing skills and those interested in learning how to update their work wardrobe on a budget. Karen Gutman, an employment specialist from the Jewish Vocational Service, will be on hand to provide tips on resume writing, networking and job search skills. Attendees will receive 20% off all clothing and accessory purchases on the day of the event. Limitations may apply. National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section, 3297 W. 12 Mile Road, **Berkley**. 248-548-6664. [Ncjwds.org](http://Ncjwds.org)

**LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus**, 6:30 p.m. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus invites all people with male-sounding voices to join with us at our open enrollment rehearsals. Lansing First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. 517-490-1746. [Lansingout.org](http://Lansingout.org)

**Transgender Life Support**, 7 p.m. Support group for transgendered people and allies. Transgender Life Support, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Wednesday, Sept. 14

**LGBT In the Park**, 5:30 p.m. Ongoing LGBT social group featuring discussions and meet and greets with new people during the week. Discussion: Ways of coping with the stress of the season. LGBT in the Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-460-3251. [jffryoliver@yahoo.com](mailto:jffryoliver@yahoo.com)

**Sistrum Orientation**, 6 p.m. Sistrum's 26th season begins with an orientation. New members and returning members may RSVP to [info@sistrum.org](mailto:info@sistrum.org). Sistrum Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. [Sistrum.org](http://Sistrum.org)

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

### Thursday, Sept. 15

**Policy to Practice**, 6 p.m. Discussing diversity and inclusion as effective strategies for businesses in Kalamazoo. Keynote speaker Eric Peterson. Borgess Lawrence Education Center, 1521 Gull Road, **Kalamazoo**. 810-650-6274. [kgfrc.org](http://kgfrc.org)

**Polyamory Network**, 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734 6782478. [Jimtoycenr.org](http://Jimtoycenr.org)

### Friday, Sept. 16

**Welcoming Reception**, 11:30 a.m. President of Oakland University, Dr. Russi, will be speaking as well as Professor Larrabee of the LGBT Resource Group and Alexa Van Vliet of the Gay Straight Alliance. A welcome to LGBT and allied students of the fall semester. Free food will be provided. Oakland University's GSA, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 734-891-0501. [gsaatoaklandu@gmail.com](mailto:gsaatoaklandu@gmail.com)

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

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. Film-The Hunger. Miriam, a centuries-old vampire, preys on urban club goers with her vampire lover John. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, Sept. 17

**Transgender Health Fair**, 1 p.m. 2nd annual Transgender Health Fair. Transgender Michigan and Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

### Sunday, Sept. 18

**PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting**, 1 a.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. [Pflagaa.org](http://Pflagaa.org)

**AIDS Walk Detroit 2011**, 8 a.m. Annual AIDS Walk. Corporate Sponsors for this event are Comerica Bank, DirectRX, 5/3 Bank, Ford Motor Company, Genisys Credit Union, Gilmour-Jirgens Fund, MGM Grand Detroit, Raymond James, Tibotex Therapeutics, Volkswagen of America, and ZMC Pharmacy. More information online. AIDS Walk Detroit 2011, Royal Oak Farmer's Market, **Royal Oak**. [Aidswalkdetroit.org](http://Aidswalkdetroit.org)

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

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Fox Theatre** "Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra" World's most popular classical artist who is renowned for his energetic and festive live concerts. Tickets: \$49-139. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 19. 313-471-6611. [Olympiaentertainment.com](http://Olympiaentertainment.com)

### COMEDY

**Andiamo Celebrity Showroom** Joan Rivers American comedienne, television personality and actress, Joan Rivers. Call for ticket information. Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren. 8 p.m. Sept. 17. 586-268-3200. [Joanrivers.com](http://Joanrivers.com)

**Meadowbrook Music Festival** Stephen Wright Tickets: \$27.50 reserved, \$17.50 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17. 1-800-745-3000. [Palacenet.com](http://Palacenet.com)

**The Ark Willy Porter** Tickets: \$17.50. Hill Auditorium, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Ark "Joy Kills Sorrow"** Tickets: \$12.50. Hill Auditorium, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 19. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

### CONCERTS

**Ferndale Public Library** "The Blueflowers and Woodman" Library's "First Stop Friday" series offering a unique, non-bar venue. This month's performance: The Blueflowers and Woodman Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 5:30 p.m. Sept. 9. 248-547-6008.

**Fox Theatre** Alison Krauss and Union Station Tickets: \$29.50-49.50. Featuring Jerry Douglas for the "Paper Airplanes Summer Tour 2011." Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8. 313-471-6611.

Olympiaentertainment.com

**Joe Louis Arena** “Chris Brown F.A.M.E. Tour” North American Tour with Kelly Rowland, T-Pain and Tyga. Tickets: \$39.75-85.75. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 18. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** Howard Fishman New Orleans jazz, Brooklyn soul, open-hearted country, blues and gospel music through a completely original, experimental aesthetic, to create a sound entirely its out. Tickets: \$30-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 9 - Sept. 9. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** Janis Ian, Grammy winning, iconic singer/songwriter Janis Ian's one-night only performance in West Michigan. Tickets: \$35. Saugatuck Center for the Performing Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. Sept. 8. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

**The Ark** John McCutcheon Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 10. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** Caroline Herring Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** Bernard Allison Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** Ember Swift, Canadian independent artist with both western and eastern (Chinese) influences. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 15. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** “Maria Muldaur & Her Red Hot Bluesiana Band” Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 20. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** “Ben Sollee” Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**University Musical Society** “Emerson String Quartet” Formed in the bicentennial year of the United States, the Emerson String Quartet took its name from the great American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. The group made its Ann Arbor debut in 1989, and in 14 appearances since has performed with the integrity, energy, and commitment that it has demonstrated throughout more than 30 years of extensive touring and recording. Tickets: \$52-24. Burton Memorial Tower, 881 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Sept. 18. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

**University Musical Society** “An Evening with Ahmad Jamal” Living legend of Jazz, a pivotal influence on Miles Davis and countless others. Tickets: \$46-10. Burton Memorial Tower, 881 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 17. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

## FILM & VIDEO

**Detroit Film Theatre** “Viva Rival” Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sept. 9 - Sept. 9. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Detroit Film Theatre** “DFT 101: The Killer” Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 4 p.m. Sept. 10. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Detroit Film Theatre** “Fire House Detroit” Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 11. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Detroit Film Theatre** “The Interrupters” Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sept. 16 - Sept. 18. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Detroit Film Theatre** “DFT 101: Mexican Cinema: Fernandez & Figueroa” Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 2 p.m. Sept. 17. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Michigan Theater** “Le fabuleux destin d’Amélie Poulain” From the visionary writer and director Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Amélie helped give the filmmaker the global recognition justly deserved after working with his artistic partner Marc Caro on such cinematic achievements as Delicatessen and The City of the Lost Children. Tickets: \$9. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 4 - Sept. 6. 667-TIME. Michtheater.org

**State Theater** “Reservoir Dogs” Midnight viewing: In 1992, Reservoir Dogs transformed Quentin Tarantino practically overnight from an obscure, unproduced screenwriter and part-time actor to the most influential new filmmaker of the 1990s. Tickets: \$9. Ann Arbor State Theater, 223 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 11:55 a.m. Sept. 10. 734-761-8667. Michtheater.org

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** “Romanian Film Festival: Crossing Dates” Third annual Romanian Film Festival kicks off with “Crossing Dates.” Both chance and intention play a part in these encounters, and the consequences can remain like footprints on the paths of our lives. Crossing Dates mixes three separate stories that take place over two days. The characters’ paths intersect, and they affect each other unintentionally. Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 3:30 p.m. Sept. 17. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** “Romanian Film Festival: Wedding in Bessarabia” Third annual Romanian Film Festival continues with “Wedding in Bessarabia.” A train takes two newlyweds hoping to find an easier way to make a living and a conductor from Bucharest and his wife, a pianist from the hard life of Romania to the woman’s homeland of Moldova, where the wedding will be held. The wedding not only reunites her with her family but also allows the couple the chance to receive presents and money that they desperately need to start their new life together. Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

## OTHER

**Fashion’s Night Out** “Birmingham Fashion’s Night Out” Celebration of the global shopping and fashion event “Fashion’s Night Out.” Special events and sales offered in participating stores downtown. For a list of participating stores go to [enjoybirmingham.com](http://enjoybirmingham.com). Downtown Birmingham, Various Venues, Birmingham. 6 p.m. Sept. 8. Enjoybirmingham.com

**Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** “Bully Splash Bash” Celebrating the Bully breed of dog. Supports the “Recycl-A-Bullz” advocacy program. Currey’s Family Pet Care, 6261 Hannan Road, Romulus. 11 a.m. Sept. 18. Dearbornanimals.org

**Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** “No-Beast Feast” Discovering vegetarian entrees and desserts with take-home recipes. Raising funds for the Dearborn Animal Shelter. Tickets: \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. Park Place Banquet Hall, 23400 Park St., Dearborn. 6 p.m. Sept. 16. 313-943-2697. Dearbornanimals.org

**Greenfield Village** “61st Old Car Festival” Among 700 vehicles to be displayed at the 61st Annual Old Car Festival, the historically accurate replica of the 1770 Fardier de Cugnot, a steam powered wheel cart considered to be the first self-propelled vehicle ever made. Along with the Cugnot, the festival will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Indy 500 race. Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Sept. 10 - Sept. 11. 313-982-6001. Thehenryford.org

**The Abrahams** “Abraham’s Open House for Hope’s Heroes” Raising awareness for animal welfare and raising funds for Hope’s Heroes, a Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter program that provides care to animals with special needs. Tickets: \$50 donation appreciated. Home of Councilman Robert A., 510 Crescent Dr., Dearborn. 4 p.m. Sept. 10. Dearbornanimals.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

## CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**All Shook Up** \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 16-Oct. 2. 269-343-1313. kazoo civic.com

**An Inspector Calls** A staged reading. Free; donations accepted. Great Escape Stage Company at Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall. Sep. 10-11. 269-781-0001. frankecenterforthearts.org

**Annie** \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 8-Sept. 18. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

**Avenue Q** \$22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sep. 15-18. 971-2228. a2ct.org

**Entertaining Mr. Sloane** \$15. Korda Artistic Productions at The KordaZone Theatre, 2520 Seminole St., Windsor. Sep. 16-24. 519-562-3394. kordazone.com

**Follies** \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Sep. 16-Oct. 2. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

**Meet Me in St. Louis** \$25, \$18 in advance. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Sep. 16-Oct. 9. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org

**The Music Man** \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Sep. 16-Sept. 25. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** \$15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Bldg., East Circle Dr. & Best Hall, Ypsilanti. Sep. 9-11. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

## PROFESSIONAL

**Beehive: The 60s Musical Sensation** HappenStance Productions at Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Sep. 8-Oct. 9. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

**Come Fly Away** \$39-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 13-25. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

**Daddy Long Legs** \$34.50-44.50. The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave, Detroit. Sep. 14-Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

**Freud’s Last Session** \$39.50-\$44.50. Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Sep. 7-Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

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

**Heroes** \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Sept. 18. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

**Love Song** \$14 opening night; \$16 all others. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Sep. 9-Oct. 8. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

**Love Song** \$25. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sep. 15-Oct. 8. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

**Oh, Hell!** By donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Sep. 9-Oct. 1. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

**Opera at The Acorn** \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 17. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Rosmersholm** \$15-18, or pay what you can. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. Sep. 16-Oct. 8. 313-708-4269. magentagiraffe.org

**Southern Baptist Sissies** Contains nudity and adult situations. \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 9-26. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

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

**The Extraordinary Ordinary** \$27-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sep. 16-Oct. 9. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

**The Judy Show** \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 15. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**The Light in the Piazza** \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Sep. 8-Oct. 2. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

**The Mystery of Irma Vep** \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**The Outsiders** A staged reading, with an afterglow. \$20 adult, \$15 seniors, \$15 children. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Sep. 11. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

**The Whipping Man** A co-production with Ploshwars Theatre Company. Previews Sept. 7, 8 & 10. \$36-\$43. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Sep. 7-Oct. 2. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

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

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

## YOUNG AUDIENCES

**Sleeping Beauty** \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through Sep. 24. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

## AUDITIONS

**KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE** – auditions for “White Christmas” (Sept. 17-18) and “A New Brain” (Sept. 18-19) and “A Salute to the Red, White and Blue” (Senior Class Reader’s Theatre, Sept. 18-19), 269-343-2280.

# 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 Rd., North West Corner, Ferndale. June 25 - Nov. 20. 246-622-1621. Apinchofspiceandmore.com

**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 - Sept. 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 - Sept. 25. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Farmingtown Downtown Development Authority** “Farmingtown 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. Downtownfarmingtown.org/Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Farmers-Artisans-Market

**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

**MOCAD** “barely there” Group exhibition featuring James Lee Byars, Luis Camnitzer, Jason Dodge, Pable Helguera, Christoph Keller, Lee Loazio, Rivane and Sergio, Neuenschwander, Wilfredo Prieto, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Adolf Wolfli. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 27 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** “Stephanie Nava: Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory)” A work in progress, developed by French artist Stephanie Nava. Its installation at MOCAD marks the artist’s first solo exhibition in the United States. The installation is based on the specifications and history of English allotments, or subsistence gardens.

Started in London in 2005 as part of the Institute Francais Villa Medicis Hors les murs residency program. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sept. 16 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

**Pittman-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. Sept. 1 - Sept. 30. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**The Gallery Project** “Subjective World/Umwelt” Umwelt or subjective world is a foundational concept in the study of animal behavior. It challenges people to think about animals as they might experience the world through their own senses and respond to it with their own bodies, according to their own priorities. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 21 - Oct. 30. 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.” 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 - Sept. 18. 734-763-4186.

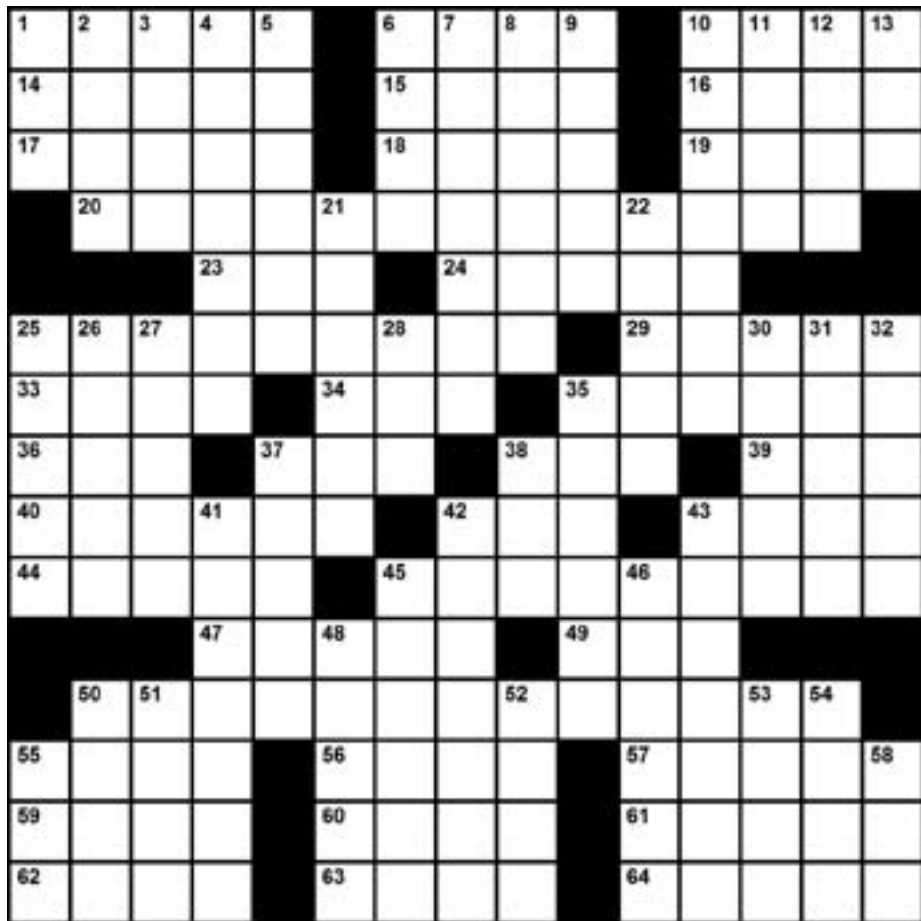
**University of Michigan Museum of Art** “Multiple Impressions: Contemporary Chinese Woodblock Prints” 114 works by 41 artists, including Xu Bing, Kang Ning, Song Yuanwen, Chen Qi, He Kun, and Fang Limin, as well as many other accomplished printmakers. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South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

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# Things Don't Always Go Swimmingly

## Across

- 1 Pinko's hero
- 6 "Gypsy"'s "\_\_\_ Need Is the Girl"
- 10 Wineglass feature
- 14 Lickety-split
- 15 Angry, with "off"
- 16 Tops
- 17 Muscular strength
- 18 "Let's see now, where \_\_\_?"
- 19 Puts bills in the G-string, e.g.
- 20 103-mile trip attempted by 45-Across
- 23 Trick ending
- 24 Anouk of film
- 25 45-Across didn't use this in her swim
- 29 Mother of the bride, to the other bride
- 33 Boss of "The Dukes of Hazzard"
- 34 Dedicated poem
- 35 Enticing words at Barney's
- 36 Improve wine or cheese

- 37 Fisherman's tool
- 38 Sighs for a lover who lies between one's thighs
- 39 Here, in Le Havre
- 40 \_\_\_ Another Day in Paradise \_\_\_ writer Christopher
- 42 Three for Sophia
- 43 "Like \_\_\_ not"
- 44 Return key on a PC
- 45 Marathon swimmer in the news quoted in 50-Across
- 47 Pink fruit
- 49 Gomer's mail service
- 50 "I'm almost 62 years old and I'm standing here at the \_\_\_"
- 55 Anal alternative
- 56 Melville novel
- 57 Site for a queen of the Nile
- 59 Beach toy
- 60 "Chicago" producer Meron
- 61 Totally ridiculous
- 62 Timothy Daly's sister
- 63 "Spamalot" writer Eric

- 64 Rock Hudson's "Gun Fury," for one

## Down

- 1 Article written by Lorca
- 2 Many a miniseries
- 3 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
- 4 It made the Titanic go to the bottom
- 5 Jersey city
- 6 "A one and \_\_\_ ..."
- 7 Coverage for Adam's privates
- 8 Howard of "Gone With the Wind"
- 9 "On the down low," for example
- 10 Homo chaser?
- 11 One that attacks a fly
- 12 Irish pop singer
- 13 Month in Madrid
- 21 Guy with a wad
- 22 Jockey straps
- 25 Oil source
- 26 Navajo erection
- 27 He often screws actors

- 28 Dipstick word
- 30 People in the service
- 31 Aluminum giant
- 32 Really queer, to straights
- 35 William S. Porter's pen name
- 37 Composer Ned
- 38 Parseghian of football
- 41 "Cleopatra" director
- 42 The Oz woodsman, after recycling?
- 43 Pop artist Robert
- 45 Like Shakespeare's star-cross'd lovers
- 46 Big union letters
- 48 Téa of "Spanglish"
- 50 Ask for it while kneeling
- 51 Parade prohibition for Streisand
- 52 Marilyn Monroe facial feature
- 53 Royal decree
- 54 Flying fisher
- 55 Quit, with "out"
- 58 Above, to Byron

Solution on 32

## Pet of the Week



**M**eet Caesar! One look at this handsome cat and it's sure to be love. A 7-year-old domestic long-haired cat, Caesar has a regal disposition and gets along well with people as well as other cats. The adoption fee includes microchipping, sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. For more information, visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 9511096. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.

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bitter girl

### food fright



# RTI Horoscopes

## Get creative, Pisces!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Venus in Virgo and Mars in Cancer are in a sextile that suggests homey seductions. The best way to your intended's heart, or other parts, is through dainty treats, preferably at home. These planets are also in hard aspect to Eris bringing a creative edge to competition, but perhaps too much competitiveness to your efforts.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** Being neat, sweet and domestic is the best way to sustain love or meet a new one. Resist being critical for the sake of being right or superior. If you can offer improvements, first make sure they're welcome.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** You're so cute when you're being shy. It works especially well for you now, but being shy doesn't mean being a wimp. If you have to choose between being adorable and standing up for yourself, you know what to do!

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Organize household finances or just rearrange things in a way that makes more sense. Just check in with your partner or roommates first. You could get away with exercising more initiative, but consultation will make it better.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** It's especially tempting to gripe about your boss, but he or she will hear about it! Tame your critical mind and turn it to your own work. Among other benefits, focusing on productivity will pull you out of needless worries.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Most arguments are a waste of time. Is convincing some clod that you're right really that important? The most important arguments are within yourself, and can lead to new realms of self-expression.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Venus in your sign brings charm that you can use to social advantages. That can boost your sex life, but with messy complications. Volunteering time and effort for your community will challenge you. All the more reason!

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** All work and no play... you can accomplish a great deal sequestered at your job. That will arouse competitive suspicion, but who better than you to find a cooperative

solution? Granted, that will be a job in itself!

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Treat yourself to a grand adventure. Ask your friends for the most far out entertainment they can think of. Go one better if you can! Better yet, read something that will challenge your political or spiritual values.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Slow careful moves will promote your career much better than bold actions. Take initiative to be helpful and supportive; look for problems to solve. Creative answers may seem brilliant, but can prove divisive. The tried and true will serve you better.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** You are very likely to lose arguments with your partner. Just pay close attention to better understand his or her point of view. Especially in this situation, your silent acceptance will be spiritually enriching and save your relationship.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Deep insights can make work more productive but can prove divisive. Include colleagues in on the process; make them feel part of it to help your team be more competitive and less fractious.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** You and your baby need some fun. How much to spend can be a bone of contention. Get creative about economizing, but don't go overboard about it. The best way to keep domestic peace is to keep your mind on long-term goals.

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

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**BTL**  
**Dear Jody**

BY JODY VALLEY

**Let me back in, son**

**Q.** When my son came out to me eight years ago, I didn't take it well. The reason for this is that I grew up as a Southern Baptist and continued in that religion much of my life. In fact, his mother and I raised our son "Thomas" in that faith. (His mother died when Thomas was 5, and I've not remarried.) I took Thomas to church, not just every Sunday, but at least four times a week. It was our religion and our social life. In other words, I was immersed in that kind of thinking and believing.

So when Thomas came out to me, I was horrified. I worried that his soul was in mortal danger. I thought that his condition was due to the devil's influence. Plain and simple, I thought he was going to hell. (Obviously, no parent wants bad things for his child.) This was the basis for my reaction of him, and why, for so long, I continued to treat my son as a sinner, a pervert and a pariah.

It was a very painful time for me and, I know, for Thomas as well. I had disowned him, and if anyone asked if I had children, I would say that I had no children. (Thomas is my only child.) My church friends knew my situation and supported me in denying my son's existence.

I am so sorry for those years of denying my son. Those are lost years that I will never get back, nor will Thomas. I also know that I've hurt my son in a way that will stay with him forever, even though I have changed and no longer condemn him.

Two years ago I joined PFLAG. I won't go into how I got there, but I will say that I feel so grateful that I found these folks. I've learned so much and now have friends who support me in my love and acceptance of my gay son. (I'm no longer involved in the church that encouraged me to condemn my son.)

I've made a big effort in letting Thomas know who I am, now. He's been home several times, and a few weeks ago, introduced me to his boyfriend. Thomas and I have made a lot of progress in our relationship; however, I've found out that he's having a commitment ceremony. And, he's having an "older male friend" of his give him away. I'm really hurt. I'm ready to be part of this, and now

he has someone else in my place. With all my heart and soul, I'm ready to take this ceremony on. I've worked hard to get where I am today. But now I feel abandoned by him.

I'm invited to his ceremony, but I'm not playing the role I should be playing.

Should I push it, let Thomas know that this is upsetting me, and that I want to be the person to give him away?

*Hurt Dad*

**A.** When I think of you and your son, I see so much hurt and pain – for both of you.

Unfortunately, while you were away Thomas was getting his paternal support from someone else. Historically, that's what we gay people did (and still do) in the face of rejection; we found replacement families.

Instead of feeling resentment and hurt, I suggest you think about and appreciate how this other, older man stepped in when you stepped out. He probably saved your son, in so many ways.

If I were you, I'd go to your son's ceremony and show your support, enjoy his very special day, and show how happy you are for him and his partner. And, thank the guy who gave your son acceptance, support and love while you were gone. Though you have worked hard on who you've become, your son needs time to let go of his pain and forgive you, as well as learn to trust your transformation.

P.S. Congratulations on working hard and overcoming your homophobia and heterosexism.

**For more information about gay men and their fathers, go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.**

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



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**Solution to puzzle from page 30**





**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.

**116 ANNOUNCEMENTS - EVENTS**

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## Cocktail Chatter

# 'The Escondido Surprise'

BY ED SIKOV

I never hear from readers – the folks Norma Desmond describes in “Sunset Boulevard” as “those wonderful people out there in the dark.” So I was glad to get a message from “Joey from Denver.” Here’s his note, quoted with his permission:

**Dear Ed:** I love your column, even though I think you’re a crud for cheating on Dan. How can you risk throwing away a good man for an asshole (literally!)? Anyway, I’m not writing to scold but rather to share a recipe. I call it ‘the Escondido Surprise.’ It’s basically a gimlet with emotional problems.

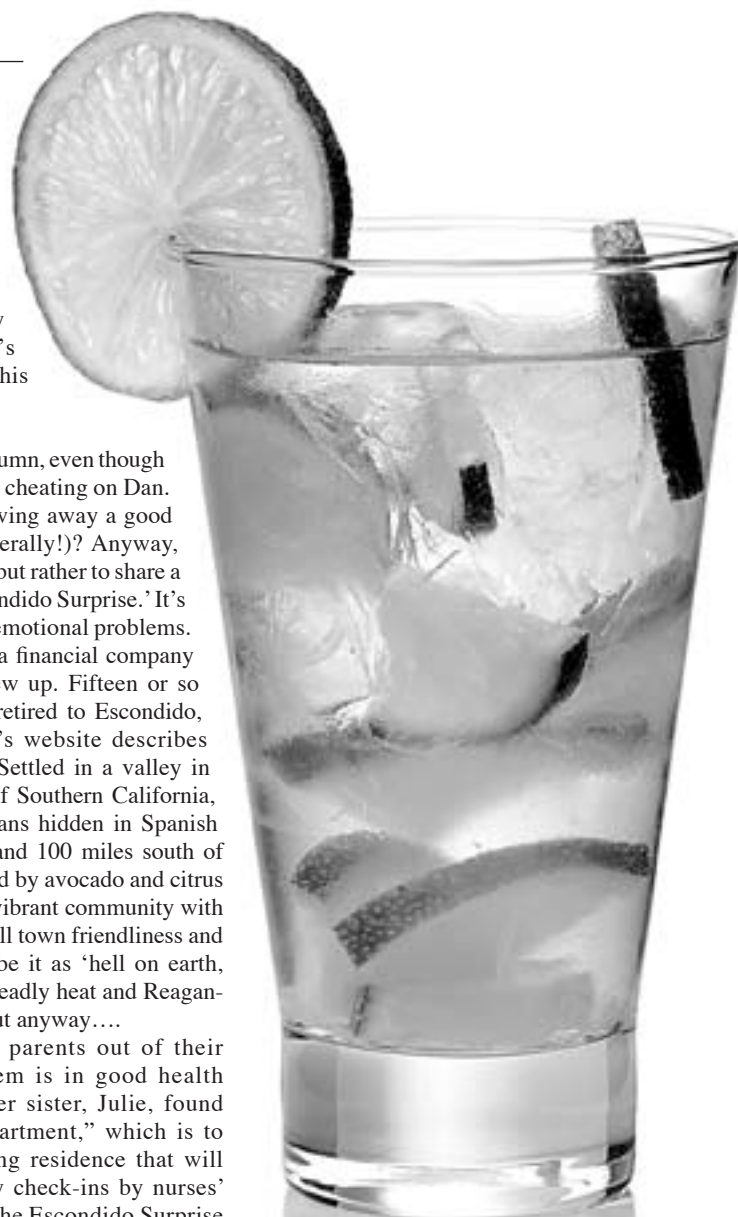
I’m an IT guy for a financial company in Denver, where I grew up. Fifteen or so years ago, my parents retired to Escondido, California. Escondido’s website describes the place as follows: “Settled in a valley in the coastal mountains of Southern California, Escondido – which means hidden in Spanish – lies 18 miles inland and 100 miles south of Los Angeles. Surrounded by avocado and citrus groves, Escondido is a vibrant community with just the right mix of small town friendliness and big-city buzz.” I describe it as ‘hell on earth, with a stinking mix of deadly heat and Reagan-worshipping cretins,’ but anyway....

I just moved my parents out of their trailer. Neither of them is in good health anymore, and my older sister, Julie, found them a “retirement apartment,” which is to say a one-stop-shopping residence that will see them through daily check-ins by nurses’ aides to hospice care. The Escondido Surprise is the concoction I mixed after shipping my parents along with 12 boxes of clothes, horrible tchotchkes (note: Yiddish for “worthless crap”) and diabetes supplies to Seattle in Julie’s SUV. It sounds dire, but it’s actually a *huge* relief to know they’ll have emergency pull-cords in every room.

In the back of a cabinet was a bottle of Beefeater with enough left for one drink. I found a yellow lime on the ground on the side of the trailer, and as I picked it up, I heard Phyl, the newly lonely next-door neighbor, bark, “Take ‘em all, I don’t care!” I grabbed three more and squeezed the juice into a glass with the gin. The stone-like sugar at the bottom of an ancient box wouldn’t kill me, so I smashed it on the counter with my shoe (hygienically wrapped in an unused trash bag) and randomly poured some in the glass. I pried some brownish ice chips off bottom of the freezer and gave it all a couple rounds with my index finger. Surprise! It was delicious – the perfect cocktail with which to say good riddance to Escondido and hello to the next phase of my family’s life.

I don’t know if this is funny or pathetic, but you can use it in your column if you want.

– Your faithful reader, Joey



Well, Joey, New York supermarket limes are green, our icemaker produces clear ice, and our sugar isn’t clumped, but otherwise I duplicated your recipe, and it was terrific. Here’s to you and your folks, Joey. Having gone through this myself, I can tell you: it isn’t pathetic. It’s an act of love.

## The Escondido Surprise

Beefeater gin  
Fresh or bottled lime juice, to taste  
Sugar to taste  
Ice, any color

Pour gin over possibly funky ice, add lime juice and sugar, stir with your index finger and drink while pondering your own journey to the grave.

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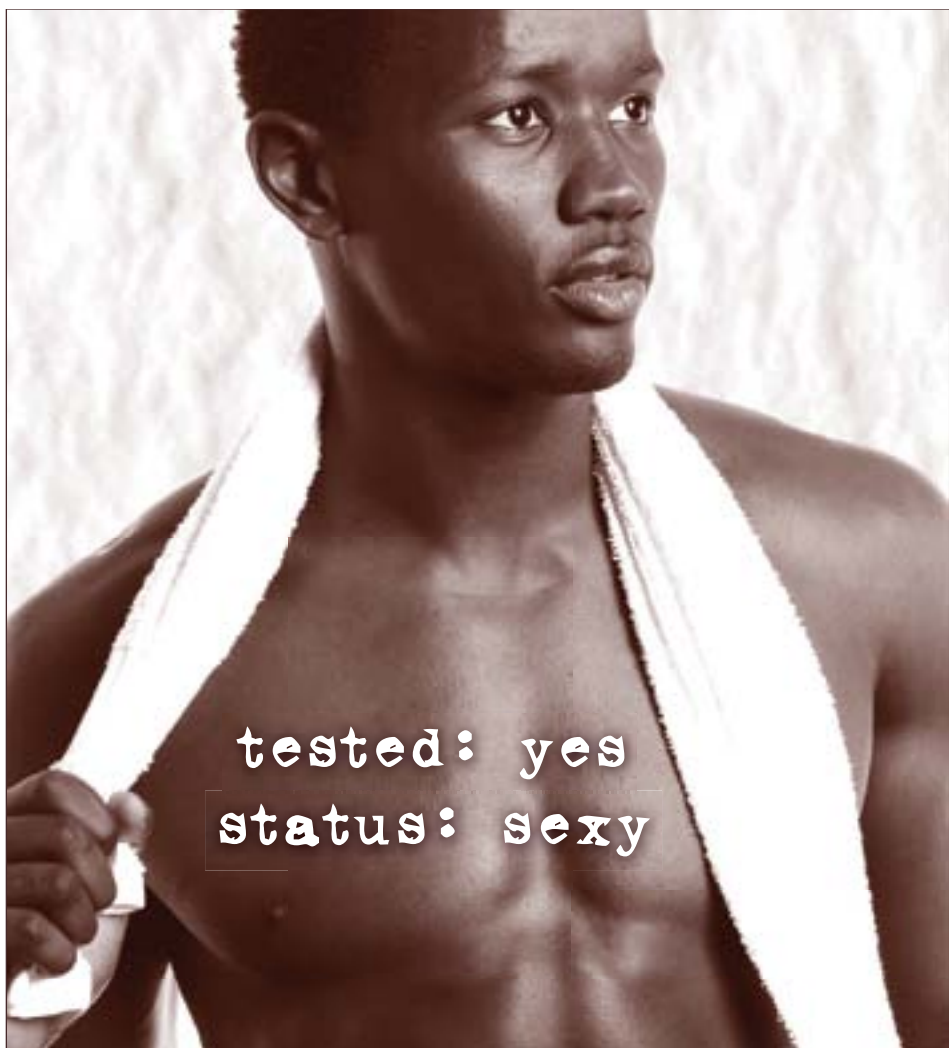
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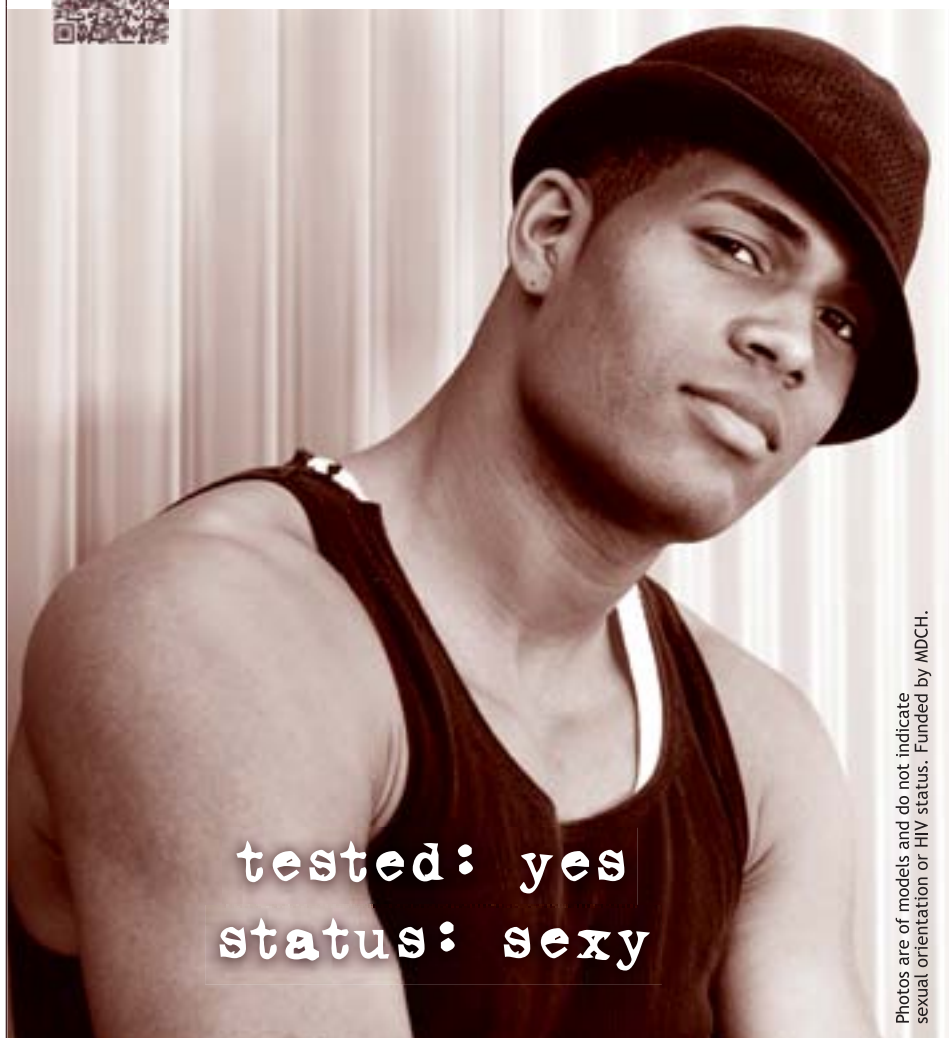
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