

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL **Between THE Lines™**

**COMIC TELLS BULLIED KIDS
TO 'GROW A PAIR'**

**STATE REPUBLICANS PASS
'LICENSE TO BULLY'**

**FERNDALE MAN BEATEN
AND ROBBED**

**CAST, WRITER
TALK HOOVER'S
SECRET GAY LIFE**



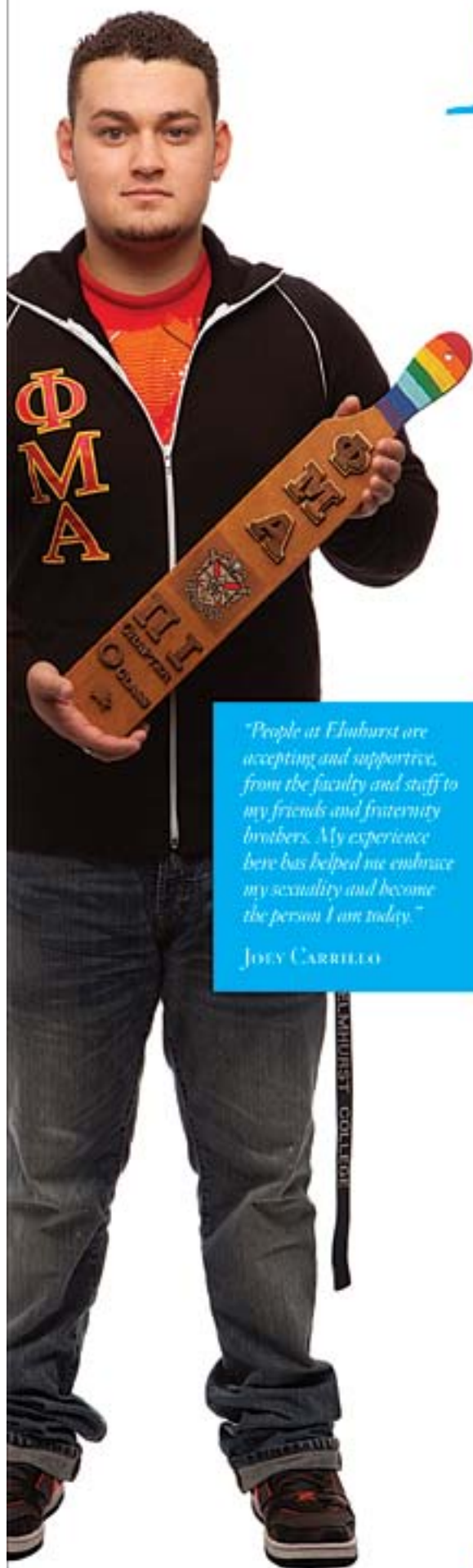
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—*Chicago Sun-Times*, August 26, 2011



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**Beijing Guitar Duo with
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Sunday \ November 20 \ 4 pm
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Log onto PrideSource.com for a chance to win a grand-prize pack for "J. Edgar" (out Nov. 11), which includes a leather messenger bag, hat and mini poster. Four runners-up also have a chance to win a hat and mini poster. Enter today!

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Uproar goes national, Senate's 'license to bully' bill shameful

BY JAN STEVENSON

LANSING— The Michigan Senate has made national news by passing an anti-bullying bill last week that includes a “moral exception,” which allows bullying if it represents “a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil or a pupil’s parent or guardian.”

The front page of the Nov. 7 Washington Post blared a headline, citing Michigan as the only state that has tried to insert language into legislation that would allow bullies to prey on students and to watch someone be bullied who they think might deserve it without trying to stop it.

“After long debates and tortuous negotiations, the state of Michigan passed anti-bullying legislation, which on the face of it, should be a good thing. Unfortunately, Michigan has managed to pass a law which, despite bearing a name designed to honor the memory of a victim of bullying, may actually provide legal cover to the worst of the bullies,” wrote religion columnist Brad Hirschfield Nov. 8.

The bill, dubbed Matt’s Safe Law, is named after Matthew Epling who committed suicide in 2002 after being bullied on the last day of his eighth grade classes.

Tampa’s WTSP Channel 10 News led their evening broadcast, stating that Michigan approved a law that would “encourage hatred.” Tampa school psychologist Chuck Jaksek told the reporter, “this is dangerous, and is opening the floodgates” for bullying.

Numerous news and religion websites and blogs posted stories that raised concerns about the law, including the Huffington Post, the Wall Street Journal’s site, Jezebel.com and others. On a Google search, the uproar over Matt’s Safe Law is the number one search result for Michigan after the official State of Michigan website.

Calls to Gov. Snyder’s office for comment on the public relations repercussions for the state were not returned by press time.

MI House Republicans back away from bill

A spokesman for MI House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) said Bolger is working on a compromise that will “bring everyone to the middle of the road and provide protection to all student.” Bolger was reacting to the uproar created over the Michigan Senate’s passage of the ‘license to bully’ bill.

Ari Adler, Bolger’s spokesman, said, “We are working on the situation to try to take care of the language in the Senate bill that the House Republicans cannot support,” said Ari Adler, Bolger’s spokesman, thereby confirming that House Republicans do not support the Senate’s version of Matt’s Safe Law.

Senate Bill 137 goes to the Michigan House Education Committee this week. Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan’s political director, is urging people to contact the committee members and encourage them to, “remove the offensive and unnecessary license to bully based on religious beliefs, add comprehensive enumerated language that the Governor called for, and pass an effective law right away.”

Go to www.equalitymi.org for details on the hearing and for a complete listing of the committee members and their contact information.

‘License to bully’ bill passes in Republican controlled senate

Father of dead bullied son says, ‘Shame on our elected officials’

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

LANSING— Kevin Epling is no stranger to a broken heart. He lost his 14-year old son Matt to suicide in 2002 after he was bullied in school. Since that time he has lobbied and educated state legislators in the hopes of one day seeing Matt’s Safe School Law passed. On Nov. 2 the senate passed Bill 137 by a vote of 26-11 with all Democrats voting against it. It was not the bill Kevin Epling had imagined. In fact it was worse than he could have ever feared, saying he was “ashamed” of the legislation that carries his dead son’s name.

After a bi-partisan vote moved the bill out of committee, the Republican controlled Senate revised the legislation

to include a “moral convictions” clause essentially giving students a license to bully. Under the Republican substitute to SB 412, a bully could continue to harass a student for any perceived bias and simply cite a “moral conviction” as a basis for doing so.

Epling had State Senator Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) read a letter into the record in which he said, “As Michigan languishes behind 47 states in the growing effort to protect our children, I am utterly shocked to learn that our so-called leaders have yet again tampered with Michigan’s anti-bullying bill in the most bizarre ways. Adding language that basically ‘allows bullying’ based on religious beliefs must be the most absurd input I have seen in my almost

seven years dealing with this issue. To give people a ‘pass’ because their verbal or physical assault is ‘sanctioned’ by religion is mind-boggling and I am at a loss. Are we going back to the days of the Crusades? This passage negates the rest of the bill. If people claim ‘religious grounds,’ then there will be no reports, no course corrections, and greatly increase the growing tensions in our schools. I have said many times it is the adults who are the problems when we talk about anti-bullying and building a better culture, and they have proven me right, yet again.”

“To the families of the ten reported suicides that were directly linked to bullying and the countless others that have gone unreported, this bill adds insult

The 26 Michigan Senators who voted for ‘Moral Exception’ clause

The Michigan GOP main page reads, “Senate Republicans are making good on their promises. They are delivering substantial reforms to create jobs, reduce unnecessary regulations, and improve the quality of life for Michigan families.”

BTL questions how passage of this bill is improving the quality of life for Michigan families?



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Geoff Hansen (Dist. 34-R)

to injury,” said Anderson. “I have been working for years to pass legislation to provide a safe school environment for all of our students. This bill goes in the exact opposite direction and in fact provides a license to bully,” he added. The Senate Fiscal Agency reports that at least 10 people have committed suicide in the past decade due to bullying.

Democrats attempted to move a more comprehensive bill that would prohibit bullying for any reason, however, this attempt to protect students failed to gain the Republican support needed to bring the all-inclusive Democratic bill up for a vote. Several Democratic amendments to improve the legislation were also defeated by the Republican majority.

“Senate Republicans have effectively created a license to bully instead of taking action to keep our kids safe. Today’s debate and vote in Lansing clearly signals that right-wing conservatives are unwilling to do what’s right for our state,” said Michigan Equality Executive Director Denise Brogan-Kator.

The lack of an enumerations section of the bill was not a surprise. State Republicans have opposed and enumerated policy that includes gender identity and sexual orientation almost annually for the past decade.

“This is a sad day for students across Michigan who have been victims of ruthless bullies. It’s disgraceful that Republicans would block language that protects all of our students,” said Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing). “The bill that was passed today gives bullies a clear blueprint to continue this harmful behavior.”

The Democrats cited obvious instances where bullies would be allowed to harass students

based on perceived sexual characteristics without repercussion under this legislation, or allow a student to bully another based on different religious beliefs.

The bill also changed wording so that schools can ignore instances of cyber bullying off school grounds, ignoring current research that shows the amount of cyber bullying occurring in schools and where it is coming from. “Sooner or later anything that happens off school grounds will come into the school. Schools have ignored this issue and it has caused great turmoil. They have also removed a vital step in making sure that individual schools report their findings to the State Board of Education,” said Epling.

Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (East Lansing - D) summed up the action in her floor speech to the majority, “You may be able to pat yourselves on the back today and say that you did something, but in actuality you are explicitly outlining how to get away with bullying. Your exceptions have swallowed the rule. As passed today, bullying kids is OK if a student, parent, teacher or school employee can come up with a moral or religious reason for doing it.”

Michigan Equality is encouraging everyone to demand that the Michigan House pass anti-bullying legislation “that matters.” Find the link online at <http://equalitymi.org>

The revised school code for the state of Michigan as passed by the Senate Bill 137 would read: www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/billengrossed/Senate/htm/2011-SEBS-0137.htm



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Contact all of these elected officials at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop. You can also thank all 11 Senate Democrats who opposed this bill while you're at it.

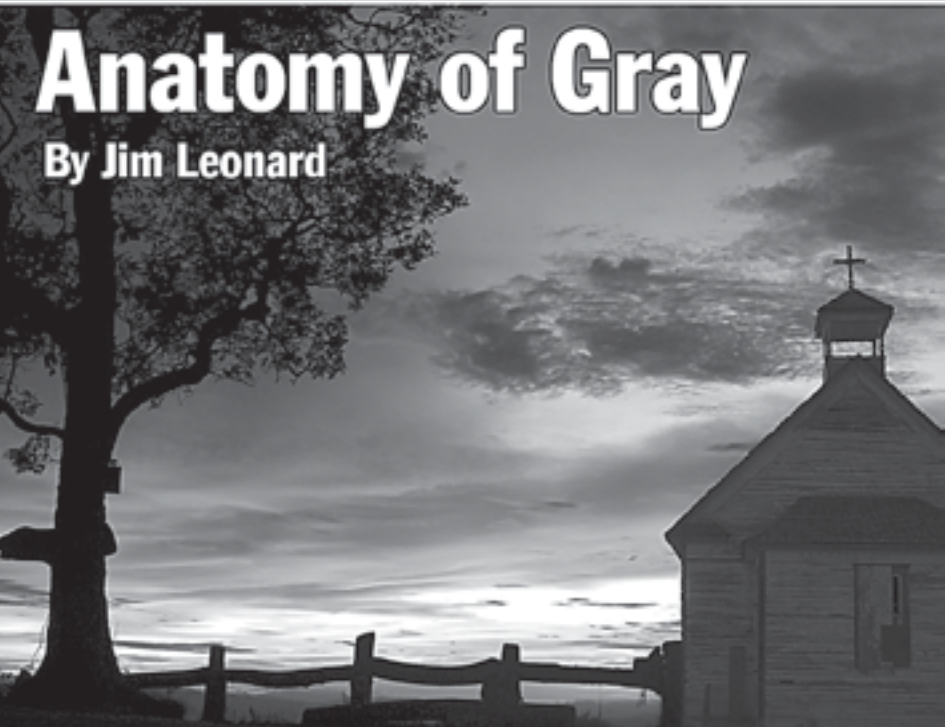


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Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Tommy Pitwool's 7

He lives with his mommy, Jean-Rose. His daddy, Darnell Prince Pitwool. And a dog named Armageddon.

Tommy's home schooled. Living in Topelulu, Ala., famed sin-free domain of Lou "Lulu" Seldom's Fracas in the Family Foundation. (An America-First town noted world wide for exporting biblically blessed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.)

Little Tommy knows his ABCs. He can tell inferno red from damnation orange. He knows his shapes. Mostly manly. He can - after a fatherly paddling or two - crayon color inside the lines. A good child - if perhaps slightly menaced, but nonetheless parently encouraged - he says his prayers at night. Or else.

"God bless Mommy, Daddy, Armageddon! May our misguided President see the light and leave the White House (which it's really not) asap (however soon that is). Amen!"

Tommy is the model/subject of a kiddy book that's sparking a helluva lot of controversy. It's thoughtfully called, "Tommy Has Two Gay Thrashers," written, illustrated, blessed-oil anointed by Rev. Dred Felch.

Rev. Felch, who raised his own totally obedient, totally Onward-Christain-Soldiers militant, eight kids to gay trash - starting with potty training ("as the spirit moves") - says "Two Thrashers" is written in a second grader's Basic Word Vocabulary and has lots of action pictures and a punchy story line.

"My book's designed to counter the horrific harm done by 'Arthur Has Two Papas', 'Molly Has Two Mamas,' 'Bruce Has Six Neutered Poodles.' While I'll admit that I'm a no brainer at religious story telling, I do know how to cast the first stone at fag propaganda.

"I call chapter one, 'Slingshotting Goliath's Gay Agenda'. Other chapters - with content suitable for kids under five - are 'Finding Someone Special to Bully,' 'Gay Playmates Won't Go To Heaven,' and 'Don't Let Mommy Dress You as A Nun (or Be Friends With A Touchy-Feelly Priest)'."

While some gospel reviewers find Rev. Felch's book 'needlessly repetitious', the Southern Baptist Goodness Only Knows Library Journal reports, "The pictures will make a lasting and indelible impression on Christian toddlers." Two illustrations are singled out for evangelical merit: "Sinful Molly Gets Parboiled" and "Abandoned Arthur Meets the Iron Maiden."

Topelulu's gay activists (their life's really hell on earth) are upset. They've been secretly checking out copies (or stealing them). Says one, "Rev. Felch can write anything he damn well pleases, but I wouldn't read a book like this - no matter how many Bible quotes it has - to a five-year-old (even if he or she has his or her own library card)."

"I'll admit it's something of a problem," says Topelulu head librarian Priscilla Red-Marker Renfrew, 89. "These gay agenda types have no respect for decent, church-going, fully dunked baptized readers. So far 25 copies of this simple sentence gem have disappeared. Poof!"

"In the interest of fair play we've taken to keeping 'Gay Thrashers' under lock and key in our Mature Reader's Lounge & Alcove, along with 'Well of Loneliness,' 'Lolita,' and 'Stone Butch Blues'."

"As a God fearing woman who makes every Dewey Decimal count, I'll say this - as Heaven above is my witness - it's to the credit of the Topelulu Freefall Baptist Church - conveniently located where Falwell St. crosses Robertson Avenue at Billy Graham cul-de-sac, that church's members have lovingly replaced every friggin' gay-agenda swiped copy taken by those fruitcake fags."

"The gospel truth is," says Freefall pastor Emmett K. Monsooner, "those pervy clunkheads don't want anybody, especially kids, to think for themselves. While my church load prevents spending time for a quality, down-home, soul-saving gay trash-in, if others want to do it, it's between them and the Big Guy Upstairs. Just don't mess up my choir robes. Or speak in LGBT tongues."

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook too.

Upcoming: Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIERE

DETROIT— As volunteer Jessica Manko collects the names of transgender people who have been killed in the past year, she takes care to find out as much as she can about the victim and the tragic circumstances around their death. Each name is from a human being who was murdered or committed suicide after being tormented because of their gender expression. So far this year there are over a hundred. Last year the worldwide total was 182, though it's presumed that many more go unreported.

The names will be read as part of the Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony at Central United Methodist Church, 23 East Adams, Detroit, on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. The annual memorial service is for transgender individuals and allies to remember the dead and calls for an end to violence and transphobia. Transgender Detroit, Transgender Michigan, Equality Michigan and Americorps Team AIDS Detroit are among the groups working together to make the vigil happen. As each name is spoken, a candle will be lit.

Sylvia Guerrero, mother of the late Gwen Araujo, will be the featured speaker. Araujo was murdered by four males who beat her to death after learning that she had male sex organs. Guerrero now tours the country speaking out about violence towards transgender people.

Equality Michigan tracks incidents of violence. Reports of anti-LGBTQH hate violence increased by 13 percent from 2009 to 2010. National Coalition of Violence Programs gathered information on a total of 2,503 survivors and victims in 2010. Transgender women were disproportionately impacted by murder. 44 percent of LGBTQH murder victims were transgender women, yet only 11 percent of total reports came from them.

"This continues a problematic trend

from 2009 figures, when 50 percent of murder victims were transgender women," says Equality Michigan Director of Victim Services Nusrat Ventimiglia. "People who identified as either transgender or people of color were 2 times as likely to experience assault or discrimination as non-transgender white individuals. People who identified as transgender

police attitudes, with 48.3 percent of transgender people of color reporting that police attitudes were indifferent, compared to 38 percent for overall survivors. Only 7.7 percent of non-transgender and white survivors experienced indifferent attitudes Michigan.

The most recently reported murder of a transgender person in Michigan was

People who identified as either transgender or people of color were 2 times as likely to experience assault or discrimination as non-transgender white individuals.

SAVE THE DATE

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Ceremony at Central United Methodist Church, 23 East Adams, Detroit, on Friday, Nov. 18. Gather at 6:30, vigil begins at 7 p.m.

people or people of color were 1.5 times more likely to experience intimidation than non-transgender white individuals. People who identified as both transgender and people of color were almost 2.5 times more likely to experience discrimination than non-transgender white individuals."

Transgender people also represented a higher proportion of hate violence survivors with injuries. Transgender survivors experienced higher rates of serious injuries (11.8 percent) as compared to non-transgender men (6.2 percent) or non-transgender women (1.3 percent).

The report also shows that transgender people and people of color were the least likely to receive medical attention. Seventy-five percent of transgender men and 20 percent of transgender women did not receive needed medical attention for their injuries. This is compared to 15 percent of overall LGBTQH survivors who needed medical attention for their injuries but did not receive it.

Another struggle transgender people face is getting help when they need it. The NCAVP shows that transgender people of color reported higher rates of indifferent

of Foxy Ivy, who was shot in the back of the head and left to die in Highland Park on May 25, 2009.

Transgender Day of Remembrance began 13 years ago internationally, and this will be the ninth year that a ceremony is held in the Detroit area. Allies are encouraged to attend and show the transgender community that they are not alone. "We do this to say: this person matters. Their lives have value," Ventimiglia said.

Manko has been gathering names for the project since 2005, saying "because it's important that we remember. We shouldn't forget these folks. The courage they built up to live as their gender, helps others to be themselves."

Local Jeweler collects coats for needy

WEST BLOOMFIELD— For the 20th consecutive year, Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry will collect and distribute hundreds and perhaps thousands of winter coats and other cold weather gear for Michigan residents in need. Last year, the family-owned jewelry store collected 2,000 coats and other cold weather clothing items.

This year through Nov. 18, the community can donate gently-used, clean coats and new blankets, hats, scarves and gloves, or cash donations in any amount to any Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry location, as well as at any of the Tapper's Gold Exchange locations.

Cash donations of \$20 or more are encouraged to mark the 20th year of the coat drive. Money that is collected will be used to purchase coats at a discounted bulk

rate. Checks are also accepted and should be made payable to "Tapper's Coat Drive."

Howard Tapper, owner and president of Tapper's, acknowledges that the need is great in Michigan and points to Tapper's commitment to community involvement as a way that businesses can make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. "We can never know the full impact we can make on a child now able to walk to and from school without the bitter wind blowing through their clothing," Tapper emphasizes. "It's important to realize that even a small donation can really change someone else's reality."

Collected coats are distributed to agencies, schools and individuals, and the need has grown each year. Tapper's often receives calls from school teachers

or principals who have identified a need within their schools and have heard about Tapper's Coat Drive. Coats are distributed to many organizations, including Orchards Children's Services, Detroit Public Schools, Baldwin Church Center, Grace Centers for Hope, Kids Kicking Cancer and Mercy Primary Care Center.

Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry has three locations: Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and Somerset Collection in Troy.

Tapper's Gold Exchange locations can be found at Twelve Oaks Mall, Fairlane Town Center, Oakland Mall, Partridge Creek, Great Lakes Crossing, Lauren Park Place, Lakeside Mall, Birchwood Mall, Bay City Mall, and the West Grange Pharmacy in Trenton.

Ferndale man beaten, robbed

Attack causes Equality Michigan to reissue safety guidelines

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE— A 44-year-old man was severely beaten and robbed after bringing a stranger home from a bar last week. According to police, 38-year-old Alesandro Signorelli met the victim Oct. 29 at Adam's Apple, a gay bar in Detroit. They spent the night together, and Signorelli returned the following night. The next morning, when the victim tried to go to work, Signorelli attacked the man, punching him repeatedly in the face and attempting to suffocate him with a shower curtain.

Signorelli also threatened the victim with a kitchen knife, and forced him to gather items from the house to steal, including prescription drugs and a television. At approximately 7:45 a.m., when the victim saw an opportunity, he ran from his home to a neighbor's, who called the police.

The attacker fled and was apprehended by Detroit Police two days later at a drug house the police had under surveillance. Signorelli was recently released from prison and was on parole at the time of the attack.

Equality Michigan, an organization that provides support and advocacy for the LGBT community, is currently working with the victim. The organization also tracks crime statistics in Michigan. Director of Victim Services, Nusrat Ventimiglia, says dating-related assault is one of

the issues Equality Michigan is working to bring greater attention to.

From October 2010 to September 2011, Equality Michigan has documented eight

attitudes, or due to the fact that an individual may not be out or identify as a lesbian, gay or transgender and is therefore less likely to come forward after being victimized as a result

"I can tell you that perpetrators have selected victims based on a belief that they are less likely to report the incident to police ... an individual may not be out or identify as a lesbian, gay or transgender and is therefore less likely to come forward."

- Equality Michigan Director of Victim Services, Nusrat Ventimiglia

cases of sexual assault, provided services to nine survivors of victims of homicide and three survivors of robbery, 14 survivors of violent crimes and 167 survivors of hate crimes. Because of issues in reporting, Ventimiglia said that it is likely these numbers are low.

"I can tell you that perpetrators have selected victims based on a belief that they are less likely to report the incident to police, whether because of the lower reporting rates due to the historically poor police response and

of a pick-up crime," Ventimiglia said. She did note that Ferndale is different than many communities where victims may seek police help. "The Ferndale Police have been excellent partners and committed to protecting all Ferndale residents, with great responsiveness and sensitivity to the particular needs of the LGBT community."

Ferndale Police Lt. William Wilson has a simple solution for how to avoid being a victim of an attack such as this, which is "not bring somebody home from the bar."

Equality Michigan has issued a series of safety guidelines in response to the recent attack:

- Tell someone where you are going and how long you will be gone.
- Think about an escape route in advance, in case of danger.
- Look for well lit, open and secure areas in which to meet.
- If you get bad vibes, feel uneasy or get butterflies, your gut instinct is telling you something is wrong ... don't go with them!
- Never show that you feel intimidated, frightened or "out of control."
- Never let the pick-up know you are alone. Let them think that you have a friend that knows where you are.
- If you are alone, carry a phone.
- At any sign of trouble:
- Make as much noise as possible.
- Run and scream "Fire!" as loud as you can.
- Carry a whistle or personal alarm.
- If forced to fight, use whatever you can as a weapon - your stilettos, bag, sharp ring, belt buckle or anything that will inflict pain.
- Strike vulnerable areas of the body - eyes, throat, nose, fingers, balls, knee, feet - these hurt the most.
- Create as much noise as possible.
- Be cautious about revealing information that could identify you. For example, if you give someone your listed phone number, they can get your real name and street address.
- For your first meeting, pick a place that's public and neutral. If you're traveling to visit them in their town or neighborhood, you should pick a place you're comfortable with when you arrive.
- Always carry a cell phone. This will allow you to call 911 at any time. If finances are tight, purchase a pre-paid cell phone.
- Know that, no matter what, violence is never your fault.
- To learn more about how to protect yourself against violence, or to report a bias incident or hate crime, call the Department of Victim Services at Equality Michigan at 1-866-962-1147 or provide a narrative account of the situation at report@equalitymi.org.

U-M reputation could be damaged by benefits ban

BY JAN STEVENSON

ANN ARBOR— The University of Michigan is now right in the crosshairs of an online controversy over a potential ban that would prohibit public employers from providing certain health benefits to an unrelated adult or their child living with an employee.

"Dump Michigan. The state has gone anti-gay. There are lots of others sane states, and sane universities, you can attend in places that don't aspire to be the Deep South," wrote John Aravosis on his blog Americablog.com. The author of this popular gay blog goes on to encourage faculty and students to not apply at the U-M.

The controversy stems from the passage of HB 4770 by the Michigan House of Representatives last month and which is now under consideration in the Senate. If passed, the bill would essentially invalidate all benefits, including healthcare benefits, to anyone other than a spouse by marriage and children within that marriage.

Same-sex couples are not permitted to marry in Michigan, and same-sex marriages performed outside the state are not recognized by the State of Michigan.

An article on AnnArbor.com Oct. 31 interviewed two same-sex couples in which one partner in each couple is a professor at the U-M. Both couples were clear that if the ban takes effect, they would leave.

"It's a total slap in the face. It tells me that I don't deserve the same consideration" as heterosexual couples, U-M Latin professor Sara Ahbel-Rappe told AnnArbor.com. "People will leave."

The controversy presents a public relations and recruiting nightmare for U-M. The university issued a strong statement in opposition to the bill to ban benefits. "The option to cover eligible dependents is commonly offered by the public and private higher education and corporate sector institutions with which we compete for the nation's best talent. We believe access to these benefits is important for successful recruitment and retention, and to remain competitive for top-tier faculty and staff."

Jackie Simpson, director of the LGBT Spectrum Center at U-M, said it is important to differentiate between the state of Michigan and the University of Michigan.

"I believe the U-M is a good place to work," said Simpson. "If that bill passes there has been some discussion about the universities having constitutional autonomy. I would therefore assume that if it passes it would be challenged in court."

Simpson said that although she is fairly confident that the university's constitutional autonomy, guaranteed in the Michigan constitution, would eventually trump this legislation if passed, she recognizes that it sends an unhelpful message to potential employees and students.

"If at the end of the day the U-M is unable to offer benefits to unrelated partners, I think there will be a lot of people looking at employment at other places that offer these benefits. That's just reality," she said.

Openly gay “Kids in the Hall” comic Scott Thompson told BTL bullied youth need to “grow a pair.” Do you agree?

I totally disagree and find thee article misogynistic
-Troy Hawkins

I disagree and feel not everyone can grow thick skin.
-Mark Sartor

Telling them to “grow a pair” and learn to fight could make it worse for youth who can’t or won’t fight. It’s victim blaming, which reinforces the link between masculinity, heterosexuality and violence. Even growing a thick skin causes it’s own problems later in life.
-Quinn Phillips

I agree with him. It’s about time someone spoke the truth. I don’t really know if it’s any better if people’s treatment of others is out of legal fear. People need to stop acting like victims.
-George Borg

While I love strong people who fight back against injustice (like Lisbeth Salander in Girl with the Dragon Tattoo), I don’t realistically expect every bullied person to be able to do that. Moreover I find the Thompson’s tone incredibly misogynistic. As a woman I have no desire to grow balls. The whole idea of The It Gets Better Project is to encourage young people to reach out for help, not just try to go it alone and take it like a man. Hence, I was happy to help with Ford GLOBE’s It Gets Better effort this summer.
-Cindy Clardy

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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Occupy, Marriage, Coming Out, Religion



Rachel Rabbit White

“Whether you grew up getting your ideas about marriage from your family or pop culture, there is a lot of social significance in what marriage means and, historically, a lot to unravel. It seems hard to argue that there is any ‘sanctity’ to the institution of marriage. Sure, humans have long been marrying, and according to EJ Graff, scholar and author of the book ‘What is Marriage For,’ there are five static reasons: 1. property, 2. kin 3. money 4. order 5. heart. Yet, the types of marriages we see vary greatly, from polygamy to the wife-auctions of the 17th century, to the monogamy of today. Which type of marriage again is the one with sanctity?”

–Rachel Rabbit White, in a column titled “Kim Kardashian and the Sanctity of Marriage: A History of Marriage,”
www.edenfantasys.com/sexis/, Nov. 03.

“I believe it is that justice that the 99percent seek – an acknowledgement that no health insurance company should make billions in profit when their policy holders are dying due to lack of access to the care they need; that no government small enough to allow almost 7,000 people to languish on AIDS drug waiting lists while taxes remain unfairly assessed, and not paid even when they are assessed, should be allowed to continue ... I could go on and on and perhaps that is the foundation of the protests – that there is so much wrong, so much injustice, that those of us who bear the brunt of it are overwhelmed by the variety of evil we have to choose from. Where do we start?”

–EarthMother, in her blog posting titled “The 99%,” connecting the Occupy protests and the HIV/AIDS community, in Positively Aware, an HIV news journal published by the Test Positive Aware Network, www.positivelyaware.com, Oct. 24.



EarthMother

“as a confused teen i felt like i was wandering in the wilderness. in my head i would often liken myself to some neat little toy soldier that, alas, had lost his wind-up key somewhere along the way and was thus “broken”. the feelings of isolation and shame were crippling. it wasn’t until college i realized, ‘dude, duh. you’re gay.’ i too missed out on all that goofy fun stuff with regards to flirting and dating in middle/high school. and although it has worked out for me in the end, there will always be a part of that meek, heartbroken kid inside me wondering how life may have differed had i been in an environment where accepting myself as gay was even in the realm of possibility - let alone being accepted by anyone else.”

–Tim Beto, in a blog posting, in a blog about the courting rituals of the young, focused on their awkward youthful dalliances, initiated by Ta-Nehisi Coates, senior editor for The Atlantic, www.theatlantic.com, Nov. 04.



Tim Beto

“LGBT Muslims are dealing with many of the same kinds of questions that LGBT Christians have been dealing with for decades - such as the authority and interpretation of scripture. The arc we are seeing amongst American Muslims mirrors that of other religious communities that are struggling with questions of inclusion. In addition, conversations within Islam in America are complicated by a virulent Islamophobia that has flourished in the decade since the 9/11 attacks. The intersection of sexual, religious, racial, and immigrant identities entail multiple types of marginalization.”

–Dr. Hussein Rashid, scholar of Islam, contributed to the 70-page report, “Muslim LGBT Inclusion Project,” www.intersectionsinternational.org, Nov. 03.



Hussein Rashid

State marriage polls show language matters

BY DANA RUDOLPH

New polls on marriage equality in seven states show mostly positive results for marriage equality advocates – but polls in two of the states indicate that the way the questions are asked can significantly affect the results.

In five states – Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Washington and Hawaii – a majority of people surveyed support marriage for same-sex couples. In another state, Maryland, supporters and opponents are almost evenly divided. And in another state, North Carolina, opponents have the edge, but “the semantics (of the question) make a huge difference,” according to the polling firm.

In New Jersey, which currently allows same-sex couples to enter civil unions, 52 percent of adults surveyed said they support legalizing “gay marriage,” versus 36 percent oppose, three percent who support civil unions instead, and nine percent who say they don’t know, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Oct. 28.

But when people were asked if they support “marriage equality,” 61 percent of adults said yes, versus 25 percent opposed, two percent supporting civil unions instead, three percent unfamiliar with the term, and nine percent who did not know.

The wording change was particularly strong in certain groups. When the term “marriage equality” was used instead of “gay marriage,” support among those who never attended college climbed 25 points to 66 percent, among men it rose 16 points to 63 percent, and among Catholics it rose 14 points to 63 percent. Among people 65 and over, the change caused results to flip, from 53 percent opposed and 32 percent in favor to 33 percent opposed and 49 percent in favor.

The New Jersey Superior Court will hold a hearing Nov. 4, in *Garden State Equality v. Dow*, a case filed by Garden State Equality and Lambda Legal. The lawsuit contends that the state’s existing civil union law does not provide same-sex couples with full equality – an equality the state Supreme Court said, in October 2006, is guaranteed by the state constitution.

North Carolina

In North Carolina, language also matters. An existing state law already bans marriage of same-sex couples, but a measure will appear on the May 2012 primary ballot asking people to vote “for” or “against” a “Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State.” Supporters of the measure say the amendment is needed

so courts cannot declare the statute unconstitutional.

Among likely primary voters who were asked a question that mimicked the language of the bill, 61 percent said they would vote for it, versus 34 percent against, according to a poll by Public Policy Polling released Oct. 7. Five percent were not sure.

But in a poll by the same firm last month, 55 percent of voters were against the amendment, with only 30 percent in favor.

The difference? The phrasing of the question. Last month, the survey question asked, “State legislators have proposed an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution that would prohibit the recognition of marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples. If the election was held today, would you vote for or against this amendment?”

Public Policy Polling explained on its Web site, “Voters are against ‘prohibiting’ recognition for gay couples. But if you word it in such a way that all you’re doing is defining marriage as between one man and one woman, voters are OK with that.”

“The semantics make a huge difference and Republicans clearly know what they’re doing with the language that’s on the ballot.”

Maryland and Washington

Two additional states, Maryland and Washington, might also see ballot measures next year.

In Maryland, a bill to enact marriage equality failed narrowly last March, but Gov. Martin O’Malley (D) has announced that he will sponsor a new bill in the 2012 legislative session. Even if the new bill does pass, however, opponents have said they will petition for a voter referendum in November 2012.

Voters in the state are almost evenly divided on the issue, according to a poll by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies released Oct. 4: 48 percent would favor a state law allowing same-sex couples to marry, “giving them the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples in areas such as tax exemptions, inheritance and pension coverage.” But 49 percent would oppose it. Three percent had no opinion.

And in Washington State, which currently allows same-sex couples to enter domestic partnerships that have all the state rights and responsibilities of marriage, two openly gay legislators are considering whether to introduce legislation for full marriage equality next year. If they do and the bill passes, opponents could then try to petition for a referendum.

The Washington Poll, a non-

partisan survey from the University of Washington, asked voters in October how they would vote in a hypothetical referendum.

A total of 55 percent said they would vote “yes” to keep a marriage equality law, and 38 percent said they would vote against the law.

NH and Maine

In New Hampshire, marriage equality has been a reality for two years but is under attack. State Rep. David Bates (R-Rockingham) told the Associated Press Nov. 1 that he is dropping his effort to pass a state constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples. He said he was doing so to make it easier for Republicans in the legislature to focus on passing a simple repeal of that law.

But he made his announcement just two weeks after a WMUR Granite State Poll released Oct. 13 indicated voters do not approve of repeal: 62 percent of adults surveyed opposed repeal, 27 percent support repeal, and 11 percent were neutral or did not know. A constitutional amendment requires approval by three-fifths of each chamber and approval by two-thirds of the voters.

The issue in New Hampshire could have broader political implications, too. New Hampshire hosts the first-in-the-nation Republican presidential primary in January. And the survey showed 44 percent are more likely to vote against a candidate who favors repeal of the existing law.

And in Maine, where voters overturned a marriage equality law in 2009, 51 percent of voters said it should be legal for same-sex couples to marry and 42 said it should remain illegal (17 percent were not sure). That represents a 15-point reversal from 2009, according to Public Policy Polling results released Nov. 2.

Hawaii

Across the country in Hawaii, which passed a civil union law earlier this year, 49 percent of voters want same-sex couples to be able to marry, compared to 40 percent who don’t, according to a Public Policy Polling survey released October 21.

National survey results released September 28 by NORC (formerly the National Opinion Research Center), a social science research center at the University of Chicago, found that, across the country, supporters of marriage equality now outnumber opponents, 46 percent to 40 percent.

The results are based on the 2010 General Social Survey (GSS), the most widely used source of information about social trends, with the exception of the U.S. Census.

Creep of the Week

Michigan’s Republican State Senators

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Everyone knows that bullying is wrong. It is awful to be bullied and a person who is a bully isn’t exactly a poster-child for a happy and healthy well-adjusted individual. There has to be something wrong with you to have such callous disdain for other people.

That is, unless your disdain is born out of “a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.” Then it’s totally okay. Bully away. The Republicans in the Michigan Senate have your back, or at least the 26 Republicans who voted in favor of Michigan Senate Bill 137 do, which requires school districts to implement anti-bullying policies but goes out of its way to protect the people doing the bullying, not the people getting bullied. Only 11 senators voted against it. They were all Democrats.

The anti-bullying law that has been bouncing around the Michigan legislature for years is often called Matt’s Safe School Law, named after Matthew Epling, an East Lansing freshman who was driven to suicide by bullying in 2002. Matt’s father, who has been advocating for this bill since its inception, is none too pleased about the Senate-added bully protection clause.

“They kind of snuck in this extra paragraph, really kind of setting apart kids that feel their religious beliefs, their moral convictions, basically, can allow them to bully,” Kevin Epling told ABC News. “That one paragraph, though, negates most of the things that we tried to put in.”

That “extra paragraph” states that the bill “does not abridge the rights under the First Amendment ... of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil, or a pupil’s parent or guardian” and that it “does not prohibit a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil, or a pupil’s parent or guardian.”

It’s kind of hard to imagine why a legislative body would want to yank the fangs out of a measure initially designed to protect children. That is, until you consider that Michigan is one of the few states that doesn’t have an anti-bullying law due, in large part, to anti-gay advocates who have fought against such a measure for years fearing that it would violate the religious freedom of anti-gay students, as if any religion has fag-bashing as an officially sanctioned tenet that schools are obligated to protect.

According to state Sen. Rick Jones, the bill’s sponsor, people

kicking up a fuss about the bill have it all wrong. “There were some caucus members who worried that if a child stood up in sex education class or speech class and made a statement: ‘In my religion, I don’t believe in gay marriage,’ or something, they didn’t want the child to be evicted from school for just making a statement,” he told ABC News. “Nothing in the bill is intended that the child could confront another child and abuse them in any way.”

I agree that a kid shouldn’t be kicked out of school for declaring he doesn’t “believe in” gay marriage, even though that’s as nonsensical as saying, “I don’t believe in oranges.” We’re not talking about Santa Claus, people. Gay marriage and oranges are real, whether you like them or not.

Of course, the real problem isn’t over a hypothetical argument over gay marriage. It’s the things that the bill’s ambiguous language certainly covers. I mean, after all, couldn’t Fred Phelps argue that “God hates fags” is a “statement of a sincerely held

Couldn’t Fred Phelps argue that “God hates fags” is a “statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction”?

religious belief or moral conviction”? Wouldn’t this bill protect a bully telling a suspected gay classmate that homosexuals should be stoned to death? Or telling a lesbian to rot in Hell? Or taunting a gay student by calling him a child molester? And don’t these statements create the kind of climate that so many LGBT students have found intolerable to the point of suicide?

Even consider the fact that Michigan’s Republican-controlled legislature has been no friend to the state’s LGBT citizens, it’s alarming that all of the Senate’s GOP members were willing to reach into this big shit pile of a bill and get their hands dirty.

The good news is the Michigan House isn’t going for it and even House Republicans are in favor of nixing the religious exemption language. Whether they’ll actually pass the bill afterwards remains to be seen.

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Viewpoint**

2012: Taking the blue pill, re-booting the dream

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Let me be clear, the race for the 2012 presidency did not just begin. It began the day after Barack Obama was elected in November 2008.

At the prospect of electing not just the first African American President, but a candidate campaigning on the platform of change, we all, myself included, drank several glasses of a heavily sugar-laced kool-aid and worked our butts off to get him elected. But after all the inaugural celebrating was over our sugar high wore off while we complacently sat back and waited for our Super Obama to make it all happen. Our mantra went from “Yes we can” to “Yes we did” to “Yes we’re done.”

There was a brief honeymoon period, after his inauguration, when we hoped, dared dream, that there would be a return to sanity in the country after ten years of the Bush/Cheney regime. But sadly, rather than seize the moment, the Democratic Party failed to rally behind their standard bearer and missed the opportunity to get some significant work done.

Instead, in a very pathetic example of a self-fulfilling prophecy, the then Democratic majority sat back and did nothing in hopes of protecting seats that were lost anyway during the 2010 mid-term elections.

And look what we got. A republican led house committed more to working to make Barack Obama a one-term President than attending to the crisis facing the American people and our country. And so the games began with a series of actions including investigations and defunding and stalling parts of Obama’s legislative agenda.

What happened to that “Yes We Can” momentum? Perhaps on that jubilant November evening when Barack Obama won the presidency someone needed to remind us the work was not done. Channeling our best Bette Davis, we needed to hear a new message – “Fasten your seat belts, it’s going to be a bumpy ride!”

And it has been just that, a very bumpy ride. Promises were made that have not been fulfilled and yet achievements affecting the lives of all Americans – especially LGBTQ Americans were also realized. These achievements affected every aspect of our lives including recognition of our families – ensuring that hospitals participating in Medicare and Medicaid respect the rights of patients to designate visitors; Under the Family and Medical Leave Act clarifying the definition of “son and daughter” to ensure that an employee who assumes the role of caring for a child receives parental rights to family leave regardless of the legal or biological relationship; and issuing a memorandum requiring Executive Branch agencies to provide an extensive package of benefits to the same gender domestic partners of federal LGBT employees.

Although many in the LGBTQ community have expressed disappointment that Obama didn’t immediately strike down DOMA, in 2011 he announced that he would no longer defend Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act in court

because he believes it to be unconstitutional.

LGBT people, who can still be fired in many states simply for being gay, looked for federal action on employment non-discrimination. The President implemented a policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in hiring practices across the entire Executive branch of government; has been proactively trying to fill federal positions with LGBT appointments; and is working with Congress to help pass an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act that will provide basic protections against discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

2012 looms ahead
and our choices are
becoming abundantly and
terrifyingly clear.

I’m not trying to make this an Obama Campaign speech, but come on – \$132 million in grants to help state and local governments fight violence and bullying in schools; signing the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act; signing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; a \$900,000 grant to establish the first National Resource Center for LGBT Elders; and announcing a new policy to issue passports that reflect a person’s current gender when either a previous passport or other personal documentation presented by an applicant reflects a different gender – let’s give the president his due!

2012 looms ahead and our choices are becoming abundantly and terrifyingly clear. The Republican’s have given us a cast of characters whose collective intellect could not spell equality

if they had a clue. Front-runners are clear – Bachman who in her own words says “Gays are a part of Satan;” Perry who feels the Lawrence vs. Texas decision was inappropriate; and Romney who battled legislatively against gay marriage.

Opposition to a second Obama term is not just coming from the right. Progressives, including African Americans Cornel West and Tavis Smiley are also calling for an alternative candidate to Obama. So you see it has been and is a very, very bumpy ride.

Time and the depth of the challenges facing our communities do not allow us the luxury of vacillation. Really!

We are talking about change, real change and change, well “it don’t come easy.” At the Annual Phoenix Awards Dinner President Obama summed it up best when he said “Each and every time we’ve made epic change – from this country’s founding to emancipation, to women’s suffrage, to workers’ rights – it has not come from a man. It has come from a plan.”

So what’s our plan? What are we going to do? Are we going to start all over again with flawed GOP clay. Are we going to start all over again with new untested clay? Or are we going to continue to mold the clay of promise we sent to Washington in 2008.

The clock is ticking and we’re behind in the game. If this new “Tea Party” influenced government at the federal and state level hasn’t been a wake-up call to us then it’s time for us to wake up and smell the coffee. Take a look around. It’s not getting better.

There is no time to casually sip the kool-aid. Let’s not wake up in November 2012 and wish we had done more. Take a stand. Get involved. Register to vote. VOTE!

Forget the kool-aid, it’s time to take the “blue pill” and get busy.

Get more news from Michelle E. Brown at www.mychangeiam.com



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Faith, fear and forbidden love

'Bare: A Pop Opera' gets an encore in Pontiac

BY ASHLEY LAABS

The Detroit Actors Theatre Company will present "Bare: A Pop Opera" at 8 p.m. Nov. 17-19 at Clutch Cargos' iLounge in Pontiac.

"Bare" is a musical rife with personal, social and religious discovery. Witness the journey of high school students as they begin to recognize who everyone else wants them to be, and how their Catholic upbringing fits into their personal identity.

Jason (Jeff Bobick) is a high school hero, loved by everyone at St. Cecilia's Boarding School. However, popularity is a cover for his secret relationship with fellow student Peter (Steven Ross), and he draws a distinct line between his public and private lives.

"Jason spends the entire time trying to please everyone else; he's got a lot of pressure on him," says Bobick.

Peter and Matt (Alex Pedica) both feel ignored by the people they love, and a God who they are told is always watching. Ivy (Enxhi Merpeza) carries a reputation for being easy and struggles to function outside of her peers' perceptions. Her roommate is Jason's overweight sister, Nadia (Jojo Tuzzo), who compensates



Join this group of boarding school students as they try to accept themselves in a world where "confusion is a crime."

for her self-esteem issues by being hostile with others.

"'Bare' is a choice," says Tuzzo. "You can either choose to bare your burdens and hide, or you can bare who you are to others and allow them to accept you or get out of your life."

Even members of the supporting cast – Tari Hellmer, Shondra tippler, David Woitulewicz, Michael Stoyanoff, Marie Martinez, Aliya Lewis, Sarah Oravetz, Michael Barwin, Seycon-Nadia Chea, Keith Zachow and Nic Weinberg – face personal dilemmas that family, friends and church cannot fix with forgiveness alone.

"Being 'bare' and accepting who you are is so much bigger than asking for forgiveness," says Ross. "And it starts within each of us first."

This November run of "Bare" is an extension of its initial showing in August. After seeing the show in Mount Clemens, independent producer Omar George and Amir Daiza of Clutch Cargo's agreed to bring the show to Pontiac for another stint.

"Clutch Cargo's is an ideal location for this show: The nightclub circuit has that free-to-be-me ambiance that pairs so well with the message," says director Eric Swanson. "I hope that the venue and everything about this production brings in people from all walks of life."

On behalf of the cast, Swanson explains how "Bare" carries an important message to the community:

"Admitting that you're gay as a teenager is not easy, especially if you grow up someplace that says it's wrong or doesn't understand. The show is important for people to see because it speaks to two audiences: LGBT audiences will see these struggles conveyed on a theatrical stage, and it provokes that I'm-not-alone feeling. For non-LGBT audiences, it's important for them to seek understanding: The conviction from the non-gay world is so powerful, and it's important for them to understand the journey of gay youth."

Join this group of boarding school students as they try to accept themselves in a world where "confusion is a crime." "Bare" features a myriad of musical styles, ranging from traditional hymns to disco and rock. The music is co-directed by Eric Swanson and Gerianne Ditto.

Tickets (\$20 for general admission) can be purchased on www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, call 248-333-0649.

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Scott Thompson *Up Close & Personal*

'Kids in the Hall' comic on homosexuality being 'boring' and how bullied kids should 'grow a pair'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Scott Thompson is still a kid in the hall, but his outlook on life – it doesn't always get better, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" ruined our community and "the world isn't kind to us" – is very much of a grown-up who's been gay for a while. Thompson, 52, has been out publicly since his career launched in the '80s with "The Kids in the Hall," a sketch comedy show that helped push homosexuality into the mainstream with outrageously funny drag acts and monologues.

Don't expect bits from the show, though, when Thompson and Kevin McDonald, also from "Kids in the Hall," come to Ferndale for back-to-back shows on Nov. 18 at the Magic Bag. "No monologues, no sketches, nothing old," Thompson says. "It's all new standup."

During our recent chat, Thompson looked back at "The Kids in the Hall" and how it wouldn't have existed without AIDS; offered a solution to the bullying problem ("fight back"); and talked about the difference between him and Kathy Griffin – she makes you feel good about yourself, and he doesn't.

Why talk about sex, race and death during this show?

What else is there? I like going to the places that make people uncomfortable, because that makes me comfortable. Also, Kevin and I balance each other. He's much more the yin and I'm the yang.

As the show went along, I thought I should focus on these three things because they excite me and make people uncomfortable, and that's what we want to do. Standup is a great form for that.

You've been doing that your whole life, especially with "Kids in the Hall." Looking back, what do you think made that show so successful?

We were lucky. Society was being forced to confront homosexuality because of AIDS, so we just came along at the right time. If AIDS hadn't happened I don't think we would have happened. At least Buddy Cole (a character of his on "Kids in the Hall") wouldn't have happened. AIDS in many ways pried open that door. We were discovered in a fairytale kind of way; those things don't happen very often. They happen almost never.

Was that show the high point of your career?

So far. The funny thing is, I'm still a "Kid in the Hall." It was 22 years ago today that our special aired. How is that possible? We were just kids!

Hard to believe it's been that long?

Yes, it is – because Kevin and I are on stage, and we've known each other now for 25 years, and we're still behaving like children. I mean, our show is so stupid! It's weird, Kevin and I get off stage and we're like, "What are we doing? We're middle-aged men. We have no right to act this silly." But it's great! (Laughs) That's what keeps you young. We'll never get old at this rate.

If you didn't have that attitude, you may have not overcome some of what you did in your life, like cancer a couple years back.

I talk a lot about cancer in the show. What's interesting is that I've discovered it's a taboo. Now that homosexuality is completely boring I've been handed a new topic that people are uncomfortable with. I talk a lot about the side effects of chemo – like when I grew breasts! Suddenly I'm talking about cancer and hormones and transgenderism, and what could be more topical? I had bigger tits than Chastity... I mean, Chaz! (Laughs)

I've been thinking a lot about this, the whole transgender thing. When I had cancer, the chemo converted my testosterone to estrogen, I grew little tits like Jodie Foster in "Taxi Driver," I became very emotional, I became obsessed with "Twilight," I lost my ambition and my sex drive. I'm thinking, "But that

See Scott Thompson, page 16

PRIDESOURCE

► **Scott Thompson**

Continued from p. 15

doesn't make me a woman; I'm just a man with a hormonal imbalance."

You were halfway there.

I was! And now I'm back, because I went through testosterone therapy. So I'm myself again and I can't tell you what that was like. Well, I do – I tell it onstage.

You say homosexuality is boring. Did you ever think you'd see the day when you'd be saying that?

Never, no! You know, today I was sitting in Starbucks having my tea and I look at the story about what we were two years ago, what our targets were, and in many ways the targets were straight white men in suits – that was the enemy. Now I go, I feel bad for straight white men! (Laughs) I feel like they're the new woman. Like, straight white guys can't say shit.

There's this huge national dialogue going on about bullying, and I had a terrible time as a child. But women are bullying now! Let's be honest, look at the role of gay men on television – for a gay male to be on television he has to be neutered, and who's doing the neutering? Women. Straight men don't do it; they don't give a shit. They are jealous of how much sex we have. It's women who are neutering us. They want us to be their shopping companions, but they don't want us to be doing spit roasts or sucking cock in back alleys.

Which shows are you referring to?

Every show. Point to a gay male on television who's a man and who's sexual. ("Modern

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Family") is a hilarious show but there are two gay men who aren't really allowed to be physical or touch each other; it's implicit that they're monogamous, which we know is nonsense. They have to raise a Chinese girl! How feminizing is that? And on every makeover show, everyone talks about gay men like they're little poodles.

We have "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" to thank for that.

Exactly. I remember when it first came out and I went, "Oh god, stop – you're going to ruin everything." And it absolutely did. Every fucking show is full of that.

I talk a lot in the show about my chemotherapy, about getting those tiny breasts and having to have a mammogram, and that's when I was introduced into the world of breast cancer. Breast cancer is out of control. Not the actual disease but the program behind it. Seriously, the other day I saw a Pepsi truck that was painted pink and that had a ribbon on it and I'm thinking, "Pepsi, you fucking cause cancer!" It's like a fist being the spokesperson for domestic violence.

You've addressed bullying before, specifically how the It Gets Better campaign is basically a lie – it might not get better, you say. What would you tell bullied kids, then?

Grow a pair. Here's the thing: The world is not

kind to us; it never really will be. The gay male is always going to be at the bottom. I believe the things that happened to me as a child scarred me terribly, and I wish somebody would have helped me with some of the things that happened. But you have to fight back. So much of these bullying campaigns are part of the trend that we were just talking about – the recasting of gay men as eternal victims. And it's like, fight back! Fathers should start teaching the boys how to punch. He does that to you, here's what you do: You fucking punch him in the face.

I could never do it as a kid.

I couldn't either, but with standup comedy you have that microphone – wow, is that powerful.

Did your scarred childhood lead you to comedy?

Yeah, absolutely. When I'm on that stage, and if you come at me, you're going down. You feel like the lion tamer. It's very powerful.

The vast majority of people are sheep, but when they get angry, they're lions. They don't think. Mobs don't think, so if one person does something you gotta slap them down because it will catch fire. I think of a heckler as a cancer cell, so the moment I see it appear I have to destroy it immediately or that will spread.

And then you'll have man boobs.

(Laughs) That's right! So if I don't slap 'em down it will metastasize into a riot and they'll attack me.

I'll probably never get over my childhood. And my heart breaks for these boys, and I know it's so sad. I was reading the other day about these schools for gay kids and I just think that's the wrong approach. They'll never get the skills they need. That's segregation. That's

just racism. So I don't like any of those trends. I think that's absolutely wrong.

Did you ever feel bullied as a professional comedian? Is labeling a comic "gay" a form of bullying?

Oh, constantly. That's total bullying. It's putting you in a category that makes you lesser. When you hyphenate anything, that's basically lessening you. How about just "comedian"? I reject all those hyphenates. That's just – no. I don't want any hyphenates. I don't want any handicap. It's like affirmative action – that's not good. I don't need that. I can stand on my own two feet.

Right. We don't call Kathy Griffin or Sarah Silverman "straight comedians."

Exactly. And here's the thing: Gay men almost never come to my shows.

They don't?

Hardly at all, no. That's always been an issue. The shows with Kevin and I are packed with straight people and a sprinkling of gay men – and I mean a sprinkling. Because I'm not a ghetto queen. I wish more gay men would come out. I think gay men are so used to being victimized that they think that a standup comedy club is a place where they'll be attacked unless the standup comedian is a woman, like Margaret Cho or Kathy Griffin. Those women – and I love them both – make gay men feel good about themselves.

And you don't?

(Laughs) No! You hit the nail on the head. I never thought of it that way, but no, I guess not. You got me.

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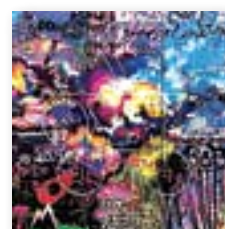
Florence's fantastically dark follow-up, 'Ceremonials.' Plus: Coldplay goes gay-pop



Florence + the Machine, 'Ceremonials'

The dog days are over for Florence Welch, so it's onto a different animal: this behemoth of supersized songs that sound big enough to swallow the world whole. Eternal happiness is still her resting-place – how fitting, then, that she so memorably provided the music to Julia Roberts' eating, praying and loving – but to get there she's fending off devils ("Shake It Out," an anthemic single strong enough to rid evil spirits) and falling into darkness ("Only If For a Night"). More than on "Lungs," her debut that established quite literally that she had one hell of a set, Welch and producer Paul Epworth push her theatrical dramatics – often built with a swirl of chamber sounds and choirs designed for Welch's fire-hose wail – into a mystical wonderland of ancient eeriness that's riff with satanic imagery, childhood urban legends and real-life crazies. You know it's only a matter of time before there's a musical. "Never Let Me Go," easily a career-best ballad, is like the very water she sings of: piano, or the calm before the storm, busts into a crashing chorus that's overwhelmingly breathtaking. "Spectrum" spectacularly follows Annie Lennox's lead, and "No Light, No Light" gets bigger even when you don't think it can. "Ceremonials" is that rare sophomore album that exceeds its debut, both on a song-by-song basis but also in its intriguing concept of angels and demons, imagery that she imparts to powerful effect. When the ethereal optimism of Enya-on-steroids "All This & Heaven

Too" comes sweeping in at the album's end, there's no denying the power of this Machine. *Grade: A*



Coldplay, 'Mylo Xyloto'

Intentionally or not, Coldplay sums up their love/hate relationship with humankind on their latest album's "Us Against the World," something that never seemed truer than with this polarizing project. Before this, their fifth album and a follow-up to one of their best, 2008's "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends," the foursome was all about soft-rock odes to lost love and the color yellow. Things are brighter than ever on their nonsensically named "Mylo Xyloto," one big hug that's all-out pop with synth, Auto-Tune and Rihanna. They ride in on a rainbow with the first full tune "Hurts Like Heaven," a shimmering, speed-sung song that's a high even opium couldn't give you. They keep that idealistic mood running through much of the rest: Life's-what-you-make-it mantra "Paradise" takes on a synth crunch that wouldn't sound out of place on a Kanye West album, "Charlie Brown" is about living it up (and stealing cars), and it's easy to appreciate the message in even the cheesiest of songs: "Every Teardrop is

a Waterfall" essentially tells you to turn that frown upside down. Whereas, for the most part, piano was Coldplay's go-to instrument in their bummed-out days, they're busting out the big guns – lots of guitars – for a glossy sound that further aligns them with the pimps of pop (though not even West himself could do much to help the Rihanna co-teamed "Princess of China"). Their biggest fault? Hallmark corniness like "Life goes on, it gets so heavy," lyrics that frontman Chris Martin has recently admitted to be a "bit shit." Good thing the rest of the album isn't. *Grade: B-*

Also Out



Lauren Alaina, 'Wildflower'

The Season 10 "American Idol" runner-up's debut sounds like something from a singer still in high school. She kisses off boys on "I'm Not One of Them," does a song for mom ("Like My Mother Does," the first single) and drops a Dixie Chicks reference (we feel so old!). Ditties, written by some of Nashville's best and produced by ladies' favorite Byron Gallimore, are perfectly fit for this 17-year-old, a cross between Carrie Underwood and Kelly Clarkson. But Alaina transcends her teen age with an emotional interpretation of one of the album's primo songs, "The Locket," a heartbreaker that's "The Notebook" set to song.



Class Actress, 'Rapprocher'

Fans of Elizabeth Harper, a Brooklyn singer-songwriter known by the moniker Class Actress, probably didn't see this coming: a chic set of cosmopolitan '80s funk-pop. And why? Because Harper was a folk singer. She doesn't let her self-proclaimed "playboy pop" – a sophisticated sound that's synth driven – override her inviting voice, one that always seems to be telling you a secret. It's that charm and humanity extending over the 11 tracks that help it along, even after it starts to drag halfway through. The best comes early with "Keep You" and its airy falsetto on the chorus; "Bienvenue" drops glam for some lo-fi indie, and it's a welcome reprieve. Not bad for a folkie.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

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Out & About



Rev. Delores Berry sings at MCC

Rev. Delores Berry, musical evangelist, will be visiting MCC Detroit in Ferndale the weekend of Nov. 19-20.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, Rev. Delores will be presenting a workshop at 10 a.m. at the church. Join them as Rev. Delores shares her musical gifts in concert. A love offering will be taken and Rev. Delores will have CDs available for purchase.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, Rev. Delores will return to present the message in word and song at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Love offerings will be taken at both services to help support Rev. Delores' ministry.

Meet new Affirmations executive director

Meet and talk with new Affirmations executive director, Antonio David Garcia, at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16. Garcia plans to announce exciting 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. All are welcome and light refreshments will be provided. For additional information, contact Cass Varner, or visit goaffirmations.org.

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J. Edgar Revealed

Photos: Warner Bros.

Out screenwriter Dustin Lance Black talks Clint Eastwood's 'loving' take on 'J. Edgar' and Leonardo DiCaprio's turn as a powerful closet case

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

No milk for Dustin Lance Black – the 37-year-old filmmaker who says he feels 10 years older today – on this recent morning in a suite at a Beverly Hills hotel. Instead, the screenwriter is nursing a hangover after last night's premiere of his latest film, "J. Edgar," with a bottle of water, joking that "it just means more honest answers; the filter's down."

Even without the last drops of Jack and Cokes flushing from his system (proof: lots of bathroom breaks), Black's always spoke his mind. It's how the writer has become one of the most admired LGBT activists of our generation, passionately speaking out on hot topics like Prop 8, being a lapsed Mormon and curious dinners with Taylor Lautner (more on that later).

Today, however, all the talk, or most of

it anyway, is around his big Clint Eastwood-directed, Leonardo DiCaprio-carried follow-up to "Milk," Black's biopic about Harvey Milk's life and legacy that won the writer an Oscar. "It puts a lot of pressure on a lot of your work," says Black, leaning forward on a sofa. "It's a dangerous thing to have around the house, so I wrapped him up and flew him to Virginia with my mother. I love him, but he's not allowed in the house while I'm working. I don't want to think I'm writing toward that. I want to keep taking risks, and this is a risky film."

It's risky not just because of the controversial career of its subject, J. Edgar Hoover, the notoriously snaky FBI director who dominated the bureau for nearly 50 years, carrying his tenure through eight presidencies and three wars. What's attracting the most controversy is the attention the film gives the infamous G-Man's mysterious private life: Was Hoover's closest colleague, Clyde Tolson

(Armie Hammer of "The Social Network"), more than just his right-hand man?

"Women were very interested in him and he didn't respond, but he did like to show up to work every morning with Clyde Tolson and drive home with him each night," Black laughs. "And this is well before it was fashionable to carpool! So it became incredibly apparent that he wasn't straight and I started to wonder, 'Well, what did gay look like? Why was he behaving like that?'"

By interviewing gay men of the time – before Stonewall and the sexual revolution, when homosexuality was so vague that gay people were called "daffodils" – Black was able to piece together Hoover, who was never married and lived with his mother (played by Judi Dench) until she died.

"This portrait of this man was a very complex one and a very interesting one," says DiCaprio, in the titular role through a half-

century stretch, seen in his later years with makeup that took up to seven hours to apply. "I just loved the research that (Black) did and the take that he had on J. Edgar Hoover's life. No matter what his sexual orientation was, he was devoted to his job and power was paramount to him. Holding onto that power at all costs was the most important thing in his life."

Black's screenplay, though, doesn't slight the importance of Tolson to Hoover. How gay does Black go with "J. Edgar"? "It's not 'Milk,'" Black explains. "'Milk' was gay from head to toe. This is not that."

The men were nothing alike: "Milk came out and gave people great hope," he says, "but this man was incredibly closeted and spread fear. I thought, 'If I'm able to sell this thing, I might be able to finally examine why.'"

He looked into the hearsay regarding Hoover's hankering for drag, but that turned out to be just what many thought – a rumor. But this



Leonardo DiCaprio with director Clint Eastwood and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black on the "J. Edgar" set.

is what Black knew: Hoover was an emotionally repressed mama's boy who was smitten with Tolson; they had many meals together, up until their last moments alive, and they traveled to attend horse races, often sleeping in the same room to, you know, save pennies.

"J. Edgar," then, doesn't ignore the love story. It's there in the flustered face of Hoover the first time Tolson interviews for associate director of the FBI, their affectionate handholding and a tussle-turned-makeout scene. The poignant ending, as the two are seen growing old together, is convincing on its own that the men were more than just colleagues. Eastwood had lots of inquiries regarding the script and the research behind it, but he let Black run with all of it.

"He never once asked about the love story or the gay relationship," says Black. "I didn't know what to think of that until it got to production and I saw how he was treating these scenes. He was doing it in not just an incredibly respectable but loving manner."

Eastwood's one suggestion came last-minute after Tolson professes his love to Hoover, who then reciprocates the sentiment – but only after Tolson's walked out. "That's not in my script," Black says, "That was Clint on take two or three shouting out to Leo, 'Tell him you love him.'"

"As this is happening," he continues, "I was reading on the Internet that he was degaying the film. I don't think so. People assume that because he's Clint he might, but he treated it incredibly lovingly."

Eastwood, a defender of marriage equality, says: "I had my own impressions growing up with Hoover as a heroic figure in the '30s and beyond. We never knew too much about Tolson or any of his close confidantes, but through researching this movie... we're putting our stamp on history. Sure, a lot of things probably didn't happen the way they happened in this film, but they're pretty close. Lance has done a great job researching."

The first time Hammer looked over the script, he wasn't sure what to make of the men's codependency. He couldn't get how anybody would stay so dedicated to such a vile beast of a man like Hoover.

"With Clyde, I thought that in order for it to make sense for him to be there and to stick around and to almost take that hot-and-cold abuse, it had to be a love story," Hammer says. "I didn't understand the love story; it didn't make sense. After having conversations with Fiona

Weir, who cast the project, and several friends of mine, the complexities of their relationship was made more and more clear to me and I became obsessed with it."

Black was also consumed by it, and his research caused him to get a "creepy feeling" for how much he started to empathize with the historical figure. "Hoover was this young man who was incredibly promising and brilliant," he says. "Hoover is the ultimate cautionary tale of: Do not replace love and family and your fellow man with admiration and fame. Don't let your kids grow up to be Hoovers, and the way you do that is to teach them the importance of love – and when they come to you and say that might be someone of the same sex, you have to encourage that and not discourage that."

DiCaprio felt similarly. "Lance put it best when he said, 'Look, if we can better understand these people and their motivations and how their ambition manifested itself into their politics we can learn from them, we can learn from history.'"

History tells us that Hoover was driven, ruthless and manipulative in how he created a system of federal laws that transformed our country into what it is today. He founded the FBI in 1935 and remained director until his death in 1972, originating forensic laboratories and fingerprinting. Hoover was as remarkably heroic as he was feared.

"You look at the things he did in his teens and into his 20s and boy, what a mind and what potential," says Black. "Can you imagine if this young man was allowed to love and love openly and have a family and foster things like empathy and maintain a moral compass?"

He may have turned out a lot like Black, the posterboy for LGBT activism. He speaks regularly on issues concerning the gay community and recently wrote "8," a play about the battle against Proposition 8. Up next? "Under the Banner of Heaven," an adaptation of Jon Krakauer's bestseller that riffs on Mormonism, and next year's release of his directorial debut, "What's Wrong with Virginia," starring Jennifer Connelly. Black is not, however, linked to "Twilight" stud Taylor Lautner and filmmaker Gus Van Sant's obscure project, despite having a meal with both of them recently – food for too much thought that put Lautner's sexuality in question.

About that brouhaha: "It wasn't one," Black says, laughing. "It was a nice dinner!"

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Editor's Picks

Outings

Affirmations is holding a welcome reception for the public to meet the new executive director, Antonio David Garcia, on Nov. 16. 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.

Garcia began advocacy work for the LGBT community in 2000, after being fired as Community Services Coordinator of Swartz Creek for attempting to start a Gay-Straight Alliance in the public schools. Previously Garcia served as the executive director of Kalamazoo's Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. He was chosen as Affirmations new executive director for his excellent organizing and leadership skills last June.

Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP at www.goaffirmations.org/welcome. For additional information, contact Cass Varner at 248-677-7227.



Art 'n' Around

No Object Is An Island: New Dialogues With The Cranbrook Collection is the provocative exhibition that will reopen the expanded and renovated Cranbrook Art Museum at Cranbrook Academy of Art. The exhibition will pair the work of 50 leading contemporary artists and designers with an equal number of objects from Cranbrook's outstanding permanent collection of 20th- and 21st-century art and design.

After the museum's two-year \$22 million renovations, its entire collection will now be visible and accessible to students, scholars and visitors. Classes will occur inside the museum's glass-walled vaults, where the art will reside in cabinetry custom-designed to display it exhibition-style at all times.

No Object Is An Island will open Nov. 11, running through March 25, 2012, at the Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave. in Bloomfield Hills. For more information, go to cranbrookart.edu or call 248-645-3300.

Theater

The University of Michigan's University Opera Theatre will present Verdi's effervescent comic masterpiece "Falstaff" at Power Center for the Performing Arts, located at 121 N. Fletcher St. in Ann Arbor. This enchanting and amusing opera based on Shakespeare's notorious protagonist runs for four performances: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10; 8 p.m. Nov. 11 and 12; and 2 p.m. Nov. 13. Filled with both the physical comedy and elegant language of Shakespeare, Verdi's tribute to "Fatbelly" is a mercurial, quicksilver musical masterpiece from a composer at the height of his genius.

"Falstaff" follows the antics of Sir John Falstaff, a portly, old cad who, being short of drinking money, decides to write love letters to two wealthy, married women. Discovering his trickery, the two women decide to teach Falstaff a lesson.

Tickets are \$26 and \$20, with students only \$10 with ID. Order by phone at 734-764-2538.



OUTINGS

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**. kgirc.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. Tracy@kgirc.org kgirc.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

Thursday, Nov. 10

Meet 'n Greet 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. the20somethings.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. blemac100@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

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**. equalitymi.org

Monday, Nov. 14

Welcoming Reception for Dave Garcia 6:30 p.m. Meet and talk with Affirmations' new Executive Director, Antonio David Garcia. Dave plans to announce exciting 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. All are welcome, light refreshments provided. For more information contact Director of Communications. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7227. Goaffirmations.org

Gender Explorers 8 p.m. A social and support group for transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, TG-questioning people and those who transgress gender binaries. Meets 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Spectrum Center, Michigan Union-Spectrum Center 3200, **Ann Arbor**. spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Tuesday, Nov. 15

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

Thursday, Nov. 17

You + Friends + Meanwhile Bar = LOVE 4:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to help one of the largest human rights movements in the country without leaving your barstool. A portion of sales will go to support the work of Until Love is Equal and their efforts to reverse an order in Holland and promote equality for the LGBT community. Pizza at 5:30, tunes, and updates from the Until Love is Equal movement. Special Features U.L.I.E. backdrop banner photos (red carpet style) by Jonathan Clay: \$3 short, \$4 tall. Until Love is Equal, 1005 Wealthy St SE, **Grand Rapids**. 530-346-4290. info@untilloveisequal.com

A People's History of the LGBTQ Community in Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m. Following the model of radical historian Howard Zinn, this project involves the documentation of the history of the LGBTQ movement in West Michigan. By doing interviews and collecting archival material, this project has produced a documentary film and an online archive of material about the struggle for equality and justice by the LGBTQ community in West Michigan. Grand Valley State University's LGBT Resource Center, DC-122 E DeVos Center, **Allendale**. 616-331-2530. Gvsu.edu/lgbtc

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

Friday, Nov. 18

Metro-Detroit Transgender Vigil of Remembrance 5:30 p.m. Every year, transgender individuals around the globe are murdered simply for living true to themselves. All are welcome in remembering those who have fallen in the past year due to anti-trans hate and bigotry. Sylvia Guerrero, mother of the late Gwen Araujo, will be speaking at the vigil. (Transgender MI, Transgender Detroit, Equality Michigan, MIAAHC, GLSEN, Detroit Latin@z, GSA at Oakland University), 23 E. Adams Ave., **Detroit**. msfjp@sbcglobal.net

The Forum Foundation Sock Hop Rock Around the Clock 2011 Dance with The Forum Foundation. Dinner provided, Open Bar, Dessert, 50/50 Raffle, and Silent Auction. Tickets: \$45.00 each. Music provided by DoublePlay DJ Services. Tickets are also available at Five15 or Just 4 Us. Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road, **Warren**.

Kicked Out the Jams 2.0 6:30 p.m. Ozone House Youth and Family Services presents the 2nd annual: KICKED OUT the JAMS! benefit concert for LGBTQ

youth at risk of homelessness. Features performances by Bitch, Nervous But Excited, Drag King Rebellion. Tickets: \$15 general, \$10 students. All proceeds benefit LGBTQ youth at risk of homelessness. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Facebook.com/ozoneqzone

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday. Discussion relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Building is handicapped accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 1919 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com

Mike McMath Gallery Reception 7 p.m. Light refreshments and reception for Midland artist Mike McMath's exhibit at the Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery. Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender Day of Remembrance at Central United Methodist Church 7 p.m. All metropolitan Detroit residents are encouraged to attend an event to memorialize those who fall victim to transphobia. There will be an art show, featuring local artists and also a variety of speakers, including Sylvia Guerrero. Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams Ave., **Detroit**. 313-965-5422. Centralumchurch.com

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: In Her Line of Fire - Mariel Hemingway stars in this action thriller as Sgt. Maj. Lynn Delaney, a Secret Service agent charged with protecting the U.S. vice president against a band of bloodthirsty guerrillas when his plane crashes near a remote South American island. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Body Bingo 9 p.m. Body Bingo at Liberty Bar. For more information, contact Mark McMillan, Events and Sponsorship Manager. Affirmations, 85 Saginaw St., **Pontiac**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Nov. 19

3rd Annual Ann Arbor's Got Talent 7 p.m. 3rd Annual talent show fundraiser for Together We Can Detroit. \$5 entry. Special guest Dennis G. at 7 p.m. TWC Detroit, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. Twcdetroit.com

Coming Out of Nowhere 8:30 p.m. Author, poet, actress, and dedicated activist, Natasha "T. Miller" celebrates the release of her second book "Coming Out of Nowhere" with a book signing, poetry and musical performance. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Dearborn Symphony Orchestra "Dance to the Stars" Dennis Carter is guest solo flutist with the Dearborn Symphony as they perform a piece by openly gay contemporary composer John Corigliano. Tickets: \$30-10. Michael A. Guido Theater, Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 7 p.m. Nov. 18. 313-565-2424. Dearbornsymphony.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Brave New Works" Hailed by composers and audiences for championing new contemporary classical music, BNW was founded in Ann Arbor in 1997. A not-for-profit organization since 2004, BNW returns to Southeast Michigan each fall. Tickets: \$25-5. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 18. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mondays at the Max with Wayne State:

See Music, page 26

'Engagement Rules': Is love a battlefield?

BY JOHN QUINN

The romantic comedy is a staple of stage, screen and television. Of course, romance isn't all joy. A comedy is only a comedy if it has a happy ending. Getting there may be through a minefield or two. It is appropriate, then, that playwright Rich Orloff flips a military term around for the title of his new romantic comedy. "Engagement Rules" is receiving its world premiere as Detroit Repertory Theatre opens its 54th season. The themes may be familiar, but the approach is sharp, original and terribly funny.

Consider two loving couples at two different stages of romance. Donna and Tom (Kelly Komlen and Charlie Newhart) are young professionals; each are "once bitten, twice shy" in relationships. They're cautiously moving towards an engagement. Rose and Phil (Trudy Mason and Harold Uriah Hogan), on the other hand, have been married for decades and the flame of passion has waned. Waned? After listening to Tom's enraptured description of his "souls together" moments with Donna, Phil begins to wonder if he and Rose had a romance or just a marriage. His attempts to light the fire, fueled by a cocktail of Kama sutra, porno films and Viagra, provide a lot of the best comedy in the play.

The audience needs that humor. Tom and Donna are faced with an unplanned pregnancy while still in the learning stage of their partner's soul. Their encounters become tense, cold lessons in logic. Their flame might be extinguished.

In the director's chair for "Engagement Rules" is Bruce Millan, Detroit Rep's artistic director. He's given us a great start for the 54th season. Orloff's play is rich in content, deep in character; Millan mines its treasures like a savvy prospector. The production is risqué without being crude,



The world premiere of "Engagement Rules" continues at the Detroit Repertory Theatre through Dec. 23 (plus a special New Year's Eve performance). Photo: Bruce Millan

REVIEW

Engagement Rules

Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through Dec. 23, plus New Year's Eve; no show Thanksgiving. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. 313-868-1347.

www.detroitreptheatre.com

crisp but not overdone. It is, in fact, one of the few times in my experience that a play is literally a "laugh a minute." The opening audience was so appreciative that the sustained laughter threatened to drown out the next lines. Everything is just right, from "curtains up, Act I" to the most stylish curtain call I've seen in a while.

The ensemble is outstanding; their work gives a brilliant polish to Orloff's well-rounded characters. The audience favorite is clearly Harold Uriah Hogan's Phil. He has the best one-liners of the play because he is also the voice of the

playwright. He allows Orloff to riff on topics as varied as the vast wasteland of television and the questionable value of organized religion. Wilde Award winner Kelly Komlen turns in a textured, sensitive portrayal in Donna.

Scenic designer Harry Wetzel can always be counted on to create an attractive, workable set, but here he's outdone himself. The design is simple; the living room and bedroom of two apartments flank a wall unit mounted on a turntable. 'Tis a gift to be simple – the set is so functional that, while each scene ends in a blackout (or a blue light blackout, if you want to quibble), there is no interruption in continuity. Change of scene takes mere seconds, and "Engagement Rules" glides along as if greased with graphite.

As "the days trickle down to these treasured few," and the nights grow longer and colder, there are reliefs as spicy as apple cider with cinnamon. Consider "Engagement Rules" one of them.

Network adds 'pay-what-you-can' performance

ANN ARBOR – Due to the immense popularity for Performance Network's upcoming production of "Ain't Misbehavin' - the Fats Waller Musical," the theater's administration has made the decision to convert the preview Saturday performance at 8 p.m. Nov. 12 into "pay-what-you-can." This change will accommodate patrons who were placed on the waiting list for the sold-out first preview performance, as well as others hoping to see this Tony Award-winning musical at a reduced rate.

Marketing Director Chelsea Sadler said, "Our pay-what-you-can performances have always been popular, both with long-time patrons who aren't able to afford a full price ticket, as well as with new folks looking for an introduction to the theater. The addition will open up a limited amount of seats for what's turning out to be the most sought-after show of the season. We're

encouraging patrons to book early."

"Ain't Misbehavin'" runs through Jan. 1, 2012. Weekly performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, with 3 p.m. Saturday matinees on Nov. 26 and Dec. 10.

The prodigious comic and musical soul of 1930s Harlem lives on in this rollicking, finger-snapping revue that is still considered one of Broadway's best. The inimitable Thomas "Fats" Waller rose to fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club, honky tonk dives, rent parties and that jumpin' new beat, Swing. "Ain't Misbehavin'" evokes the infectious humor and energy of this American era.

Tickets can be ordered at the Performance Network Box Office at 734-663-0681, online at www.performancenetwork.org or by coming to the Performance Network Theatre (120 East Huron St., Ann Arbor, 48104)



Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. or one hour before a performance.

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► Music

Continued from p. 24

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

CONCERTS

Kerrytown Concert House "Mostly Sondheim" A celebration of the songs of composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim. Tickets: \$30-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - Nov. 12. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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

Olympia Entertainment "Special Night with Demi Lovato Tour" 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

Olympia Entertainment Mike Epps, a stand-up comedy performance, with special guest Bruce Bruce. Tickets: \$48-78. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 27 - Nov. 28. Ticketmaster.com

The Ark Wheeler Brothers Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 17 - Dec. 11. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Flint Cultural Center Corporation "Drum line Live" Versatile group of musicians and dancers bringing an explosive energy and athleticism to an eclectic mix of sounds. Tickets: \$19-39. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Nov. 18. 810-237-7333. Thewhiting.com

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 Anda Union" Part of a musical movement finding inspiration in old and forgotten folk music from the nomadic herdsman cultures of Inner and Outer Mongolia. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

OTHER

Fair Food Matters "The Fair Food Fair" Join us as more than a dozen of our community's most talented chefs compete for your votes to win the coveted Golden Ladle Award. Tickets: \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. 6 p.m. Nov. 19. 269-492-1270. Fairfoodmatters.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

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. Through Nov. 12. 269-343-1313. kazooocivic.com

How I Learned to Drive \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 18 - 20. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Into the Woods \$25-30. Windsor Light Music Theatre at The Chrysler Theatre, 201 Riverside Dr. E., Windsor. Nov. 18 - 27. 519-974-6593. windsorlight.com

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest \$17.

Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Through Nov. 13. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

The Guys \$8-\$12. Over the Ledge Theatre Company at Holt Senior High School, 5885 W. Holt Rd., Holt. Through Nov. 12. 517-318-0579. overtheledge.org

White Christmas, the Musical \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre, Potter Center at Jackson Community College, Jackson. Through Nov. 13. 517-782-8473. 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. wmutheatre.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

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

The Shrike \$10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Through Nov. 12. 517-372-0945. artslansing.org

PROFESSIONAL

A Christmas Story, The Musical! \$27-79. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 15 - 27. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

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

Escanaba in da Moonlight \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 17. 734-433-7782. purplerosetheatre.org

Five Course Love \$15-\$20; \$49.95-\$59.95 per couple for dinner and show. HappenStance Productions at Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Nov. 27. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

Irving Berlin's White Christmas From \$34.50. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Nov. 15 - 20. 800-745-3000. broadwaygrandrapids.com

It's a Wonderful Life \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Nov. 17 - Dec. 23. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Much Ado About Nothing \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Nov. 19. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Taco Meat and Greet \$10. Crawlspace Eviction at Farmer's Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 11 - 12. 269-599-7390. crawlspaceattheatre.com

The Girl from Utah \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Vitoshka Haus Concert Hall, 1917 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - 13. 734-763-8587. mutotix.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

The Odd Couple \$18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through Nov. 27. 248-850-9919. twomusestheatre.org

West Side Story \$30+-. Wharton Center's

Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 8 - 13. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com

Will Rogers: an American Original \$18. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Through Nov. 20. 517-488-8450. stormfieldtheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

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 - March 25. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Flint Institute of Arts "FIA Student Exhibition" Features works of FIA Art School ceramics students. The Bishop Gallery is dedicated to presenting the wide range of artwork created by students, faculty and individuals associated with art school programming. Bishop Gallery, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 31 - Dec. 2. 810-234-1695. 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

Kerrytown Concert House "Perennials: Drawings and Paintings by Nora Venturini" Born in Rosario, Argentina, Nora Venturini immigrated to California with her family in 1968. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. Nov. 2 - Dec. 4. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.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

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

Ridge Fine Art & Handmade Wares "Ridge Fine Art & Handmade Wares Show" 13th annual event moved to Ferndale. More artists all from Michigan. Free parking, food and refreshments. Admission: \$2. Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. 9 a.m. Nov. 19. 248-398-8107.

Riverside Arts Center "Song of the Birds" Carol Hanna has been painting the songs of birds for the past several years as she endeavors to interpret bird song as a visual language. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Nov. 3 - Nov. 20. 734-480-2787. Riversidearts.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. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Oct. 8 - Feb. 26. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Rear View

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Solution to puzzle from page 28



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BTT Horoscopes

Pay attention, Capricorn!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mars opposes Neptune just before going into Virgo. Showing off and excessive aggression or internalized anger will exact a price that you'll have to pay very soon! Meditation and swimming help; contact sports are dangerous. You may go overboard with creative hobbies, but those excesses can draw out inner truths.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): An ego trip usually has a very hard landing. Your ruler Mars opposing Neptune makes it hard to know whether you're offering too much or too little. Who knows your heart best can tell you how big it really is.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your erotic charms are nearly irresistible. How you use them will tell the world a lot about your values. You're better off keeping your reputation clean. Honesty and strategy are crucial to winning a struggle at work.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): You can charm your partner – real or prospective – into almost anything, but its best to use this openness to work on issues in your relationship. The high-minded, mature approach is harder, but in the long run yields better results.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): This week's full moon brings out your wild side, shocking some friends or making some new ones, and probably starting some very titillating gossip. Enemies at work might try to use that against you, but you can turn it to your advantage.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Arguments with your partner are based on misunderstanding and your overreactions. Less drama, more empathy would help. Worries about money may be based in reality, but probably still exaggerated. The outlook will improve very soon.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Don't worry yourself sick! Channel that energy into exercise. Swimming and martial arts like tai chi are best. A wave of domestic bliss offers a platform for some serious improvements. Sexual competition can be fun; taking it seriously can get dangerous.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Sometimes your charm comes too easily. Overdoing it can alienate some people. What does your partner think about your flirtations? Accept criticism graciously and think seriously about it!

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Adding another candle doesn't mean you have to prove anything. Self-consciousness can provoke you to overdo things, hurting yourself or complicating your work. Think less about yourself, more about your partner: committed, for the moment, or hypothetical.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Mixed messages and rumors can hurt your reputation. Defensiveness just makes it worse. Look at the problem as one to heal with good humor, even at your expense. Clear it up! Opportunity's around the corner.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): One can be over-competitive at work. Pay attention to those nagging inner voices. They can help correct your perspective even if you don't like what they say. Charity work will also do you much good.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Don't take personal criticisms too seriously, but spats with friends can show where you need self-improvement. You don't need to prove your intellectual prowess, but you may need to admit to your limitations so you can expand your wisdom.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Give yourself a little room to be a drama queen – in the right time and place – just to let the frustrations out. Friends will be a lot more supportive than you expect. Being too nice can work against you; focus on being just nice enough.

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

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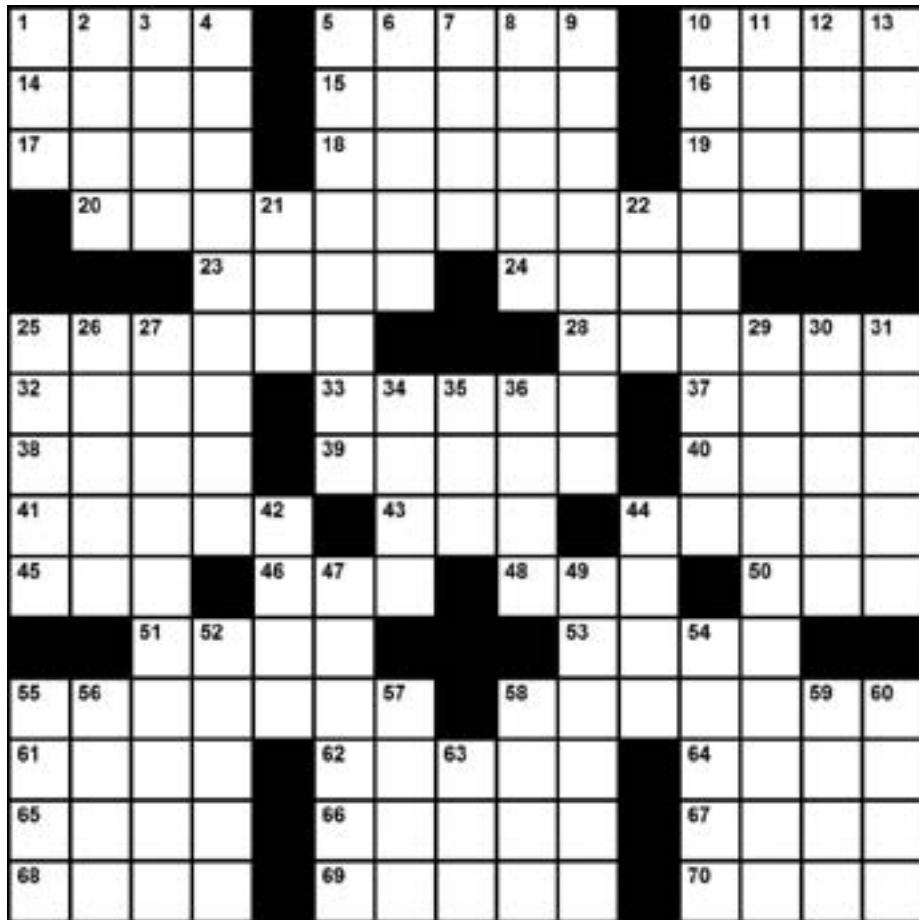
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Remembering Kameny

Across

- 1 Dorothy Gale's home
- 5 Like Heidi
- 10 Pull a boa behind you?
- 14 "Hey, sailor!"
- 15 Hoisting device
- 16 He shot off at O.K. Corral
- 17 Phi ____ Kappa
- 18 Judy Jetson's brother
- 19 Muscle Marys' hangouts
- 20 Kameny helped to get homosexuality declassified as this
- 23 Reid of *Josie and the Pussycats*
- 24 Bump off
- 25 Teahouse garb
- 28 Many a senator stuck it in him
- 32 "Six Feet Under" creator Ball
- 33 Gay activist Kameny
- 37 Anna, to Jodie
- 38 Abominable snowman
- 39 Amounts left on nightstands

- 40 Biblical plot
- 41 Coming soon
- 43 T. Perry's title
- 44 Lines through
- 45 Cruising locale
- 46 Crack pilot
- 48 NY hrs.
- 50 St. Helens and others
- 51 Clergyman Bean
- 53 Flat-bottomed receptacle
- 55 Dick that isn't a name?
- 58 The B of B.D. Wong
- 61 Chief Norse god
- 62 Margaret Mead topic
- 64 Composer Edouard
- 65 Came, to Caligula
- 66 Circuit party, for example
- 67 On their field
- 68 Words said by gazers into crystal balls
- 69 Roberts of "Charlie's Angels"
- 70 "There ____ there there" (Stein)

Down

- 1 British sitcom "Ab ____"
- 2 "Um, pardon me"
- 3 Kind of learning
- 4 1918 novel of 6-Down
- 5 Promise to give up
- 6 Author Cather
- 7 Letters over Mary's son
- 8 Give a tongue-lashing to and others
- 10 Ellen, once of "These Friends of Mine"
- 11 What you can catch in South Beach
- 12 Venus de Milo's lack
- 13 Family docs
- 21 Brown in a salon
- 22 Vardalos of "Connie & Carla"
- 25 Cold-cocks
- 26 "The L Word" creator Chaiken
- 27 Society that Kameny worked with for gay rights
- 29 Kameny helped to get these repealed

- 30 Alaskan tongue
- 31 Lets out
- 34 One way to have one's meat
- 35 "You ____ what you eat"
- 36 Campbell of "The Company"
- 42 Average scores for Patty Sheehan
- 44 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 47 Many are out of it
- 49 Layers that got laid a long time ago
- 52 She got her gun on Broadway
- 54 Ike's opponent
- 55 Rock's Bon ____
- 56 Tributes in verse
- 57 "Rag and Bone" author
- 58 Like an erection?
- 59 Sparkle
- 60 Toy that does tricks
- 63 Queens on a chessboard, ironically

Solution on 28

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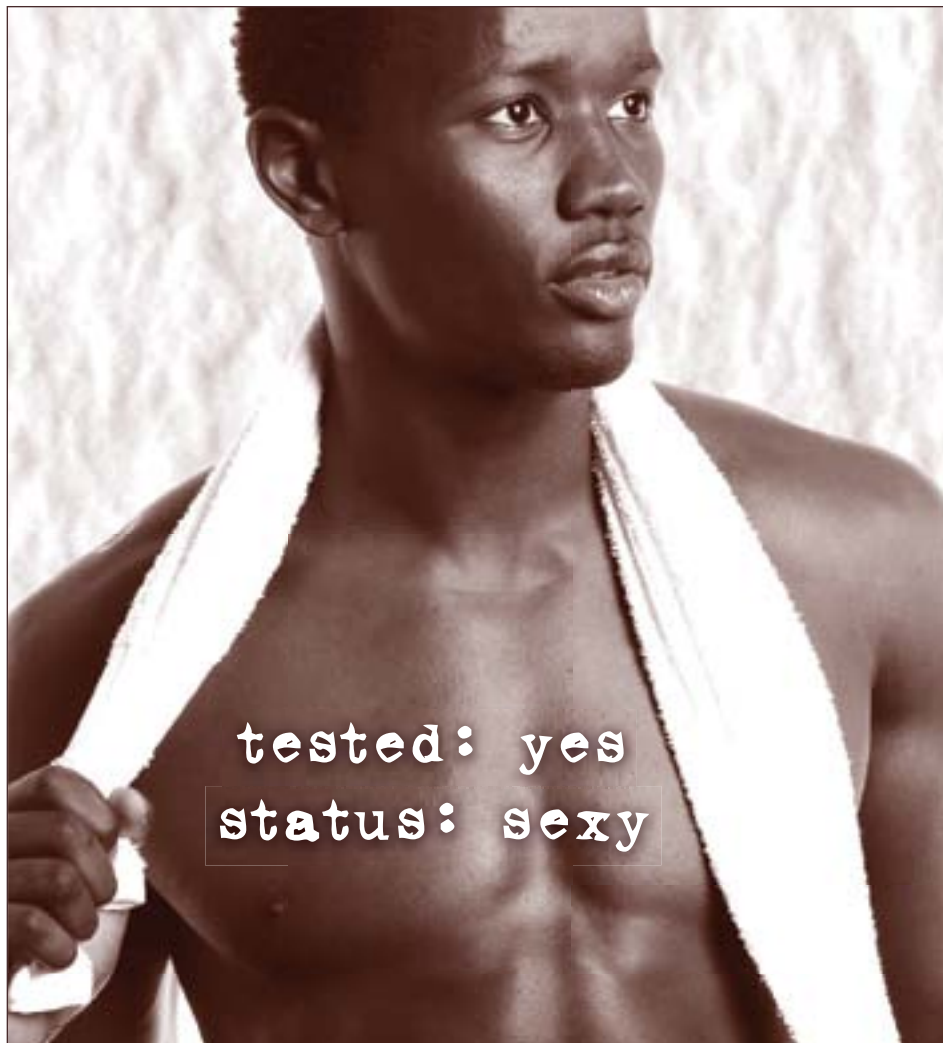


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BTL Deep Inside Hollywood



Annette Bening and Julianne Moore from "The Kids Are All Right." Photo: Focus Features

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Will Leo make it Turing's turn?

A big-screen biopic of World War II computer pioneer Alan Turing is in the works at Warner Bros and word is that Leonardo DiCaprio – clearly bucking for another Academy Award nomination – is interested in playing him. The working title is "The Imitation Game" and the script by Graham Moore is based on Andrew Hodge's biography "Alan Turing: The Enigma." During WW2, British military officer Turing was a key figure in breaking Nazi codes – he developed the Turing Bombe, a device that deciphered the Third Reich's enigma codes – and he is considered a pioneer of modern computer technology. But Turing was also gay and, after the war, was punished by the very government he heroically served. The story will explore both Turing's efforts during the war and also his post-war prosecution for being homosexual, his conviction for "gross indecency," forced hormone therapy and his subsequent tragic suicide. Now, if they can just figure out a way to release this worthy but extremely depressing tale during Oscar season but not on Christmas Day...

HBO welcomes Liberace and 'Kids'

Remember that Liberace biopic that's been such a longtime coming? Remember how it was going to be a big-screen event directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon and Michael Douglas as the legendary and legendarily closeted entertainer? Well, it's still happening. But the screen's going to be a little smaller. HBO has taken the film and will give it the audience-grabbing premiere it will surely deserve. And why is this good? Consider Todd Haynes's Emmy-winning "Mildred Pierce." Debuting on HBO meant more people saw it than watched all of Haynes's other theatrically released movies combined. And it was always going to be a tough sell getting audiences into theaters for a movie about the death of Liberace, so this way it'll be as easy to see as programming a DVR. Meanwhile HBO is betting you loved the family from "The Kids Are All Right" enough to watch them every week. They've commissioned a pilot script for a one-hour drama from "Kids" writer-director Lisa Cholodenko. Sounds great, but will somebody make sure to woo Annette Bening to reprise her role as the Joni Mitchell-crooning matriarch?

Will Lee Daniels teach America to 'Vogue' again?

Lee Daniels must not need as much sleep as normal human beings. The "Precious" director just signed on to direct a "Valley of The Dolls" update for NBC, he's got a handful of other projects in various stages of development, and now he wants to turn "Paris is Burning" into a TV show. He's currently attached to direct an untitled Showtime pilot that, while not specifically aligned with Jennie Livingston's acclaimed 1990 drag ball documentary, will explore the same subculture of drag "houses" – which inspired Madonna's single "Vogue" – and the young Latino and African-American men who participate in the competitions surrounding them. "Temple Grandin" writer W. Merritt Johnson is working on the script, but no other details, including cast or title, are yet known. It's a great idea, since the documentary has found a new audience among hip, urban, twentysomething gay men; that means the audience for a high-quality exploration of this world is already primed for more "realness." You better work, Lee Daniels.

Kelly McGillis, 'Innkeeper' from hell

Ti West's new movie is coming soon! OK, sure, now maybe you're asking "What is a Ti West?" And if you are then you didn't see the coolest horror movie of the past couple years that didn't have the words "paranormal" or "activity" in the title. What would be West's critically acclaimed indie "The House of the Devil," which generated a lot of positive buzz for its impeccable homage to 1980s "satanic panic." And now West is back on the festival circuit with his latest, "The Innkeepers," another horror romp inspired by the spooky hotel "House of the Devil"'s crew stayed in during that film's shoot. It stars Kelly McGillis and "Shark Night"'s Sara Paxton and this time the haunted house is a New England bed and breakfast of terror. It can reasonably be assumed that McGillis's lesbian fan base are just as likely to enjoy a good scare as the horror nerd contingent, so there's no reason why this shouldn't do at least "Claire of the Moon"-level box office.

Romeo San Vicente's hotel experiences are usually pretty devilish, too. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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