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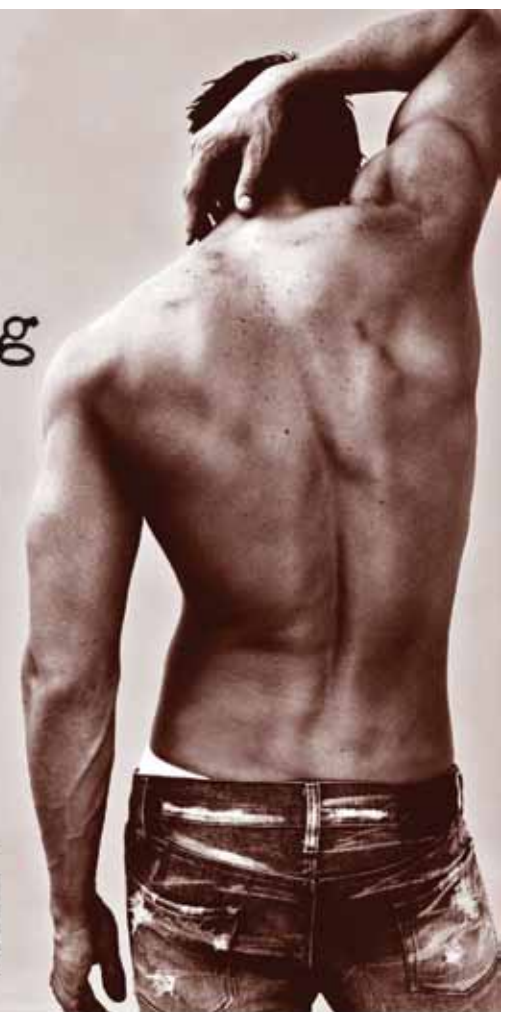
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Publishers

Susan Horowitz
Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

News Editor

Tara Cavanaugh
taracavanaugh@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia,
curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Benjamin Jenkins
calendar@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Emily Locklear

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

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

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Business Office

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com
Nancy Blankenship

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

Pride Source Media Group

11920 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200 • Fax 734.293.7201

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BTI Speak Out

BY ERIC RADER

Progress is possible

The military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy finally ended last week, thanks to the persistent hard work of many brave heroes. Though it was originally intended as a compromise aimed at allowing gay men and lesbians to serve in the military, DADT became a justification for witch hunts into the private lives of honorable women and men in the nation's armed services. According to official statistics, more than 13,000 qualified service members were discharged from the military under the policy, including many with rare foreign language specialties at a time when the nation faced the dangers of worldwide terrorism. While many Americans initially supported DADT, the vast majority of citizens now believe in military equality for gays and lesbians. DADT was always a bad policy and no one should mourn its passing.

At the same time that lesbian and gay soldiers have gained the right to serve openly in the armed forces, some leaders in Michigan are trying to expand discrimination against LGBT citizens in our state. Last year, former Gov. Jennifer Granholm and her administration agreed to provide

Progress is possible on equality, but only when we participate in the political process.

domestic partner benefits to state employees, including those with same-sex partners. In order to comply with Michigan's 2004 anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment, the Michigan Civil Service Commission approved "plus-one" benefits, allowing state employees to add a single non-dependent member of their household to their employee benefit plan without regard to their marital status or gender, a policy that is similar to one that exists for employees at the University of Michigan. Though these agreements were bargained collectively between management and employee unions, Republicans in the legislature now want to impose their own will on these institutions and ban such benefits. The Michigan House recently passed legislation, sponsored by Rep. David Agema, R-Grandville, prohibiting any state of Michigan governmental entity or school from offering domestic partner benefits to unmarried public employees. Supporters of these bills make the insulting argument that the state cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage to the "roommates" of public employees. In reality, legislative Republicans want to cater to their right-wing base by discriminating against lesbian and gay public employees.

There are other anti-LGBT equality bills moving in the legislature this year. Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Byron Center, has proposed a law that would prevent the Michigan Department of Corrections from covering the costs of gender reassignment surgery for transgender state prisoners, something that is already prohibited under prison guidelines. This mean-spirited and pointless legislation is meant to demonize and

degrade the basic dignity of transgender women and men. Another unnecessary bill has been introduced in the legislature by Sen. Tupac Hunter, D-Detroit, and Sen. Mark Jansen, R-Gaines Township. This legislation would prevent colleges and universities in Michigan from assigning lower grades to students in psychology programs if the student cites "moral convictions" when refusing to counsel an LGBT client as part of their academic studies. While these students have the right to their own personal beliefs, institutions of higher learning should have academic freedom to design their own curricula and enforce their own grading policies. The legislature does not recognize the right of students in any other area of study to claim a moral exemption to their academic responsibilities, and it would be wrong to allow one to accommodate student bigotry.

While state legislators attempt to pass discriminatory laws against the LGBT community, opinion surveys show that most citizens favor equal rights for gays and lesbians. Michigan faces incredibly important public policy challenges. Our state's economy continues to suffer under the weight of a slow recovery and high unemployment, and people continue to lose their homes at

alarming rates. Amidst all the economic carnage, conservative legislators continue to ignore the needs of the public. People in our state want the governor and the legislature to do something to deal with the stagnant economy. Unfortunately, many of our state leaders would rather demonize segments of our citizenry for political gain than deal with the salient priorities of the public. Homophobic and transphobic legislators need to stop their bigoted efforts to divide Michigan's citizens against each other. In 2004, national Republicans pursued a similar right-wing, anti-gay agenda in a cynical effort to win that year's elections. Unfortunately, that effort worked with too many voters, including here in Michigan. In 2011, it appears that the residents of our state are more supportive of equal rights than they were in the past, as evidenced by the overwhelming support for repeal of DADT. We must continue to fight back against the bigots of our state and do everything we can to move our state forward. As the repeal of DADT shows, progress is possible on equality, but only when we participate in the political process.

Contact your State Representative and State Senator in Lansing—urge them to oppose legislative efforts to discriminate against LGBT citizens:

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From closeted activist to Detroit dynamo

Kirsten Ussery urges people of color to come out and step up

BY DESIREE COOPER

Detroiters Kirsten Ussery is not afraid of a challenge. At 33, she has done communications work for a global auto supplier, for a group of top-flight Michigan business leaders, and even for the president of Detroit's City Council.

So what could possibly give a powerful woman like Ussery pause? Until recently, it was having to tell her co-workers that she was a lesbian.

"Looking back, I think I put a lot of stress on myself," said Ussery. "Every time I've come out to someone at work, I've never had a bad experience. But that didn't matter. Afterwards, I'd think, 'That went well,' but then I'd worry about what the next person would say."

The only gay person in the world

For Ussery, growing up in Hickory, N.C. was an exercise in being different.

"I loved alternative music, which was different from the black people I was socializing with," said the only child of a single mother. "I was also into politics, including (Black Muslim leader) Louis Farrakhan, so I didn't fit in with the white people, either."

But the major difference was not so black and white. "In 9th grade, I had a crush on a girl on the basketball team," Ussery said. "I knew it wasn't acceptable."

By the age of 15, she had come out to her inner circle, including her mother. "She said, 'I love you anyway,' but we never talked about it again," Ussery said.

Her friends helped her get a love note to her heartthrob on the basketball team, but the athlete was already in a relationship. When word got out about Ussery's crush, many of her male classmates became aggressive and cruel.

It all happened just as Ussery's popularity was emerging. As a member of the track team, she had friends and she had sports; she wasn't willing to give them up in order to make a stand for her sexual identity. "Plus, the girl on the basketball team was graduating," said Ussery. "I didn't want to become the school's Gay Person. I thought I was the only one."

So Ussery went back into the closet, and started dating a boy in the neighborhood. "My mother probably thought that my coming out

"We need to help people get out of the closet. We need to grow more leaders. There's a lot of potential out there."

We're pleased to introduce you to our Leadership Series

BTL, through its sister organization The Pride Source Institute, is working with Model D on a series that features up-and-coming LGBT leaders in Metro Detroit. Each month, we'll introduce you to a rising star in our community. Model D will also create a video about each featured individual, which you can view on our website, pridesource.com and also at modeldmedia.com.

had been a phase," she laughed, "and she was glad to think that."

Ussery continued to date her boyfriend after she went to the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on a track scholarship. In college, she blossomed as an activist. She became involved with the Black Student Union and founded the first chapter of 100 Black Women to be established on a predominately white campus.

Then one night in her junior year, she went to a club and danced with a woman for the first time.

"My mind exploded," she said. "The next day my boyfriend came to see me and I broke up with him. He was devastated."

She wasn't the only gay person in the world, after all.

Outed by Google

From there, Ussery's transition was swift. She quit the track team, met a woman from Detroit, fell in love, and convinced the university to let her graduate in absentia, so that she could follow her girlfriend to the Motor City in 1999.

"When I told my mom that I was coming out again and moving to Detroit, I thought she was OK, and going with the program," Ussery said.

The first inkling that she had that her mother wasn't OK was five years later when she broke up with her girlfriend. "My mother's first reaction was to beg me to come home," she said. "It felt like she wanted me to come back and be the way I used to be."

Ussery didn't return to North Carolina. By then, Detroit was her home, and she had new friends and had earned a master's degree in education from Wayne State University. But as she started to grow professionally, so did the stress of being closeted at work.

"Even though I had a good job, it was making me sick to go to work," Ussery said. "I'm not a person who can fabricate things, so when people were talking about their weekends, I just didn't say anything. I felt alienated. I'd come home stressed and unhappy."

The professional pressure mounted when Ussery met Erika Boyd, whom she married in



Once a closeted lesbian terrified of being outed in the workplace, Kirsten Ussery is now out and proud. BTL photos: Andrew Potter.

Windsor in 2009. It was then that she realized that her mother wasn't as accepting of her sexuality as Ussery had believed. "She told me that she wasn't going to come to the wedding and that what I was doing was a sin," said Ussery. "I was blindsided. I found out that all of this time, my mother thought I was going through a phase and that at some point I'd snap out of it and come home."

Family members eventually convinced Ussery's mother to attend the ceremony and today, the two are rebuilding their relationship. But Ussery was bruised.

"That experience really affected my work life," she said. "I learned that you don't talk about being gay – bad things might happen if you do."

In fact, when Ussery took a job with Business Leaders for Michigan in 2008, she didn't mention in the interview that she was planning a wedding and a honeymoon. She got the job, and only two days before the wedding, she pulled aside her boss and revealed her personal life.

"She said, 'We know. We Googled you when we hired you,'" laughed Ussery. A Google search quickly revealed Ussery's work on behalf of LGBT children in the Detroit Public Schools and her leadership in the lesbian women of color support group SPICE – Sistas Providing

Current job: Director of Communications and Community Outreach, Downtown Detroit Partnership

Activism work: SPICE (Sistas Providing Intelligence, Creativity and Empowerment), Detroit Public Schools, Ruth Ellis Center

Pet project: Helping reinvent the city of Detroit

Intelligence, Creativity and Empowerment. "It was such a relief," Ussery added. "From that point forward, I've been completely out."

Out-standing leadership

It's in Detroit where the tentative Southern girl has come into her own.

"I'm older and more confident in myself," she said. "I know I'll be OK if I run into someone who won't hire me because I'm gay. My faith has increased and is evolving. I know I will continue to be blessed."

She has also become part of the young brain trust dedicated to the city's renaissance. She belongs to the inner circle of one of Detroit's

See Ussery, page 11

PRIDESOURCE

First openly gay bishop talks death threats, 9/11

Bishop Gene Robinson to speak Oct. 5 at University of Michigan - Dearborn



Bishop Gene Robinson speaks at the University of Mich.-Dearborn Oct. 5. Photo provided by BProud Photography.

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

Openly gay bishop and international controversy in the Christian churches Gene Robinson may be retiring in two years, but his involvement in the LGBT community is far from over.

Bishop Robinson entered office in March 2004. He was consecrated as the ninth Bishop of New Hampshire, and the first openly gay bishop in LGBT history. Since then, Robinson has advocated for marriage equality across the country and the end of LGBT discrimination in the church.

Robinson spoke with BTL about his post-retirement plans, the death-threats on his life, and what it has been like to balance his responsibilities to the LGBT and Christian communities.

Have you always seen yourself as a leader in the Episcopalian church and LGBT community?

Even in high school I think I exhibited leadership qualities. But when I came out 25 years ago I assumed it was the end of my life as a priest. I never dreamt that I would even be allowed to function as a priest, never mind become a bishop.

So what was the tipping point when you came out? What gave you the strength and courage to continue as a priest?

I had read a book called "Embracing the Exile" by John Fortunato; it reconciled sexual orientation with Christianity and somehow it was the key that unlocked the door. I knew that I needed to leave my marriage, come out and claim who I was no matter what it meant for my life in the church. I really felt that God was calling me to do that, but

that book really gave me the strength to do it.

What do you think about the attempted repeal of same-sex marriage in New Hampshire in January? Do you think it will pass?

We have a legislature that seems determined to do everything possible to take away any kind of thing that the state government does for people in need. I have rarely seen a legislature anywhere, never mind in New Hampshire, whose goals are so at odds with the common good and with such disdain for the people who have a right to be receiving assistance from the state government.

We have to work hard, we have to do our homework, we have to do our lobbying, but at the end of the day I do not feel it will pass. Our governor will veto it if it passes and I think it's possible we can peel away enough of the Republicans to sustain the veto.

You were one of the first LGBT activists to submit an "It Gets Better" video. What brought you to create a video?

It was soon after the campaign started. I really wanted to be a part of those who were reaching out to all these young people who may be feeling isolated and possibly even considering taking their own lives. I was speaking in a congregation in Little Rock and they were filming my talks. So I said to the cameraman, "Would you be able to come in a couple minutes early and do this video for me?" He said yes, so we just did it in one take. I had no idea it would get over 100,000 views. We did it in one take and I didn't write anything out ahead of time. I didn't even know how to upload it! You know? I need a ten-year-old to show me how to do that.

After announcing your early retirement, you made it clear that you have no intention of "retiring from public life," and will continue to work with the "unchurched" and "dechurching." Will you still be involved in the LGBT community? What can we expect from you after your retirement?

They would have to take me out in a straightjacket if I just sat at home all day, so I don't think this is retirement at all. It's more a question of "What's next?" I'll have more time to be involved in the LGBT movement and I won't have to balance this with my more-than-full-time job as bishop. I'll have more time to speak with more college groups, which I just love doing.

I've been to a couple of states lobbying the legislature about gay marriage and I expect to be doing more of that. I will also be doing some part-time work for The Center for American Progress. I expect to be quite active in Washington. I can do some more writing as well. In fact I'm just finishing the last chapter of a new book now.

Can you tell us a bit about your upcoming book?

The book is titled "God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage," published by Random House and Knopf. It comes out May 1 next year. It imagines a conversation between someone in the "moveable middle"—somewhat tolerant and sympathetic of LGBT people but not yet ready to support gay marriage—and myself. Each chapter takes on one of their objections and by the end of it hopefully I've answered all the concerns someone might have.

So much has changed since your ordination—for example openly lesbian Bishop Mary Glasspool has been ordained. Do you feel comfortable retiring now?

I never considered retirement until Mary Glasspool was elected. I planned to be the openly gay voice in the house of bishops until the day I had to retire at 72, if need be, but when she was elected it signaled to me that the church was sort of inexorably headed in the right direction. You can elect an openly gay and partnered bishop once and maybe it was an aberration or maybe a mistake, but when you do it a second time that says there was something quite intentional about it.

After I thought and prayed about it, I realized that there were things I wanted to do.

Do you feel all of the denominations of Christianity are headed in this direction?

Absolutely, but at their own pace. Honestly I can't see the Roman Catholic Church changing in my lifetime but it will someday. It took them 400 years to apologize to Galileo for thinking the Earth wasn't the center of the universe so who knows how long it will take them. But I do believe we're headed in the right direction. It doesn't mean we can slow down our efforts or relax; we still have to work to make this happen.

You mentioned in your reasons for retiring that the many 'death threats' and attacks on you and your husband have taken a great toll on you. Has this burden gotten any easier to bear in time?

For the complete interview, go to

<http://www.pridesource.com>

After the first couple of years the death threats slowed down. I can remember coming back home from a parish visitation at a church that had a balcony around three sides. My husband Mark said to me that he realized for the first time he wasn't constantly surveying the balcony to spot someone dangerous.

Fairly recently a man was accidentally arrested in Vermont who was apparently on his way to kill us. He was coming through Vermont and was in such a rage that he shot out the windows of an empty parked police cruiser. They caught up to him and found he had pictures of (my husband) Mark and me that he had taken off the Internet. He had scrawled across it "Save the church, kill the bishop," he had MapQuest (directions) to our house and he had a sawed-off shotgun and tons of ammunition. Back when I was ordained FBI agents said to me, "The ones you really have to worry about are the ones who don't send a warning. They just drive to your house and blow your head off."

On the anniversary of 9/11 you argued that you believe this is the greatest nation but that we have "much for which we should repent." Is it typical for a bishop to speak on issues that touch on political policy? Is this bold of you?

I've never been one to shy away from this issue. In my work for the Center for American Progress I've written on immigration reform, health care reform, poverty and the importance of taxes.

It seems pretty clear to me that our Jewish and Christian tradition is to offer a critique to society. The prophets of the Old Testament were all speaking truth to power and they all got in trouble for it and no one wanted to hear it but they spoke the truth anyway, and I think that's part of our tradition that we need to recover. I think the church would be held in higher regard in culture if more of us were speaking out on things like this.

You will be speaking at the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus on Oct. 5. What can those attending expect?

I plan to offer my assessment of where we are at the moment in the LGBT movement in this country, how we got here and to talk about what the work is in front of us. Then I want to talk about how church has contributed to the discrimination against us and how the changing church wants to be part of the solution.

Bishop Robinson speaks at University of Michigan—Dearborn at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 5 in the Borg Warner Auditorium of the IAVS Building. In the evening, Robinson will speak at a reception for the Ruth Ellis Center at 6 p.m. in the University's Kochoff Hall. A suggested donation of \$20 asked at the reception, and a silent auction benefitting the Ruth Ellis Center will take place within the hall. For more information go to tinyurl.com/BishopRobinson or call 734-776-8104.



Thinking Out Loud

BY ABBY DEES

Who you calling a hater?

It might look good on bumper stickers, but hate is a lousy P.R. word

Editorial

GOP's argument against partner benefits is cheap

As of Oct. 1, our state is set to begin offering health benefits for live-in partners of state employees. Since the benefits were announced in January, state Republicans have tried nearly every gimmick possible to get rid of the benefits, and it looks like they just might succeed.

Their first argument is that the benefits will cost the state more money at a time when our state's economy is unstable. That might be a good argument, if it weren't for the math. Republicans first estimated that the benefits would cost the state up to \$20 million. Then they settled on \$8 million. Equality Michigan offered the estimate of \$6 million. And then last week, the statewide commission that would give out the benefits gave an estimate of just \$600,000. When compared to the state's \$43 billion budget, \$600,000 is not much.

So cost is not a solid argument for the GOP. Next they argue that the benefits are too easy to get, that just about anybody can opt into them. This is not true. The benefits are designated for an "Other Eligible Adult." That OEA must have lived with the state employee for more than one year, show intermingled finances, not be related and not be a tenant.

The GOP also argues that the commission that negotiated these benefits with state employees doesn't have the authority to do so. Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette has even sued the commission for this reason. But back in 2008, when the Michigan Supreme Court prohibited domestic partner benefits, it said that public institutions could offer benefits to other unrelated individuals — those individuals just couldn't be called "domestic partners." Thus the OEA and "plus-one" benefits now offered at many state universities were born.

When logic fails to produce any worthwhile legal or financial argument against the benefits, the

GOP goes for the social argument. That's the stuff that's easier for them to argue. Now Republicans say that when Michigan voters decided in 2004 to put an anti-gay-marriage amendment into our state Constitution, they also voted against partner benefits. Never mind that Republicans claimed the amendment would have no effect on such benefits back in 2004.

After a long nine months of fighting unsuccessfully against the benefits, the Republicans now look like they're going to win. They have passed bills in the state House that would prohibit the benefits. The bills now need to pass the Senate. With a Republican-controlled Senate and a Republican governor, it seems that the fate is all but sealed.

Killing these benefits means our state will become even less welcoming than it already is. Our state already doesn't protect LGBT students from bullying, doesn't protect LGBT adults from discrimination in employment and housing, and doesn't allow same-sex couples to be recognized parents. Killing these benefits also means that taxpayers will fund a long legal battle, as public institutions will likely fight for their rights to offer the benefits.

Killing the benefits for partners is happening right now, and you can actually do something about it. You can contact your senator and tell him or her to not kill these benefits. You can contact Gov. Rick Snyder and tell him not to sign this discriminatory law if it shows up on his desk. You can help make sure that this community isn't a silent minority. You can help make sure Michigan doesn't go even more backward in its treatment of all of us.

To find your state senator, go to <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysenator/fysenator.htm>. To contact Gov. Rick Snyder, email Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov.

I've always had a sort-of wincing reaction to the word "hate" in LGBT rights messaging. Like those bumper stickers that say, "Hate is not a family value." Or the newest iteration, "No H8," admittedly a clever spin on the ridiculous Prop 8. It's not that I don't think people hate us — I know all too well that lots do. The problem is that I've heard the word "hate" used to describe everything from gathering signatures against gay marriage to committing torture and rape. Surely there's some nuance missing here.

I understand the argument that all homophobia, from the most violent to the mildly annoying, is rooted in fear and ignorance. I get that, but I'm not so convinced that every act of homophobia must come from a hateful place. Quite simply, hate isn't the only manifestation of fear and ignorance. If you ask a reformed homophobe what was going on before they saw the light, you'll hear things like, "I didn't understand," or, "I thought the Bible said so," or, "I was afraid." But you'll rarely hear, "I just hated those gays — couldn't stand 'em." I'll even go out on a limb and say that those good people, those reformed allies-come-lately, were also good people back when they thought there was a gay agenda. They were ignorant, perhaps afraid, but probably not hateful. (Come to think of it, I was a pretty idiotic homophobe before I came out.)

I think it's hard to hold these competing ideas in our consciousness without feeling a bit queasy. How can we wrap our head around the idea that we are in a life-and-death battle for human rights, and yet our opponents might actually be fair-minded, decent folk? It's much easier to draw a clear line in the sand and then declare everyone over there a hate-filled bigot.

This is human nature, of course, but it's also bad P.R. For one reason, telling people who are uninformed or locked into intolerant thinking that they are in fact hateful isn't going to bring

about introspection. They will, at the very least, simply disagree; perhaps rightly. For another, it makes us look as reactive and unsubtle as the people campaigning against us.

I'm reminded of all the times I've heard people compare our presidents to Hitler. (I've seen countless images of both Bush II and Obama with a caterpillar moustache scribbled on.) Sure, always call out injustice, but be accurate about

it. We are not in fact living under a fascist genocidal regime, and to claim otherwise is to minimize the experience of those who are (Kim Jong Il, anybody?).

Similarly, let's be clear about what's really happening in our community that is incontrovertibly driven by hatred: gay bashing, for example; Fred Phelps and his many clones; bullying; hatred formed of fear, ignorance and the unique insecurity of

adolescence; and hate speech, purpose-built to cause us real harm. There's plenty more.

And let's be clear about what is not driven by hatred, but by all the other human frailties that allow injustice to persist. I'm not suggesting that one kind of intolerance is less destructive than another. As Dr. King said, "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance." However, once we've stamped the word "hate" on every offense against us, then we've reinforced the whole us-versus-them ideology that's been used against us for eons. If we are trying to change minds, we can't be so sloppy about our message even if it feels satisfying at the time. We've only put another barrier between us and the people who might one day be allies.

Abby Dees is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for more than 25 years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com

Partner benefits for state employees could cost \$600K

Civil Service Commission says costs are lower than expected, previous Republican estimates were as high as \$8M

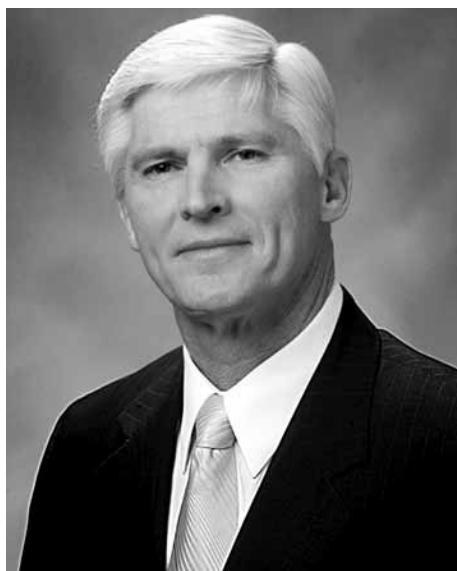
BY TARA CAVANAUGH

LANSING— Republicans against offering benefits for partners of state employees have decried the cost, but a recent estimate shows the benefits will cost much less than projected.

State employees have until Sept. 30 to opt into the benefits. So far, less than 100 of them have opted in, which means the state would pay roughly \$600,000, said Matt Fedorchuk, spokesman for the Michigan Civil Service Commission. “The enrollment period is still going on right now,” Fedorchuk said. “It’s preliminary numbers.”

The MCSC is an independent, state-constitution-created authority that administers human resources for state employees. After negotiating with state employee unions, the MCSC voted in January to allow state employees to share benefits with an “Other Eligible Adult.” The OEA would have to have lived with the state employee for more than one year, could not be a tenant and could not be related. The OEA’s dependents would also be eligible. The benefits are set to take effect Oct. 1.

But state Republican lawmakers, citing a cost as high as \$8 million, have tried several times to overturn the benefits. First they tried to get a two-thirds majority vote in the House and Senate to overturn the MCSC decision. Then they tried to penalize universities that offered the benefits – which Gov. Rick Snyder’s legal counsel called unconstitutional. Republican Gov. Bill Schuette has sued the MCSC over the benefits. Last week, Republican state representative Dave Agema, R-Grandville, introduced bills to prohibit universities and city governments from offering the benefits. The bills have passed the House and now need



State Rep. Dave Agema, R-Grandville, introduced the House bills to prohibit universities and city governments from offering partner benefits. Agema cited the cost as one reason he was against the benefits – but the costs so far are much lower than projected, according to the Michigan Civil Service Commission, which will administer the benefits to state employees.

to pass the Senate, which has already made clear its intent to get rid of the benefits.

“We’ve known all along that anti-gay activists have been inflating the potential costs of domestic partner health care benefits for state employees,” said Michael Gregor, spokesman for Equality Michigan. “Only a very specific group of ‘other eligible adults’ can use the program, so it makes sense that the preliminary number is small. In the end, this isn’t about costs – this is about doing what’s fair and providing equal access to health care benefits. Republican extremists are hiding behind excuses about costs for each anti-gay bill they’ve introduced this year.”

The debate over offering the benefits brings up questions of constitutionality. No MCSC decision has ever been overturned by the legislature in the commission’s 108-year history.

The debate also brings up questions of fiscal vs. social issues. Some Republicans have called the issue purely a fiscal one, citing the high cost. But \$600,000 is little when compared to the state’s overall \$43 billion budget.

Other Republicans have called the issue a social one – that offering benefits for “roommates” or “partners” goes against the anti-gay marriage amendment to the state constitution in 2004. In 2008, the State Supreme Court ruled that public institutions could not offer “domestic partner benefits” because it sounded too similar to benefits shared between husbands and wives. But in that 2008 decision, the justices admitted that offering benefits to another unrelated adult would not be unconstitutional.

After that 2008 decision, universities changed language in their policies to still offer domestic partner benefits, just under another name, such as “plus-one” or “Other Eligible Adult” benefits.

“In the end, this isn’t about costs – this is about doing what’s fair and providing equal access to health care benefits. Republican extremists are hiding behind excuses about costs for each anti-gay bill they’ve introduced this year.”

–Michael Gregor, spokesman
for Equality Michigan



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We're sad to report that a New York teen who made an 'It Gets Better' video committed suicide.

That breaks my heart and angers me all at once!
-Maria Martinez

This is heartbreaking.
-Robert Adamson

I keep saying: "It Gets Better" is bullshit. It does not go nearly far enough. It is time for us all to stand up. There are more of us. There always was, but we sat in fear. All evil needs is for one good person to remain silent! Speak up! It is contagious. When people see you doing it they will join in!
-Princess Markey

Right on, Princess M! I have lived by this rule my whole life and will till I die. Get involved! People stay in their safe place so not to be the target – well that's BS. The bully counts on people doing that. Stand up for yourself and others, and others will follow!
-Charlotte Cromie

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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Politics, discrimination



Wanda Sykes

"I was like, 'I don't know, should I talk about it or what?' How many things could I have? I'm black, then lesbian. I can't be the poster child for everything ... At least with the LGBT issues we get a parade, we get a float, it's a party. But I was real hesitant about doing this, because I hate walking. I got a lot of cancer walks coming up."

–Wanda Sykes, during an interview with Ellen on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," about her breast cancer and double mastectomy, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and her personal health, huffingtonpost.com, Sept. 23.



Mara Keisling

"This report confirms what we've long known to be true: being transgender and black in the U.S. presents unique challenges on the path to full equality. This problem is deeply important to me and to NCTE where every day we hear from transgender people of color who survive in the face of racism and transphobia."

–Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, in a press release about a new analysis titled "Injustice at Every Turn: A Look at Black Respondents in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey," produced by the National Black Justice Coalition, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the NCTE. The analysis reports that the anti-transgender bias and structural racism experienced by black transgender and gender non-conforming people means that transgender people of color experience particularly devastating levels of discrimination, transequality.org, Sept. 16.



Stephen Hill

"The GOP presidential debate produced a profile in courage and nine profiles in cowardice. The profile in courage came courtesy of the brave active-duty soldier named Stephen Hill serving in Iraq who chose the Republican debate as the opportunity to come out to his fellow servicemen and the nation via video. He was, of course, marking the newfound freedom to do so granted by the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't

Tell.' And he was greeted with a chorus of boos from people in the conservative crowd. The profiles in cowardice came from the nine presidential candidates on stage who chose to stand through the insult to a military man serving in a war zone, struck dumb by their political calculations. This was an opportunity to speak out in favor of civil rights, to condemn a basic lack of kindness in the crowd, to stand up for our fighting men and women serving in harm's way. It could have been a defining moment for a candidate with the courage and decency to buck the base. Instead, there was the awkward silence of a political pitch going by – an acquiescence to some of the ugliest impulses in society combined with a lack of moral clarity."

– John Avlon, in his column titled "Jeers for a Gay Soldier," about the Republican presidential debate in Florida when Stephen Hill, an American soldier serving in Iraq, was booed by the audience simply for saying that he was gay, and for asking a question about DADT, thedailybeast.com, Sept. 24. None of the GOP candidates on stage said a word to diminish the crowd's boos, to defend the soldier or to thank him for his service.



Senator Chris Coons, D-DE

"I frankly think they profoundly misread the young people of America, who are far more open and tolerant, welcoming, and inclusive than generations before them, particularly around LGBT issues. I think they miss what is a basic cultural shift in the direction of tolerance, and it's my hope that, as happened in the 2008 campaign – where youth voters really led the way in terms of breaking barriers – that we'll see the same thing, a rejection by younger voters, more educated and more engaged voters, of gay bashing or gay-baiting, which I'm afraid may actually end up being an essential issue or central values issue in the 2012 election."

–Senator Chris Coons, D-DE, in an interview at the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's "DADT Repeal Day Celebration," about the Republican leadership's use of gay bashing and gay-baiting to drive a wedge in the 2012 election, thinkprogress.org, Sept. 21.

AIDS Walk Michigan raises more than \$100K

Event raises much-needed money for state HIV/AIDS organizations

BY TARA CAVANAUGH AND ZACH CHILDREE

Dressed head to toe in a bright red pantsuit, Debbie Dingell looked like a walking AIDS ribbon at Sunday's AIDS Walk in downtown Ann Arbor.

"My best friend was diagnosed 30 years ago when nobody would even say the words, and she's alive and she's kicking and she's doing great," the petite wife of Congressman John Dingell told the crowd of yellow AIDS Walk t-shirts.

"I think it's so great they're here," she said, pointing to a group of Eastern Michigan University students. "Young people are the fastest growing group (diagnosed with HIV). People don't talk about it, they don't know about it, and your being here helps raise awareness."

The event in Ann Arbor was part of the annual AIDS Walk Michigan last weekend. Participants also raised money and walked in Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Traverse City, Jackson and on Central Michigan University's campus. The annual fundraiser helps more than two dozen HIV/AIDS organizations in the state raise money for prevention and treatment programs.

According to preliminary results, the walks made roughly \$103,137, thanks to fundraising efforts of the 2,186 attendees, said Barb Murray, executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan, the agency that organizes the walks.

"Let people know that it's ordinary people with HIV, it's your neighbors and it's people you work with. You have to clear up the ignorance."

—Margo Love, who lost her daughter to AIDS in 2008

Marquis Taylor from Jackson was one of the 2,186 attendees — he even attended two walks.

"I was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in 2006," Taylor said, who participated in Ann Arbor on Sunday and in Jackson on Saturday. He was joined by his partner and two friends from PFLAG Jackson. "We're out here for me, and others like me," he said.

While the message of the weekend was somber, attendees were also out to have fun. In Ann Arbor, walkers warmed up



The AIDS Walk crowd warms up to disco music before starting Sunday's 3-mile walk in downtown Ann Arbor. BTL photo: Tara Cavanaugh

by dancing to the disco song "Le Freak" before Dingell kicked off the walk by cutting red tape with a pair of giant red scissors.

In Detroit, the walk almost felt like a parade: after a prayer, a conductor struck up the Cass Tech marching band and led the walkers out of Palmer Park.

Margo Love lost her daughter to AIDS in 2008 and walked this year for the first time. "I'm just finally getting up the courage to step out and do something," Love said.

"People have to understand with this disease, you don't have to be afraid," she added. "I have a grandson who is negative because my daughter did the right thing. There are medicines you can take. Women can get pregnant."

Love said people need to be more willing to talk about the disease with people they know. "Let people know that it's ordinary people with HIV, it's your neighbors and it's people you work with," she said. "You have to clear up the ignorance."

Kristina Schmidgall, a social worker at APM, said there still is a lot of ignorance surrounding HIV. "HIV still has the stigma of being a gay disease," Schmidgall said. "Because of that stigma, it's not talked about, so people say 'oh it can't happen to me because I'm not gay.' We're finding that HIV is affecting individuals of color; specifically women and young people."

Schmidgall said she enjoyed the parade-like walk because it made activism feel fun. "It adds an element that it's not so serious," she said. "I mean it is serious work, but with this we can have some fun, raise some money and raise awareness, have a cup of coffee and a bagel before and say come on out with your loved ones, bring your pets and bring your children."

► Ussery

Continued from p. 6

most influential politicians, City Council President Charles Pugh, who, in 1999, ran as an openly gay candidate. Working closely with organizations like the Downtown Detroit Partnership and Business Leaders for Michigan, she has been privy to plans for the city's revitalization.

"I know that if we can just get the people who live here to share in the energy of renewal, some of those plans will happen," said Ussery, who, as president of the board of the Villages Community Development Corporation, is working at a grassroots level to improve the city's neighborhoods.

But it will be difficult for the city to effectively use all of its valuable human resources, she said, until the LGBTQ community is more comfortable exerting its leadership.

"People are still afraid about their jobs and their families," she said about the issue of coming out. "We need to help people get out of the closet. We need to grow more leaders. There's a lot of potential out there."



Ussery is part of the young brain trust dedicated to the city's renaissance. "I know that if we can just get the people who live here to share in the energy of renewal, some of those plans will happen," she says.



Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Gay youth becomes a god

Almost 125 years before the birth of Jesus a handsome youth named Antinous was declared a god by the Roman emperor Publius Aelius Hadrian.

Antinous was born to a Greek family in Bithynion-Claudiopolis, in the Roman province of Bithynia, now northwest Turkey. Extraordinarily beautiful — as existing statues have testified for centuries — he joined the entourage of the emperor Hadrian as a cup bearer.

Hadrian fell in love with Antinous when the boy was 13, an age when many post-pubescent males married. (Life span average was 35 years.) They were ruler and consort lovers for six years, touring Greece and Egypt in search of initiation into the Goddess Mysteries of Demeter, Persephone, and Isis.

Legend says that an Egyptian priest warned Hadrian that unless an extraordinary sacrifice was offered on his behalf Hadrian's reign would fade "like incense on a starry night." Antinous, in devotion to emperor Hadrian, gave the deep waters of the flooding Nile his youth, beauty, and life.

So doing, Antinous joined those pre-Christian gods who provided atonement and resurrected death for humankind: Osiris, Adonis, Attis, Mithra — whose birth date celebrated by humble shepherds was Dec. 25 — Dionysus, Hermes, Bacchus.

(Recommended reading: "The Jesus Mysteries: Was the 'original Jesus' A Pagan God?" by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy; Harmony Books.)

Hadrian glorified his lover/god with statues, coins, temples, paintings, a city bearing his name. Antinopolis. The youth was worshiped until the emperor/convert Constantine in 324 CE mandated Christianity as the state religion of Rome.

Antinous drowned in the Nile in October 130. Hadrian "wept for him like a woman" and lost no time in deifying Antinous, a ritual sanctification — not unlike, one supposes, Catholic canonization — reserved for imperial family members rather than friends or lovers of non-Roman origin.

The grief of Hadrian was intense, causing the most extravagant veneration. Coins and medals were struck with Antinous' likeness, and cities throughout the east commissioned godlike images of the dead youth for their shrines and sanctuaries. (Hadrian was following the example of Alexander the Great, who sought divine honors for his beloved general and paramour, Hephaestion, when he was killed in battle.)

One of Hadrian's attempts at extravagant remembrance failed, when his proposal to create a memorial constellation of Antinous being lifted to heaven by an eagle (the constellation Aquila) was ignored by the Roman Senate.

In the 18th century Cardinal Aliesandro Albani and the gay German art historian Johann Joachim Winkelmann joined a secret cult centered in Rome that worshiped Antinous, along with lust-monger Pan and ever-erect Priapus added for good measure.

More recently the Belgian writer Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) devoted 20 years to researching and writing about the lovers. Her novel "Memories of Hadrian" was published in 1951.

Yourcenar came to America in 1940 with her partner and translator Grace Frick. She became a U.S. Citizen in 1947. Yourcenar had impeccable sensitivity for writing about homoerotic love. Her other gay affirming novels are "Alexis" and "Coup de Grace."

"The books I like best are those where there is intelligence, goodness, and no injustice," she said. "They are very rare. I never write anything I have not chosen myself."

Yourcenar's 40-year relationship with Grace Frick ended with Grace's death in 1979. In 1981 Yourcenar was elected to the French Academy, the first woman so honored in the society's 350-year history.

"I am rootless," Yourcenar summed up her life. "To quote Hadrian, 'I am at home everywhere and nowhere.'" But like fair Antinous she too dwells among those poetic gods of gifted gender and two-spirited persuasion.

"Long silent now/ That brutal rush of wings./ In vain each waits his Holy Flight:/ Acolytes of fleet-limbed day/ Penitents of malformed Night."

Charles@pridesource.com. Have a rainbow day!

Rick Santorum

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Say what you want about Republicans, but they sure do keep us in suspense about how high the homophobic ceiling is inside of their "big tent."



Rick Santorum

Once interviewed Dan Savage and asked him if anyone ever reacted negatively when he and his boyfriend were out with their adopted son. Savage kind of dismissed the question saying you'd have to be a complete asshole to say something anti-gay to a kid's dads right in front of him.

But that was years ago, and while acceptance of gays and lesbians has grown, incivility of the anti-gay right seems to have grown, too.

It's no secret that the anti-gay right is primarily Republican and that the right wing of the party has been steadily taking control of the GOP to the point where they're less a wing and more the whole bird. And what an angry bird it is.

If the GOP debates are any indication, many Republicans are not at all concerned about coming across as complete assholes. In fact, it seems almost like a prerequisite.

The Sept. 22 Fox News/YouTube debate is an excellent case in point. As one might expect during a YouTube debate, videos of folks asking the candidates questions was a big part of the questioning.

Stephen Hill, a soldier serving in Iraq, was one of those video-question-askers. He said he was gay and wanted to know where the candidates stood on the "Don't Ask Don't Tell repeal." The audience booed him. And not one of the candidates on the stage seemed to have a problem with this.

Well, not at the time, anyway. Rick Santorum has since claimed that he didn't hear the booing and that if he had he would have totally stood up for that gay soldier.

"Had I heard them, I certainly would have commented on them," Santorum said during an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly.

"I condemn the people who booed that gay soldier," he told Kelly. "That soldier is serving our country. I thank him for his service to our country. I'm sure he's doing an excellent job; I hope he is safe and I hope he returns safely and does his mission well."

Really? I find this doubtful considering his adamantly anti-gay response to the question.

"I would say any type of sexual activity has absolutely no place in the military," he responded. "Removing DADT I think tries to inject social policy into the military. And the military's job is to do one thing, and that is to defend our country. We need to give the military, which is all volunteer, the ability to do so in a way that is most efficient at protecting our men and women in uniform. And I believe this undermines that ability."

He said that DADT repeal meant that gays in the military had "a special privilege" to engage in sexual activity, which is not true. Santorum clearly can't see past the "sex" in "homosexuality." The fact that gays are real people, real people who have sacrificed God knows what in order to serve in the military, is lost on him.

Kelly then asked him, "So what would you do with soldiers like Stephen Hill? I mean, now he's out (and) you saw his face on camera. When he first submitted this video to us, it was without his face on camera. Now he's out. So what would you do as president?"

The fact that gays sacrificed God knows what in order to serve in the military is lost on Santorum.

This is an incredibly important detail. That Hill couldn't even show his face on camera when he first submitted his video and now, just a short time between submitting and having his question used, he can show his face is nothing short of amazing.

But that's also lost on Santorum who says that although he wouldn't kick Hill out since that wouldn't be fair, "We would reinstitute that policy, if Rick Santorum was president, period."

He added, "We would move forward conformity with what was happening in the past, which was, sex is not an issue. It should not be an issue. Leave it alone, keep it to yourself, whether you're a heterosexual or a homosexual."

Ah, yes. We'd go back to fundamentally flawed and completely ineffective policy that accomplished nothing besides codifying homophobia.

And that's apparently how Santorum says, "Thanks for your service, homo."

Police probe bullying after 14-year-old commits suicide

NY teenager made 'It Gets Better' video before death

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

AMHERST, N.Y. (AP)—Police are investigating whether criminal charges should be filed after the suicide of a 14-year-old New York boy who had complained in an online video about being bullied over his sexuality and who often alluded on his blog to killing himself.

Officials in the Williamsville school district near Buffalo said they are cooperating with the investigation into the death of 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer, who had started his freshman year of high school less than two weeks before he died.

"We're going to have to look at the stuff that's out there and determine if any of the things out there are a violation of the law," Amherst Police Capt. Michael Camilleri said Thursday, Sept. 22. The use of a telephone or computer would escalate the charge.

The boy had frequent meetings with school officials in the previous two years, when he was in middle school, and the school's social worker said he was always available, his mother said. School officials spoke with the bullies, but the taunts continued, she said.

Students in the district are encouraged to report bullying, and every report is investigated, Superintendent Scott Martzloff said.

In 2010, Gov. David Paterson signed the Dignity for All Students Act, which requires New York school



Jamey Rodemeyer in a video he created for the "It Gets Better" project. Rodemeyer committed suicide on Sunday, Sept. 18, just two weeks after starting high school.

Better Project," meant to give hope to gay teens.

After he hanged himself Sunday, Sept. 18 outside his home in the Amherst town village of Williamsville, Jamey's parents said that their son had been bullied for years, even pushed to the brink of suicide, but that he seemed to be doing better since starting at his new school.

"We outright asked him, 'Is anybody bullying you this year?' Jamey's mother, Tracy Rodemeyer said, "and it was, 'No, no, no.'"

The boy kept a blog on which he referred to himself as gay and made frequent references to suicide and to his idol, pop singer Lady Gaga, who

His final blog and Twitter posts the day he died thanked Gaga. He also wrote: "I pray the fame won't take my life," possibly a reference to her song and album "The Fame."

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the performer posted three related messages on Twitter.

"The past days I've spent reflecting, crying and yelling," read one of her tweets. "I have so much anger. It is hard to feel love when cruelty takes someone's life."

The suicide comes a year after 18-year-old Tyler Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River after his roommate at Rutgers University allegedly used a webcam to spy on his same-sex liaison.

Clementi's death followed a string of suicides by teens nationwide believed to have been bullied for their perceived sexual orientation and quickly became a cause celebre. Among those speaking out were talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and President Barack Obama. Sex columnist Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" movement gained traction.

Criminal charges against Clementi's roommate are pending. In another high-profile case, five classmates this year accepted plea deals after being charged following the suicide of bullied Massachusetts teen Phoebe Prince.

Experts have noted that some suicides can inspire others to follow in an attempt at martyrdom or solidarity, a phenomenon known as contagion. Police in Jamey's hometown said it's too early in their investigation to characterize his death as a possible example.

On Sept. 9, Jamey Rodemeyer posted an image of a swinging noose on his blog and wrote: "I always say how bullied I am, but no one listens, what do I have to do so people will listen to me?"

districts to protect children against bullying because of their sexual orientation or weight. It also says schools should guard against those and other forms of discrimination and harassment, including ethnicity and disability.

In his video posted four months ago, Jamey Rodemeyer described being taunted in hallways and receiving hateful messages online, "telling me that gay people go to hell." The video, in which he said he was bisexual, was part of the "It Gets

often sings about acceptance of gays and lesbians.

On Sept. 9, he posted an image of a swinging noose and wrote: "I always say how bullied I am, but no one listens, what do I have to do so people will listen to me?" The same day, he wrote: "Stop bullying people. Maybe they won't commit suicide" and "Ugh today makes me wanna kill myself."

On Sept. 12, he wrote: "I don't want to meet Gaga, I NEED to meet her."

State Equality Dinner award winners announced

BY BTL STAFF

DEARBORN— On Oct. 22, Equality Michigan will present the highly anticipated 2011 State Equality Dinner at The Henry in Dearborn. The gala evening is Equality Michigan's signature fundraiser. In addition to a VIP reception with live entertainment, the evening's festivities will feature a silent auction, formal dinner, presentation of the Catalyst Awards and an afterglow celebration. The following awardees will be honored for their outstanding contributions to the gay and transgender equality movement.

Alexa Van Vliet, president of the Oakland University Gay Straight Alliance, wins the Henry Messer Youth Activist Award. Van Vliet is an Oakland University senior majoring in psychology with minors in Spanish and public administration. She is leading student efforts to oppose anti-gay policy initiatives in Lansing while building pro-equality coalitions on campus. She has been trained by the Center for Progressive Leadership, a national training institute that develops leaders to advance progressive political change.

Van Vliet says her efforts are so important because there are people in every community who identify as gay and transgender. "There are Republicans who are gay, every ethnic group, every religion, we're everywhere," she said. "I always think back to Martin Luther King where he says an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere. I think that really does apply to the LGBT community."

Michigan State Sen. Glenn Anderson earns the James K. Dressel Political Courage Award.

Sen. Anderson was elected to the Michigan State Senate in November 2006 to represent the people of the 6th Senate district, which includes the communities of Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township, and Westland. Anderson serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the four related subcommittees of Economic Development, Transportation, Higher Education and General Government. In addition, Senator Anderson serves as Assistant Democratic Floor Leader. Prior to his election to the Senate, Anderson represented Michigan's 18th District in the Michigan House of Representatives for six years. Before beginning his tenure in the legislature, Anderson served as city councilman for Westland for nine years.

Throughout his tenure in public service, Sen. Anderson has been committed to fiscally responsible government, ensuring the continuation of vital services while maintaining a balanced budget. His legislative priorities include consumer protection, election reform, protecting our children, quality healthcare, and insurance accountability and affordability.

The Rev. Ed Rowe, pastor at Central United Methodist Church, earns the Ally in Faith Award. Rowe was appointed senior pastor to downtown Detroit's Central United Methodist Church in 1994. This ministry includes the NOAH project, which offers social services, health care and 29,000 bag lunches to the homeless each year, a Value Shop providing clothing for low-income Detroiters, the Peace for Youth project to teach non-violence to public school students, and the Swords Into Plowshares Peace Gallery, an arts gallery dedicated to peace. It supports partner organizations such as



Left to Right: Cleve Jones wins this year's Lifetime Achievement Award, The Rev. Ed Rowe earns the Ally in Faith Award and State Sen. Glenn Anderson wins the James K. Dressel Political Courage Award.

Welfare Rights, which advocates for the poor and Safe Journeys, which works with domestic violence victims. Rowe has been part of the movement to defeat Proposition E, which would have continued the state takeover of the Detroit School Board. He was a leader in supporting the Detroit News and Free Press strikers and has been part of delegations to Iraq and Palestine to promote peace. He continues to be a leader in the peace and justice movements both locally and globally.

Rowe has two children, Krista and Ryan. He is married to Nida Donar, an outstanding activist in the community.

Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project, earns the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Influential gay activist Cleve Jones will accept Equality Michigan's Catalyst Award for Lifetime Achievement. Jones created the NAMES Project

AIDS Memorial Quilt that has become, at 54 tons, the world's largest piece of community folk art as of 2009. In 1983 he co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which has grown into one of the largest and most influential AIDS advocacy organizations in the country.

Tickets are on sale now at www.equalitymi.org/dinner. Standard tickets are \$150, VIP tickets are \$250 and afterglow only tickets are \$50. The dinner takes place Saturday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. at The Henry, 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, MI, 48126.

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

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Gloria

Reaches Out to the Gays



Photo: Jesus Cordero

In this exclusive chat, the Queen of Latin Pop talks gay marriage and controversial Target deal

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Gloria Estefan isn't called the Queen of Latin Pop for nothing. Over three decades – and counting – she's earned it.

Since needing a “Dr. Beat” to control her feet in the '80s, then as part of Miami Sound Machine, Estefan has amassed seven Grammy awards and released 25 albums (selling over 90 million copies of them worldwide), spawning hits like “Conga,” “Reach” and “Rhythm is Gonna Get You” – which it did, many times over. And it will yet again with “Miss Little Havana,” her first English-language release since 2003 that returns to her Latin-dance roots with producer Pharrell Williams' urban flair.

The album, though, isn't just getting buzz for being her long-awaited comeback – but the way it's being released. Estefan partnered with Target, known for its recent support of anti-gay politics, for the release of “Miss Little Havana” (it's also available through iTunes). In this exclusive chat, the 54-year-old performer opened up about the deal, why she hopes you'll give the corporation another chance and just how deep her everlasting love for the gay community goes.

Have you done an interview with gay press before?

Oh yes, many times. (Laughs) That's my core audience. These are the people that broke me in a lot of clubs. My gay following has always been cutting edge in music and discovered my stuff before it ever became big on radio. The very first remix we did of “Dr. Beat” was done by a guy named Pablos Flores who became huge in the dance market after that, but he used to spin at a gay club in Puerto Rico and we found out he was a big fan. So they've always been a big part of my career.

Ever got down and done the conga in a gay club?

Not the “Conga,” because in that gay club we were unknown at that time, but I did a lot of dancing there in Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, for me, I haven't been able to go to any clubs, period – gay or straight – because I've been working since I was 17 in a band, so usually I was the one performing when everyone else was having a good time. But I would love that – they're the most fun clubs, I'm sure.

Who does a better conga – gay or straight men?

(Laughs) Are you kidding me? You're actually asking that question? I mean, who dances better, period?!

When you look back at your career – the hair, the fashion, all of that – why do you think you make such a great drag queen?

I don't know, but I got to tell you: I love it! Every time I see them, I say, “They do me much better than I do,” because I'm the reluctant diva. I didn't like being the center of attention, but I had different looks that they were able to reenact – the one in the chaps and the “Mi Tierra” dress – and “Everlasting Love” celebrated all those different looks. I just feel fortunate that somebody would want to do me. (Laughs)

It's been eight years since your last English-language studio album, “Unwrapped.” Why did you decide to step back from music and showbiz, and what prompted your return?

Well, stepping back was easy – I had (my daughter) Emily and I know how quickly time goes by. That's why my last English album was in 2003 – then in 2007 we did “90 Millas” – and I purposefully only went out promoting in the summer when she was available to go with me, because she really loves school. My son wasn't too fond of it, so I dragged him all over the world and he didn't care. (Laughs)

I don't like to just go into the studio to just go into the studio. I really want to have a musical idea, some creative spark that makes me excited about doing what I'm doing. Pharrell called me – he had written a song for me called “Miss Little Havana” – and he wanted to delve into that Hispanic world and even go further than

See Gloria Estefan, page 16

► Gloria Estefan

Continued from p. 15

he already has. It was really a very interesting idea. We clicked so well in the studio that I think this album is a real example of how much we clicked – creatively and on many levels.

After we had done the nine tracks with Pharrell, we took it to the club in the last four tracks with different remixers and producers that are on the cutting edge of the clubland side. I wanted to give fans not just the nine concept-y tracks that we did with Pharrell – although they didn't start that way, there was a storyline I discovered after we finished the songs – and really take it to hardcore dance.

Zumba fanatics will love it.

(Laughs) While we were doing “Wepa,” Pharrell said, “You have to take it to all those Zumba clubs!” It's so fast. It's like a nuclear merengue with the urban sensibility from Pharrell and the drunk guy on trombone in the street festival, so we kept thinking, “They're going to sweat to this one!”

You said your 2004 world tour would be your last. Have you changed your mind? Are you going to pull a Cher on us?

I don't have a tour planned. What I've been doing is just going to places worldwide, little by little. And I'll always do something. I never ever said that I was retiring. I said I was just going to stop doing those world tours and that was going to be the last one, and it did end up being that. You never say never, but I really don't foresee doing that kind of thing again. I

will do different, interesting and unique stuff, but it's like boot camp for me. It's hard on me.

Your song “Always Tomorrow” was a lifeline for so many people, especially your gay fans – including myself. How does it feel knowing that?

I love that. That's one of my favorite songs I've ever written, so that makes me happy. You know, that was the idea. When I wrote that tune it was like a message of hope. I wanted to celebrate the hero in each of us and the fact that we can survive and be stronger. I've had fans tell me they were going to do themselves in and this song came on the radio and they felt better; they actually got through some really tough moments, so that to me is the best reason to do what I do – that I can somehow get into people's brains and hearts that I may never meet, and get them through.

That's what music was for me. I had a really tough time growing up and other people's music got me through those moments, so it means a lot to me that that was good for you, as well.

It's a song that so many gay kids who were bullied into suicide should've heard before they took their own life.

I know. I did a video message for the It Gets Better campaign and I talked about that – that when I was 15 I felt so overwhelmed and everything was so heavy on me that, believe me, I thought about it. Kids think that problems are going to last forever and they need to realize that life changes in a second. I can understand where they get overwhelmed, but we have a short enough time as it is on this earth without having to end it early.

Considering how Target has supported anti-gay candidates and indirectly anti-gay causes, there's been much controversy in the gay community surrounding your partnership with them for the release of “Miss Little Havana.” What do you have to say to gay fans who might question your support for them?

To my gay fans, I would say this: Always go with your heart and do what you need to do, because I think that every human being needs to stand on principle. But I've got to tell you: I would never work with someone who is anti-gay.

I know that they donated to a third party who then donated to this candidate and – I did my homework – since then they donated \$150,000 to that candidate. They apologized profusely for having done so, and they have established an actual committee that oversees all political donations to make sure that this doesn't happen again. They've also donated a half-million dollars to LGBT organizations. They're part of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. They give domestic partner benefits. They have 300,000 employees that are from all walks of life, and it's very important for them to be supportive. They've extended family medical leave benefits and adoption benefits to their gay employees. They've really supported very much their gay peeps.

Believe me, in my own life I've gone through a lot of these things. When I had Obama at my house, I got nailed by the Cuban community – even though I'm not affiliated politically. Sometimes the information you want to get out there doesn't, because the first thing that blows up is what people hear.

So I will always respect what (my gay



Gloria Estefan released her first English-language album in eight years, “Miss Little Havana,” this week.

fans) want to do, but I have a long history with Target. I've put out my children's book, we've done programs for the troops – they really have been very supportive, so I would say: Do some more research, check out what Target has done to make up for its gaffe – and they know it was a gaffe. It was lack of information, not knowing everything about everybody that your money goes to. I was actually very surprised when that whole Target thing happened, but I know how these things happen. I've been on other side of that. So give them another shot and if not, I respect very much whatever they may want to do or need to do to stand up for whatever principles they're upholding.

I just want them to know that I'm so supportive of the LGBT community. They've

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been a big part of my success and they've always been there for me. I would not want to do anything that hurts them.

Your birthplace of Cuba has evolved a lot in the way it treats gay people. In the 70s, many LGBT people were imprisoned simply for being gay. What do you remember it being like for gay people?

Well, I was a baby. I came over here when I was 18 months old, so I really have no real memories of Cuba. But I always stay on top of the news from Cuba and I know that Raúl Castro's daughter is gay and she's trying to do a lot for that community, but Cuba in general – just that macho mentality – was tough even though it was one of the wildest places in the world. They've come a long way, but they did horrendous things when the AIDS epidemic came out. And since nobody has rights in Cuba, imagine the gays in Cuba – just regular schmoees have no rights and can be jailed at a moment's notice, so they were very, very rough.

Do you think it's harder for a Latino artist, Ricky Martin for instance, to be gay and out?

I think it's harder for anyone, to be honest. Even though fortunately we are definitely moving forward – you see all these states where it's becoming legal to marry your same-sex partner, as it should be everywhere – and we're heading in the right direction. But you have to realize that even the Equal Rights Amendment only happened in 1972 (*Editor's note: It was never ratified*), so we're still trying to grow rights for everyone. I think it's still tough because there's still judgmental people, there's still racism, there's still homophobia. It's a human condition. So as we become more and more educated and

people become more open, it's going to go in a positive direction.

So you're a gay marriage supporter?

Of course I am. I think everyone should be able to marry who they love, and it just should be.

Do you think you would've had that mentality years ago, considering you grew up in a very Catholic-conservative home?

I did, and I don't know if my mom – I think nowadays she would, because my mom has grown a lot, but my mom was also raised in a very restrictive atmosphere in Cuba. She has a lot of hardcore ideas. I've never talked to her about this, but she's very supportive of all her gay friends, and sometimes I go into her house and I tell her it's like "La Cage Aux Folles" – all her best friends are gay guys! (Laughs) They're over there always taking care of her and being really sweet with her.

We're very nurturing.

Hey, listen, the best son a mom could have is a gay son. They're not going to leave you high and dry, and they always watch their mothers and take care of them very much.

Does that mean you're going to have more kids until you get a gay one?

Me?! I can't! Are you kidding me? I would love a grandkid. Listen, the president of my corporation is gay and I see how he is with his mom, and I have a lot of friends who are just fantastic sons.

Very nice to speak with you, Gloria.

Thank you so much. A pleasure as well. Tell all my gay fans I love them.

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The "love triangle" of Sam (Jack Sweeney), Zach (David Niles) and Zach's wife Bev (Alison Mahoney) in "The Extraordinary Ordinary." Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

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BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

KALAMAZOO – Scott Burkell believed it was high time the gay guy in art got to be ordinary. "Where is the play where being gay doesn't mean you're going to die, be the butt of every joke or be the quirky neighbor?" lyricist and director Burkell asked. "Where is the fuller character who is living a (normal) life?"

Two such characters can be found in Burkell and Paul Loesel's new musical, "The Extraordinary Ordinary." There is also one very confused man who isn't quite sure what he needs from a relationship and whether he is gay or straight.

The musical premiered Sept. 16 at Kalamazoo's Farmer's Alley Theatre. While the musical played in New York, Burkell and Loesel revamped it extensively, adding songs, taking out numbers, rewriting lyrics and changing some of the character stories. They were unhappy with much of the New York production and welcomed the chance to revise it to something that was closer to their vision for the show.

"We cut off some of the fat," said Burkell. "It was winnowing down to whose story we are really following the strongest. There were certain characters that seemed to be lagging behind while others had too much."

The result was a musical following a year of somewhat ordinary events in the lives of six mostly middle-aged characters: a married heterosexual couple, a gay couple, half of a heterosexual unmarried couple and a single woman whose perfectionism has driven away any potential partners. Throughout the year they find themselves questioning the relationships they have with each other and with themselves.

Central to this questioning are Sam and Zach. Sam is a gay man who pursues unrealistic relationships and is currently with a college boy who is much younger than himself. Zach has been married to Bev since college, but now feels isolated in the relationship. Sam and Zach turn to each other and find their long-time friendship evolving into something different and more intimate. Sam's attraction to Zach grows, and Zach must make a crucial decision about whether

he will "jump" and find happiness in a new way. "The Extraordinary Ordinary" is not, though, a story about a man coming out of the closet. Burkell said he drew upon his own experiences in which he'd had relationships with straight men who were very confused, much like Zach.

"Someone can get confused about intimacy versus sexuality," Burkell said. "The question isn't whether Zach is gay or not. He is having intimacy with a man. In our culture, there is an outlet for women to be intimate with each other, but we have weird uptight things going on with guys."

While Zach squirms through conversing with Sam about being gay, "The Extraordinary Ordinary" contrasts his discomfort with Kate and Karen who are painting each other's nails and singing about what it would be like if the two of them were gay.

"The girls have an ease with it. It's just a question of how far they would go," Burkell said. "They're both very comfortable being physical with each other. (With Zach) it is so uncomfortable he can't even say the word 'gay.'"

The women can comfortably be intimate with each other and even talk about being gay without becoming uneasy about their sexuality. Zach, meanwhile, and the audience, through him, have to struggle with whether his being intimate with a man alters his sexuality.

Burkell reports that this dichotomy has made for lively talk-backs, and that the musical seems to have a polarizing effect on audience members who either love or hate the show. Among those who dislike it, a common complaint is that "nothing happens," which Burkell said is somewhat the point.

"Our Town" had some weird profound affect on me – does anyone really live their life while they're in it? We hear that message in many ways, but really doing it is difficult and against our nature. We need to be in our life right now and enjoy those moments. When we get to the end of our life, maybe those are the moments that will stand out the most."



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Erasure succeeds with new sound. Plus: Tori releases best album in years



Erasure, 'Tomorrow's World'

Over 25 years ago, when Erasure came together, Vince Clarke and Andy Bell were on the cutting-edge of the synth-pop music scene. Their songs were, well, today's world. Again, with their 14th album, they're looking ahead, bringing electro-music mastermind Frankmusik's trademark prog-pop (fun fact: the producer was born the same year, 1985, Erasure formed) into the fold of their bittersweet meditations on love, loss and healing. Set opener "Be With You" is a slick charmer, but it's not the only one: "Then I Go Twisting" is a glitchy piece of divine dance that's fantastically liberating, and "Fill Us With Fire" opens with one of Bell's most affecting vocals before bursting into a joyous rush of disco delight. The music itself is inviting, inventive and contemporary, a work that – with Frank's keen sense of synths and modern-day sounds – shows Erasure can keep up with the kids they once inspired. But some things never change, and Bell's heartfelt bellow is, wisely, pulled front and center, singing the hell out of the hook on "When I Start To (Break It All Down)." "A Whole Lotta Love Run Riot," intriguingly taking on a troubled starlet ("We've had it up to here with your strange behavior"), is also ear candy, featuring some French intones and stuttery vocals. Nine songs go by fast, but even briefly, Erasure proves an indelible force decades later. Here's to 25 more years. *Grade: B+*



Tori Amos, 'Night of Hunters'

Big ideas, like a troupe of multiple personalities ("American Doll Posse") or a post-9/11 thesis ("Scarlet's Walk"), have always attracted Tori Amos. But "Night of Hunters" might just be the songstress' most ambitious, taking a conceptual narrative about a woman whose lover leaves her and stretching it over a classically influenced song cycle. The follow-up to her seasonal "Midwinter Graces," Amos' latest could be an extension of it – woodwinds, strings and some of her best piano playing in years are the foundation for the songs, and again her precocious daughter, 10 at the time of recording, offers her enchanting voice. Two of those duets especially stick with you: "SnowBlind," a lilting beauty with a mesmerizing back-and-forth between mother and daughter, and "Job's Coffin," the closest she comes to pop. Fourteen of them, at over 70 minutes of similar-sounding tempos, is overdoing it, considering how "Hunters" is meant to work as a linear account. But this, taken as a whole or in parts, trumps much of the musician's output over the last decade – with spotty releases like "Abnormally Attracted to Sin" – because of its genuine

beauty, instantly feeling like classic Tori. Striking in its intensity, "Shattering Sea" opens with snaggy strings that rip through a frantic piano line, reminiscent of an Amos fan favorite, "Yes, Anastasia." And songs like "Your Ghost" and "Carry," with their lovely purity, conjure up "Winter" and "Baker Baker." It's good to hear Tori back to her old self again. *Grade: B*

Also Out



Tony Bennett, 'Duets II'

For all the great pairings on the crooner's queer affair – just look at the guest list – one especially stands out: the late Amy Winehouse on "Body and Soul," leaving her unmistakable drawl on a lovely track that's a bittersweet send-off. But it isn't the only one worth hearing. Lady Gaga, of course, is spectacularly playful on "The Lady is a Tramp," a refreshing alternative to the pop megastar's dance heavy-hitters. "Blue Velvet" gets lesbian-friendly with k.d. lang's caressing vocals. Mariah Carey soulfully closes out the album with "When Do the Bells Ring for Me" with a lush coo that's one of her most easy-going performances in years. And then, of course, there's Tony himself, who hasn't lost that magic in his voice – even at 85 years old.



Lady Antebellum, 'Own the Night'

One of the most overrated bands in music, Lady Antebellum lucked out by having the only decent song on their last album, "Need You Now," catapult them into pop-country megastars. Maybe, like said song, you have to be drunk to realize how much you love it, because hardly a thing about the band's third album is even the least bit interesting, heartfelt or worthy of the praise they've been given. Songs on "Own the Night" are so annoyingly cloying they belong on a "For My Brokenheart" mix tape, but that's not even the worst of it: The production is blandly vanilla, though the Celtic outro on "Cold as Stone" is a nice touch, and they have less to say about love than Taylor Swift. Next time Lady Antebellum wants to "Own the Night," perhaps they should start with an hour.

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Editor's Picks

Outings

KICK, the agency for LGBT African-Americans, will provide women who identify as lesbian, bisexual or transgender a safe space to discuss woman-specific issues in their Oct. 7 event, Woman 2 Woman.

The event is part of KICK's flagship health and wellness program, Receive and Restore. Through R&R, KICK provides education on numerous issues in the metro community. Twice a year KICK presents different workshops to cover a broad variety of health-related issues. All events are free and open to the adult public.

Woman 2 Woman begins 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Center in Detroit, 41 Burroughs St., Suite 109. Food and beverages will be served at no cost. For more information, go to e-kick.org or call 313-285-9733



Music & More



As a pianist, singer-songwriter and Ann Arbor resident, Vienna Teng's eclectic musical style has earned her a devoted following. Teng's use of indie folk, pop, a capella and classical piano – influenced by her Chinese and Taiwanese descent – creates a unique sound that placed her first two albums on Amazon.com's bestseller list.

Teng has performed on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and NPR, co-headlined with Duncan Sheik and opened for Joan Osborne and Madeleine Peyroux. Her 2009 album "Inland Territory" won her the ninth annual Independent Music Awards Vox Pop for Folk/Singer-Songwriter Album.

Today, Vienna Teng studies sustainable enterprise at the Ross School of Business at University of Michigan. She performs a rare show at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at The Power Center for the Performing Arts at 121 Fletcher St. in

Ann Arbor. For more information, visit theark.org or call 734-764-2538.

Theater

The Farmington Players will present the classic American drama "To Kill a Mockingbird" from Sept. 30-Oct. 22.

Set in Alabama during the Great Depression, "To Kill a Mockingbird" follows the journey of Scout and Jem Finch, whose father has been appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man framed for a crime he didn't commit. As the trial progresses, Scout and Jem witness their community in a tense tug of war between justice and racism.

The character of Atticus Finch is being played by Greg Bowman, the daytime voice of news radio WWJ-950. "I'm honored to be able to bring Atticus to life on stage," said Bowman. "I think we would all like to be like him, a real hero and someone who, as the story says, can be trusted to do the right thing."

For more information on the Farmington Players or to purchase tickets, call 248-553-2955.



OUTINGS

Wednesday, Sep. 28

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**. Angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kgllrc.org

Friday, Sep. 30

KGLRC Wine and Cheese Mixer, 6 p.m. Celebrating a new direction for the KGLRC. Meet new staff members and socialize over snacks and beverages. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kgllrc.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film- Better than Chocolate. Scant hours before her uptight mother and brother move in with her, Maggie meets the woman of her dreams. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Oct. 1

Allies and the Road to Inclusion, 1 p.m. Workshop to explore questions such as "How have our allies been critical in the struggle for the recognition of the equality of people who are transgender, bisexual, lesbian and gay? How can our allies be encouraged to claim their place in this struggle?" Looking at the roles of allies in the movement toward greater inclusion within Christian churches. Panel includes Rev. Matthew Bode, Valerie Brader, Linda and Ryan Haywood, Rev. Ellen Acton and Linda and Tom Karle Nelson. Oasis Ministry Workshop, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-846-3578. jsummers@umich.edu

Anniversary Eucharist and Dinner, 4 p.m. The Rev. Matthew Bode, pastor of Spirit of Hope will preside at this Eucharist, which will use Marty Haugins setting for Evensong that will also include music by The Rev. Lisa Gray. Dinner RSVP: 734-846-3578. Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor**. 734-846-3578. jsummers@umich.edu oasisministrymi.org

Sunday, Oct. 2

GOAL Book Club, 4 p.m. October's book choice: "Moo" by Jane Smiley. GOAL, 515 S Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Getoutandlive.me

Conversation Station, 5 p.m. Topic: Should a child under 18 be allowed to take hormones in preparation for a physical gender change? With or without parental permission? RSVP so seating can be reserved. Jimi's Restaurant & Banquet Center, 714 S Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarcilWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

HARC provided HIV/AIDS testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734 678-2478. Hivaidresource.org/hiv-testing

Tantric Energy Touch Workshop, 6 p.m. Leslie Blackburn led workshop-guiding exploration of energy through breath, sound, touch and movement. Women, men, singles or couples of any sexual and gender identity are welcome and encouraged. Registration: \$30 for individuals, \$50 for couples. Mystery School of the Temple Arts. Location details upon registration, **Dearborn**. 313-269-6719. MysterySchooloftheTempleArts.com

Monday, Oct. 3

Just Because I Am, 6 p.m. This film follows the inspirational journey of an LGBT youth group led by an enthusiastic gay mentor who together gives a response to homophobia by creating a performance on love, respect and tolerance. Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Avenue, **Ann Arbor**. 734-327-4200. Pescadorarte@gmail.com aabl.org/events/list/0/4

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Gene Robinson Lecture, 3:30 p.m. Openly gay bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire speaks to the LGBT and allied community. Food and refreshments included in reception. A suggested donation of \$20 dollars is asked for at the reception, all of which will fund the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit. University of Michigan - Dearborn's Gender & Sexuality Alliance, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. 734-776-8104. Benjenkamin@gmail.com tinyurl.com/BishopRobinson

Gene Robinson Reception to aid Ruth Ellis Center, 6 p.m. Bishop Robinson and Laura Hughes attend a fundraising reception for the Ruth Ellis Center hosted by the University of Michigan - Dearborn. Food and beverages will be served in addition to a silent auction for REC. A suggested donation of \$20 is asked for at the door, all of which will fund the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit. University of Michigan - Dearborn's Gender & Sexuality Alliance, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. 734-776-8104 benjenkamin@gmail.com tinyurl.com/BishopRobinson

Thursday, Oct. 6

Euchre Tournament, 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw County's original GLBT chorus. \$10 entry, cash prizes. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 South Industrial Hwy, **Ann Arbor**. 734-973-6084. Outloudchorus@gmail.com olconline.org

Friday, Oct. 7

Riot Youth Weekly Meeting, 4 p.m. Riot Youth is a youth-led, safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning youth and their allies (LGBTQQA) at the Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor's youth-driven teen center. Through leadership skill building, community organizing, networking, support and socializing, Riot Youth connects youth to build an inclusive community. Meets every Friday. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-214-9995. Neutral-zong.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Funny Ladies of British Comedy. This homage to the wittiest and most hilarious female British entertainers to have graced both the big and small screens. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

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

Saturday, Oct. 8

Motor City Bears, 7 p.m. Social group for metro area bears. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Oct. 9

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

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Greater Downtown Districts and Paxahau Event Productions "Detroit Restaurant Week" Participating

restaurants will offer special three-course dinners throughout the week at a discounted price of \$28 per person. The \$28 price does not include drinks, tax or gratuity. Various Locations, Detroit. Sep. 23 - Oct. 2. detroitrestaurantweek.org

CLASSICAL

Michigan Philharmonic "The Red Violin" Tchaikovsky's youthful Symphony No. 2 along with the movie music favorite, "The Red Violin" with violinist Anicka Skalova. Individual Concert tickets: \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10 student. Full subscriptions available online. Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8. 734-451-2112. Michiganphil.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Symphony Fantastique" Starts with Rossini's galloping William Tell Overture, as well as the North American premiere of the Fred A. & Barbara M. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair Michel Camilo's new piano concerto, with the composer and Detroit favorite at the piano. North American Premiere. Tickets: \$15+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 8 - Oct. 9. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mondays at the Max with Wayne State: University Orchestra" In cooperation with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Wayne State University Department of Music presents Mondays at the Max with Wayne State, a new concert series featuring premiere Wayne State student ensembles at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 10 - Dec. 12. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

COMEDY

Olympia Entertainment Chris Tucker, comedic timing genius and signature voice, Chris Tucker hits Detroit during his 20 date stand-up tour. Tickets: \$45.50-75.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Palace Frank Caliendo Comedian/Impressionist Frank Caliendo. Tickets: \$29.50-49.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

CONCERTS

Ferndale Public Library "The Capital Street Basement Musicians and Urban Prairie" Free concert as part of Ferndale Public Library's First Stop Friday. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 5:30 p.m. Oct. 7. 248-547-6008. Facebook.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Explosions in the Sky" With Wye Oak. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Beirut" Tickets: \$25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Oct. 11. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark Vienna Teng The San Jose Mercury News likened Vienna Teng to "a child of Chopin and Sarah McLachlan," and she took her first name in adulthood as an homage to the city of Mozart and Beethoven. Tickets: \$30. Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark Jackie Greene Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Oct. 8 - Oct. 9. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Asleep at the Wheel" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. July 21 - Sep. 28. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Orchestra Hall Community Concert" Free to the public. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3 p.m. Oct. 2. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

The Palace Enrique Iglesias with special guest Pitbull and Prince Royce. Tickets: \$19.50-89.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7 p.m. Sep. 30. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

See Music, page 23

Unlocking the past; unlocking the future

BY JOHN QUINN

Whatever happened to Blanche Dubois, the tragic central character of "A Streetcar Named Desire?" In the last scene, she is led away to an "institution," uttering one of the saddest farewells in theater, "Whoever you are, I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." Yet is her story ended?

Playwright Barbara Neri says no. Her latest work, "Unlocking Desire," is a centennial birthday card for one of the greats of the American theater, Tennessee Williams.

With few exceptions, Williams' heroines are damaged, fragile women. If you're only familiar with "Streetcar" from the 1951 film, then you've missed the essence of Blanche Dubois. Hays Office censorship eliminated uncomfortable sexual references. To recap: At 16, Blanche eloped with the equally young Alan Grey. Finding him in a compromising position with another man, she denounces him. The humiliated Alan commits suicide, driving Blanche over the edge. She's already unstable before showing up at her sister's home in New Orleans, only to be eventually raped by her brother-in-law.

"Unlocking Desire" opens with Blanche's arrival at the Louisiana Retreat, where her steamer trunk is unceremoniously raided by her fellow "guests." There's Hank (Sean Rodriguez), the army veteran dealing with post traumatic distress, and the effeminate Raoul (Eric Niece), who's been locked away to "straighten out." There too are Ozzie (Madelyn Porter), Jim (J. Michael Morgan), Rose (Kirsten Wagner) and Violante (Yolonda Perez). All are slightly off-balance, yet not bad enough to commit to the insane asylum.

Neri knows how to keep an audience on its toes. Just when one has settled in and assumes, given several references to Dante, that Blanche is experiencing Purgatorio



Barbara Neri's "Unlocking Desire" continues at the Marlene Boll Theater through Oct. 8. Photo: Charles Toeppe

REVIEW

Unlocking Desire'

Khoros Inc. at Marlene Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Friday-Sunday through Oct. 8, plus Thursday, Oct. 6. \$20.

www.unlockingdesire.com

on earth, she flips the plot in a new and surprising direction. Saying more would spoil one of the most remarkable twists we're likely to encounter.

Structurally, the second act is stronger than the first. Exposition and character development take time, but here there are drags in the tempo. It is especially noticeable when actions in silence aren't enough to hold our attention.

Neri returns often to the metaphor of mirrors showing both truth and illusion. This theme carries over into the setting. The wall drapes of the Marlene Boll Theater are swept back, exchanging the cozy "black box" for bleak cinder block and gray steel doors. The stark space is used to full advantage by scenic designer Elisa

Limberg's fluid set—movable walls of wide spaced wooden slats. The scene changes are done in "blue light" convention, but they're so watchable one wonders if changes don't merit full lighting.

The play contains a multi-media show of video and still photography by Alliva Zivich, including interesting views of the actual Louisiana Retreat and derelict plantation houses. While they clearly define past and present, the script is excellent at doing that without any help.

The cast is excellent, but Linda Rabin Hammell is a standout. Blanche is a multi-layered character whether penned by Williams or by Neri, and director John Jakery has allowed Hammell to explore her depths. At first glance, the Blanche of "Streetcar" is not the Blanche we meet in "Unlocking Desire." Here she seems remarkably resilient. Yet as the plot progresses, the facets paradoxically merge.

"Unlocking Desire" is a study of sin and forgiveness, of guilt and redemption. Ultimately, though, its strongest message may have been voiced by my favorite philosopher, Yogi Berra. In story, as in life, "It ain't over till it's over."

'East meet West' as Hilberry opens

BY JOHN QUINN

There are many film tributes to life in the theater. There are fewer tributes from theater to film. Thus the musical homage to the golden age of cinema, "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine," is a rare, witty treat. With words by Dick Vosburgh and music by Frank Lazarus, the show began its Broadway run in 1980, garnering Tommy Tune the Tony Award for Best Choreography.

It's appropriate that the musical is a double feature—two largely unrelated one acts. "A Day in Hollywood" is a musical review of memorable songs from the Golden Age of motion pictures, plus some original pastiche numbers. The ensemble, clad in the traditional white gloves and pillbox hats of the cinema usher, perform before a representation of the iconic Grauman's (now Mann's) Chinese Theatre.

Since "Hollywood/Ukraine" is only the fourth musical that the Hilberry has presented in its regular season, one might

REVIEW

A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Thursday-Saturday through Oct. 15, plus Wednesday, Oct. 5. \$12-30. 313-577-6798

www.wsushows.com

forget that members of the company could be singing/dancing/acting triple threats. The fact that the performances are by and large on the money is due to the coaching of choreographer Jill Dion and the formidable Jeremy Ryan Mossman, the musical director, who one-ups "triple threat" and adds piano accompanist to the list. We can hear every word of the lyrics due to a top class sound design by Becky Garcia.

Act II, "A Night in the Ukraine" is a loose—VERY loose—adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Bear" as it

might have been committed by film by the Marx Brothers. The book is zany and very funny. While the non-stop gags are almost all original, they're certainly firmly rooted in Marx Brothers tradition. The lyrics, too, are all for laughs; they parody the sometimes insipid rhyme schemes and maudlin sentimentality cranked out during the '30s. The plot is likewise boiler plate: ingenues who fall in love at first sight; a rich, long-suffering widow; an absolute lunatic of a skirt-chasing mime; a snarky shyster lawyer; and, of course, a fast-talking Italian. In the spirit of satire, "Ukraine" is even more over-the-top than a Marx Brothers' movie would be, as it crams all the groaners of a 92-minute film into a one-act play.

Director Michael J. Barnes has kept his ship of fools on an even keel. It looks like the Hilberry is starting off on a successful voyage this season.

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

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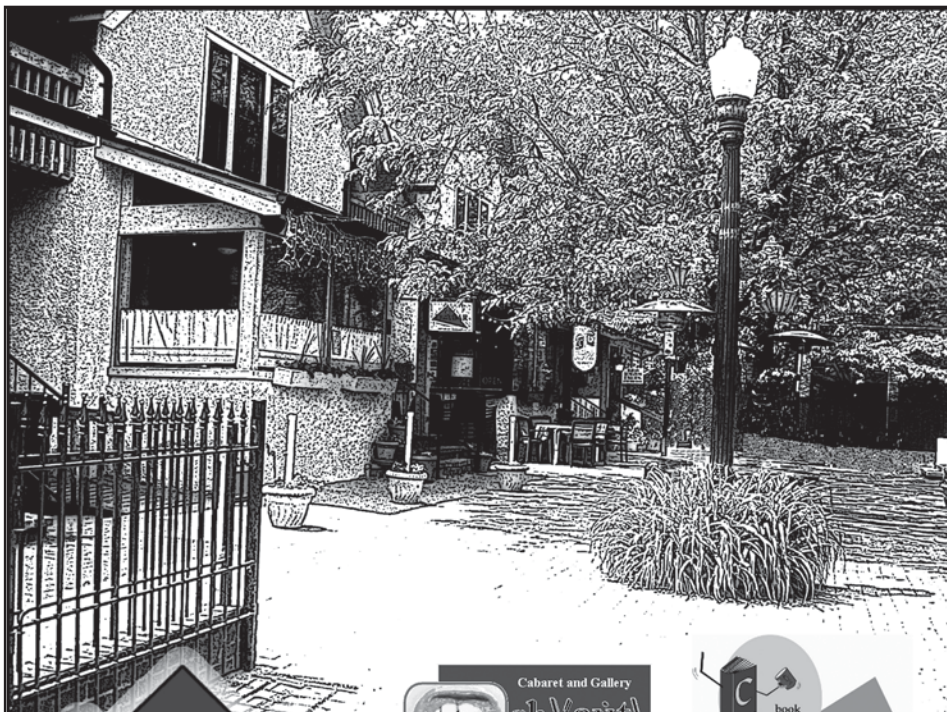
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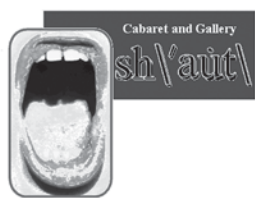
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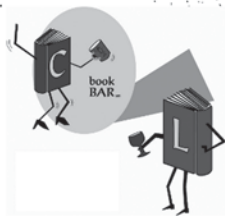
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From Stork to Finish



BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

My bipolar problem

Q. First, let me start by saying that I'm 36 years old; not a spring chicken as my mother would say. I came out as lesbian when I was 17 years old, so I've been around. Actually, that's part of the problem, I've been around and around and around in relationships. I'm tired of it. I want to find a permanent relationship with the love of my life – surely she's out there, somewhere.

I've had many relationships but never one that lasted more than three years – actually, not sure any got to three years. Having gone through so many relationships, I'm beginning to feel that maybe there is no special person for me, just serial relationships that break up badly. (This is my pessimistic fear that usually overrides my more hopeful moments.)

Probably my biggest problem in relationships is that I have bipolar disease. I know that this has been hard on my partners because I can be very high energy, or down in the dumps. It's just something my partner has to deal with, but then so do I. It's not fun. Well, actually, the highs are great, and I get lots of things done and am very creative during these times. On the other hand, the dumps are something else. I can spend days in bed, feeling worthless, having morbid thoughts, often feeling suicidal, and am very non-communicative. Sometimes I end up in the hospital, but not all that often. Doesn't everyone end up in the hospital now and then? So my illness is bipolar disease, whereas someone else might have diabetes or another physical ailment. I wouldn't be upset, or rejecting of someone else because of her disease.

I know that my ups and downs can be hard to deal with, but I have to say that when I'm up, I'm lots of fun. I love to party and people say that I'm a blast to be with.

My last partner "Gail" said that it was just too much for her to deal with – some of my other girlfriends said that too. Gail kicked me out of her house in the middle of the night! I really didn't believe she would do that, because I was in the middle of putting on an additional room to her house, and I was working all night in order to get the work done. You'd think she'd appreciate that! I wanted to get it done while I was up and had the energy to finish the project.

Shouldn't my up time compensate for my

down time? I mean, I don't expect a partner to be perfect, so why do my exes think I should be perfect? How do I find someone who understands this concept? What am I missing here?

Stuck in Serial Relationships

A. Probably your meds. Either you're meds aren't working and you need to have them adjusted, or you are not on them – I'm guessing the latter. Since you know your diagnosis and have been in the hospital for your disease, you know that you should be on meds for this condition. I understand that the meds interfere with your highs, and that is undoubtedly why you might not want to take them; however, it also helps keep you from sinking into your lows. In another words, it mellows you out on both ends of your mood extremes.

Relationships don't do well with one member having extreme mood shifts; and, these mood swings can be mitigated. In a manic stage, friends at a party might find you fun, but it is a whole different experience for a partner of someone in a manic stage, let alone the difficulties of living with severe depression.

You mentioned that you'd put up with someone having diabetes, but would you want to deal with that person if she didn't take care of herself, watch her food intake and take her medication? Wouldn't you get tired of dealing with the needless drama around her ending up in the hospital because of her not doing what she needed to do?

You have a choice: Stay off your meds so you can have your highs, or take your meds so you can have a relationship.

Want to learn more about bipolar disease, go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.

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

**Naked Men's
YOGA**



Meets in Ann Arbor

TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

**Contact Dave at massage4@aol.com
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)**

BTL

**Be included in
October 13th
Annual Auto Guide**

**Call
734-293-7200 x22**

Exercise, Taurus!

BY JACK FERTIG

Fresh into Libra, the Sun and Mercury stimulate friendly conversation but they're opposite Uranus and squaring Pluto; any dialogue can turn fiercely argumentative or deliciously wicked. Either way, secrets will be revealed!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Accepting invitations to fun will cause almost as much trouble as refusing them would. Adventure and drama are inevitable, so embrace them consciously with eyes open or they will sneak up on you. Be bold, not reckless!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Don't let work stress you out. Exercise – especially with a pal – is a good way to shake off the tension. Redistributing the workload among your co-workers can help. Staying focused on the goal is important, but don't obsess on it!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Make the most of your creative spurt. Your efforts to include friends will probably just annoy them. Relax. Let them be the audience when you're done. If you do find a good collaborator, though, it could become more than a working relationship.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Make new contacts in your community. You may be surprised to discover how well known and regarded you are already. Those new connections could prove especially helpful in your career. When in doubt, stay close to home.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Some things just need to be said and sometimes feathers have to be ruffled. Be tactful, but also be ready to deal with the fact that someone will be upset, and he or she will just have to hear it and adapt.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Be careful whom you contract with in any financial undertakings. It could work out brilliantly, but is more likely to be a disaster; little chance for in between. Sexual explorations can improve your partnership or help you start one.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Getting older beats the hell out of the alternative. The trick is to celebrate maturity, not to try hiding your age. Staying active and fit is one thing; holding on to your adolescence is another.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your energy is high, perhaps hard to control. Worrying about that can turn it into nervous aggravation, making yourself sick. Stay focused on getting ahead, putting one foot in front of the other. Staying where you're visible will help you stay on purpose.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): If arguments with friends leave you feeling irritated, it's usually because they're right. Be big enough to admit it. You're in too much demand now to be in a cranky sulk. What you learn can prove helpful at work.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Rewards for your accomplishments are likely to be more spiritual than remunerative. If that disappoints you, take it in stride. Remember, you're always being seen and your attitude is the key to further success.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): If you can't stay out of arguments, remember that charm can be more persuasive than facts. That doesn't mean you have to compromise your integrity, but you may want to adjust your attitude. Especially with the one you love, remember to be kind.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Trying to settle or change outstanding debts should wait. Focus more on your sex life. What do you really want? Are you taking full responsibility? Partnered: A long heart-to-heart talk is in order. Single: An adventure can open up amazing new possibilities.

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

For expanded listings & to add a listing, visit www.pridesource.com

► Music

Continued from p. 20

University Musical Society "The Infernal Comedy: Confessions of a Serial Killer" Theatrical opera, Malkovich, a 40-piece chamber orchestra and two sopranos tell the real-life story of Jack Unterweger, a convicted murderer and acclaimed prison poet. Ticket information available at ums.org. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 734-764-2538. ums.org

University Musical Society "Yuja Wang" Chinese pianist widely recognized for playing that combines the spontaneity and fearless imagination of youth with the discipline and precision of a mature artist. Ticket information available at ums.org. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Oct. 9. 734-764-2538. ums.org

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Film Theatre "Mozart's Sister" Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 30. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Beginners" Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer in a young man's budding romance reminds him of the tumultuous life of his recently deceased gay father. Tickets: \$6-4. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 30 - Oct. 2. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Action and Actor's Nightmare \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 23 - Oct. 2. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

All Shook Up \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 2. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

August: Osage County \$18. Redbud Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Oct. 6 - 9. 734-663-7167.

Blackbird \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Chrome Cat Building, 226 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. Through Oct. 1. 517-372-0945. peppermintcreek.org

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

Leading Ladies \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Oct. 2. 517-529-4932. centerstagejackson.org

Meet Me in St. Louis \$25, \$18 in

advance. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Through Oct. 9. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org

Terra Nova \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Oct. 7 - 15. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

To Kill a Mockingbird \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Sep. 30 - Oct. 22. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Blithe Spirit \$20. The University Theatre of WMU at Williams Theatre, Gilmore Theatre Complex, Kalamazoo. Oct. 6 - 16. 269-387-6222. wmuthetheatre.com

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot \$20. WMU Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 2. 269-387-3227. wmuthetheatre.com

What Happened: The September 11 Testimony Project & Return to the Upright Position \$10. MSU Dept. of Theatre at Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium Bldg., East Lansing. Through Oct. 1. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu

PROFESSIONAL

Beehive: The 60s Musical Sensation \$15-\$20; \$49.95-\$59.95 dinner & show packages per couple. HappenStance Productions at Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Oct. 9. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

Come Fly Away \$27.50 and up. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Oct. 4 - 9. 800-745-3000. broadwaygrandrapids.com

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

Escanaba in da Moonlight Previews Sept. 28-29 (\$20-\$30). \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Sep. 22 - Dec. 17. 734-433-7782. purplerosetheatre.org

Evil Dead: The Musical \$25. Who Wants Cake? at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 7 - 29. 800-745-3000. whowantscaketheatre.com

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

Hustle and Love \$20. Necwerk Productions, Wayne State Community Arts Auditorium, 450 Reuther Mall, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 313-872-0220. necwerkproductions.com

Improv at the Point \$15. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. 7 p.m. Oct. 2. 248-347-0003.

tippingpointtheatre.com

Jersey Boys \$35 and up. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Sep. 28 - Oct. 16. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

Love Song \$16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Oct. 8. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

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

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

Something Wicked This Way Comes Previews Oct. 5-7 (\$24-\$30). \$30-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Oct. 5 - 29. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

The Dead Guy Previews Sept. 29-30 & Oct. 1, 2 & 6 (\$15). \$25 Fridays and Saturdays, \$22 Saturday matinees, \$22 Thursday matinees and evenings. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Sep. 29 - Oct. 30. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

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

The Spew \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Turning Points \$18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 7 - 29. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Unlocking Desire \$20. Khoros Inc., Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Sep. 23 - Oct. 8. unlockingdesire.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Annual All Media Exhibition" 89th annual juried exhibition has provided many opportunities for both established and emerging artists throughout the state of Michigan. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 2-Oct. 2. 734-995-8004. annborartcenter.org

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

7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Flint Institute of Arts "Quilting Traditions: The Art of the Amish" Amish women's traditional quilts assembled by collectors Marsha and Thomas French. Examples are from the Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana from the 19th to mid-20th century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 9-Nov. 13. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "All Dubrovich Invitational" Features the works of FIA Art School faculty member, Alla Dubrovich and her students in the Bishop Gallery. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 19-Oct. 16. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Hand-Craft "Hand-Crafted Photography's Opening Reception" Opening reception for Anne Storm Van Leeuwen, Eric Law and Candace Law's "Hand-Crafted Photography." Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. 6 p.m. Oct. 7. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

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

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. Sep. 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. Sep. 1-Sep. 30. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

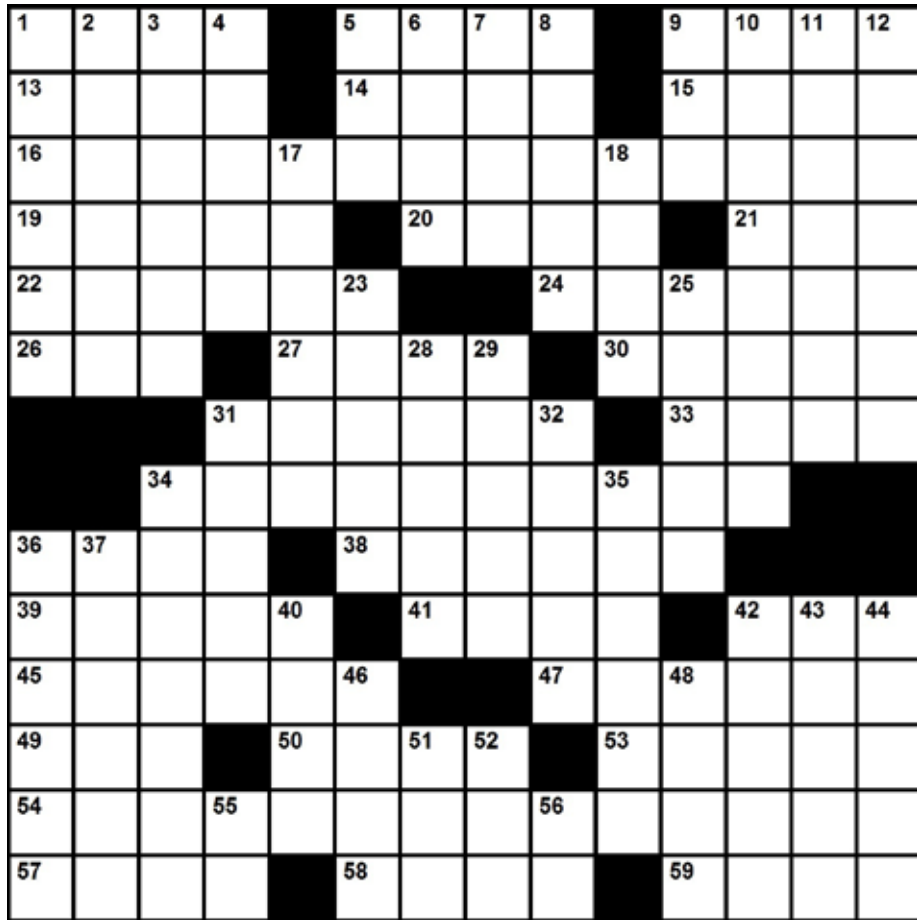
Swords and Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery "Beyond the Wall: Images of Israel-Palestine" Barbara Barefield member of JVP and an organizer of the exhibition, expresses the hope that "this exhibition may bring the realities of this tragic conflict to the attention of our Jewish community and all metro Detroiters." Detroit's Central United Methodist Church, 33 E. Adams Avenue, Detroit. Sep. 24-Nov. 5. 313-963-7575. Jvpdetroit.blogspot.com

The Gallery Project "Umwelt (Subjective World)" Multimedia exhibit in which over 20 local, regional, and national artists and scientists explore the unique sensory worlds of animals. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 23-Oct. 30. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

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Is Plutonium Far From Uranus

Across

- 1 It's for Colette
- 5 Make an emotional discharge
- 9 Bone separator in the back
- 13 Italian wine region
- 14 Soprano Gluck
- 15 Initial stake
- 16 Hetero
- 19 Sticker on a rose
- 20 Voyeur's confession
- 21 Country lodging
- 22 Do over
- 24 Erection, in slang
- 26 Rough stuff underground
- 27 Larry Kramer, to Yale
- 30 Get on your knees
- 31 Made amends (for)
- 33 Misses the mark
- 34 Homophobic example of 16-Across
- 36 Govt. agent

Down

- 38 "Will & Grace" or "Ellen"
- 39 Pinker, to meat-eaters
- 41 Chemist's condiment
- 42 High arcing shot
- 45 It protects one of your balls
- 47 Activity before shooting off your gun
- 49 Use 46-Down
- 50 Unmixed, to a mixologist
- 53 Singer Reagon
- 54 A 16-Across like
- 34-Across, to a nuclear physicist?
- 57 Composer Edouard
- 58 Historic Stonewall event
- 59 "Damn it!"
- 60 Julia Morgan wings
- 61 Avoids family cooking, with "out"
- 62 Added stipulations
- 1 Street in San Francisco
- 2 "Cherry Grove, Fire Island" author Newton
- 3 Worked hard
- 4 Queen topper
- 5 Tomlin or Cho
- 6 Of grades 1-12
- 7 They're trained to use paddles
- 8 Melonlike fruit
- 9 Women's patriotic org.
- 10 Tops, to bottoms?
- 11 More testicular?
- 12 Where bitches hang out
- 17 "Jailhouse Rock" singer?
- 18 Creature in a "Star Wars" sequel
- 23 Walks with weariness
- 25 Latish lunch hour
- 28 Remove, as a nametag
- 29 Orchestral conductor Zubin
- 31 Synthetic fiber brand
- 32 Company that recorded "Over the Rainbow"
- 34 "So Long, ___" ("The Sound of Music")
- 35 Jeremy Irons flick of 1997
- 36 React like a nervous Nelly
- 37 Like Harvey Milk to 1-Down
- 40 It keeps a fruit from being exposed
- 42 Prick up one's ears
- 43 Being cheated at phone sex?
- 44 Bar companions
- 46 It can cut leaves of grass
- 48 Starbuck's order
- 51 Opera queen's delight
- 52 Brisk pace
- 55 Canon camera
- 56 Heteros, on PlanetOut?

Solution on 25

Pet of the Week



Meeet Emma! A 5-year-old Terrier mix, this gentle girl is sweeter than sugar! She is fully grown, weighing 38 pounds. Emma has a great personality and loves to play. Come meet her today! The adoption fee includes sterilization surgery, 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, 13393115. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.



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www.pattersondogandcat.com

bitter girl

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**101-ANNOUNCEMENTS
LGBT AA MEETINGS**

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday /

Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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Historic Home in Fenton

This lovely historic home in Fenton is on 4 wooded lots with perennial beds in the historic Dibbleville neighborhood and has been featured in years past on the home tour. This home has many special features including five bedrooms, two full baths including one with a claw footed tub, a tin ceiling in the kitchen, a front and back stairway, a screened porch, and two fireplaces. There have been a number of recent updates including a new roof. Open house in on Sunday 9/25 from 12:00-3:00 pm. This home is located at 813 State Road in Fenton. The home is priced exceptionally reasonably at \$149,900. For a virtual tour please go to www.randyheany.com click on featured listings. For further information please contact Randy Heany at Real Estate One (810)629-3900 or (810)444-0165.

**205 REAL ESTATE -
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Between THE Lines™

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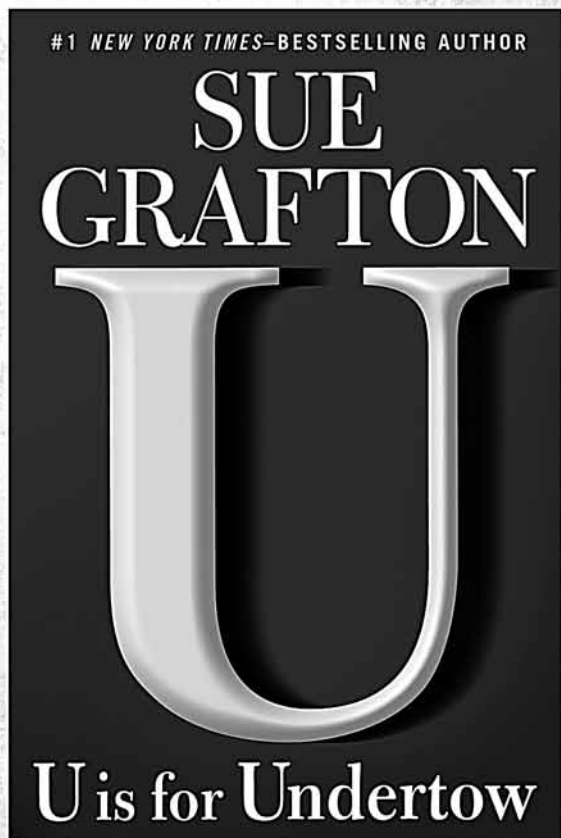
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Solution to puzzle from page 24

C	E	S	T		W	E	E	P		D	I	S	K
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GLBT BOOK CLUB



Book
U IS FOR UNDERTOW
by Sue Grafton

Time
Tuesday Oct. 18th from 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Location
Warrilow's
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Created By
MCC Detroit

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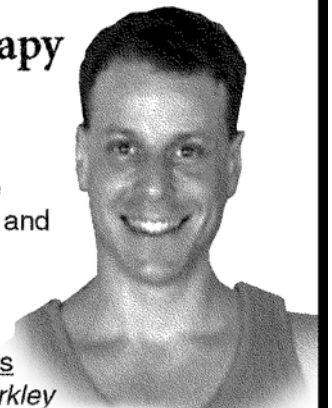


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BTH Deep Inside Hollywood



Kim Cattrall. Photo: Guy Ferrandis/Summit Entertainment

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Dirty Dancing' partner: Maria Maggenti

For now, let's put aside the fact that a "Dirty Dancing" remake is even happening at all. If you're upset about it you can just refuse to see it. It's a perfect response to Hollywood's hollow remake mindset. But curious queer audiences will find this behind-the-camera news of interest: the reboot's script will come from bisexual writer-director Maria Maggenti ("The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls In Love," "Puccini for Beginners") and "High School Musical" director Kenny Ortega. In other words, a woman will be writing a movie about a young woman and that's good news even if it's in the service of a remake nobody asked for. And who better to make everything bright and colorful for the young audience this movie desperately seeks than the man who turned a nation of Disney Channel-addicted children into song-and-dance fans? Who knows, when it finally opens you might wind up having the time of your life.

Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall head for Broadway

From man-eating Samantha on "Sex and the City" to a revival of "Private Lives," that's what Kim Cattrall will be doing over Thanksgiving when she hits Broadway in that Noel Coward comedy (infamous for its line: "Certain women should be struck regularly like gongs"). It's set to begin previews on Nov. 6 for a Nov. 17 opening at the Music Box Theater. And she's not the only "SatC" alum working for it in front of a live audience. Cynthia Nixon (who's always doing a play, it seems) will star in the Broadway revival of the humorous-yet-harrowing 1998 cancer drama "Wit." That one opens in previews Jan. 5, 2012 for a Jan. 26 open at the Samuel J. Friedman. A couple of questions, though: Will the U.K.-born Cattrall do another British accent like in Roman Polanski's film "The Ghost Writer"? And more exciting to think about, will Nixon shave her head for her own role like Kathleen Chalfant did in its original run? You know it would be cool if she did.

Diana Vreeland documentary first sale at Toronto

She's never been a household name, but in the fashion world Diana Vreeland was a legend. And her trademark individualistic style and bigger-than-big personality has made the grande dame of all "Vogue" editors an enduring subject of affectionate fascination with fashion fans, even more so than "The Devil Wears Prada" inspiration Anna Wintour. So it's appropriate that a new documentary about Mrs. Vreeland, "Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has To Travel," was the first film bought at The Toronto International Film Festival for American distribution. Samuel Goldwyn will put out the movie theatrically in about 20 major and medium-sized markets before a wider DVD release. Advice to anyone who hits the arthouse theater in their town on opening weekend: dress up for it or the lady's ghost will enact some kind of style vengeance you don't want to deal with.

'Allen Gregory': Are you ready for the gay Bart Simpson?

Considering that even Fox's newest animated sitcoms are all rolling on toward the 10th-season mark and "The Simpsons" will most likely soon overtake "Gunsmoke" as the longest-running primetime show ever, it's time for some fresh blood. Enter "Allen Gregory," an animated series from creator Jonah Hill ("Superbad"). A snobby (and presumably heterosexual, considering the crush he displays on his school's female principal) 7-year-old, Allen Gregory is an extremely precocious child being raised by two gay dads. He's the kind of worldly sort who shows up at his new school with sushi in a Louis Vuitton lunch box and looks down his nose at everyone, including his teachers. Voiced by Hill with a condescending tone and biting wit, it's the kind of show sure to win over Fox's devoted animation-block fans and drive pop culture's anti-gay faction over the edge. Good. It debuts Oct. 30. Fire up those DVRs.

Romeo San Vicente thinks sushi is fine but would prefer a Double-Double from In-N-Out Burger. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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