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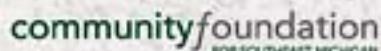
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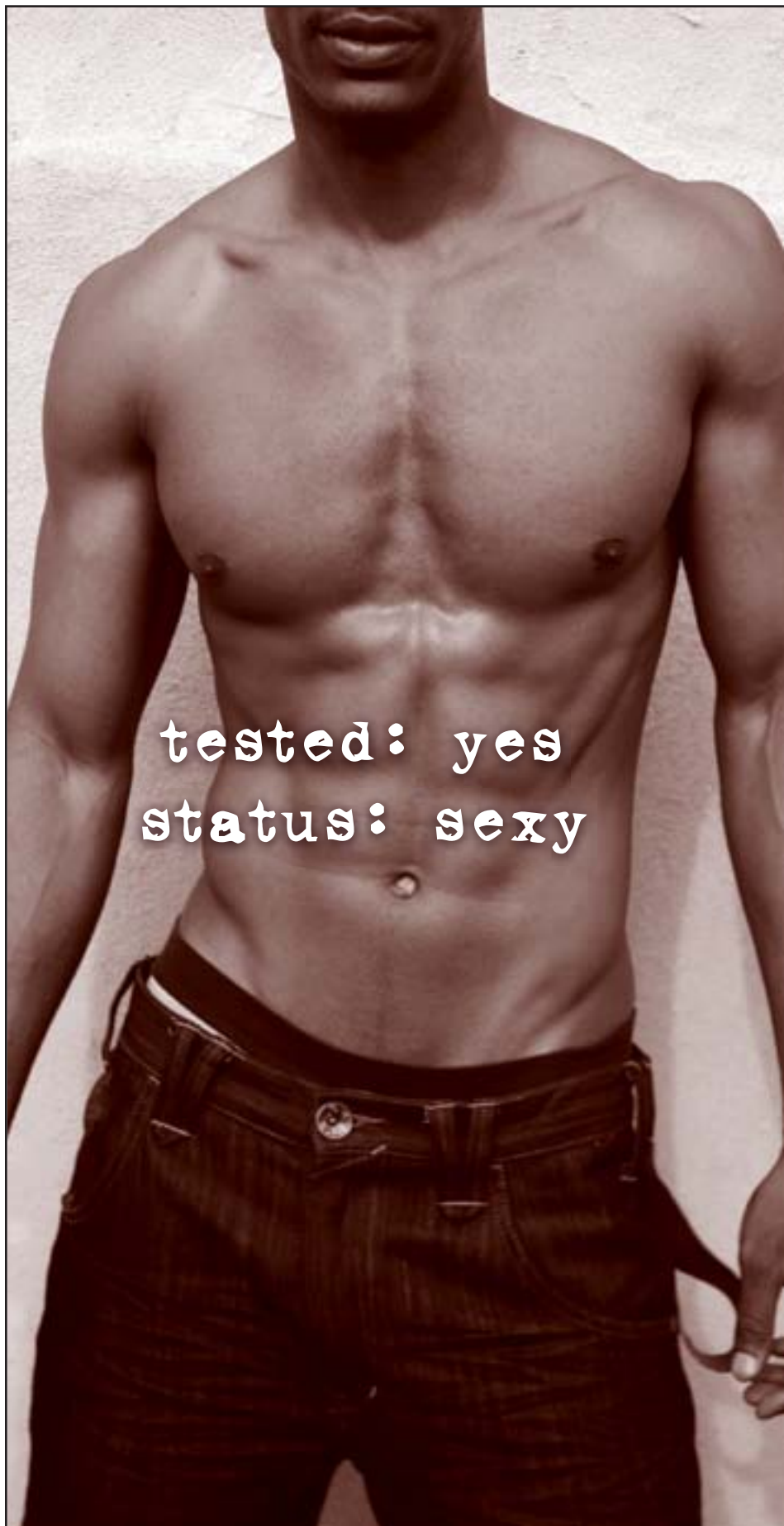
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Singer talks equality, motherhood – and clears up “gay” ex-hubby rumors  
*Photography by Brian Higbee*

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## Shirvell sues Chris Armstrong's attorney over his firing

BY JAN STEVENSON

ANN ARBOR— In a bizarre twist, the former Michigan assistant attorney general who stalked and harassed a gay University of Michigan student, filed a lawsuit in federal court against the student's lawyer.

Andrew Shirvell filed a suit Oct. 26 in U.S. District Court against Deborah Gordon, the Bloomfield Hills attorney who represents Christopher Armstrong, the former UofM student body president. Armstrong was the object of Shirvell's blog "Chris Armstrong Watch," on which Shirvell described Armstrong as "a radical homosexual activist, racist, elitist and liar." Armstrong said that Shirvell contacted his friends, showed up at his public appearances and insulted his family and friends on the blog.

Shirvell was fired for using state resources for his campaign against Armstrong and for lying to investigators during his disciplinary hearing, Attorney General Mike Cox said last November.

In this latest lawsuit (Shirvell has also sued Chris Armstrong), Shirvell claims that Gordon interfered with the internal investigation that led to his firing last fall, and that she has repeatedly made false and malicious public statements against him.

"As a direct and proximate result" of Gordon's actions, Shirvell said in court filings, the Attorney General's Office "improperly fired" him.



Andrew Shirvell protesting Chris Armstrong in Spring 2010.

"It's literally crazy," Gordon told the Detroit News. "He can't accept the fact that Mike Cox's office fired him for wrongdoing. He can't deal with that. Instead he says it's me."

Shirvell received national attention for his fixation on Anderson, particularly after going onto CNN's Anderson Cooper Show and trying to justify his stalking of the student. Cooper repeatedly tried to get Shirvell to explain why it was appropriate for a lawyer from the state's attorney general office to harass an 18 year old college student. Shirvell tried to argue that he was only exercising his First Amendment right of free speech.

Shirvell, now a resident of the state of New York, is seeking damages of up to \$75,000 from Gordon.

# ACLU dinner honors LGBT project milestone

## Honorees raise visibility, dollars for equality battles

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Change can only occur if people speak out and encourage others to do the same.

People like Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens, Stacey Cassis and Dr. Arianna Morales, Howard Israel and Henry Grix have used every opportunity presented them to speak out, take a stand and make a difference.

That's why the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan will honor these couples for their leadership as they commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project during its 2011 Annual Dinner on Nov 5.

The milestone event, held at The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn, will also honor law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, for their long-standing commitment to pro bono work. The keynote speaker is professor, pundit and author Melissa Harris-Perry, a frequent contributor to MSNBC and guest host of The Rachel Maddow Show.

"Each of the people who we are recognizing has contributed in a very unique and special way. The common factor is that they have supported the program from the outset and valued the ACLU's commitment to LGBT rights and the unique role that it plays in securing rights. We love that these honorees represent an incredible array of professions - university president, interior designer, financial manager, engineer, lawyer, and activist," says Kary Moss, ACLU of Michigan executive director.

This recognition is appreciated by activist Israel and his partner, Grix, an estate planning and probate attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC.

"One teaches by leading and people learn by watching other people. There are a lot of people doing incredible work in the LGBT community who are not being recognized. It's easy for us to write a check, but so many deserve the spotlight and we accept this honor on behalf of all the brave and courageous people rolling up their sleeves to do the hard work that we can't do," said Israel.

For almost 30 years, Israel has helped to raise visibility and funds for a variety of local and national LGBT organizations including Affirmations Gay and Lesbian Community Center, the HOPE Fund and its Racial Equity Initiative, Lambda Legal Defense & Education

Fund and the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition, to name a few.

"We are proud and feel very strongly about the project," Israel said. "Kary is an asset with foresight and fortitude. She has devoted so much time and energy to aid the LGBT community. The ACLU is so steadfastly on our side and the fact that she's keeping this going is what motivates our involvement across the board in all of the LGBT community organizations."

They agree the community has come a long way from 1966 when the ACLU of Michigan formed its first committee to fight for the rights of lesbians and gay men. The mission of the committee was to combat undercover sex sting operations, raids on downtown Detroit gay bars and rampant employment discrimination. Even after the committee dissolved, the ACLU of Michigan continued to fight for full civil rights and equality for LGBT people in the state.

When Moss joined the ACLU of Michigan in 1998, the climate for the LGBT community was strikingly similar to when the first committee formed 32 years prior. No legal protections existed to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, police stings were routine, second parent adoptions are at risk and Proposal 2, Michigan's anti-marriage amendment, looms on the horizon. Hearing the call from community members and allied organizations, the ACLU of Michigan launched its LGBT Project in 2001 with ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project staff attorney Jay Kaplan at the helm.

"I am most grateful to be able to work for the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project," said Kaplan. "Over a period of 10 years, I believe that the LGBT community recognizes our program as the legal arm for Michigan's LGBT community - to challenge discriminatory practices and policies that deny LGBT people their fundamental constitutional rights, to



Top: Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens. Middle: Stacy Cassis and Dr. Arianna Morales. Bottom: Henry Grix and Howard Israel.

educate our leaders and the public regarding the inequalities that LGBT people face, and to work in coalition with other organizations to change policies and practices."

This is one of the many reasons Cassis, assistant vice-president, senior financial advisor, The Spickler Group, Merrill Lynch, and her partner, Dr. Morales, staff research scientist at General Motors R&D Center, commit themselves to the work of the ACLU

### Save The Date

The ACLU annual dinner will begin at The Henry Ford Museum at 6:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org).

See ACLU, page 7



We love that these honorees represent an incredible array of professions - university president, interior designer, financial manager, engineer, lawyer, and activist."

—Kary Moss,

ACLU of Michigan executive director.

► **ACLU**

Continued from p. 6

of Michigan LGBT Project.

"We are fortunate to count our fellow nominees among our friends. Working together with them to advance LGBT rights has been a privilege and the foundation for many thought provoking conversations. Being recognized by an organization we value and respect for work we love to do is icing on the cake," Cassis said.

Being recognized is something Gilmour is accustomed to.

"As a university president, you get all sorts of honors, in part because it's a highly visible position," Gilmour told BTL, who was unanimously elected by the Board of Governors in January 2011 to serve as Wayne State University's 11th President. "You learn that you're being honored not just for yourself, but for a big group of people. Though I haven't done anything unusual with the ACLU, it feels good to be honored by an organization that does good things and does good things well."

A retired auto executive, Gilmour was the highest ranking corporate leader in America to come out publicly in 1996. Since then, he has become a leader and major funder of Michigan's LGBT community. Gilmour was a founder and major benefactor to the HOPE Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and his personal foundation, the Gilmour Fund makes grants to local and national LGBT groups.

He and his partner Jirgens, owner of Eric Charles Design in Birmingham, are well-known for their \$1 million dollar donation for the new Affirmation's Gay and Lesbian Community Center that was named in their honor in 2007.

Jirgens maintains an active and successful civic life in Michigan as well. This includes his role as the Capital & Endowment Campaign Committee Co-Chair for Affirmation's Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Grants Committee Member at the Michigan AIDS Fund, and Advisory Board Member of ACLU Fund of Michigan.

The ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project continues to challenge discrimination in the courts and legislatures, case by case and law by law, to change anti-gay policies. Currently, the ACLU of Michigan is the only organization defending the rights of Michigan's LGBT residents in the courts and one of a handful of organizations with a full-time staff lobbyist in Lansing to promote pro-LGBT legislation. As the ACLU of Michigan litigates and lobbies for change, they also use targeted media and outreach campaigns to change public attitudes while providing advocacy tools to help people take action in their own communities.

Cassis and Dr. Morales plan to continue



Kary Moss, ACLU of Michigan executive director.

to help the ACLU of Michigan engage new and more volunteers and donors.

"This work is more than a thought. It requires people's time and people's money to make things happen. The steps to success may seem long and slow. Consistency is the key. The drumbeat of our message needs to be heard frequently by all types of people so they realize someone they know and care about is missing out on some of the freedoms they themselves enjoy because of who they love," says Cassis.

Kaplan added that "tremendous progress has been made nationally in the past 10 years - the right of same-sex couples to marry in five states plus the District of Columbia, the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the passage of an LGBT-inclusive federal hate crimes law, the increase in the number of states with LGBT-inclusive civil rights laws and policies, more LGBT couples having and raising children."

Ultimately, the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project plans to eliminate the constitutional amendment that currently bans same-sex marriage or similar unions in Michigan. In the interim, they strive to work to amend Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protection against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; push for the enactment of anti-bullying legislation that protects LGBT youth; advocate for the full legal rights of same-sex couples to parent; protect state laws that provide confidentiality of HIV status; and support policies to respect the relationships of LGBT seniors.

"While polling demonstrates that a majority of Michiganders are in favor of laws and policies that treat LGBT people fairly, we continue to elect leaders and policy makers who do not share this opinion," says Kaplan. "We need to educate both the public and our leaders about current discriminatory policies and continue to make the case for equality. Every conversation, every encounter is an opportunity to try to change hearts and minds," Kaplan said.

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# Pastor arrested protesting against city council vote

BY JEREMY MARTIN

**HOLLAND** – Chaplain Bill Freeman posted \$100 bond and was released from jail Oct. 23 after he attempted to “occupy” Holland City Hall. Freeman said he planned to live and sleep inside the municipal building until the Holland City Council reconsidered its June 15 vote against adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the city’s non-discrimination ordinances.

He was charged with disorderly conduct after being asked to leave city hall several times as officials were leaving for the night. Freeman will be arraigned Nov. 8.

BTL sat down with Freeman the morning after his arrest to discuss his civil disobedience, its consequences for him, and his hopes for future change as a result of his actions.

## When you went down to the courthouse did you expect to be arrested?

No, I was kind of hoping that I’d be allowed to occupy city hall like the other Occupy Wall Street places around the country, people would see that and join me and we’d have a few people at city hall all the time. That was not the case, they arrested me. I’m not sure for what. I got several possibilities they told me, including disturbing the peace. And I thought that I was protecting the peace, promoting the peace by trying to get equal lights for people who are lesbian, gay, bi and transgender.

## As far as I can tell you are the only person who has been arrested in the city of Holland for protesting the current civil rights amendments.

Yeah, as far as I know. We’ve been trying to talk to the city council every time they meet. At the last meeting one of the council members who voted yes said ‘you guys have to come up with a different tactic because this doesn’t seem to be working.’ So I thought, well why don’t I try to occupy city hall?

## Had you ever done anything like this in the past?

No, I’ve never been arrested for civil disobedience. I had performed a gay wedding, a lesbian wedding actually a couple years ago. No, I’ve never been arrested period.

## Have you spoken with any members of your congregation after the arrest? I’m curious how has your congregation reacted to the news?

Everybody has reacted favorably. I actually have two part time congregations, one in Holland and one in Muskegon. The one in Holland is Interfaith Congregation and the one in Muskegon is Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Everybody that has talked to me or emailed me thought it was really good.

## What was your reaction when you first learned that if you were to stay put that you would be put under arrest?

Well, I guess I just figured that goes with the territory.

## Your arrest has gained some national publicity and The Advocate posted a story about it online. Did you expect to get this type of publicity outside of Holland, outside of West Michigan?

Not really no. Like I said I didn’t expect to get arrested, and when I did get arrested, there were a couple TV cameras there and a newspaper reporter but I didn’t think it would go further than that. People have sent me articles from the

See Arrest, page 9



# Pro-LGBT billboards going up in West Michigan after delay

BY JAN STEVENSON

**GRAND RAPIDS** – After initially refusing to accept billboards from a group that supports an inclusive civil rights ordinance in Holland, CBS Outdoor will run billboards in and around Grand Rapids that contain the pro-LGBT message “...With Liberty and Justice for \_\_\_\_\_.”

The billboards are the latest project of Until Love Is Equal, an organization that emerged after the Holland city council rejected an anti-discrimination ordinance that included sexual orientation as one of the protected classes. By a vote of 5 to 4 on June 15, the council voted to reject the unanimous recommendation of its human rights commission to approve the ordinance. Mayor Kurt Dykstra was the no vote breaking a then 4-4 tie on the issue.

A spokesperson for the New York based CBS Outdoor said that the company did not refuse the billboards, but that there was a “misunderstanding” when the group initially requested billboard space. Michael Tuffelmire, co-leader of Until Love Is Equal, said he was first told by his contact at the CBS Outdoor office in Grand Rapids the company would not accept their billboards because they feared the pro-LGBT message would alienate some of their existing clients.

It appears that when management in New York learned of the situation, they instructed the Grand Rapids office to reverse their decision.

“We were shocked in the beginning when they turned us down,” said Tuffelmire, who had worked with CBS Outdoor on behalf of other non-profit groups. “We are so glad that CBS (now) wants to work with us. They have come out and offered us really prime places in the city at a very excellent rate.”

Until Love is Equal was founded by Erin Wilson initially as an online community of people who shared their



Until Love is Equal's march to city hall. Left to Right: Linda R. Stuba, Amy Tabor Stuba, Nancy Gallardo and Blaine Uebelhor. Photo: Daniel Beerthuis

outrage after the Holland city council voted down the ordinance. The online group swelled to over 3,000 people in just a few months. Until Love Is Equal has now expanded beyond cyberspace into the real world, hosting its first Gala event Oct. 22, attracting over 80 people to the Piper Restaurant just west of Holland. The event included a silent auction with items donated from 40 west Michigan businesses, one of which was Herman Miller.

Wilson and Tuffelmire have used a combination of marketing savvy and social media expertise to propel Until Love is Equal into the public eye.

“We’ve used PSAs, Facebook, Twitter, yard signs, word of mouth, apparel - apparel is a big deal for us - and I’ve written a lot about this and published wherever possible,” Wilson said.

The new group has taken some of the limelight from Holland is Ready, a group formed over a year ago that worked towards passage of the ordinance. Despite some

initial friction on tactics, leaders of both groups recognized that they are working towards the same goal.

“We...recognize that successful movements for change generally contain several different groups with slightly different approaches to making that change,” said Jennifer Adams, a Reverend at Grace Episcopal Church and the convener of Holland is Ready. “Together we have a relatively broad audience (but) separately we can speak in ways those audiences can hear. Hopefully, in the long run the collective push moves this community forward.”

“The tools and tactics may be a little different, but the end goal is exactly the same, and that’s perfect because if we were all doing the same thing we would reach fewer people,” Wilson said.

Jeremy Martin contributed to this report





# Report: Mich. had nation's costliest court races

BY KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN

LANSING (AP) – Michigan had the nation's costliest state court races in the 2010 election cycle, with most of the money coming from outside groups that paid for a flurry of negative campaign ads, according to a report released Oct. 27 by a judicial watchdog group.

The Michigan Supreme Court race accounted for a quarter of the \$38.4 million spent nationally in 2009-10, according to the report prepared by the Justice at Stake Campaign, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law and the National Institute of Money in State Politics.

Because Michigan doesn't require outside groups to disclose what they're spending on TV ads, the court race could have cost as much as \$11.1 million, it said.

Besides having the highest amount of spending, Michigan also was cited for having the highest total TV spending and the largest number of negative ads aired.

"More than ever, a small number of super-spenders played a dominant role in influencing who sits on state supreme courts. Much of this influence was exercised secretly," the report said.

Following Michigan in spending was Pennsylvania, where judicial candidates spent \$5.4 million and no outside money was involved, and Ohio, where candidates and outside groups spent a combined \$4.4 million.

Alabama, Illinois, Texas, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Iowa rounded out the top 10.

The most visible state races may have been in Iowa, where spending hit \$1.4 million, 10th highest nationally. Groups opposed to gay marriage spent an estimated \$1 million campaigning to get three Iowa justices removed after they the high court unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that a state ban on same-sex marriage violated the constitutional rights of equal protection. Three justices lost retention elections, and the groups have vowed to pursue the same campaign against the justices who remain on the court.

Slightly less than half of the 50 states elect Supreme Court justices, although others hold retention elections for appointed justices. Michigan's high court candidates are nominated by political parties but run on a nonpartisan part of the ballot.

The 2010 race in Michigan was pivotal, returning the court to a 4-3 GOP majority just a few months after Democrats took a 4-3 edge when a Democrat was appointed to fill a vacancy.

It also was bitterly fought, with TV ads trying to portray GOP Justice Robert Young Jr. as a judge who favored big polluters, especially the company responsible for a major oil spill in the Kalamazoo River. In the campaign's home stretch, former Justice Elizabeth Weaver—a Republican who had warred with Young while on the court—stepped forward and accused him of using a racial slur during private conferences with other justices in 2006.

Young, who is black, acknowledged using the word but said he was quoting a disgraced former judge who had lost her job because of it. Republican candidate Mary Beth Kelly, too, was hit with a TV ad accusing her of failing to lock up an illegal immigrant who was subsequently convicted of kidnapping and killing a Detroit-area man. An outside group joined the fray, running an ad that suggested Democratic challenger Denise Langford Morris was "soft on crime" for "rappers, lawyers and child pornographers."

The Michigan Republican Party spent \$4.1 million to \$4.8 million on the race, largely on ads promoting Young and Kelly, while the Michigan Democratic Party spent \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. The report estimates outside groups spent \$1.3 million on the race, with most of that—\$800,000 to \$1.2 million—spent on TV ads by the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, which ran the anti-Morris ads and has ties to the National Rifle Association.

The political parties and outside groups spent more than four times as much money on TV ads as the Michigan candidates themselves, the report said. Yet while the candidates had to disclose who was giving them money, the report says voters were left in the dark over who was donating to the race through political parties or special-interest groups and what they were spending on ads.

"The fact that Michigan led the nation in undisclosed spending in a state judicial campaign is a distinction of dishonor," said Rich Robinson, executive director of the nonpartisan Michigan Campaign Finance Network, which has tried unsuccessfully to strengthen the state's disclosure laws.

## ► Arrest

Continued from p. 8

(Detroit) Free Press and the Chicago Tribune, I was interviewed this morning by WSYP in Detroit. I'm pleasantly surprised by that. I hope that results in some kind of national pressure on the five members of the city council to say, 'hey, this might hit us where we live, this might hurt Tulip Time in May' or whatever if people see that people aren't treated equally in Holland.

## If arraigned on November 8, what could happen to you?

I think it will be a fine, my lawyer tells me it will be some kind of fine. I've already paid \$100 for bail money. As far as I know it's a misdemeanor, another lawyer told me it could get thrown out of court. Also, if I do it again I won't post bail. I'll go to jail is what I'm getting at.

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**A 15-year-old gay teen was recorded being brutally beaten by a classmate in Chillicothe, Ohio last Thursday. The classmate was suspended for three days. Is that a fair punishment for his attack?**

I think the boy should be expelled. This was blatant! It was not a two-sided fight. This was premeditated. This child needs to be away from other students.  
**-Linda Busby**

Given how many times he hit him he should be charged as an adult with assault and battery. There is zero tolerance for weapons in schools but you can get away with beating a kid? Come on; school boards need to step up.  
**-Angey Wilson**

Immediate and permanent expulsion. My son was beaten, hit, taunted and teased, called a girl, fag, homo and retard until he became suicidal. If I were his mom, I'd file a police report and be screaming at the top of my lungs to anyone that would listen to me. That's what I did, and it saved my son's life.  
**-Karen Nichols**

The attack was premeditated, recorded, and then shown off. The bully needs counseling to undo whatever taught him that violent behavior like this is acceptable. The school needs training and outreach to better recognize and address all types of bullying. Our states need enumerated anti-bullying bills. It is everyone's job to stop the silence around this!  
**-Gabe Javier**

This is atrocious. Why should it matter what enumeration is on the books currently to take decisive and fair action in this situation? The administration who made this decision should be investigated, and charges should be brought against the attacker. This is clearly premeditated, and should be dealt with accordingly.  
**-Anthony Michael Wagner**

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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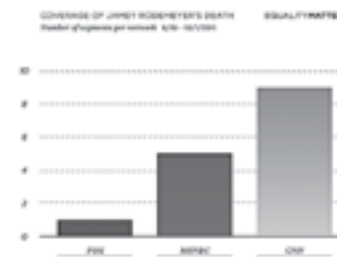
**Anti-Gay Bullying, Latinos, Conservatives, Adoption**



**Nathaniel Frank**

*"Right-wing anti-gay... social conservatives can't think 'gay' without thinking 'sex.' Never mind that they, themselves, routinely have sex as an expression of love or harmless desire. For social conservatives, gay people are a stand-in for all the messy, guilt-inducing impulses that they, themselves, can't handle. This surely says more about them than it does about gay people, but their confusion wreaks havoc with the lives of millions. Having exactly the same freedom as everybody else to express your love or desire sexually does not 'sexualize' things any more than allowing the straight world not to be monks sexualizes things. Reducing gay intimacy to sex, wrote a Republican appointee, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, 'demeans' the claims of freedom for gay people 'just as it would demean a married couple were it said that marriage is just about the right to have sexual intercourse.'"*

-Nathaniel Frank, author and research consultant the University of California's Palm Center and the Movement Advancement Project, in his blog titled "What Part of 'Equality' Doesn't the Right Wing Understand?," [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), Oct. 07.



*"There's a legitimate debate to be had about the risks of oversensationalizing stories about bullying-related suicide in the media.*

*Nevertheless, it's clear that Fox's approach - ignoring real bullying stories while attacking anti-bullying efforts - is aimed at making the problem of anti-LGBT bullying seem exaggerated and trivial. This kind of one-sided reporting plays directly into the hands of anti-gay groups, which work tirelessly to stand in the way of creating safe environments for LGBT students. Fox News has demonstrated its willingness to abandon its 'fair and balanced' slogan in order to toe the far-right line. This time, it's some of the most vulnerable people who will likely suffer as a result."*

-From an analysis titled "Report: Fox News Downplays Stories About Anti-LGBT Bullying, Suicide," compiled by Equality Matters, pointing out that both CNN and MSNBC have made efforts to cover the growing problem of anti-LGBT bullying, Fox News has consistently railed against efforts to reduce anti-LGBT bullying and does not report on bullying-related suicide, instead, portrays anti-gay groups and individuals as victims of alleged intimidation and bullying by gays and lesbians, <http://equalitymatters.org/blog>, Oct. 31.



**Esai Morales**

*"Latino men feel betrayed by sons who don't live up to the expectations that society and the family have for them. It's a challenge - not only to my character but to an audience - to say people are what they are and not ready to be put in some category."*

-Esai Morales, actor, in a review titled "Defying the Macho Culture," about his character in the movie "Gun Hill Road," in which he plays a convict who, after three years in jail, returns to his Bronx home to find his wife distant and his teenage son is gay, performs in a local club as a woman, and is transitioning into a woman [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org), Summer 2011.



**Douglas Gansler**

*"Same-sex marriage is a pro-family measure."*

-Douglas Gansler, Maryland Attorney General, a staunch gay-rights supporter, in an article titled "Report details inequities for kids of gay parents," about a new report compiled by an alliance of advocacy and child-welfare groups, titled "All Children Matter - How Legal and Social Inequalities Hurt LGBT Families," summarizing how laws and social stigma create distinctive challenges for LGBT families, Associated Press, <http://hosted.ap.org>, Oct. 25. Maryland lawmakers will be considering a bill to legalize same-sex marriage next year.



# Gay and lesbian service members sue government

BY JAY LINDSAY

**BOSTON (AP)** – A group of gay active and retired military personnel who are married sued the federal government Oct. 29 for the same benefits as straight military couples, arguing it's a matter of justice and national security.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Boston says the government's Defense of Marriage Act violates their constitutional rights and asks the military to recognize their marriages and provide spousal benefits.

Under the federal Defense of Marriage Act, the Pentagon is required to ignore same-sex marriages, which are legal in six states and Washington D.C. and were legal for a time in California.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of eight service members, said it's about "one thing, plain and simple."

"It's about justice for gay and lesbian service members and their families in our armed forces rendering the same military service, making the same sacrifices, and taking the same risks to keep our nation secure at home and abroad," Sarvis said in a press release.

The lawsuit also says the continued denial of benefits to gay spouses "is a threat to national security." It argues that given the extreme mental and physical demands of modern warfare, the military has already recognized that "service members who are distracted by thoughts that their loved ones are not being cared for may render the service members less effective combatants."

The lawsuit comes about a month after the military officially ended its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which forbade gays from serving openly.

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, which opposed the



File photo: Major Shannon McLaughlin is a U.S. Army Major in the Massachusetts National Guard and serves as a Judge Advocate General. She has served for 13 years and is married in the state of Massachusetts to her partner Casey McLaughlin. They are parents of twins, Grace and Grant McLaughlin. Photo: SLDN

Defense of Marriage Act, which protects one state from having to abide by other states' marriage laws and wasn't supposed to be affected by the "don't ask, don't tell" repeal, Donnelly said.

"What you have here is an attempt to impose a minority view on the majority," she said.

The lawsuit names as defendants Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The plaintiffs say they don't believe the government will contest the lawsuit, quoting an Oct. 1 statement from President Obama about DOMA in which he said, "I believe the law runs counter to the Constitution, and it's time for it to end, once and for all."

In a statement, Pentagon spokesman

Council, which opposes same-sex marriage, said he hoped attorneys for the U.S. House of Representatives who've defended DOMA in other cases will step in here if the Justice Department doesn't contest the lawsuit.

"These (plaintiffs) by law and by tradition and culture are not spouses," he said. "The federal government has the right to set its own standards for what it will recognize as a marriage and Congress did that in 1996 in an overwhelming, bipartisan fashion."

The lawsuit lists various benefits given to straight married couples they say gays are being wrongly denied, including medical and dental benefits, housing allowances, travel and transportation allowances, survivor benefits and the right to be buried together in military cemeteries.

"While the repeal of (don't ask, don't tell) was an important first step in the military's march for equality, it is time to take the next step and provide equal benefits for equal work," the lawsuit says.

The lead plaintiff in the case is Maj. Shannon McLaughlin, a judge advocate general in the Massachusetts National Guard who married her wife in Massachusetts in 2009 and has 10-month old twins, according to the lawsuit.

Another plaintiff is Navy Lt. Gary Ross, an Arizona resident who was married in Vermont, but whose husband travels to Mexico for health care - and was recently at the border when gunfire broke out - because they can't afford health insurance for him, according to the lawsuit.

Chief Warrant Officer Charlie Morgan of the New Hampshire National Guard said she has cancer and is worried her spouse and their daughter would be unable to receive survivor's benefits if she died.

"We are only asking for equitable treatment as a recognized family," Morgan said.

The lawsuit lists various benefits given to straight married couples they say gays are being wrongly denied, including medical and dental benefits, housing allowances, travel and transportation allowances, survivor benefits and the right to be buried together in military cemeteries.

repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," said the lawsuit is an attempt to impose throughout the military a definition of marriage that's accepted in just a handful of states.

Military members are very mobile, and if the plaintiffs prevail, gay personnel would have to be treated as if they were married, even if they live in states where gay marriage isn't legal, she said. In addition, there would be pressure to extend the same marriage benefits to service members in committed gay relationships who aren't legally married, she said.

It's all designed to undermine the 1996

Capt. John Kirby said officials will evaluate the complaint and consult with the Justice Department, while continuing to follow the law. Kirby noted that service members can already designate some benefits to anyone they choose, regardless of sexual orientation.

"In connection with 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal, the Defense Department is engaged in a careful and deliberate review of the possibility of extending eligibility for benefits, when legally permitted, to other individuals including same-sex partners," Kirby said.

Peter Sprigg of the Family Research

## Motor City Pride will return to Hart Plaza in 2012

**DETROIT**—Equality Michigan announced that Motor City Pride would return to Hart Plaza on June 2 and 3, 2012. It will be the festival's 11th year as a production of Equality Michigan.

This past June, Motor City Pride drew 44,000 people to Hart Plaza marking the first time the festival has taken place in the prominent location. The event, which celebrated southeast Michigan's LGBT community, kicked off with a picnic attracting over 50 families and closed with a popular party on the Detroit Princess riverboat. The event had over 54 Michigan businesses sign on as sponsors.

"Motor City Pride is an incredible opportunity for gay and transgender people to come together," said festival chair Dave Wait. "Families, friends, allies and activists all showed up this year to show their support for equality. We're excited to plan an even bigger and better event for next year."

Festival organizers have scheduled two community meetings for the public to provide input on the 2012 event. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to attend either of the following meetings and share suggestions with the planning committee. The first meeting will be held on Nov. 9 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center, 290 West 9 Mile Road in Ferndale and the second gathering will be on Nov. 13 from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Detroit Marriott, 400 Renaissance Drive, Detroit. Please RSVP to roshanda@equalitymi.org if you plan to attend. Learn more at www.equalitymi.org.

## Support group for fifty-plus starts

**DETROIT**— A support group for black same-gender-attracted women who are 50 years and over will hold their first meeting on Friday, Nov. 11, from 6 - 8 p.m. The group is just one of the outcomes of an intergeneration gathering of black lesbian voices that happened at Hotter Than July. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. For more information call 313-978-7918 or the A.L.O.R.D.E. Collective Helpline at 313-865-2170 ext. 4.

## Meet Affirmations Dave Garcia

**FERNDALE** – Affirmations is holding a welcome reception for the public to meet the new Executive Director, Antonio David Garcia, on Monday, Nov. 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Garcia plans to announce new developments currently taking place at the center as well as ideas for the future of Metro Detroit's community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP at www.GoAffirmations.org/welcome. For additional information contact Cass Varner, Director of Communications at 248-677-7227.



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# BTM Transmissions

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

## Scout's honor

**B**obby Montoya wanted to join the Girl Scouts.

Born with male genitalia, Montoya decided at age two that she was a girl. She dresses and acts like a typical American 7-year-old girl. Her mother, Felisha Atchuleta, has been supportive of her child, even holding "princess parties" for Montoya's birthday. Recently, she tried to get Montoya into the Denver chapter of the Girl Scouts of Colorado, a part of the Girl Scouts of the USA. You know, the folks who sell cookies every spring.

It is a far cry from the days when I was an ersatz Girl Scout, when the very notion of a child displaying tendencies outside their birth gender would not have been met with acceptance, but scorn and derision.

When Atchuleta approached the local troop, she was rebuffed. Indeed, the troop leader said things that humiliated Montoya, driving her to tears. After the story hit the news, however, higher ups with the Girl Scouts of Colorado presented a very different view than the troop leader.

"Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization and we accept all girls in kindergarten through 12th grade as members," read the Girl Scouts' press release. "If a child identifies as a girl and the child's family presents her as a girl, Girl Scouts of Colorado welcomes her as a Girl Scout."

I should add that they do expect transgendered Girl Scouts to be very definitive in their gender identity - or as Rachelle Trujillo, the vice president of communications for Girl Scouts of Colorado, said to a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, "If she does want Bobby to join, they need to make a decision, that as a family, that we are going to entirely have her live her life as a girl. If they do so, we are happy to have her as a member."

Perhaps the reason for this statement is, as the group claims, Atchuleta framed her request using male pronouns for Montoya, and this led to the initial rebuff. While that may have been the case, it still doesn't sound like it was handled well.

The Girl Scouts of Colorado have said they will be altering their training programs and reaching out to Atchuleta and Montoya, and presumably welcoming them to be a part of the Girl Scouts experience.

Trujillo said that they only hear of one

or two cases of a transgender child wanting to join a year, and that they've only encountered transgender kids wanting to join the group in the last three or four years.

I can tell you, with certainty, that the Girl Scouts have had transgender members before. Aside from the high likelihood that some of their members transitioned away from girlhood and into a male identity, I too was a member of the Girl Scouts. No, really.

In spite of being - at the time - an only child, and being years away from publicly admitting to my preferred gender, I was part of the Spanish Trails Council of the Girl Scouts back in the 1970s. One of my aunts was a troop leader, and my mother opted to assist her. In order for her to do this, she would have to bring her kid along. The upshot was that I was made an honorary girl scout. No, I did not have the uniform - aside from an awful daisy pattern and bric-a-brac vest that we all had in our troop - but I did earn a handful of badges, and was welcome to participate in all our events and activities.

Even though I was definitely considered a separate animal from the others in scouts, I know I did get a lot out of the experience. Frankly, I wish I could have experienced it in my preferred gender, and really been a truly equal party to this experience. I loved the experience I had, and feel it did contribute to who I am today, but I know it could have been much more.

We live in an interesting time. Much like Trujillo indicated, it is only in the last few years that we've seen parents beginning to accept their children's transgender status, and have attempted to accommodate the needs of their transgendered offspring. It is a far cry from the days when I was an ersatz Girl Scout, when the very notion of a

child displaying tendencies outside their birth gender would not have been met with acceptance, but scorn and derision.

With this rise in acceptance, we're also seeing the inevitable pushback, with people like Fox News commentator Dr. Keith Ablow leading the charge. Hot on the heels of an article warning parents to not let their children catch a glimpse of Chaz Bono on *Dancing With The Stars*, for fear that "transgender rays" will strike your child and turn them transgender, he's turned to the debunked science of Dr. Paul McHugh to fight against sexual reassignment.

He also dredged up last year's J. Crew advertisement, where their creative director, Jenna Lyons, painted her son's toenails. It seems as if Lyons is now dating another woman, leading Ablow to dig back to the 1970s, claiming that Lyons is trying to feminize her son because she's the classic "man hater" stereotype.

This is the world these parents have to navigate. People who, like Ablow, would equate acceptance of transgender children by their parents as a form of "child abuse." While I think there may still be some issues along the way with the Girl Scouts of Colorado and their stance on transgender children, it's certainly a big step above what may be out there from other groups, schools, and other bodies these parents may have to navigate. I'm sure it's far beyond anything we may ever see from the Boy Scouts of America, too.

So I applaud the Girl Scouts of Colorado for moving in the right direction, and presenting a Girl Scouts that is open to all girls.

*Gwen Smith wishes she still had her badges. You can find her on the web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com)*







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

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

# Moon me once, Jamie Franco

For whatever reason of over-the-hill desperation I've just paid \$10.95 for a copy of Flaunt, this month featuring on its cover the talented buns of actor James Franco. No doubt without question a publishing first.

I might not have paid the price of admission were its cover and pages not strategically cellophane wrapped, and captioned intriguingly: "Butt, how will people know this is James Franco?" How indeed.

As buns go, Mr. Franco's are prime grade, but hardly memorable. There's nothing that sets them apart from countless other sets I have been privy to in my long life; and I fancy I once had a pair of similar comely solicitude before the inroads of gravity, use, and circulation took their collective toll.

I like to think that Flaunt's daring first will occasion other magazines to follow suit, with other famous celebs going fully glory, gluteus maximus. I'm sure Time, for example, would do the American backside anatomy full justice by running as cover the buns of political candidates, say under headings like, "Republican Ass of the Year."

Whether Gov. Perry would garner category votes is debatable. He certainly qualifies for the title. Buns in tandem for him would, I'm certain, go over big. Especially if his running mate is female, with any visible tattooed embellishment limited to a short Bible verse, a simple cross, a lone star. Better still: "Remember the Alamo."

Most certainly, women should not be excluded from publication, and should an LGBT person run for governor, senate, congress, he or she, hopefully would be extended the courtesy at least to be asked if their butts were up to the popularity standard of an aspirant to high office.

As long as buns are displayed without intent to provoke, to shock, to cajole, or to convey to the viewer or viewers a kiss-mine attitude - strict modesty in cover publication presentation is the rule - the editorializing act of mooning is avoided. It's left to the reader to appreciate the muscular nuances of one of evolution's greatest gifts to dining alfresco. Or, channeling intestinal wind.

When it comes to mooning I can count on one hand the number of times I've been mooned. For a while I thought it was just me, that I was somehow at fault, somehow lacking in social standing or financial status, to merit this form of time-honored salutation, second only to a hug, a handshake, a football fanny whack.

Come to find out, few of my true friends have been mooned. (No one at church I know, especially not during the usually sparsely attended 9 o'clock service.) So, I don't feel so bad. Maybe it's an age thing. For those of my under 35 readers, please keep us seniors in mind, if and when the mooning urge hits you.

By the way, it's been determined that the act of mooning as political statement or commentary is a fully protected constitutional right. In 2006, the Maryland circuit court ruled that said anatomical display is a form of artistic expression protected by the United States Constitution. Artistic expression!

The Maryland court ruled that indecent exposure applies only to genitals. Commenting, in part: "If exposure of half of the buttocks constituted indecent exposure, any woman wearing a thong at the beach in Ocean City would be guilty." (How she displays half a buttock, and which half, is not clarified judicially. Sorta, half-assed, er, assessed.)

Mooning is an annual group sporting event in Laguna Niguel, Orange County, Calif. Each July since 2008, thousands of mooners gather along the Amtrak route to spend the day mooning. Those who enjoy looking at buttocks galore, book club car tickets to moon back. 8000 mooned initially.

Other cities have likewise collectively dropped their drawers. Let's moon Snyder come spring. (Artistically speaking.)

Charles@pridesource

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**Linda Wall**

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Once upon a time there was a lesbian gym teacher (shocking, I know). More specifically, that time was the early 1970s and that gym teacher was Linda Wall, who is now an Independent candidate running for state office in Virginia.



Linda Wall

Mind you, Wall's not gay any more. She's traded in her lesbianism for Jesus and she is out and proud about it.

"I've never tried to hide that I was in homosexuality. If anybody Googles me, they would find that out there," Wall said.

"When I went away to Longwood College, I allowed liberal professors to destroy my Judeo-Christian upbringing," she writes on her campaign website. "I guess one could say I became the 'prodigal daughter.' But when my rebellious years came to a close, I knew it was the Lord that I needed."

Ah, yes. The old "liberal professors made me gay" line. College is tricky like that.

Mind you, Wall's "rebellious years" didn't come to a close at graduation, if by "rebellious" she means "gay." Apparently she sowed her wild oats with one of her students in a whirlwind scandalous gym teacher/gym student romance.

Oh, and did I mention she taught junior high? Meaning this was one of her *junior high* students. Meaning no, no, no, bad.

It's the kind of revelation that would jettison most candidates' prospects of ever being elected, and could, indeed, turn out to be the end of her candidacy. And yet she seems remarkably nonchalant about the whole thing.

"Forty years ago, I was a different person," Wall told the Associated Press. "I was a heavy pot smoker with ... impaired judgment and made some bad choices. You do that out of college sometimes. Some people do, some people don't."

Got that? While in college the liberal professors made her gay. And right out of college marijuana made her stay that way, or at least it "impaired" her judgment allowing

her to continuing to choose being a lesbian child predator.

Look, I would just like to make clear here that the kind of "bad choices" people make while smoking pot include eating an entire bag of Cool Ranch Doritos in one sitting, or watching the Home Shopping Network for hours straight and cracking up every time there's a close up of a pair of disembodied hands with manicured nails caressing the merchandise. Seeking out a little girl to statutorily rape is kind of worse than a "bad choice." It's, like, one of the *worst* ones.

But look, Wall doesn't want to live in the past – and not just because there's no statute of limitations on felonies in Virginia. Wall wants to look forward—and win!—the future. And that means pushing hard against the gay past with an anti-gay present.

On Wall's campaign website she touts her anti-gay political history. She brags that she testified at House of Delegates committee hearings "in favor of family friendly legislation and opposed legislation detrimental to traditional values."

Got that? While in college the liberal professors made her gay.

Granted, that's not especially specific, but the terms "family-friendly" and "traditional values?"

Wall also spent years on an anti-gay Marriage Amendment to the Virginia Constitution. "For two years, I worked with groups in the state to help pass the Marriage Amendment to the Constitution of Virginia defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman," she writes "I will defend that amendment and oppose any legislation that attempts to create or recognize any other union, partnership, or legal status to which is assigned the rights or benefits of marriage."

Ain't no homo couple gonna get treated with any respect in these parts. And if there's one thing Wall's an expert in it's in healthy, normal relationships based on love and trust and mutual respect and Jesus. So don't worry anti-gay marriage foes. Linda "ex-gay statutory rapist" Wall has got your back. Y'all have the best friends.

**Pro-gay marriage NH group begins anti-repeal push**

BY NORMA LOVE

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) – A bipartisan group of New Hampshire residents, business owners and civic leaders announced a grass-roots campaign Oct. 27 to stop lawmakers from repealing the state law allowing gays to marry.

Standing Up for New Hampshire Families leaders told reporters that Republican lawmakers should focus on helping businesses create jobs and not on repealing the gay marriage law that has been in effect almost two years. The group counts among its 200 supporters former New Hampshire Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick.

Broderick, now dean of the University of New Hampshire Law School, was not present but issued a statement saying "it would be tragic to turn back the clock to the dark days of discrimination, intolerance and false stereotypes."

The group plans to network with friends and family as well as operate a phone bank to call lawmakers urging them to vote against the bill.

The House Judiciary Committee voted Oct. 25 to recommend replacing the law with civil unions for any unmarried adults, including relatives.

The bill would not enact the same

civil unions law that was in effect before gays were allowed to marry. That law granted gays all the rights and responsibilities of marriage except in name. The proposed civil unions law would be open to any two adults and would let anyone refuse to recognize the unions. It also would allow anyone to discriminate against such couples in employment, housing and public accommodations based on religious or moral beliefs.

Supporters said the two proposed repeal bills would not apply to gay marriages that have already occurred, but would stop new ones. More than 1,500 New Hampshire gay couples have married so far under the current law.

But opponents said the law has conflicting provisions that appear to bar the courts from recognizing same-sex relationships as valid, while declaring gay marriages in effect before the repeal took effect to remain valid.

Irena Goddard, chairwoman of the Hopkinton Republican committee, said she was born in the former communist Czechoslovakia. She called the repeal bill "misguided legislation" brought by people using scare tactics to push a social agenda instead of on ways to improve the economy.

Republican businessman Craig Stowell said the replacement measure is not a compromise and would

enshrine in the law the views of a few.

Stowell, co-chairman of the group's business and civic leadership council, said he got involved because he wants his gay brother to have the right to marry the person he loves in New Hampshire when he is ready.

It is also a personal fight for Dan Innis, dean of The Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. Innis, 48, entered into a civil union with his partner, Doug Palardy, 37, two years ago and converted it into a marriage last year when New Hampshire's same-sex marriage law took effect.

"It's wonderful to be accepted," he said, adding that it would sadden him if lawmakers repealed the law and sent a message to people that only some are welcome in the state.

It also would create a separate class of gays whose marriages are recognized and those barred from being able to get married, he said.

The couple owns the Ale House Inn in Portsmouth and sees a mix of clients-gay and heterosexual-who stay there, he said. If New Hampshire repeals the gay marriage law, some might not feel welcome, he believes.

"People will be watching us," he said.

**Hearing for latest NJ same-sex marriage suit**

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) – The latest lawsuit that seeks to force New Jersey to recognize gay marriage will soon be going before a judge for the first time.

State Superior Court Judge Linda Feinberg has scheduled a hearing for Nov. 4 on the state's motion to have

the suit dismissed. The state Attorney General's Office says the matter is already settled.

The state Supreme Court ruled five years ago that New Jersey had to give committed gay same-sex couples all the legal rights and benefits that married couples have - but said it

didn't have to recognize gay marriage.

Lawmakers chose to create civil unions instead.

Seven gay and lesbian couples and many of their children sued in June, claiming that civil unions don't offer equal protections - <HEADLINE Parting Glances: Moon me once,

**Judge hears suit on school website filters**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—A federal judge heard arguments Oct. 27 on whether a central Missouri school district should be barred from using Internet filtering software that has prevented automatic access to some websites with information on gay, lesbian and transgender issues.

U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey made no immediate decision on whether to impose a preliminary injunction against the Camdenton School District at the request of attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union. She also was considering the school district's assertion that an unnamed student and several organizations that operate websites had no legal standing to bring the lawsuit because they had not suffered any harm from the district's policy.

The Camdenton school system is the first to be sued under a recent

national campaign by the ACLU and Yale Law School intended to improve access at schools to websites related to gay and lesbian issues. Of more than 100 school districts contacted as part of the project, only the Camdenton, Mo., and Gwinnet County Public School District in Georgia have not yet responded by changing their Internet filtering software, said Joshua Block, an attorney for the ACLU's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & AIDS Project.

Although they have not changed website filtering services, Camdenton school officials testified that they have allowed access to four specific websites cited by the ACLU that had previously been blocked by filters. During the hearing, school officials repeatedly stressed that they have no intent to discriminate against websites with gay and lesbian content.

In 2010, Camdenton schools

began using an Internet filtering service provide by URL.BlackList.com that the ACLU contends infringes on First Amendment rights by grouping some non-sexual websites related to gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender issues into a blacklisted category of websites dealing with sexuality. The Camdenton School District allows students or employees who get blocked from a website to submit an anonymous request for access to the site. School officials then view the website and decide whether to override the filtering service and allow access to it.

Over the past few years, the district has received about 2,000 requests to unblock certain websites and has granted about 80 percent of those, testified Randal Cowen, the district's network administrator.



# BTL Health & Wellness



## Teased and tortured How does bullying affect a child's health?

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The tragic suicides of bullying victims in the last couple of years have been worst-case scenarios of what happens when someone reaches rock bottom. But for those hanging onto hope that it does, indeed, get better, it can still be a living hell.

"The majority of the youth who utilize our services are bullied on a daily basis and have serious emotional disturbance," says Laura Hughes, executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, a shelter for homeless youth in Highland Park. "Their experience includes physical and verbal attacks. And this says nothing about the youth who come in with black eyes and have been beaten with bats and pushed into lockers."

It happens in schools and via the Internet, where cyberbullying is now rampant. Bullying, unfortunately, almost seems like a part of life—particularly for LGBT teens. Gregory B. Gruley, a therapist who practices out of his own office in Royal Oak, sees many young people coping with being bullied. So many of them, he says, won't even talk about it.

"More than anything it's trying to crack

through the kid to even admit that it's even happening," Gruley says. "It's so embarrassing in the first place, and often they don't know who they can trust. Am I going to tell their parents and are their parents going to tell the school, and is the school going to make it worse? They don't know who to trust because the people that they think they can trust are often the ones turning on them."

It's just one of many effects that can mentally impair someone for the rest of their life, making trust a major issue in future relationships.

"It teaches people the wrong way to interact with other people and it can be maladaptive and any relationship they have can be affected by it—and usually for the negative," he says.

Kids are affected negatively in other ways, too: nightmares deprive them of sleep, grades suffer and there's a serious feeling of hopelessness and damaged self-esteem. Thoughts of suicide then take hold.

"They start to believe something that's not true about themselves," Gruley says of why bullied kids contemplate suicide. "They don't know how to handle it and they don't know how to combat those feelings. They feel like there's no other answer and they don't want to deal with the

extreme negative feelings they get every day—maybe they're feeling nauseated, maybe they're getting beaten up. But it's unfortunate because, obviously, it's permanent."

Johnny Jenkins says it's a major concern for the kids at Affirmations, where he's the director of programs. "What's of most concern to us is dealing with issues of isolation and depression, which leads to the root of the current suicide rate among LGBTQ-identified youth. That's something that concerns us greatly and is part of our focus with our youth program: to make sure we provide a safe environment for youth to come and have those conversations and find support."

The center's programs, Jenkins says, help alleviate them of stress and build self-esteem, curbing not just mental health issues, like anxiety, but physical ones as well.

"When you have strong emotions that don't have an outlet, they'll find another way out—very often it's through additional psychological issues or even psychosomatic problems," Gruley says. "I couldn't tell you the number of times that I worried myself to vomit, so bullying can have digestive problems. Lack of sleep can certainly impact someone's ability to function and their

overall health. If you're constantly worried about something, your immune system will be compromised."

Bullied teens are also at a higher risk of obesity and engaging in unprotected sex, according to Jenkins. "It devalues you as a human being," he says, "and once you're feeling devalued it lowers your self-esteem and it makes you more vulnerable to engage in risky sexual behavior. That makes you more susceptible to HIV and other STDS."

Hughes has seen every kind of symptom from the bullied youth she oversees at the Ruth Ellis Center.

"Some of the health issues that we have seen are a myriad of physical, psychological and behavioral symptoms and effects on personality," she says. "Through our services we are able to address stress, anxiety, sleeplessness, fatigue, shattered self-confidence and self-esteem, thoughts of suicide, poor concentration and post-traumatic stress disorder."

Homeless and runaway teens, Hughes adds, have a disadvantage: no sense of security.

See Teased, page 18



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# LGBT patients needs underserved

## Medical schools provide little training on LGBT health issues

BY BOB ROEHR

U.S. and Canadian medical schools offer a median of only five hours of training on meeting the needs of LGBT patients, according to a survey published in the Sept. 7 issue of JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association.

A third of the responses indicated that the school provided no training on LGBT health, while the average response was seven hours.

Nearly all – 97 percent – reported that students are taught “to ask patients if they have sex with men, women, or both when obtaining a sexual history.”

The difference between behavior and identity (i.e. men who have sex with men versus gay) was taught by 72 percent of the schools, while 21.2 percent did not know if the issue was addressed.

Most deans rated their school’s coverage of LGBT content as “fair” (58 schools; 43.9 percent), with the balance splitting fairly evenly between “very good” or “good” (32; 24.2 percent) and “very poor” or “poor” (34; 25.8 percent).

“This indicates dissatisfaction with medical school coverage of LGBT content at a number of schools, especially given the expected positive skew associated with survey self-reporting, and suggests room for improvement in LGBT-related curricula,” the authors concluded.

The 13-question web-based survey was designed to take 15 minutes to complete. It was sent to the deans of all 176 medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. The response rate was strong, with 150 surveys returned and 132 fully completed.

Stanford University medical school professor Juno Obedin-Maliver was the lead author of the paper.

It is likely that this survey captures an optimistic view of the situation. Research suggests that persons favorably disposed to a topic are more likely to respond to a survey on it, while those who view the topic less favorably are less likely to respond.

In April the Institute of Medicine issued a report on research issues for LGBT health, which did not address training for healthcare workers. However, Robert Graham, the chair of the committee that wrote the report, expected that the extensive literature in the field that they gathered and published would “help medical schools develop curriculum” in much the same way that a 1980s report on black and minority health did.

### Reactions

“The 85-percent response rate alone is indicative of a high level of interest” by the medical school deans, wrote Raymond Curry in an accompanying editorial. He teaches at Northwestern University medical school.

He wondered what the survey might have

missed, such as discussion of same-sex aspects in a presentation on sexually transmitted infections, or during clinical rounds when a patient might happen to be gay.

“It would have been valuable to know the extent to which survey respondents are aware of teaching faculty who identify themselves as LGBT, of the degree to which student LGBT groups are part of the mainstream of student organizations at the school, and any other evidence that the institutional culture is seen as welcoming,” Curry added.

The report is important because “it highlights the deficits in medical education related to sexual orientation and gender minority population,” said Kenneth Mayer with Fenway Community Health in Boston. Healthcare providers play a key role in helping LGBT individuals access the support and services they need and deserve.

“JAMA is one of the most widely read medical journals, and it rejects a majority of articles submitted to it,” he explained. “Publication suggests that the editors appreciate the need for medical education to be more responsive to the health concerns of sexual and gender minority populations.”

“Many of us know that access to culturally competent care is a fundamental human right, so it is gratifying to see rigorous medical publications implicitly endorsing this perspective,” Mayer said.

### Additional data

Hector Vargas, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, said they worked with the researchers in putting together the survey. “It is good to finally see the results.”

“It confirms something that we have known for a long time – medical schools are not doing enough in terms of making sure that their graduates can adequately and competently address the needs of their LGBT patients.”

GLMA and the American Medical Association conducted a survey of physicians, not yet published, that complements the survey of medical schools.

“It found that 40 percent of physicians who participated in the survey had no formal training whatsoever (in dealing with LGBT patients), including medical school, residency and continuing education programs,” Vargas said.

Half said they received five hours of training or less. And 56 percent of those who did receive training said “it was not very or not at all useful in their practice.”

“We have a long way to go to make sure that needs of LGBT patients are being addressed in clinical settings,” Vargas said.

He did not know if the situation has improved among physicians who were trained more recently. While society, and particularly younger persons, have become more accepting of gays, medical schools often “have yet to embrace that and make it part of their curriculum.”



“It confirms something that we have known for a long time – medical schools are not doing enough in terms of making sure that their graduates can adequately and competently address the needs of their LGBT patients.”

- Hector Vargas, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association

He pointed to the large integrated healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente as being a leader in this area. It has developed a program and training manual on LGBT issues for its employees.

The Department of Health and Human

Services has taken steps to better include LGBT concerns in most areas of its operations. Vargas said, “If health professionals schools do not step up, we are going to continue to see a gap in meeting those needs.”

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► **Teased**

Continued from p. 15

“Their lack of safety net only exacerbates the effects of bullying on their lives,” she says. “The center is fortunate to be in a place that we provide this support and intervene on their behalf and provide them with opportunities that allow them to craft legislation and advocacy around bullying within our communities.”

Even if we can’t stop the bullies, we can stop kids from falling victim to the effects of the bullying. Gruley suggests any kind of support, from a close friend to a teacher or therapist, where trust is established. That includes kids sticking up for other kids, he says, “and not allowing the bullying to happen.”

“Just being able to talk about what’s going on and getting out all those feelings of fear and anxiety is beneficial. When you hold it in, you get all those other symptoms that come up with it.”

His other suggestion? Befriend a bully.

“So frequently bullying happens for a variety of reasons,” Gruley says, “but one of the most common ones is the bullies have something about themselves that they’re embarrassed about and they don’t want other people to notice so they shift the focus to another person who is the victim. Shine the light on that person for whatever they’re trying to hide, and I think the bullying will naturally go away because it will no longer serve a purpose.”

# Everyday stigma stressful for LGB people

According to a new study released in October, ongoing stigma and social inequality can increase stress and reduce well-being for lesbian, gay and bisexual people, even in the absence of major traumatic events such as hate violence, abuse and discrimination.

“Imagine living life anticipating exclusion from your friends, family and professional circles simply because of who you are and who you love – that resulting stress takes a toll on one’s life and health,” said co-author Dr. Ilan Meyer, a Williams Sr. Scholar at the UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute.

The study, “We’d Be Free: Narratives of Life Without Homophobia, Racism, or Sexism,” was published in Sexuality Research and Social Policy. The study examined the effects of exposure to everyday stigma – which included consistent, ongoing experiences of inequality. Subjects reported estrangement from families, failure to complete schooling and isolation in the workplace.

Black and Latino LGB participants, in particular, characterized homophobia, racism and sexism as a source of stress that led to missed life opportunities, including a quality education and higher levels of self-confidence.

“For members of minority groups, day-to-day life experiences that may seem minor to others can and do have significant and lasting

“The idea that simply walking out your door will expose you to societal rejection and stigma creates a climate of stress that can lead to detrimental, long-term consequences.”

- Dr. Ilan Meyer

impact on one’s well-being,” said Dr. Meyer. “The idea that simply walking out your door will expose you to societal rejection and stigma creates a climate of stress that can lead to detrimental, long-term consequences.”

The research also found that, paradoxically, sexual minorities sometimes view stigma as having enhanced their lives and as having a defining impact on their identity. For example, LGB individuals who were forced to leave their hometowns found a more accepting community and new professional and personal opportunities in big cities that might not otherwise have been available to them.

“The study’s results show policymakers need to think more broadly than simply reducing

extreme forms of abuse through measures like anti-bullying policies. Although reducing abuse and violence should be a primary focus, policy measures that enhance positive aspects of gay identity, like interventions that connect LGB persons to their communities, could help reduce the stress caused by social exclusion,” said Dr. Meyer.

The study, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, used qualitative analysis with 57 sexual minority men and women to identify aspects of stigma that are difficult to identify.

For the full report, visit [www.springerlink.com/content/q761v3380wjw1754/](http://www.springerlink.com/content/q761v3380wjw1754/)

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## Clinic teams up with Ruth Ellis Center

**HIGHLAND PARK** – Several therapists from Birmingham Maple Clinic, along with the clinic's owner and director, Lori Edelson, visited Ruth Ellis Center of Highland Park recently. REC is the youth social services agency that provides a safe place for runaway, at risk and homeless youth for the past 12 years. The mission of the center is "To provide short-term and long-term residential safe space and support for runaway, homeless, and at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-attractional, transgender, and questioning youth." REC is one of three agencies in the nation dedicated to LGBT youth and the only center in the midwest.

According to the staff at Birmingham Maple Clinic, estimates from the City of Detroit Department of Senior Citizens and Homelessness Coordination suggest that there are 1,600 to 2,000 homeless youth who do not receive services in Detroit on any one day, with LGBT youth being disproportionately affected due to scorn and shame from families and other service agencies who turn their back on this vulnerable population.

REC currently provides services to these youth through two settings. First, the center houses a 5,000 square foot drop-in facility where homeless youth



can access basic tools such as a safe space, food, clothing, showers, laundry, substance abuse screening, referrals to support groups, mental health treatment, victim's assistance, and vocational and life skills trainings necessary for safety and survival. This program is open Monday and Wednesday from 3-9 p.m.

The Street Outreach Program and Drop-in Center are often responsible for referring youth to the second program, Ruth's House, a set of residential services located at 612 and 619 Philadelphia St. in Detroit. Ruth's House hosts a Transitional Living Program for youth age 17 to 21 and a Semi-Independent Living Program for youth age 13 to 17. The TLP provides housing, meals, access to health services and life skills training for up to 21 months. The SLP services young people in the

foster care system by providing a home-like setting that meets the needs of youth for as long as they are in placement or age out of the foster care system. In 2010, the Street Outreach Program/Drop-In Center serviced over 2,500 youth. During the same time, the TLP and SLP programs housed 24 youth in a 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week operation.

Therapists from Birmingham Maple Clinic met with REC leadership and staff to tour the drop-in facility as well as to speak to employees about their experiences working in this setting. Birmingham Maple Clinic therapists were moved by the work of the dedicated staff and the warm, family-like environment. The therapists and REC staff discussed the personal and professional needs of the staff doing this difficult yet powerful work and began to brainstorm ways BMC therapists may provide support and educational services on a voluntary basis to REC employees to buttress the services and support they are providing to this in-need population.

Lori Edelson, Birmingham Maple Clinic, 248-646-6699, [www.birminghammaple.com](http://www.birminghammaple.com), Ruth Ellis Center [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)

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For more information about It's Not Over contact Anthony Jenkins at [ajenkins@hivaidresource.org](mailto:ajenkins@hivaidresource.org) or Leon Golson at [lgolson@hivaidresource.org](mailto:lgolson@hivaidresource.org) OR call and ask for them at 734-572-5355

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# Harness your creative genius with the right fuel



BY ELLEN LIVINGSTON

When passion, mental clarity and focused energy all come together our creative expression is at its peak. We're not likely to make major creative breakthroughs when we're tired, uninspired, feeling foggy or scatterbrained, or in

pain or discomfort of some kind. If you want to live an inspired life and spend a lot of time in your creative genius zone, you need to keep yourself feeling good.

There are many spokes in the "wheel of health" that require our dedicated attention, such as healthy food, good sleep, sunshine, fresh air and exercise, loving relationships, beauty, humor and meaningful creative work that we enjoy. Our health is hampered by any spoke that is out of alignment.

It is a lifetime project to keep all these important requisites of health in balance, a project that requires our constant recommitment if we want to thrive and experience our peak creativity. One spoke is not more critical than another, but the food we choose to put into our body several times every day has a particularly major impact on how we will feel, how well we can function and whether we can tap our

genius zone.

Surely you have experienced the dullness of being that follows a very rich or heavy meal, or the mental fog that accompanies a day of eating mostly junk foods. How about a scattered or antsy feeling from refined sugars or stimulants, followed later by a deep tiredness? In these scenarios it is often all we can do just to keep up with the general tasks before us – originality and sustained creative flow is just not happening. Can you imagine the possibilities if instead you were running on

There are many spokes in the "wheel of health" that require our dedicated attention, such as healthy food, good sleep, sunshine, fresh air and exercise, loving relationships, beauty, humor and meaningful creative work that we enjoy.

the perfect fuel and operating at full capacity, all the time?

There is a perfect fuel for human beings, and it is the fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds that nature has provided for us, already in just the right packaging and requiring no further processing for our enjoyment and nourishment. When we consume only the foods our body is biologically designed to digest and utilize, we waste no precious vital energy on inappropriate substances. What does this mean for your creativity? It means that all your faculties will be optimized and harnessed for clear and powerful self-expression and creativity.

As your body cleanses and heals itself once given its proper fuel, it will begin to operate at fuller capacity. As the sludge left from undigested and toxic food-stuffs is gradually cleared away, senses heighten, thoughts become more crystallized and laser-sharp, and energy is freed up. Once some

basic, critical healing is attended to, this energy will be yours to use for all your creative pursuits.

In a healthy body that is humming along at a high vibration, laser-sharp mental focus, emotional equilibrium, originality, and powerful creative flow is a natural experience. A low-fat raw vegan fruit-based diet is unrivaled in its nutrient density and ease of digestion and assimilation. There simply is no better fuel for optimizing your creative genius.

*Ellen Livingston from Living Yoga in Ann Arbor teaches classes and hosts retreats on yoga and raw food diets. For more information visit [www.LivingYogaNow.com](http://www.LivingYogaNow.com) or 734-222-3634.*



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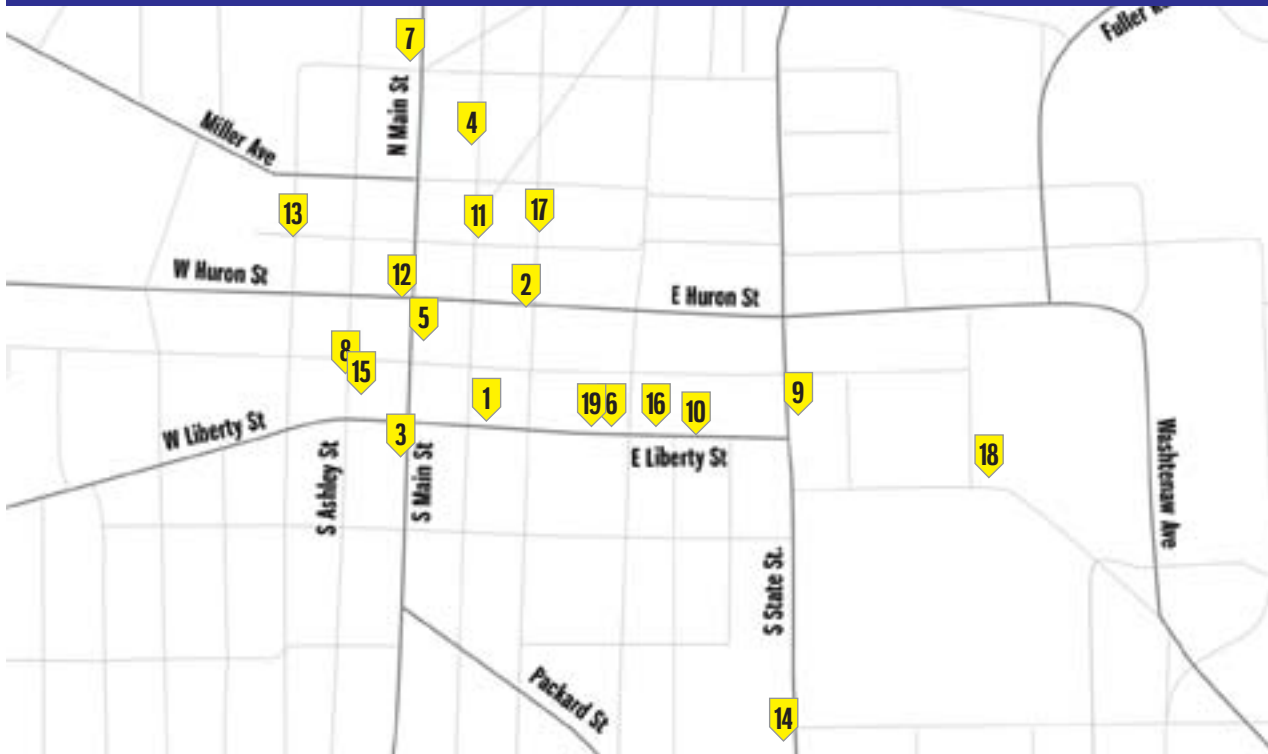


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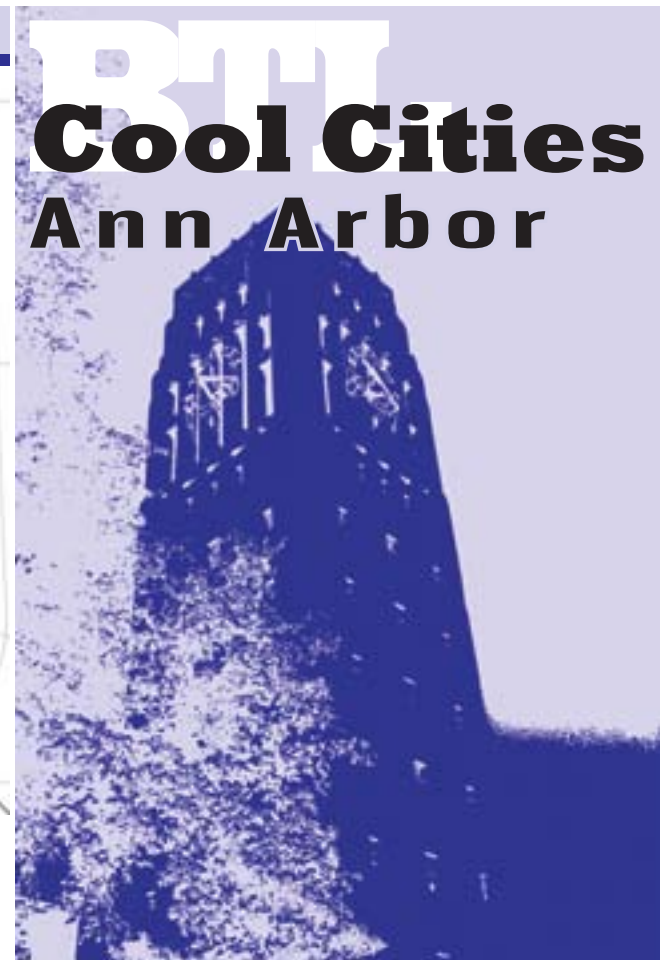
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# Out & About



House's Queer Zone, a weekly support group for all LGBTQ youth.

The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. at the downtown Ann Arbor nightclub Necto, prior to their nearly legendary Friday PRIDE dance party. For a \$15 dollar cover (\$10 with a student ID), attendants will see performances from local bands Drag King Rebellion, Nervous But Excited and Bitch.

Necto is located at 516 E. Liberty St. in Ann Arbor. This benefit is sponsored by Necto, Liberty Dental and Ms. Green Construction. For more information, go to [facebook.com/OzoneQzone](http://facebook.com/OzoneQzone)

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

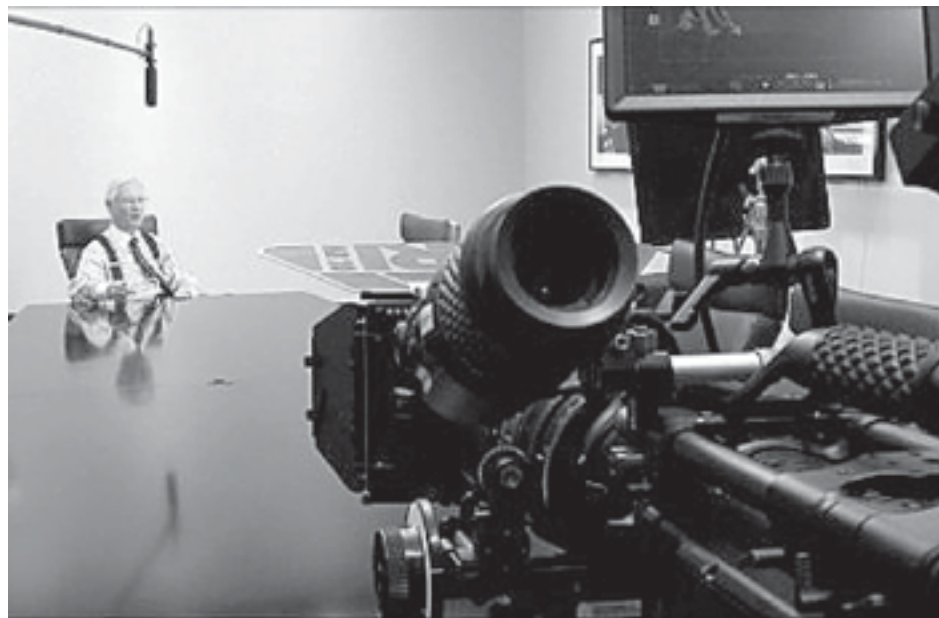
University of Michigan's Spectrum Center hosts its sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony and reception this year, in the Pendleton Room of the Michigan Union Building.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was first held to honor Rita Hester, murdered on Nov. 28, 1998. This event honors and mourns the loss of Hester and many other individuals killed around the world and raises awareness for the violence against transgender individuals.

The ceremony begins 8 p.m., Nov. 17 in the Pendleton Room of the Michigan Union. For more information, go to [spectrumcenter.umich.edu](http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu).

## Ann Arbor kicks out the Jams 2.0

The Ozone House Youth and Family Services presents their second annual Kicked Out the Jams benefit concert for LGBTQ youth at risk of homelessness on Nov. 18. The money raised supports the Ozone House's 24-hour crisis line, providing lifelines to homeless and at-risk youth in Southeast Michigan and the Ozone



## Working People Film Series continues with 'Inside Job'

The Washtenaw Community Action Team continues its "The Power of Working People" film series this November with screenings of Charles Ferguson's "Inside Job," a documentary about "the systemic corruption of the United States by the financial services industry and the consequences of that systemic corruption."

WCAT will screen the documentary thrice, following each screening with a guest speaker/facilitator and discussion. This discussion will give viewers an opportunity to discuss how the film can be incorporated into thinking about the

Occupy Movement across the country and in Ann Arbor. The first screening is 3 p.m. Nov. 6 at Café Ambrosia, 326 Maynard St., in Ann Arbor, with guest facilitator Tom Weisskopf, U-M political economist. The following day the film will be screened at the Ypsilanti District Library-Whittaker at 6:30 p.m. with U-M Political Economist Frank Thompson and again at 7 p.m. at Mason Hall (Room 3411 at U-M Campus) with Sociology Lecturer Ian Robinson. For more information, go to [washtenawcat.org](http://washtenawcat.org).

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Photo: Adam Bouska

# LeAnn Rimes

## Country Star Who Cares

Singer talks equality, motherhood – and clears up ‘gay’ ex-hubby rumors

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

LeAnn Rimes was a free-spirited 13-year-old when, on one of her biggest songs, she threw caution to the wind and bought a one-way ticket on a westbound train. You know, “to see how far I can go.” Pretty far, it turned out. That ticket took her everywhere: to the Grammys, to No. 1 and to the gay clubs.

Drama threw her career off track, however, and lately she’s made tabloid headlines for everything but music: she’s too fat, she’s too skinny; she’s a home-wrecker; she’s an unfit stepmother. But now Rimes, 29, is heading in a new direction, pumping estrogen into songs by the kings of country on her 13th album, “Lady & Gentlemen.” The singer will perform songs from the new CD, along with hits, at 8 p.m. Nov. 16 at Sound Board at MotorCity Casino.

Rimes spoke candidly about one of her “second dads” co-producing her latest work, how

### LeAnn Rimes

8 p.m. Nov. 16  
Sound Board at MotorCity Casino  
\$37-\$39  
[www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

a gay uncle inspired her to speak out on LGBT issues, the lack of a successful out country star and what to make of those rumors of her ex-hubby being homosexual.

**You do some gender bending on this album, LeAnn.**

Gender bending - I like the way you put that.

**Is this the closest you’ve come to doing drag?**

I would guess so! I’ve always watched others do my songs, but I’ve never taken it in the opposite direction. I didn’t dress up in the studio! (Laughs)

But it was fun doing this record because there’s a certain softness and a different vibe that a woman brings to these songs in a lot of ways, especially songs like “Good Hearted Woman.” When you’re singing it from the first person, from someone who’s actually experienced it as a woman, they take on a whole different connotation.

**You’ve been a big supporter of gay issues for a very long time, having done an It Gets Better video and recently a photo shoot for the NOH8 Campaign. Why are these LGBT issues so important to you, and why is it important to be part of these projects?**

I believe in equality. Everybody should be treated exactly the same way no matter what their race, no matter what their sexuality. I’ve learned from everything I’ve gone through and from being in this business for so long and being judged since I

was 13. That was my biggest lesson in life: not to judge others. You’ve never walked in their shoes, you don’t know where they’re coming from, and you don’t know their story.

I just believe that everybody should be able to do what they want to do as long as no one’s hurting anybody. I don’t believe in hate. I don’t believe in bullying. It’s something that’s become a huge issue, especially with cyberbullying. It just breaks my heart seeing kids committing suicide because they’re not accepted. It kills me.

**You were visibly shaken when you performed “The Rose” with the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles last Christmas. How have the suicides affected you specifically?**

I have not known anyone personally that has committed suicide because of their sexuality. But the stories from fans always make me appreciate

See LeAnn Rimes, page 29



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## ‘Women of the Mean Streets’ doesn’t live up to title



“We the Animals,” by Justin Torres. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 144 pages, \$18 hardcover.

This enthralling debut novel, knitted into propulsive story form through a series of disconnected vignettes, recounts six rambunctious years in the wild-boy lives of three brothers: Manny, Joel and the unnamed narrator. In their younger years, they are tough and inseparable – sitting at the kitchen table joyously smashing tomatoes one day, another day sheltering one another from their white mother’s and their Puerto Rican’s father’s erratic behavior and tempestuous moods. Often, there is violence. Just as often, there is tenderness. And, always, there is a sexual undercurrent. In one scene, the three boys are witness, after a bedtime bath, to their parents copulating against the bathroom sink; in another, an older boy lures them into his basement and plays a porn tape in which a father abuses his son; and – hinting at one boy’s eventual coming-out – he comments often on the fierce feel of his father’s muscle. By book’s end, the “I” and a “them,” as the narrator understands that his “pansy scent” has set him apart.

“Women of the Mean Streets: Lesbian Noir,” edited by J.M. Redmann and Greg Herren, Bold Strokes Books, 276 pages, \$16.95 paper.

What this is: a collection of quite good (and several outstanding) short stories, most of them well-crafted mysteries. What this isn’t: the promised mean streets of “lesbian noir”: there aren’t as many hardboiled, rye-swilling private investigators or as many dark and dangerous urban alleyways as promised by the title. That said, Carson Tait’s “Boomerang,” about a lusty bounty hunter who falls hard for her amusingly named prey, Diamond Collier, hits all the right noir notes; Redmann’s own “Lost” features P.I. Mickey Knight – taking a 30-page detour from the author’s several mystery novels – is engaged by an annoying relative to sleuth the whereabouts of a sleazy cousin. Genres are mixed – but noir wins out – in Lindy Cameron’s science-fictional collection-closing story, “Feedback,” featuring a legless cybercop who “trawls the mean streets of Cy-city and the other virtual resorts – the ones that ordinary beat cops fear to tread.” Stories by Laura Lippman, Lori



### Featured Excerpt

“This grout is filthy.” The young man sat up, rubbed his head. “You’d think they would clean the grout.” His skin was the color of weak coffee. He put on a pair of wire-rimmed glasses and surveyed Henry from head to foot. “Who are you?” “I’m Henry,” Henry said. “Really?” The young man’s lunular eyebrows lifted. “Are you sure?” Henry looked down at the palm of his right hand, as if that might be the place to find some irrefutable sign of Henryness. “Pretty sure.” The young man rose to his feet and, after peeling off one of bright-yellow gloves, pumped Henry’s hand warmly. “I was expecting someone bigger,” he explained. “Because of the baseball factor. My name’s Owen Dunne. I’ll be your gay mulatto roommate.”

– from “The Art of Fielding,” by Chad Harbach

L. Lake, Victoria Brownworth and Miranda Kent also stand out – tough, creepy, eerie and intense tales, to be sure, dark-hued but not traditionally “noir.”

“The Art of Fielding,” by Chad Harbach. Little, Brown, 524 pages, \$25.99 hardcover.

College baseball is merely the surface subject of Harbach’s perfect-pitch debut novel. At its heart is a shy and scrawny shortstop prodigy, Henry Skrimshander, plucked from dusty, small-town playing fields by Westish College baseball team captain Mike Schwartz to power the Harpooner’s – so named because college president Guert Affenlight, as a student, unearthed long-lost writing by Herman Melville – to long-sought nationals. The games recounted along the way are riveting, even for non-fans of baseball. But off the playing field, this is a coming-of-age novel that is at once spirited and melancholy – and quite, quite queer. Henry’s dorm-mate is fashionably effete Owen Dunne, effortlessly comfortable with his gay self whether as man-about-campus or at bat; life-long bachelor Affenlight – though he has a flighty daughter, Pella, who also figures in the story – is smitten with the lad. As the story unfolds, the destinies of these five characters reach a tipping point, leaving the reader unsure whether their dreams will be realized. In that sense, this impressively affecting novel is a lot like real life.

“At Home with Myself: Stories from the Hills of Turkey Hollow,” by David Mixner, 244 pages, \$18 hardcover.

After decades of high-powered, sharp-elbowed political and cultural activism, gay and otherwise – Mixner advised electoral campaigns for the likes of George McGovern, Gary Hart and Bill Clinton – the author retreated, at 60, to a rural mountaintop home in the Catskills. These collected reflections and ruminations are the result. Some chapters dwell on the past: Mixner laments the AIDS deaths of friends, alludes to anti-homophobic fights, recalls the horror of both John F. Kennedy’s Robert F. Kennedy’s assassinations, and excoriates himself for screwing up the execution of vaunted peace walk across America. But most of the easygoing entries – some read like off-the-top-of-the-head blog postings or extended emails to friends – recount a relaxed, companionable rapport with country neighbors, country ways and changing seasons. Where once Mixner protested his old friend Clinton’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy, he now celebrates Turkey Hollows’ annual Tractor Parade, commiserates with others at Johnny’s Barbershop about a summer heat wave and welcomes the departure, come September, of pushy summer residents. This is mellow Mixner, meditating on a life well lived.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-’70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

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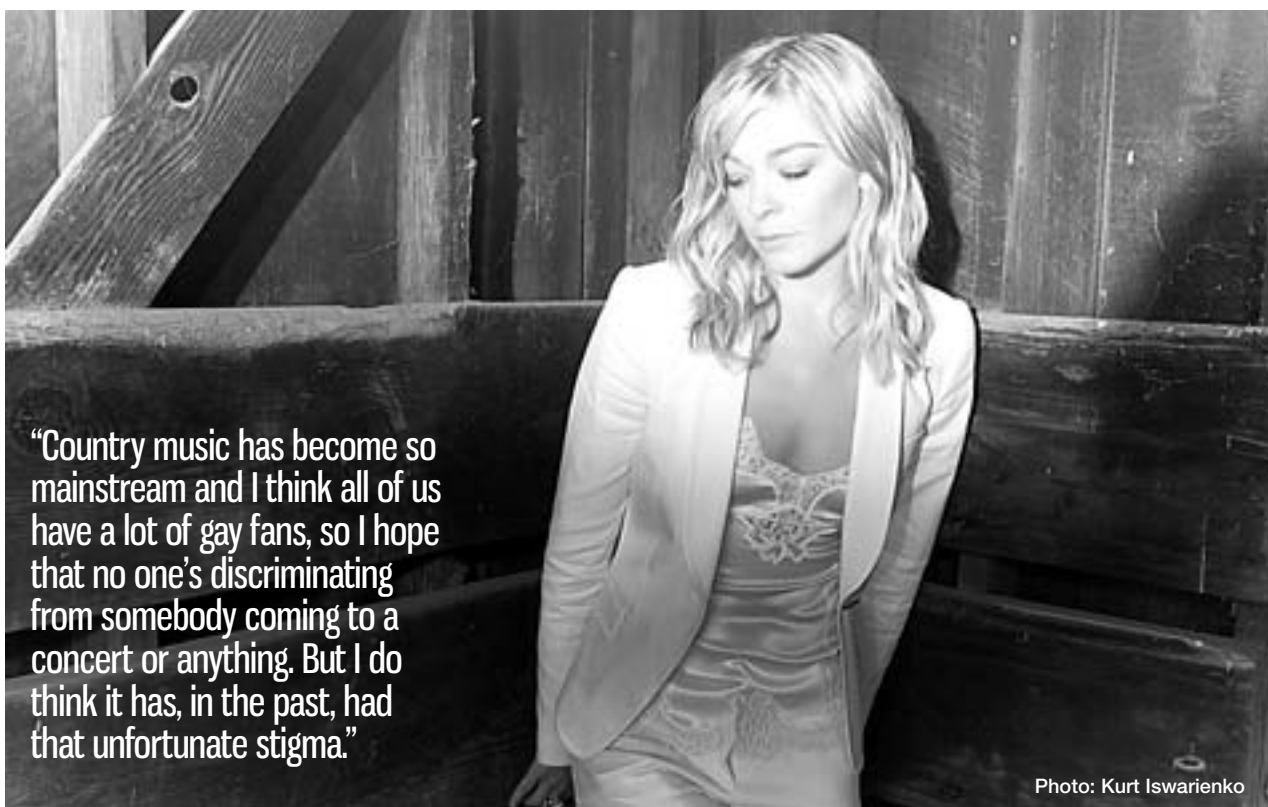
## Footnotes

POET JOHN ASHBERRY will receive the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters at the 2011 National Book Awards on November 16, an even hosted by actor John Lithgow... A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN, the feminist bookstore that has been a Madison, WI downtown fixture since 1975, is merging with another Madison independent, Avol’s

Bookstore, which specializes in used books. The woman’s bookstore will move into Avol’s space by August 2012, and used books will continue to be sold on consignment, complementing the women’s literature stock of A Room of One’s Own... BOOKS TO WATCH OUT FOR: “A New Way to Be Human,” Robert Taylor’s story of fighting apartheid in his native South Africa and becoming the highest-ranking openly gay clergy in the Episcopal Church, with a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is a May 2012

title from New Page... SARAH SCHULMAN’S “Salt on Green Almonds: Israel/Palestine and The Queer International,” a September 2012 title from Duke University Press, examines the emerging Palestinian LGBT movement and its impact on both the global LGBT community and the broad politics of the Middle East... NOVELIST ANNE TYLER is writing a foreword to “Midstream: An Unfinished Memoir” by Reynolds Price, who died in January while at work on the memoir, his fourth; it’s a May 2012 title from Scribner.





**“Country music has become so mainstream and I think all of us have a lot of gay fans, so I hope that no one’s discriminating from somebody coming to a concert or anything. But I do think it has, in the past, had that unfortunate stigma.”**

Photo: Kurt Iswarienko

► **LeAnn Rimes**

Continued from p. 27

and love what I do even more and drive me at the end of the day, because I feel like to touch someone through my music is the ultimate thing for me, especially if I’ve written it. I’ve had many people say, “I was thinking about committing suicide and your song came on the radio and I just decided not to do it, that life was worth living.” It’s unfathomable to, I guess, really understand the impact I’ve had on some people’s lives. It does affect me. It deeply, deeply affects me. Obviously you can tell by that performance.

**You mentioned having felt judged since you were 13. Is that why you gravitate toward gay people, because we’re some of the least judgmental of people?**

Oh, you guys can be very judgmental! I’m just kidding. (Laughs)

**When it comes to fashion maybe.**

Exactly! You’re like, “Girl, why you wearing that?” No, I don’t know. I have a lot of gay friends and it’s something that has just naturally happened in my life and in this business. I have a lot of straight friends too, but my closest, deepest friends are gay and a lot older than me. Darrell Brown, he actually co-produced the record, and his partner are like second dads to me; they are with me through thick and thin. All my friends that I have known in my life are solid, but there’s something about my gay friends; they’ve always stuck by me and never judged, ever.

**You also had a gay uncle. How did he affect you?**

Yeah, I did. He actually passed away from AIDS when I was 11; it was very hush-hush and no one went to his funeral in our family except for my dad. He was someone really, really close to me. So I think it goes way back, I guess. He loved me and I loved him,

and it was a very early-on experience that made me want to get involved even more.

**As someone who’s been part of the country community for so long, do you feel it’s broken the stigma of not being welcoming to gay people?**

I hope it’s progressed. Country music has become so mainstream and I think all of us have a lot of gay fans, so I hope that no one’s discriminating from somebody coming to a concert or anything. But I do think it has, in the past, had that unfortunate stigma. I think the walls are breaking down, at least I hope so. But I hope the walls are breaking down all over, not just in country music.

**So you don’t think the genre is as homophobic as some people perceive it to be?**

I don’t think so, I really don’t. I can’t speak for everybody obviously, but I don’t think that it is as homophobic as you said.

**Then why isn’t there an out gay country star who’s mainstream and successful?**

I don’t know. That’s a really good question. And that’s kind of unfortunate. I have thought about it. Shelby Lynne is an amazing singer and Chely Wright is such a sweetheart. I’m so happy for (Chely) and her wife. But I don’t know. You pose a very good question that I haven’t thought about in a very long time.

**There were obviously many upsides to finding fame early on, but what about the drawbacks - what sucked about being a 13-year-old star?**

(Laughs) What sucked about it – I love how you put it. I lost a lot of my childhood, obviously. I used to say, “Oh no, I didn’t lose anything,” but I think as you get older – and now having my two “bonus boys,” as I call them, and seeing how they are as children and how innocent they are – a lot of innocence was taken away early on because I had to be responsible for so many at such a young age. So I think that’s the

hardest part. But the great part is getting to do it now, with them. Where I’ve come, the place that I’ve come to know, I couldn’t have skipped any of it. I started at a young age, I love music, I was so driven as a kid – this is my path. I’m a true believer in what’s supposed to happen will. And this is my path. I can’t change it, and I wouldn’t. I’m enjoying having fun with Eddie (Cibrian’s) kids for sure – and being a kid when I can.

**There have been many headlines regarding you lately, but the latest is that you’re an overbearing stepmother according to Eddie’s ex-wife, Brandi Glanville. What are you really like as a mom?**

I guess if loving them with all my heart and taking care of them when they’re with us and being there for them is overbearing, then I guess I am – but I don’t think that’s the definition of overbearing.

I grew up in a family where my parents divorced when I was 14. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. I know my mom and dad weren’t meant to be together other than to have me (laughs), and I’m totally cool with it. The kids are our main priority, and we have a house full of love and I have a great relationship with them.

**What do you make of the outing of your ex on Detroit radio station 95.5 a couple of years ago when a so-called extended family member, “Pebbles,” came on the air to say he’s gay?**

I was actually with him at the time. I think it was a bunch of craziness. I support Dean (Sheremet) and his happiness, and he’s married now (to Sarah Silver) and I’m very happy for him. That was a big, big prank at the end of the day.

**Have you ever fallen for a gay man?**

Have I ever fallen for a gay man? I don’t think so! I think it’s always been a straight man, but I love my gay friends to death, that’s for sure.



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# Winter Adventures at Vail and Beaver Creek



Skiing the Back Bowls at Vail Mountain. Photo: Andrew Collins

Colorado's most famous gay ski weeks are held in Aspen and Telluride, in mid-January and late February respectively, but over the past few years, Vail Gay Ski Week (<http://vailgayskiweek.com>) has begun drawing serious crowds. The gathering takes place in late March and includes the usual mix of fun on the slopes and hobnobbing back around the fireplaces and hot tubs. In winter, skiing and snowboarding may be the region's big draws, but it would be unfair to describe Vail ([www.visitvailvalley.com](http://www.visitvailvalley.com)) and nearby Beaver Creek ([www.beavercreek.com](http://www.beavercreek.com)) as mere ski towns. These scenic communities in the heart of the Colorado Rockies offer plenty of diversions.

Another misconception about Vail ([www.vail.com](http://www.vail.com)) is that it's a crowded, freeway-side ski park. True, the resort's Front Side can get busy on weekends and does overlook Vail's bustling villages and I-70, and this facility is one of the largest in North America, with some 5,300 skiable acres and nearly 200 runs. But there are many places on Vail Mountain to escape from the crowds, and skiers of all abilities will find challenging, varied terrain.

For more solitude, ascend to the upper slopes of Vail's Front Side to access the fabled Back Bowls, a glorious – and vast – swath of less-trammeled runs that descend down the back of the mountain. From there, additional lifts carry those seeking truly secluded terrain into Blue Sky Basin, a stunning patch of wilderness developed by the resort in 2000. In reality, from the majority of Vail's ski runs, you can't see a single mile of freeway or village infrastructure. Just avoid the Front Side, which is possible as long as you're comfortable with intermediate terrain.

If you're planning to ski at more than a couple of the seven facilities owned by Vail Resorts (Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, and Arapahoe Basin in Colorado, and Heavenly and Northstar in Lake Tahoe, California), consider buying an Epic Pass ([www.snow.com/epic-pass.aspx](http://www.snow.com/epic-pass.aspx)), which offers great deals whether you're skiing for a week or a full season. Standard lift tickets for Vail are also good at nearby Beaver Creek.

Vail was developed as a planned resort community in 1962, designed with a nod toward

the quaint chalet-inspired architecture of the Alps. Dozens of resorts, condos, shops, and restaurants have sprung up over the years, the earlier ones retaining the vintage, occasionally kitschy, aesthetic of Bavaria or Tyrol. More recently, Vail has seen a surge in ultra-luxury condo and hotel development. Several notable newcomers – Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, and Arrabelle at Vail Square among them – have upped the town's posh factor.

You don't need a car in Vail – the 10-mile paved, multi-use Gore Valley Trail wends through the village, and free buses run regularly among the key neighborhoods and connect with low-priced service throughout the entire valley. You can reach Vail by flying into Eagle County Airport (with direct flights to about a dozen cities), which is 30 miles west, or flying to Denver and renting a car or taking a bus – Vail is a two-hour drive from Denver (allow another 45 minutes from DIA, and account for slow-going on weekends and during rough weather). Vail is a 20-minute drive (shuttle bus service is available) from its smaller, swankier cousin, Beaver Creek.

The small but dapper town of Avon lies at the base of the Beaver Creek ski area and is home to several good restaurants as well as the superb Westin Riverfront Resort. It's a short, winding drive up the hill to reach fashionable Beaver Creek Village, home to 1,800 acres of superb skiing and snowboarding. Chains like Hyatt and Sheraton have impressive hotels set at Beaver Creek's main base village, which is also anchored by a large skating rink. Lifts and ski runs join Beaver Creek's main area with Arrowhead and Bachelor Gulch mountains – the latter has runs that trickle down to a sumptuous Ritz-Carlton. Almost improbably, given its location down on the Eagle River, the Westin Riverfront is an actual ski-in, ski-out resort – a gondola carries guests to a lift at Lower Beaver Creek Mountain (or you can take free shuttle buses up the hill to Beaver Creek Village). Head five miles west of Avon, and you'll find more upscale dining, lodging, and shopping in the town of Edwards.

It bears repeating that these communities abound with the usual diversions you might associate with acclaimed winter resorts. You can snowshoe, cross-country ski, take snowmobile

tours, or simply stroll among the dozens of high-end shops in each village. You'll also find more than a dozen full-service spas among the area's resorts. At the Westin Riverfront, Spa Anjali offers a memorable Himalayan-inspired Abhyanga massage treatment as well as a red clover and mountain honey body mask. Other spas of note include the plush RockResorts Spa at the Arrabelle at Vail Square, and the serene Spa at Four Seasons Vail.

If you're planning a visit outside the snow season, note that several festivals take place in the area from late spring through early autumn, including Taste of Vail in April, the Vail Valley Music Festival from June to August, and the Vail International Dance Festival in late July and early August. The area is also renowned for mountain biking, hiking, fly-fishing, golf, and horseback.

## Dining and lodging

The dining scene in Vail and Beaver Creek has begun to earn serious acclaim in recent years. Many of the top special-occasion restaurants are in resort hotels. In Vail, you don't want to miss Flame at the Four Seasons ([www.fourseasons.com/vail](http://www.fourseasons.com/vail)), which is renowned for its sterling service and artfully presented food. Montauk Seafood Grill (<http://montaukseafoodgrill.com>) in Lionshead is quite good, and Terra Bistro ([www.vailmountainlodge.com/terra-bistro](http://www.vailmountainlodge.com/terra-bistro)) at Vail Mountain Lodge can be counted on for exceptional and innovative American fare. Atwater on Gore Creek at Vail Cascade ([www.vailcascade.com/atwater](http://www.vailcascade.com/atwater)) impresses diners with its reasonable prices and tasty updates on American comfort food, from seared wild salmon to Angus beef sliders. And Centre V (<http://arrabelle.rockresorts.com/dining>) at Arrabelle resort in Lionshead turns out excellent French bistro fare (including addictive truffle-parmesan frites and Moroccan chicken tagine) in a romantic but informal space.

At the Westin Riverfront, the stylish but relaxed Restaurant Avondale ([www.avondalerestaurant.com](http://www.avondalerestaurant.com)) is well worth visiting – celeb chef Richard Sandoval took over operations here in fall 2011, giving the food the same creative Pan Latin spin

he's made famous at his Denver restaurants. Up at Beaver Creek Village, there are few more romantic places to dine than Grouse Mountain Grill ([www.grousemountaingrill.com](http://www.grousemountaingrill.com)), whose commitment to local ingredients is evident in such dishes as pan-seared Colorado striped bass over lentil ragout. And in the village of Edwards, the smart but casual Juniper Restaurant ([www.juniperrestaurant.com](http://www.juniperrestaurant.com)) has a splendid wine list and specializes in creative American and Continental fare.

More casual options include Blue Moose Pizza ([www.bluemoosepizza.com](http://www.bluemoosepizza.com)) in Lionshead Village, and Rimini Gelato ([www.riminelato.com](http://www.riminelato.com)), with locations in Vail and Beaver Creek, a fine choice for sweets or a cup of hot cocoa. There are no gay bars in the Rockies, but the dozens of convivial nightspots in these parts are consistently gay-friendly. In Vail, excellent options for enjoying regional ales and lagers from Colorado's bounty of craft breweries include the Tap Room at Bridge Street and Garfinkel's Bar and Grill. A best bet among dance clubs is Samana Lounge, but Vail is more about listening to live music than dancing to DJs. In Beaver Creek Village, head to the hip Osprey Lounge for tapas and artful cocktails, or check out the scenes at Vin 48 wine bar and Loaded Joe's Coffeehouse and Lounge, both down in Avon village.

Vail and Beaver Creek are home to some of the finest resorts in Rockies. Venerable long-time favorites include the centrally located and beautifully designed Lodge at Vail (<http://lodgeatvail.rockresorts.com>), with its excellent spa, hot tubs, pool, and warmly furnished rooms, including suites of up to three bedrooms. It's the flagship of the venerable RockResorts brand, which also operates the sumptuous Arrabelle at Vail Square (<http://arrabelle.rockresorts.com>) in Lionshead Village. The Four Seasons Vail ([www.fourseasons.com/vail](http://www.fourseasons.com/vail)) has been wowing visitors since it opened in late 2010. It's a fairly intimate member of the illustrious brand, with just 121 rooms and the personal, top-notch service Four Seasons is famous for.

Up in Beaver Creek, you'll find two more excellent RockResorts properties, the hip and contemporary Osprey at Beaver Creek (<http://ospreyatbeavercreek.rockresorts.com>) and the more classically elegant Pines Lodge (<http://pineslodge.rockresorts.com>). The Ritz-Carlton at Bachelor Gulch ([www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)) excels on service and has beautiful rooms within a many-gabled lodge-like building. And Avon's Westin Riverfront ([www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)) has huge, contemporary rooms with large windows, extensive kitchens in suites, and plenty of luxe perks – it's LEED-certified and designed with a clean, modern, yet unquestionably cushy aesthetic.

Down within walking distance of the many shops and restaurants in Edwards, the Inn at Riverwalk ([www.innandsuitesatriverwalk.com](http://www.innandsuitesatriverwalk.com)) is a reasonably priced, upscale option, perfect if you don't mind being a short drive or bus ride from the slopes. Vail's Christiana Hotel ([www.christiana.com/](http://www.christiana.com/)) is another mid-priced option, and there's also a perfectly comfortable, nicely updated Comfort Inn ([www.comfortinn.com](http://www.comfortinn.com)) in Avon.

Finally, the area has a dizzying variety of condo rentals, which can be ideal for groups of friends traveling together. Rocky Mountain Vacation Rentals (<http://rockymountainvacationrentals.com/>) is the official go-to for condo rentals during Vail Gay Ski Week and is a great bet any time of year.

*Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website GayTravel.About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.*



# Strong vision carries Hilberry's 'Much Ado'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

There is much ado that can be made about the Hilberry Theatre's production of "Much Ado About Nothing." This production, directed by Matthew Earnest, demonstrates how beautiful a production can be when all the actors and technical staff share the same vision and commit fully to it.

The Wayne State graduate students who make up the Hilberry company demonstrate the advantage of having a troupe that works together long enough to develop the essential chemistry and trust that can transfer from backstage teamwork to onstage magic. The love affairs between Claudio (Christopher Ellis) and Hero (Carollette Phillips) and then Beatrice (Vanessa Sawson) and Benedict (Dave Toomey) were thoroughly believable, and the complexities of the relationships were communicated with every move, intonation, expression and word.

Toomey in particular created a Benedict without bluster. He was thoughtful, intelligent, witty and sensitive. It was easy to see why his comrades loved him, why Beatrice would challenge him and why he would ultimately fall pretty to the state of marriage that he mocked. He took brave choices not just in the way he delivered the lines, but in the silences that he created, silences that invited the audience into his mind and let them see what he was thinking. His journey was apparent and thus completely believable.

Sawson's Beatrice was a joyful, merry soul. Sawson found witty ways to deliver traditional scenes that made them feel fresh and new. She was a loving creature who was as lacking in shrewishness as Toomey was in bluster. They were two heroes worth rooting for. Sawson did occasionally drop the ends of her lines, causing them to be swallowed up at the sides.

Earnest made a brave choice in the casting of Ellis as Claudio and Alec Barbour as the Prince, Don Pedro. Barbour had all the traditional looks of a Claudio while Ellis had more of the royal bearing. However, both succeeded in furthering a vision of Claudio as the strong, silent type to match Phillips' gentle delicacy and the Prince as a merry



Carollette Phillips as Hero and Christopher Ellis as Claudio are among the cast members of the Hilberry Theatre's production of "Much Ado About Nothing." Photo: Patrick Pozezinski

## REVIEW

### Much Ado About Nothing

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit.  
Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday through Nov. 19, plus Wednesday, Nov. 2. \$12-30. 313-577-2972.

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

prankster who lacks the authority to keep his wayward brother in line.

Joshua Blake Rippey as Dogberry and Sara Hymes as Verges made a perfect pair in roles that are difficult to do well. They were constantly amusing as the oafish clowns who were entirely lacking in the wit of those in dallying in Leonato's household.

Scenic Designer and Technical Director Pegi Marshall-Amundsen made the most of the space through simple scenic elements that required little time to set or strike. The most impressive piece was the hedge-like green backdrop with its many jigsaw openings that allowed characters to hide, spy and pop out in the most unexpected places. Like the actors themselves, it was a piece that carried the Earnest's vision of a play about noting and noticing.

In a production that is willing to take risks to achieve new heights, it is impossible

that there not be some flaws. While it is an impressive bit of stage magic to have actual rain falling upon revelers, the price of that business was the constant crunching of boots across the noisy gravel that served as water reclamation. It was a constant distraction that drew attention away from the very fine job the actors were doing.

The dances yielded mixed results. The masquerade in which the Prince woos Hero for Claudio was fun, energizing and filled with delightful bits and business. It set the stage for the play that followed and the interpretation presented. Later choices were not as effective in their execution. An odd bit of choreography at the second wedding seemed like it was going to go somewhere, but didn't. It was merely movement for the sake of movement. The final dance lost some of its power by lasting too long.

Topher Payne's Balthasar and his performance of "Sigh No More" earned well-deserved applause from a charmed audience. It was a masterful piece of direction from Earnest and strong musical choice by Music Composer/Director George Abud.

Hilberry's "Much Ado About Nothing" celebrates all the delightful elements of this classic play while demonstrating exactly why it is timeless in its appeal to all generations that are populated with lovers and would-be lovers.

## Wayne State to participate in nationwide staging of plays to promote marriage equality

**DETROIT** — On Nov. 7, a group of Wayne State University faculty and students in the College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts will participate in a nationwide staged performance of "Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays." The event will take place at WSU's Schaver Music Recital Hall at 8 p.m., and will include a live webcast discussion with all participating theaters.

Created by the Tectonic Theater Project, the award-winning company dedicated to developing innovative works that explore artistic dialogue with audiences on social, political and human issues, the evening aims to bring awareness of marriage equality

through the presentation of nine new, short plays on the topic of gay marriage.

The evening will be hosted by John Corvino, writer of the column "The Gay Moralists" for *Between The Lines*.

The cast includes members of the Detroit theater community, Hilberry Theatre Company and WSU's undergraduate theater program, as well as faculty from the department. They include Michael J. Barnes, Jesse Merz, Cheryl Turski, Phillip Barnhart, Kassy Skoretz, Jordan Whalen, Sara Hymes, Topher Payne, Josh Rippey, Vanessa Sawson, Danielle Simonian, Robbie Dwight, Shay Johnson, Sara Kline, Julia Moriarty, Ashley Shamon, and Alexander Trice. Directors

include Michael J. Barnes, Phillip Barnhart, Bilha Birman-Rivlin, Michael Butterworth, Jesse Merz, Andrew Papa, Josh Rippey, Cheryl Turski, and Jordan Whalen.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations made will benefit the College's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Kyle Holton Memorial Theatre Scholarship.

For more information, visit [www.theatre.wayne.edu/PerformanceExchange.php](http://www.theatre.wayne.edu/PerformanceExchange.php) or contact Mary Elizabeth Anderson, assistant professor of theatre, at [maryelizabeth@wayne.edu](mailto:maryelizabeth@wayne.edu) or Michael J. Barnes, associate professor of theatre, at [mjbarnes@wayne.edu](mailto:mjbarnes@wayne.edu).

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# RTM Happenings

## Editor's Picks

### Music & More

The Dearborn Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 50th season bringing classical orchestral music and culture to the city of Dearborn this year. Friday, Nov. 18 the Orchestra invites flutist Dennis Carter as their guest soloist for their Dance to the Stars performance.

Carter has performed the flute with numerous orchestras in the area as well as in London, New York and Sicily. Carter and the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra will be performing openly gay contemporary composer John Corigliano's "Voyage for Flute and Strings," as well as Carl Maria von Weber's "Invitation to the Dance," Anthony Iannaccone's "Dancing on Vesuvius," Antonin Dvorak's "Slavonic Dances," and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Symphony No. 41 'Jupiter.'"

Carter and the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra perform at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Michael A. Guido Theater in the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. For more information, go to dearbornsymphony.org. Tickets range from \$10-30.



### Art 'n' Around



For the second part of 323East's "The Future is Now" exhibit, the art gallery brings Kimyon Huggins, AVONE and Ellis G into the spotlight this November.

Each of these Brooklyn-based artists come from unique backgrounds: Huggins, a DJ with a passion for technology; AVONE, once NYC's most wanted graffiti artist; and Ellis G, a chalk artist striving to enhance the aura of everyday objects. Along with the exhibit in this Royal Oak gallery, each artist will participate in the Woodward Windows Project, creating large public mural installations in abandoned and vacant storefronts down the Woodward Corridor.

A reception for the exhibit is 6-11 p.m. Nov. 5 at 323East. The exhibit will run from Nov. 5 to Jan. 4, 2012. For more information, go to 323east.com.

### Theater

Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts presents our very own Elaine Stritch at the Jazz Cafe in an all-new show, "Elaine Stritch Singin' Sondheim, Again... Why Not?" The strictly limited engagement will play four shows, Thursday, Nov. 3 through Sunday, Nov. 6. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The iconic musical theater careers of Stritch and Stephen Sondheim are inextricably linked, and this new show is the culmination of a personal and professional relationship that has spanned the better part of four decades. "In Elaine Stritch Singin' Sondheim, Again... Why Not?" Stritch (with Music Director Rob Bowman) will perform the music of Sondheim in the equally iconic Jazz Café.

Tickets are \$75. Music Hall's Jazz Cafe is located at 350 Madison St., Detroit. For tickets and information, call 313-887-8501.



## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Nov. 3

**GLBT Professionals Network Happy Hour** 6 p.m. Socialize and beverages with other LGBT & Allied Professionals from the Kalamazoo area. KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

**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. 734-265-0740. Outloudchorus@gmail.com olonline.org

### Friday, Nov. 4

**Race 2 Equity Conference** 1 p.m. Seating the Metro Detroit Truth & Reconciliation Commission On Racial Inequality. Keynote Speaker: Nontombi Naomi Tutu South Africa. Registration: \$50 general, \$30 students. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. 313-870-1500. Miroundtable.org

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: One Night Stand: Caroline Rhea. Comedienne lights up the stage with her sassy brand of stand-up humor in this HBO performance. 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, Nov. 5

**Race 2 Equity Conference** 9 a.m. Examining Race, Place & Opportunity in Metro Detroit. Registration: \$50 general, \$30 students. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. 313-870-1500. Miroundtable.org

**Michigan Pride Euchre Tournament** 4 p.m. First annual Euchre Tournament fundraising for Michigan Pride 2012. Cash prizes, giveaways, live auction, 50/50. \$15 reserves your seat to play. Michigan Pride, 13631 Main St., Bath. Ktasley1203@yahoo.com michiganpride.org

**Wintergreen Euchre** 6 p.m. A friendly card game and a social outing for Womyn of all ages, meeting the first Saturday. No RSVP or partner is needed. There is a \$5 donation. Arrive a little early to get settled in and registered for a seat. Wintergreen Euchre, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Home.comcast.net/~vern909/site/

### Wednesday, Nov. 9

**Adoptive and Foster Parent orientation** 9 a.m. If your family has been talking about whether adoption or foster care parenting is right for you, come and learn more about the process. Services are available to all residents of Jackson and Lenawee Counties with equal opportunity for participating in agency programs, activities and services provided without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual preference or disability. Family Service and Children's Aid, 330 W. Michigan, Jackson. 517-787-7920. Strong-families.org

**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. Kglrc.org

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

**Motor City Pride Organizers Meeting** 7

p.m. Festival organizers have scheduled two community meetings for the public to provide input on the 2012 event. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to attend either of the following meetings and share suggestions with the planning committee. Please RSVP to roshanda@equalitymi.org if you plan to attend. Equality Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Equalitymi.org

### Friday, Nov. 11

**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

**Black Lesbian Discussion Group** 6 p.m. A support group for Black Same-Gender-Attracted women in Detroit who are fifty years and over. A.L.O.R.D.E., 4205 Haverhill, Detroit. 313-978-7918. bllemac100@sbcglobal.net

**Dinner at Giulios Cucina Italiana** 6:15 p.m. Join the Lesbian Supper Meet up Group for dinner. Plymouth Lesbian Supper Meet up Group, 31735 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 734-427-9500. Giuliositalian.com/Italian\_Restaurant\_Livonia\_Michigan%20-%20Index.html

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Bloomington-Ex-child actor Jackie leaves the entertainment world behind and heads to college at a Midwestern university, where she meets engaging professor Catherine, who has a reputation for breaking the hearts of other women. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### Sunday, Nov. 13

**Motor City Pride Organizers Meeting** 3 p.m. Festival organizers have scheduled two community meetings for the public to provide input on the 2012 event. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to attend either of the following meetings and share suggestions with the planning committee. Please RSVP to roshanda@equalitymi.org if you plan to attend. Equality Michigan, 400 Renaissance Dr., Detroit. Roshanda@equalitymi.org equalitymi.org

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Musica de las Americas" Colorful Latin American music including Maleguena, Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5, and a new Peruvian-inspired work by Gabriela Lena Frank. Individual Concert tickets: \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10 student. Full subscriptions available online. Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. 2 p.m. Nov. 13. 734-451-2112. Michiganphil.org

**St. James Episcopal Church** "World Without End Choral Program" The St. James Choir celebrated the lives of the faithful departed in World Without End, a program of traditional and contemporary choral masterpieces. St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, Birmingham. 9 a.m. Nov. 6. 248-644-0820. Stjamesbirmingham.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

**The Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Osvaldo Golijov Sidereus" Premiere" In 2008, Osvaldo Golijov was commissioned by a consortium of 35 American orchestras (including the DSO) to compose a piece honoring the retirement of Henry Fogel, long-time CEO of the League of American Orchestras. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 4-Nov. 4. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

**University Musical Society** "St. Lawrence String Quartet" Performances of Haydn, as well as a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, the Argentinean composer who has worked with the quartet since the early 90's. Rackham Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

### COMEDY

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** Moshe Kasher Known for his eclectic, dark and somewhat strange comedic point of view. Tickets: \$12-14. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 4-Nov. 5. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

**Detroit Opera House** "All Stars of Comedy" Billy Bellamy, Adele givens, Arnez J. Damon Williams and Tommy Davidson perform at the Detroit Opera House. Tickets: \$59-80. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-237-SING. Michiganopera.org

### CONCERTS

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Musica de las Americas" Gabriela Luna Frank, Composer. Tickets: \$18-22 Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. 2 p.m. Nov. 13. 734-451-2112. Michiganphil.org

**Olympia Entertainment** "Special Night with Demi Lovato" tour in Detroit at the Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$29.50-\$49.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** Lindsey Buckingham Tickets: \$37.50 advance, \$40 at the door. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Nov. 8. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

**The Ark** May Erlewine & Seth Bernard Tickets: \$17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Stanley Clarke Band" Electric bass virtuosity showcased with Grammy Award winning band. Ticket information available at dso.org Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

**The Whiting** "The Midtown Men" reunites four stars from the Original Cast of Broadway's Jersey Boys. Tickets: \$19-49. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 810-237-8689. Thewhiting.com

**University Musical Society** Diego el Cigala, Internationally celebrated Gitano flamenco singer and one of cotemporary flamenco's most compelling voices. Ticket information available at ums.org. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

**Wharton Center** "Vienna Symphony Orchestra with the Eroica Trio" The historic Vienna Symphony Orchestra joins forces with the most sought-after string trio in the world, the Grammy-nominated Eroica Trio. Tickets: \$25-78. Cobb Great Hall, Wilson Road, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Nov. 6. 517-432-2000. Whartoncenter.com

**WellspringCori Terry & Dancers** "Wellspring Art HopWork in Progress Open Rehearsal" On Friday, November 4th 2011 members of the public can get a special free preview of Wellspring's exciting new season at the Art Hop Fall Concert Open Rehearsal from 6-7pm in the Wellspring Theater. Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. 5 p.m. Nov. 4. (269) 342-4354. Wellspringdance.org



# THEATER

## CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**A Clockwork Orange** \$15. Korda Artistic Productions at The Kordazone Theatre, 2520 Seminole St., Windsor. Nov. 11 - 19. 519-562-3394. [kordazone.com](http://kordazone.com)

**A Salute to the Red, White and Blue** \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Nov. 4 - 12. 269-343-1313. [kazocivic.com](http://kazocivic.com)

**God of Carnage** \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. Nov. 3 - 12. 517-372-0945. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org)

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Nov. 4 - 13. 248-644-2075. [birminghamvillageplayers.com](http://birminghamvillageplayers.com)

**White Christmas, the Musical** \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre, Potter Center at Jackson Community College, Jackson. Nov. 4 - 13. 517-782-8473. [centerstagejackson.org](http://centerstagejackson.org)

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**August: Osage County** \$20. The University Theatre at Shaw Theatre, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Nov. 10 - 20. 269-387-3227. [wmtheatre.com](http://wmtheatre.com)

**Falstaff** \$20-\$26. U-M Opera Theatre at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - 13. 734-764-2538. [music.umich.edu](http://music.umich.edu)

**The Beau's Stratagem** \$13. Michigan State University's Department of Theatre at Arena Theatre, Auditorium Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 11 - 20. 1-800-WHARTON. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

**The Shrike** \$10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Nov. 4 - 12. 517-372-0945. [artslansing.org](http://artslansing.org)

## PROFESSIONAL

**Ain't Misbehavin'** Previews Nov. 10-13 & 17 (\$15-\$37). \$30-\$46; \$75 New Year's Eve. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - Jan. 1. 734-663-0681. [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org)

**Anatomy of Gray** \$18. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 McNichols Rd., Detroit. Nov. 4 - 13. 313-993-3270. [theatre.udmercy.edu](http://theatre.udmercy.edu)

**Butterfly: The Story of a Life Cycle** \$8. Wharton Center at Pasant Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 6. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

**Elaine Stritch Singin' Sondheim, Again...Why Not?** \$75. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts' Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison, Detroit. Nov. 3 - 6. 313-887-8501. [musichall.org](http://musichall.org)

**Engagement Rules** \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Nov. 3 - Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. [detroitreptheatre.com](http://detroitreptheatre.com)

**Escanaba in da Moonlight** \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 17. 734-433-7782. [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org)

**Hedwig and the Angry Inch** \$10-20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Nov. 7. 248-545-5545. [whowantscaketheatre.com](http://whowantscaketheatre.com)

**Hell to Pay** Dinner served at 7 p.m. Dinner combination for \$35 or tickets for \$18. AP Theatrical Productions at Baker Lofts, 171 E. 24th St., Holland. Through Nov. 12. 616-772-5697. [aptheatrical.com](http://aptheatrical.com) **Imagining Madoff**: \$36-43. Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through Nov. 13. 248-788-2900. [jettheatre.org](http://jettheatre.org)

**Irving Berlin's White Christmas** \$25-\$100. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 8 - 13. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Much Ado About Nothing** \$12-30. Hilberry

Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Nov. 19. 313-577-2972. [hilberry.com](http://hilberry.com)

**Murder Me, Murder Me, My Darling, My Darling!** \$14-16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Nov. 19. 586-771-6333. [broadwayonstage.com](http://broadwayonstage.com)

**Southwest Story** \$20. Matrix Theatre at Boll Family YMCA Theater, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Nov. 13. 313-967-0999. [matrixtheatre.org](http://matrixtheatre.org)

**The Girl from Utah** \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Vitosh Haus Concert Hall, 1917 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - 13. 734-763-8587. [mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)

**The Hot Mess Chronicles 3** Free; donations accepted. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Nov. 5. 313-454-1542. [theabreact.com](http://theabreact.com)

**The Man Who Lost His Sundays & Picasso at the Lapin Agile** \$20. Epicenter Theatre Group at Varner Hall Lab Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester. Through Nov. 5. 586-246-7546. [epicentertheatregroup.com](http://epicentertheatregroup.com)

**The Marriage of Figaro** \$29-\$121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 12 - 20. 800-745-3000. [MichiganOpera.org](http://MichiganOpera.org)

**The Odd Couple** \$18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Nov. 3 - 27. 248-850-9919. [twomusetheatre.org](http://twomusetheatre.org)

**The Prince of Pilsen** \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Vitosh Haus Concert Hall, 1917 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - 12. 734-763-8587. [mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)

**Til Death Do Us Part Too: Devon's Revenge** \$15. BusyB Productions at The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Nov. 4 - Dec. 3. 248-825-5449. [devonsrevenge.eventbrite.com](http://devonsrevenge.eventbrite.com)

**West Side Story** \$30+. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 8 - 13. 517-353-1982. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

**Will Rogers: an American Original** \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Nov. 3 - 20. 517-488-8450. [stormfieldtheatre.org](http://stormfieldtheatre.org)

## YOUNG AUDIENCES

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 5. 269-343-1313. [kazocivic.com](http://kazocivic.com)

**Dracula: The Vampire Play** \$7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Through Nov. 5. 517-333-2580 ext. 0. [cityofeastlansing.com/allofus](http://cityofeastlansing.com/allofus)

# ART 'N' AROUND

**323East** "The Brooklyn-Detroit Connection Reception" Reception for 323East's The Future is Now Part II. Kimyon Huggins, AVONE, and Ellis G all Brooklyn based artists in the Motor City Spotlight. Light refreshments. 323East, 323 E. 4th St., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Nov. 5. 248-246-9544. [323east.com](http://323east.com)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "No Object is an Island: New Dialogues with the Cranbrook Collection" First exhibition in the newly renovated and expanded museum exploring Cranbrook's continued influence in the world of Contemporary Art and Design. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 12-

Jan. 29. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrookart.edu](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Michigan Woodworkers Guild & Sculptors Guild of Michigan Exhibition" Two 3-Dimensional mediums collide at the Wyandotte Arts Center. From wood to metal, this show will feature a wide variety of sculpture and craft. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 27-Nov. 21. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "First Frost Arts & Fine Crafts Fair" Featuring more than 50 new and returning selected artists displaying handmade items created from fiber, wood, metal, clay glass and mixed media. Glass blowing demonstrations and festival of trees. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 5-Nov. 6. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Gallery Project** "Food for Thought" A multimedia exhibit in which over 27 local, regional, and national artists explore the complex and varied relationships people in American culture has with food. Gallery Project, 214 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Nov. 2-Dec. 11. 734-997-7012. [Thegalleryproject.com](http://Thegalleryproject.com)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Uniform Variations" Memorable characters struggling to find meaning as they begin their final act. Dave Hardin's subjects, men of a certain age, are depicted in vintage military uniforms. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 2-Nov. 30. 248-544-0394. [Lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://Lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery** "Mike McMath" Midland artist Mike McMath exhibits his work at the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Nov. 1-Nov. 30. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection" The DIA received the rich art collection from James Pearson Duffy, Detroit's most unorthodox collectors. Free with museum admission. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Sep. 15-Feb. 29. 313-833-7900. [Dia.org](http://Dia.org)

**The Michigan Depression Glass Society** "Depression Glass Show & Sale" The Michigan Depression Glass Society presents the 39th Annual All Depression and Era Glass Show. Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 9 a.m. Nov. 6. 313-520-0663. [Michigandepressionglass.com](http://Michigandepressionglass.com)

**The Scarab Club** "Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Girls" Speaker Dr. Martin Eidelberg, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Rutgers University discusses Clara Driscoll and her role at Tiffany Studios. Whereas Louis C. Tiffany always put forward his name alone as the designer and guiding force of his firm, the discovery of letters written at the turn of the century by Clara Driscoll reveals a very different picture. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6 p.m. Nov. 9. 313-831-1250. [Scarabclub.org](http://Scarabclub.org)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Mark di Suvero: Tabletops" Best known for his dynamic and monumental works made of industrial steel and salvaged materials that populate museum grounds, landscapes, and urban environments around the world. In addition to countless exhibitions and awards, in March 2011 President Obama honored Di Suvero with the National Medal of the Arts in a White House ceremony. University Of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Oct. 8-Feb. 26. 734-763-4186. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)

**Ypsilanti District Library** "The Actor Within" Photo exhibition by photojournalist Rose Eichenbaum. Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti. Oct. 1-Nov. 30. 734-482-4110. [Ypsilibrary.org](http://Ypsilibrary.org)

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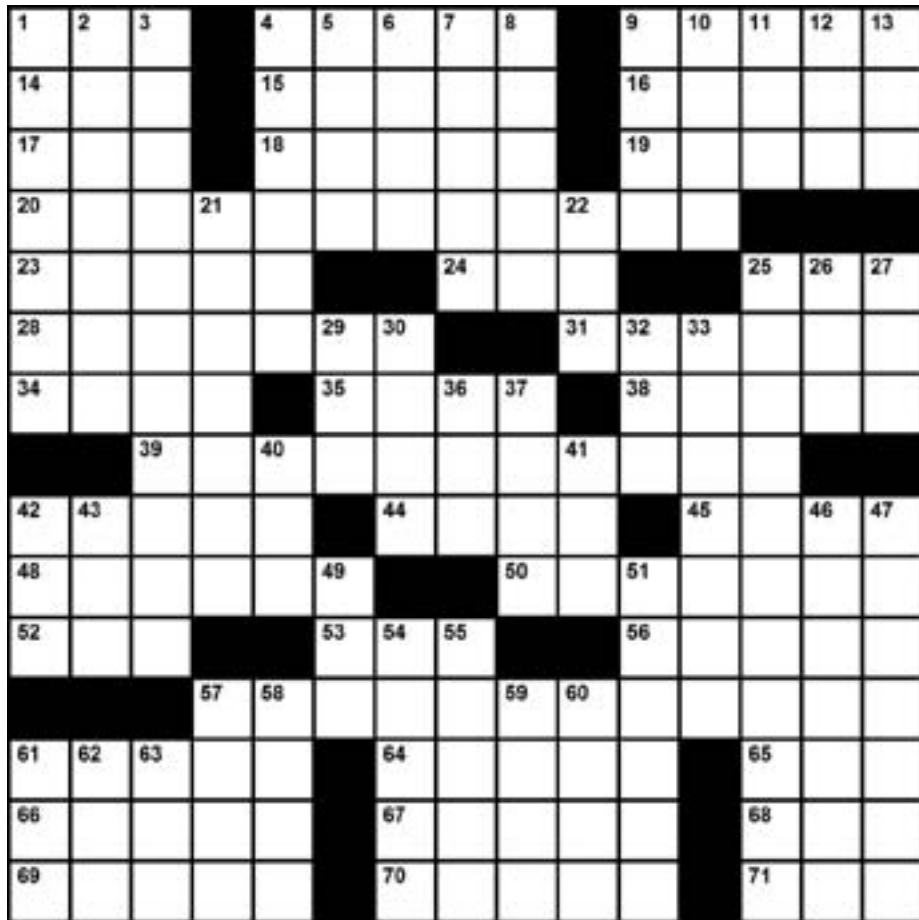
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# Happy Daze

## Across

- 1 Threesome for Da Vinci
- 4 Where you can eat a heroes
- 9 People in the hole
- 14 \_\_\_ Tin Tin (TV dog of old)
- 15 Start of the answer by 19-Across
- 16 More of the answer
- 17 Band that recorded "Unbelievable"
- 18 Name on a bomber
- 19 Winkler, who was recently asked what he thinks of people who aren't straight
- 20 More of the answer
- 23 Bistro menu
- 24 Bag opening?
- 25 Mustangs of the NCAA
- 28 Swiss tourist center
- 31 Sex toys, e.g.
- 34 Place of the first leaf codpiece
- 35 Wayside havens
- 38 Former governor Mario

- 39 More of the answer
- 42 Madonna, in "The Next Best Thing"
- 44 Skin softener
- 45 Asks from one's knees
- 48 Nureyev's genre
- 50 Lights a fire under
- 52 Cho's "Pink as the Day \_\_\_ Was Born"
- 53 Areas for Dr. Callie Torres
- 56 Rex Reed, to movies
- 57 More of the answer
- 61 Tara name
- 64 Mothers, to Verlaine
- 65 Vegas drama
- 66 More of the answer
- 67 End of the answer
- 68 Barbie's former beau
- 69 Travels with one's first mate
- 70 Became erect
- 71 Puncture sound

## Down

- 1 Cloying stuff, to Auden
- 2 Author Arthur

- 3 Like a law with teeth
- 4 Happy loser
- 5 Drag role for John Travolta
- 6 Fruit \_\_\_ (gay district)
- 7 Shoreline recess
- 8 Rubberneck
- 9 Roman emperor after Galba
- 10 "\_\_\_ lilacs last in the door-yard bloom'd" (Whitman)
- 11 A as in Austria
- 12 Time off, in mil. slang
- 13 Where to see two bears at night
- 21 Tool
- 22 Lose oomph
- 25 Phallic factory features
- 26 Common tattoo
- 27 Club where you can dance with a sailor
- 29 Long of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
- 30 Irish pop singer
- 32 Henri's here
- 33 Booty burner on a nudist beach

- 36 Love, to Amelie Mauresmo
- 37 Load
- 40 Half of a Greta Garbo monogram
- 41 "Isn't \_\_\_ bit like you and me?" ("Nowhere Man")
- 42 Muscle Mary's pride
- 43 Ebenezer's exclamation
- 46 Says "About nine inches," e.g.
- 47 Minor injuries
- 49 In addition
- 51 Kmart founder
- 54 Relative of the beguine
- 55 Gay rodeo target
- 57 Inland Asian sea
- 58 Just says no
- 59 Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 60 Layers in the barnyard
- 61 Surprised cries
- 62 Mao's successor
- 63 "What \_\_\_, chopped liver?"

Solution on 35

## Pet of the Week



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# BTT Horoscopes

## Don't be shy, Pisces!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Venus and Mercury dancing into Sagittarius crank up sociability and charm. The challenge is to back that up with substance and accomplishment.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** Secrets about your sex life could be revealed. Treat it as a coming-out, or with a sense of humor; it can work out for the best. Friends might goad you into over-indulgence. Know your limits – and reconsider some of those friends!

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** You could talk a bee out of her stripes, but your charms could lead you into more than you expected. A little adventure is good for you. Getting outside of your comfort zone will teach you to appreciate new comforts.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** The trick to winning in litigation or in love is to be a good listener. Your mouth could get you into trouble, but you need to say something! Just pay attention and think ahead. Then, and only then, trust your instincts.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Erotic impulses should feed your creativity, but can now be a distraction. Getting sexually creative is one way to reconcile that, but impulses to experiment can get you in over your head. Be careful, know who you're with, and have a safe word!

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Problems at home could blindside you by the end of the week. "Keeping things nice" with family or roommates only delays the worst. Turn that charm to diplomacy to uncover what you need to deal with.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** People are enjoying your loquacity, perhaps because you are revealing more than you should. The trick is to give just enough to get others to reveal their secrets. All this is best applied with family members to unearth old stories and secrets.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Your flirtations can either draw you a surprising candidate for love, or trigger a surprising reaction from your partner. The same charms that started the crisis can also resolve

it. Make-up sex, or any other kind, can re-ignite the romance.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Discussing hard issues can help you to deepen your relationship or start one. Don't shy away from questions of basic values, what really matters to you, and your (prospective) partner. People who scare easy aren't for you anyway.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Your hard work behind the scenes will soon get noticed and should pay off. Expect some constructive criticism and pay attention even if you don't like it! Time out with your partner can help nip any problems in the bud.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** You can be an effective spokesperson for your favorite charities. Raise money or organize friends to help out. Charity begins at home so give yourself a break now and then. Down time alone is important, and doesn't have to be all alone.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** You want to come out fighting for what you believe in, but what would that be? An indirect approach, improving your image at work – always best done by doing your best work – will make you a better advocate for your causes.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Don't be shy about your accomplishments, but be careful not to go overboard either. A few words in the right ears will get people singing your praises. One can be too sympathetic. Consistent boundaries and some tough love are in order.

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

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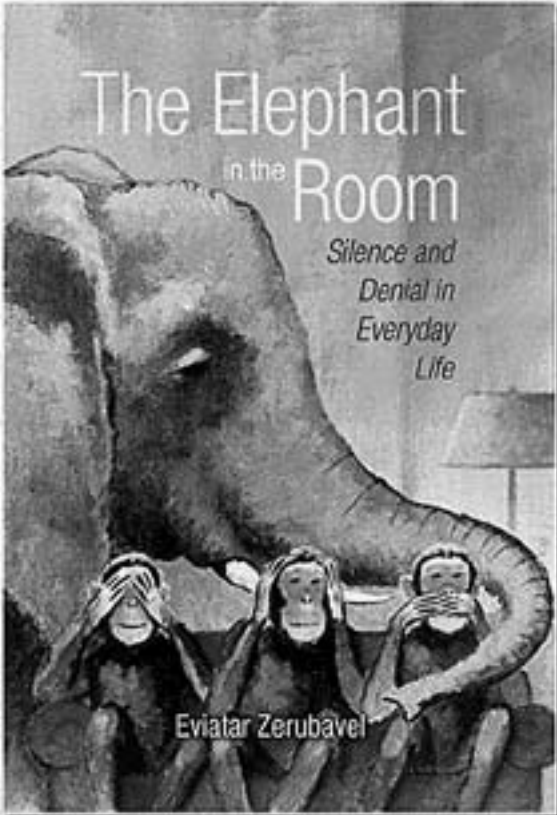
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Solution to puzzle from page 34

T	R	E		D	E	L	I	S		O	W	E	R	S
R	I	N		I	D	O	N	T		T	H	I	N	K
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**WORLD AIDS DAY**



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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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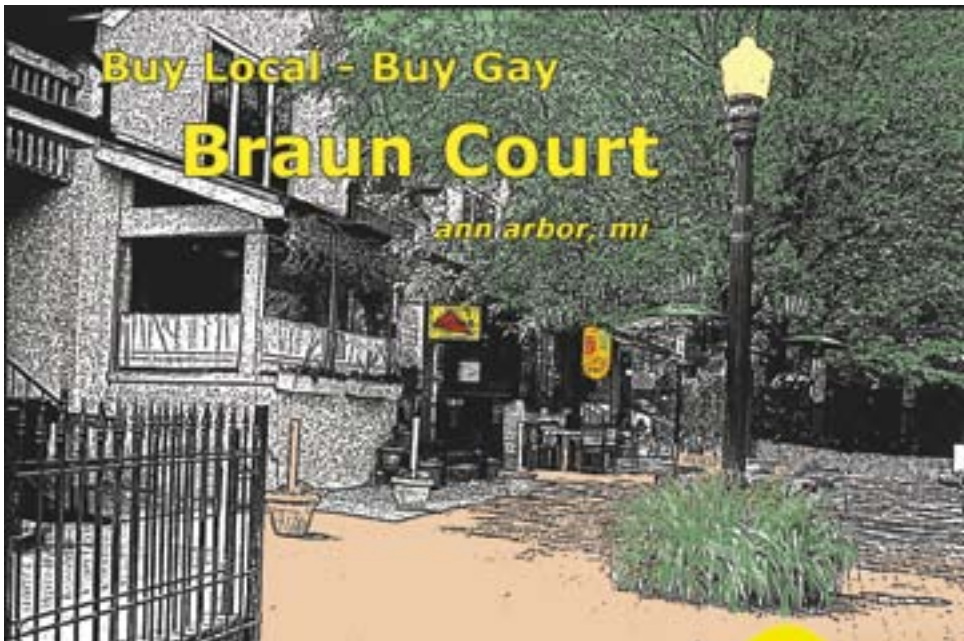


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# Cocktail Chatter

## What to Do With Cheap Champagne, Part II

BY ED SIKOV

Dan and I got home from our one-night honeymoon at the beach to find five silver or gold bags waiting for us in the mailroom. More champagne – of sorts. Only one bottle met our snobby standards: a Taittinger Prestige Rose. The others were destined for more Kir Royales – either that or re-gifting.

“Mmmmmm! Champ-AGG-nee!” I squealed in the voice of Curly from “The Three Stooges” each time Dan opened a package. (Note to youth: see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TheThreeStooges>.) I do a pretty good Curly, but by the fourth time it was wearing very thin. “Stop doing that,” Dan said. “I can’t help it,” I replied. “It’s Pavlovian.” “That’s bullshit,” he said. “You’re just trying to irritate me.” (I silently admitted that he was correct.) “And I’m sick of Kir Royales,” he continued edgily, “so don’t make any more. I’m hungry, I’m tired, and I don’t know why we don’t have more sophisticated friends.” He stomped toward the bedroom.

“Then I’ll make *Queer* Royales,” I declared, having no idea what the drink would contain.

“OK, I’ll bite,” he said. “What’s in a Queer Royale?”

Sudden inspiration: “Crème de Violette!” “I love you,” Dan said as he marched back into the living room to kiss me. “Put a bottle of this... this... ‘cava’ in the freezer while we unpack.”

“Cava is dead to us,” I announced for at least the 75th time.

By the time Dan came out of the shower and dressed, the food had already arrived, the biking delivery boy leaving a trail of petrified pedestrians and drivers alike from his race to our building. I put two new, tall Waterford champagne flutes on the table (getting married is a blast!), each with a few drops of Crème de Violette already poured. I popped the cork (just like Fyedka; see above) and poured.

The resulting color was strange; gold and violet don’t blend well. But the taste was superb. We polished off the doctored cava during dinner.

“Let’s go to bed,” I said, still chewing. “Now.”

“Brush your teeth for the full two minutes and I’ll consider it,” said Dan as he reached into my boxers from the bottom. So this is what they mean by “second honeymoon.”

### The Queer Royale

1 bottle of cava, prosecco, or other champagne variant

A few drops of Crème de Violette

Put a few drops of the crème de violette in as many champagne flutes as you have guests, then carefully pour in the ersatz champagne so that the flute doesn’t overflow. Keep as much fizz as possible.

*Ed Sikov has written seven books about films and filmmakers and is a columnist for LitReactor.com.*

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