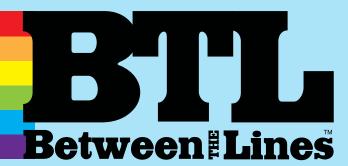
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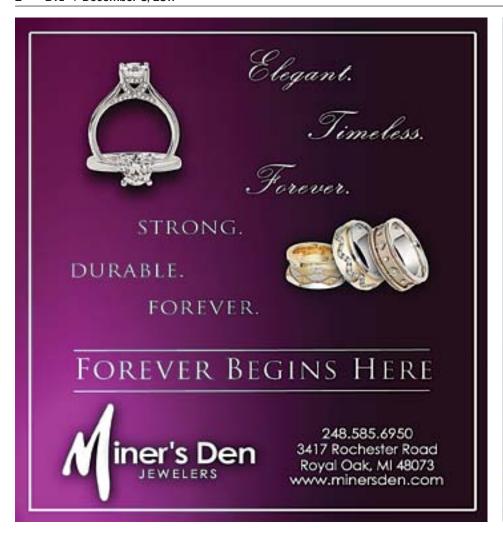




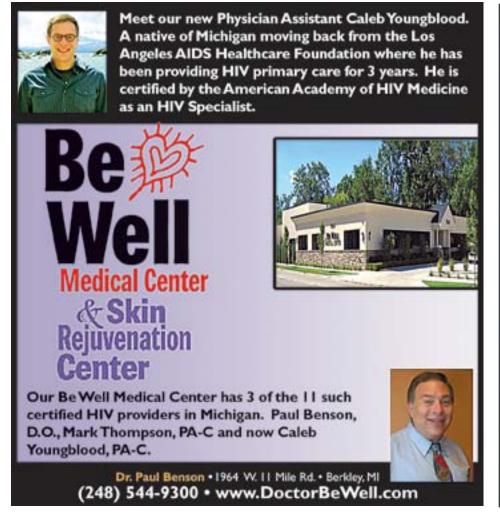
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ABOUT THE COVER

Pictured are Skye Curtis, GSA co-founder and president, and senior James Hendricksen of Troy High School protesting in front of Troy City Hall Dec. 5. BTL photo: Andrew Potter





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BTL photos: Andrew Potter

Troy mayor's gay slur brings protest

Students lead way, demand apology and resignation

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

TROY – The energy of youth and hope for a better future could be felt along Big Beaver Road in front of Troy City Hall on Monday afternoon as more than 50 protestors gathered in response to new Troy Mayor Janice Daniels' use of the anti-gay slur "queers" on her Facebook page.

"Troy's reputation has suffered because our mayor is a bigot," said Zach Kilgore, a Troy High School senior who organized the protest in collaboration with the school's Gay-Straight Alliance. "The ultimate goal is to force her to resign. We don't feel secure with the city in her hands."

Daniels' Facebook posting, dated June 25, told her friends: "I think I am going to throw away my I Love New York carrying bag now that queers can get married there." Her post came a day after New York state legislators voted to allow gay marriage in the state.

The protest brought together students, parents and other supporters from nearby cities

who stood under umbrellas in the wind and rain in anticipation of Daniels' third city council meeting since being elected Nov 8. With the help of signs that said "Be Kind, Please Resign," "Hate Speech Is Not Free Speech," and "Treat Others The Way You Want To Be Treated," the protestors delivered their message.

"The LGBT community's self-esteem is already in shreds. The LGBT youth struggle enough. We don't think our mayor should be one of those struggles," said Skye Curtis, a Troy High School senior and co-founder of the GSA, who said she has been called a "devil child" by Daniels supporters.

Waiving and cheering while drivers passed by honking their car horns in support, Curtis proudly held her Italian rainbow PACE (Peace) flag with friends. Xinxin Zhou, also a Troy High School senior and member of the GSA, handed out rainbow ribbon pins to protestors.

Among them was Rhonda Hendrickson of Troy who said she is "sickened" by what Daniels said and is concerned about the loss of growth in the community as many people have threatened to boycott local businesses. "This is an example of continued bullying and she apologized days after she was caught because it was politically prudent," said Hendrickson. "I encourage our community to educate themselves and do their homework before electing officials."

Her son, James Hendrickson, a Troy High School junior who held the American flag, added "Mayor Daniels is the voice of our town. I'm here to show that she doesn't represent the people. Our voices need to be heard over the loud, bigoted voices."

Vic Doucette of Southfield was heard loud and clear. "I'm a boring, middle-aged, straight guy with a lot of gay friends who are a part of my extended family. When you attack people I care about, you attack me," said Doucette.

Carla Meier, a Troy resident since 1970, expressed feelings of shame and embarrassment. "I wish Mayor Daniels would resign and let our city move forward," said Meier. "An apology isn't enough."

But an apology is all Dr. Syed Taj of Canton thinks we might get. "I'm not sure how far we can go with this, but it's so important for Mayor Daniels to genuinely acknowledge her mistake and make things right," said Taj, who came in support of the protestors. As candidate for U.S. Congress, he understands the severity of what has happened. "This affects us everywhere, not just in our state. None of us have the right to say these things. We have changed in the last several years and there is a different way to express our beliefs."

Duanne Sonneville of Orchard Lake wants to prevent Daniels from inflicting her beliefs upon others. "I'm here because this is an issue of civil rights, narrow-minded people and opinions."

Chris Jensen of Beverly Hills was simply proud of the students who took the time to organize and come out to protest. "I'm here to support the kids and the community. They are

► Gay slur

Continued from p. 4

the leaders of tomorrow. They shouldn't be quiet about this and I stand with them to congratulate them."

Daniels met with protestors in an effort to apologize just hours before the city council meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

"I'm not a bully," said Daniels, who admitted to the small group of students and the media that she is human and made a mistake. "I'm a nice person."

Although protestors demanded a resignation from her, Daniels said she would not resign. "I love my new role as mayor." She was berated for her final comments before scurrying off. "I said one word that you don't like. One word," said Daniels.

"Recall Janice Daniels" petitions continued to gather throughout the day. As rain turned to snow and it got dark, the tired and hungry students entered city hall asking for pizza donations while gathered in a small room to prepare before the meeting.

There wasn't an empty seat in the room. Around 80 people signed up to speak for the allotted time of five minutes each. Supporters were lined up against the wall with their protest

Daniels understand the meaning of love and kindness. Drawn pictures were presented to the mayor from the girls. The Weber family told Daniels that "mistakes happen and you can turn it around."

"I feel alienated in my city... older generations teach younger generations. Who are we going to learn from?"

- Co-president and founder of Troy High School's GSA, Sabrina Lee

"I am angry. No true remorse has been shown," said Jeff Williams of Troy. "This is a damage control apology. How will citizens ever look at you the same way? Being mayor is a privilege. Take responsibility, do the right thing and resign."

Josh Schirle, a gay man of Royal Oak, was sincere and straight-forward. "Difference does not matter and we will not tolerate those who shut it out," said Schirle.

Toby Gosselin of Troy stepped up to the



Janice L. Daniels

I think I am going to throw away my I Love New York carrying bag now that queers can get married there.

Share + June 25 at 6:36pm • 🕪

30 shares

Troy Mayor Janice Daniel's Facebook entry June 26.

signs and "I Love New York" t-shirts. Before public comments were received, Daniels once again explained herself.

"I regret what I said. I should not have said what I said. I have asked God for forgiveness and I would hope that you would forgive me as well," said Daniels.

Kilgore addressed Daniels' earlier comment. "Queer is not just a word. I don't think you understand the magnitude of what you said. Perhaps you can give a donation to an LGBT organization or charity. You can even attend a GSA meeting. What would help the most is for you to resign."

The minimal booing from Daniels' supporters in the crowd was overshadowed by the overwhelming sound of applause.

Mayor Daniels and the council were inundated with complaints and criticism from the community. Daniels was ridiculed for more than a bad choice of harmful and dangerous words. She was blamed for lessening the affect of the recent bullying law passed in the state of Michigan. She was educated on the responsibility of Internet usage. She was informed that her personal opinion should not be the basis of her decision-making process.

She was also introduced to a happily married lesbian couple from Birmingham. Amy and Tina Weber came forward with their two biological daughters Logan and Aiden to help podium and used her opportunity as a teachable moment, asking the residents to show up and vote. "Where were you when Daniels was elected?" said Gosselin.

Among the many standing in line patiently waiting to speak was openly gay student and co-president and founder of Troy High School's GSA, Sabrina Lee. She addressed the issue of equality and reminded Daniels of her duty. "I feel alienated in my city...older generations teach younger generations. Who are we going to learn from?" said Lee.

"The youth have spoken so eloquently, I almost feel like I shouldn't speak," said Denise Brogan-Kator, Executive Director at Equality Michigan, who spoke as a Troy consumer, a member of the community and a lesbian. "This is the outward proof of your inner contempt of who we are. You have degraded and dehumanized a class of people. I am shocked and offended." Brogan-Kator offered to help Daniels to participate in LGBT discussion and show interest in building upon differences in order to regain her reputation.

The question now is "What is Mayor Daniels going to do?

"We will have to wait and see," said Curtis, who skipped school with her parents' permission to attend the protest. "But we plan to show up at meetings and make our presence known until she steps down."

Eye on Equality

Words and actions

BY DENISE BROGAN-KATOR



Denise Brogan-Kator

In law school, I was trained to pay attention to words. We were taught that when reviewing a law, the words themselves are the best evidence of what the legislature intended the law to mean. So when someone chooses a particular word or phrase over another,

Anti-gay slurs are, and

must be, intolerable in

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respect (which should

also a matter of safety.

be sufficient) - it is

public discourse. It is

whether in a formal setting, in a conversation, or even on Facebook,

I tend to believe that what they actually said is the best evidence of what a person meant. Consequently, when someone uses a slur - a word or phrase that is offensive and degrading to a class of people - I pay attention. What they meant was to degrade that class - whether it is racial, ethnic, religious or otherwise - and by virtue of doing so, try to elevate themselves

as "better than." Because I believe deeply in equality, I cannot help but be offended.

As a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, I am especially sensitive to the impact of hateful words on people's lives. I see every day how the use of anti-gay or anti-transgender slurs - at school, at work, where we shop, or just walking down the street - inflicts real harm on us. It is the outward proof of one's inward contempt for us, which also expresses itself in actions like bullying, harassment, job discrimination and often violence. That is why anti-gay slurs are, and must be, intolerable in public discourse. It is not simply a matter of respect (which should be sufficient) - it is also a matter of safety.

When I saw that Troy Mayor Janice Daniels had posted on her Facebook page this summer that she was going to throw away her I Love NY bag "now that queers can get married there," I was shocked and offended. Her choice of the slur "queers" was evidence that a person who is now an elected official harbors deep animosity toward the gay community, and had no qualms posting about it. She may not have been mayor at the time, but I doubt that winning the election has done anything other than reinforce her obvious belief that she is better than the people she serves.

Now, having heard her excuse, I am even more deeply concerned, because it is a familiar and dangerous one. Ms. Daniels claims she was "expressing her personal belief that marriage is between one man and one woman." Meaning, it is okay to degrade and dehumanize people if you are doing it based on a sincerely held moral conviction.

Does that sound familiar to you, too? Just a month ago, our state Senate tried to protect school bullies based on the same justification. They passed a bill that exempted not just students, but also school employees and others, from any responsibility for bullying if it was based on a "sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction." It was, in essence, a license to bully. It was a national embarrassment and

a shameful day for our state. And now Ms. Daniels has shamed the City of Troy by attempting to hide behind the same excuse.

Does she understand that this is not about marriage equality - which can, and should be, thoughtfully debated - but about her words showing obvious contempt for gay people? She says she lives in a "free country" and has a First Amendment right to "speak her mind" on any and all issues. Of course she does - and no government

entity is trying to prevent or punish her for expressing her opinion. In fact, the exact opposite is happening: she is being held accountable by the community for her bias and bigotry, as she should be.

The sad thing is that I firmly believe that if she could see us, if she could see that we are right there among her neighbors, her co-workers, and throughout her community contributing to and enriching Troy, maybe, just maybe, she would understand why she was wrong to call us names, and wrong to make excuses. We are simply asking for respect and equality.

Ms. Daniels, the people of Troy deserve better from you. This is your moment. This is your opportunity to prove actions speak louder than words. If you truly "love all people," it is time for you to stand up and prove it. Work with the City Council to pass a city ordinance that prohibits employment and housing discrimination against gay and transgender people. We are ready to help you make it happen. Are you ready to step up?

Denise Brogan-Kator is the Executive Director at Equality Michigan, which works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Find out more at www.equalitymi.org.

Parting Glances



Gay Agenda Santa Outed

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

hate to play the Gay Grinch Who Stole Christmas but there's a movement afoot by the Southern Comfort Baptists to do away with all suspected gay references in Christmas carols and holiday traditions.

Unless we act with a united front (and a well-padded backside), "Don we now our gay apparel" is doomed. "God rest ye, merry gentlemen" is a goner. Sugar plum you-know-whats are things of the past.

Dancer, Prancer, and Cupid, dead ducks. Yes, Christmas may never be its gay old self again.

For those in the dark about the Southern Comfort Baptists – a boisterous offshoot of gay bashing, Disney boycotting, 13-million-strong Southern Baptists – the Comforters swarm like a 90-proof plague of locust. And they're two-fisted when it comes to minding other people's business, spiking other people's hot toddies.

Comforters are headquartered in Myopic Flats TX, home of the world-famous batter-dipped, low-cal Gila Burger. ("The burger with a vicious bite!") They broadcast over radio station WAKO-AM, and their TV program, "The Church Key Happy Hour" is syndicated worldwide.

Comforters perform what they call brinkmanship baptism. ("We don't sprinkle. We dunk, count to ten slowly, and ask God for a miracle.") They don't smoke weed, boogie down, play Bridge, skinny-dip, practice Feng Shui, eat kosher mayonnaise, play kissy face on the first and last date.

Their motto: "One taste of 100-proof Southern Comfort Baptist heaven goes a long, long way."

More than likely you've seen a controversial full-page ad the Comforters recently took out in the drugstore tabloids. "SANTA: A GAY AGENDA PLOT! Homos put the X rated in X-Mas! Are There 'Toys' Under Your Tree? Is Your Sock 'Hung' by the Chimney with 'Care'? Beware! The GAGs are coming."

In case you're too busy to speed-read the scandal sheets, Santa really got a few below-the-belt punches from these burning bush holy rollers: "It's bad enough the Gay Agenda Gang (GAG) has shoved TV's Burt & Ernie and Tinky Winky down our collective throats, but the real Trojan Horse is Old St. Nick himself!

"It's true. Santa, who wears a leather belt and boots, sports a beard and a big beer belly, is what GAGs call a card-carrying 'bear'. His red suit is color-coded to convey a deep-seated message. (Years ago, gay men wore bright red hankies.)

"And while there may be a Mrs. Santa - a 'beard' of another kind - what grown man in his right mind plays 'mistletoesy' in his 24/7 tool shop with elves (second cousins to hobbits, twinks and fairies)?

"Be forewarned. Sitting on Santa's ample knee and telling him you're naughty or nice -- when God knows you're a loathsome, rotten, stinking, sinner -- is an invitation to deviancy and damnation. Repent before it's too late! Santa, and all he stands for (including same-sex hobbit marriage), is anti-American, antifamily Values, anti-Republican, and a GAG plot to boot. Amen."

PS: The less said about Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer's

Equality Michigan hate crimes talk tackles difficult subject

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – It's a subject that brings to light one of the very darkest examples of man's inhumanity toward man. About 50 people came out to a panel discussion on hate crimes last Wednesday. The discussion, which took place in the Spencer Patrich Auditorium of the Wayne State University Law School, was organized by Equality Michigan.

"I want to begin by talking not about the crime part, but about the hate part of the equation," said Denise Brogan-Kator, EM's executive director. "It is, after all, hate that begets violence, and unless we get to that root cause, it will not end."

Brogan-Kator said that is the work of Equality Michigan that inspired her to want to lead the organization.

"We cannot make people who are blinded to our humanity by hate, or warped theology, suddenly see us as neighbors and fellow Michiganders deserving of full equality and respect," she said. "We cannot simply reach into people's hearts and change them. We must instead change the environment that allows hate to openly express itself through discrimination – in our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our stores and restaurants, hospitals, and government institutions."

According to Nusrat Ventimiglia, EM's director of victim services, last year saw a 13 percent increase in crimes against LGBT and HIV-positive people.

"Since January 2010, we have consistently seen at least three incidents of violent crime every month," Ventimiglia said

United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade spoke about the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act signed into law by Congress in 2009.

"Bullying is a brand of hate crime. I think today's bullies are tomorrow's hate crime defendants."

> United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade

The act expands the 1969 United States federal hate-crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

"This is a criminal statute and we enforce it criminally," said McQuade. "Matthew Shepard was a 21-year-old man who was tortured and murdered simply because he was gay. James Byrd, Jr. was an African-American man from Texas who was tortured and murdered simply because of his race."

McQuade said that when a hate crime is committed, "it's not just the victim that

is victimized. It's everyone who shares that characteristic who now feels vulnerable."

Dan Levy, director of law and policy for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, agreed.

"When people say all crime is hate crime they're pretending," he said. "There's an intuitive knowledge that writing XXX on a car is not the same as writing KKK.

"Hate crimes are intended to send a message," he continued. "'We don't like you. We don't want you here. Get lost.' And when a community doesn't respond to a hate crime, the message is, 'We agree."

Just days after passage of an antibullying bill by the Michigan legislature, bullying, as expect, was another topic of the evening.

Bullying "is a brand of hate crime," said McQuade "I think today's bullies are tomorrow's hate crime defendants."

A powerful moment in the discussion came when McQuade referenced a quote from the late Sen. Ted Kennedy.

"Ted Kennedy once said, 'Civil rights is the great unfinished business of our nation,'" she said. "I think the unfinished business of our country is now the LGBT community."

Levy followed up on that theme and localized it, taking on the Michigan legislature.

"Refusing to recognize gay rights as an important protection of LGBT people, without a doubt, is counterproductive to the economic efforts and recovery of this state, which our legislators say is their all-important purpose and end all."

Michelle Moore murder update: Gruesome slaying no longer looked at as hate crime

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – After originally calling upon the FBI to investigate the case as a possible hate crime, officials at Equality Michigan are now revealing that the tragic death of Michelle Moore is no longer being considered as such. Moore went missing Oct. 23rd and a burnt torso was discovered just off I-94 on Detroit's east side later the same day. But it wasn't until nearly three weeks later that the body part was matched to Moore.

The method of the crime combined with comments made by a taxi driver who saw Moore shortly before she was murdered initially led investigators to look at the hate crime angle. But sources familiar with the investigation are now saying the murder appears to be drugrelated, though no official comment on the matter has been made.

"Though this may not be a hate crime, it certainly is a reflection of the problems many of our youth face," said Nusrat Ventimiglia, director of victim services for Equality Michigan, at a panel discussion on hate crimes at Wayne State University last week.

Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of Transgender Detroit, said that while the case may not be a traditional hate crime, the fact that Moore was transgender may have still factored into her death as a lot of young, transgender women often find themselves in unsafe settings after being unable to secure traditional means of employment.

"They can't afford to get their names changed, let alone their gender markers changed, which makes it difficult for them to get a job," Fox-Phillips explained. "They're presenting themselves as Mary and their I.D. says they're John, and employers don't necessarily want to deal with it."

Despite of the reclassification of the crime, members of the trans community are still reeling.

"As a transgender woman, I can tell you that Michelle's brutal murder last month - regardless of the fact that it may not be a hate motivated crime - raised my own level of anxiety and fear," said Denise Brogan-Kator, executive director of Equality Michigan.

Charles@pridesource.com

GSA study shows gains for students who have access

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Do GSAs help the young people who participate in them? To many in the LGBT community, the benefits seem obvious, yet until now there was not much data to back it up. A new study leans in the direction of understanding by examining the experiences of 245 young LGBT adults who identified as gay in high school and came out to at least one parent. Approximately one-third of the participants had access to a GSA at that time they came out. The study was published in Applied Developmental Science and conducted by Russell B. Toomey.

GSAs, or Gay Straight Alliances, as defined in this study, are student-led, school-based clubs that aim to provide a safe environment in the school context for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students as well as their straight allies.

The study had several limitations, including small sample size and lack of comparison to schools without such programs. However, the results do show that former GSA members found the organization to be helpful. It also concluded, "the presence of a GSA was associated with less high school dropout risk and greater college education and attainment.

The authors also pointed out "the presence of GSAs in schools is a matter of contemporary public debate even though the 1984 Federal Equal Access Act mandates that schools receiving federal funding cannot discriminate against student groups." Some schools have prohibited GSAs from forming, while others have embraced them.

Like the young adults in Toomey's study, Anthony Michael Wagner is a former GSA member, who attended Dearborn High School. Not only was Wagner a member, he was also the group's founder and president for two years.

"I started the group in the winter of 2005 when I was a sophomore," Wagner said. "I'd come out earlier the previous year, and started finding resources online about GSAs. I'm not sure what finally convinced me to do so, but I decided to give it a shot - despite pressure from my mother. Before checking with any administrators, I circled a petition at Dearborn High asking for signatures of support for the group. I got around 100-150, and was turned down only once.

"After completing my petition, and gathering a sizable amount of resources online, I started inquiring about starting a group. I was amazed at how easily everything happened; I met no resistance whatsoever. Then principal Gail Shenkman was fully behind us, and made it comfortable to begin," Wagner said. "When I was in the group, the

number of members that attended meetings on a regular basis varied from 10 to 20 people. I just went back a month or so ago, just to see how things were going. I was amazed to find that they have 30+ regularly attending members."

Wagner is now a member of the GSA at



Anthony Michael Wagner is a former GSA member, who attended Dearborn High School. Photo courtesy of Wagner.

The University of Michigan Dearborn. The support he's received, and the leadership skills he's gained, have helped him to remain an active, involved activist for his community. "I learned that I had the strength to lead a group of people. I learned that I had the courage to stand up for LGBTQ rights. And I learned that there were plenty of people around who supported me and my ideas. I also took a fantastic wealth of knowledge regarding leadership from this group. I know that without the GSA at Dearborn High, I'd be a very different individual now."

He suggests other students get involved and start GSAs in their own schools. "Knowing that there's a place to go each week where what you say regarding gender and sexuality won't get you beaten up is extraordinarily comforting to young students still learning about who they are. So many kids are bullied and harassed for just being who they truly are, that they absolutely need a place to feel safe all the time," Wagner said.

"I also think that it's essential for groups like these to be a constant presence in students' lives, even up through higher education. The more 'normal' GSAs, and LGBTQ people and ideas in general become, the more accepted we simultaneously become. Getting LGBTQ students involved

in this process is one thing, but keeping them involved long-term is essential for the continued development of our cause, and the future well-being of our community."

Across the state GSAs are springing up. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Southeast Michigan and the GSA Alliance have been working to smooth the path getting GSAs into schools. In March Between The Lines interviewed young GSA leaders who were working to strengthen the movement and encourage as many communities as possible to create GSAs. "My goal was to take GSA leaders, those who were most active, to meet monthly to share ideas, things that have been most effective, and give each other help resolving issues," said Cassidy Creech, 17, a student at Canton High School who helped form the GSA Alliance. "We basically get a stronger team for GSAs in schools and make our GSA stronger."

The GSAA meets every month. The alliance's goal is to be a support system for new GSAs and LGBT teens in high schools that lack such groups. For example, Rochester High School lacks a GSA because the school requires a payment and a minimum number of members; Creech's GSA, through its work in the GSAA, is going to pay for them to get started. And Creech, fellow GSA students, Canton High teachers and administration are working to meet with the administration of a school in Jackson County to smooth the path for a group of students who want to start an alliance there.

"They're really enthusiastic and energetic," GLSEN co-chair Jane Kelley said of the GSAA students. "They really know who they are and they're willing to express that. They're bright kids. They work hard. This is something they're doing on top of school."

Sharing the personal experiences of young activists like Wagner and Creech can demonstrate the value of GSAs, but studies like Toomey's help to provide the data needed at times to get the public, or a resistant school board, to be open to the idea of providing support for young LGBT people. The study says there are over 4,000 registered GSAs across the country, and encourages the emergence of more.

"Adolescents spend a large portion of their time in the school context. Thus, schools are a potential setting for positive youth development and resiliency," stated the report's authors.

The GSAA meets monthly at Affirmations. More information can be found at www. goaffirmations.org.

PCEP GSA to hold summit for LGBT students and parents, donations sought

BTL STAFF

The Plymouth Canton Educational Park (PCEP) GSA is hosting an educational summit Feb. 4, comprised of workshops for LGBT students, allies and parents on LGBT issues such as coming out and reconciling with religions.

The PCEP GSA consists of students from Plymouth, Canton and Salem high schools' shared campus in Canton. The summit will be open to the campus' several thousand students and their parents.

During the summit, students and parents will attend five workshops: a religion workshop with Dr. Selma Massey, James L. Meyer of the Chalfonte Foundation and a panel from Whosoever Ministries; a transgender workshop with Ryan Oliver; a parent workshop hosted by supportive parents of GSA members; a coming out workshop and an improvisational workshop.

Although attendance to the summit is free, PCEPGSA President Sara Kadish asks that attendees and members of the community consider a donation for the group. Kadish says that the organization has tons of ideas for their school, but many require funding they do not have.

"This is the first time that we've tried to organize (the summit), but we would like to make this an annual event," she says. "However, we just can't make it happen without funds."

The summit runs 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Feb. 4 at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton. For more information, or to volunteer at the summit, call 734-394-6348 or e-mail Kadish at pcmb4life@yahoo.com.

Anyone interested in supporting these young people and their summit project can send checks payable to: PCEP GSA, c/o Pride Source, 11920 Farmington Rd., Livonia MI 48150

Event supports pro-LGBT Townsend



ROYAL OAK - State Representative Jim Townsend, (D-Royal Oak), a strong and consistent supporter of LGBT rights, was targeted for a recall earlier this year, in part because of his strong support for enumerated anti-bullying legislation.

Although the recall effort failed to garner enough signatures to make it to the ballot, Townsend expects that anti-LGBT activists will mount

a serious challenge to his reelection in 2012.

To support Townsend's campaign, Equality Michigan Pride PAC and local LGBT donors are gathering from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Pronto! in Royal Oak to raise money for his campaign. Tickets are \$100, or other contributions accepted.

For more information email kristypagan@gmail.com or order tickets at https://secure.actblue.com/page/lgbtroyaloak

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Thinking Out Loud

A good man is hard to find

A lesbian's search for the perfect straight guy



BY ABBY DEES

he first writing I ever got published was an essay about my frustration with straight men. It was really more of a screed, albeit a funny one. I wrote it in an emotional purge after an old family friend, a man who'd known me

since I was a kid, rather artlessly came on to me after we'd spent a few after-work dinners together at a local Indian restaurant we both enjoyed. He had known for years that I was a lesbian, and had apparently read my comfort and ease with him as a sign that I wanted him.

I nearly ripped his head off and we haven't spoken since. Partly that's because his come-on included a bad pun about his, er, manhood (a little advice: when asking a woman for a date, never talk about your private parts in any way whatsoever, no exceptions), but mostly it's because the essential fact of my lesbian identity seemed completely irrelevant to him.

My essay made the link between this event and all the other times my efforts to be friends with straight men got derailed by their maddening disregard for my lesbian identity as either the ultimate turn-on or something easily disposed of with the right equipment. Every lesbian who's not living on Paradise Island right now knows what I'm talking about.

I was angry, but looking back I see now that what I really felt was profoundly sad. Between the lines of my caustic essay was loneliness. I was single then, and being with my friends was a life-sustaining infusion of human warmth. Friends were supposed to appreciate and see me exactly for who I was. Feeling comfortable and at ease was the point of the whole thing, I thought, so it hurt that someone who'd known me since the Nixon administration had gotten me so wrong - and he did it with all the subtlety of chainsaw art.

Though I was longing for a girlfriend at the time, I really needed a good straight guy friend too - a bro-friend, if you will. Somewhere in the back of my mind was the image of my ideal guy: he'd be my energetic counterpoint, a straight talker with a big tough heart, who I could also shoot pool with; someone who'd bring a little more canine to my decidedly feline

way of thinking. (I am aware that I might be into bears.) That I would be forever cut off from this possibility because of a few relentlessly predictable attitudes seemed so unfair.

I'd forgotten about that old essay until the subject of lesbians and their friendships with straight men came up this week in my conversation with some other women. I realized that my thinking has been quietly evolving over the years. Sure, we'd all met men who just couldn't "get it" about us - that's inevitable, and it still happens a lot. But then so does jerky behavior out in the world generally.

I think I'd forgotten for a time that good character really isn't gender based, but it can be elusive. I'd confused the two. Like romantic partners, good friends are hard to find. And you don't always get people exactly how you order them from the cosmos or on your own schedule. My friends aren't perfect. But they are all extraordinary, and that definitely includes my bro'friends. Who has time for anything less?

Thinking about the loneliness I felt when I wrote my essay, and so many other times in my life, I see how easy it was to place inordinate blame on the crap behavior that was right in front of me, rather than patiently keep the door open

Though I was longing for a girlfriend at the time, I really needed a good straight guy friend too - a bro-friend, if you will. Somewhere in the back of my mind was the image of my ideal guy

to people, men and women, straight or gay, who could confound my expectations. Gender politics are real, of course, but the search for a friend shouldn't stop there. In other words, it really is better to focus on those rare special people than the one-in-every-crowd clod who wants to join in for a three-way. My bro'friend could kick his ass anyway.



Vigil, film and quilt panels remember those lost to AIDS

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – When his partner, Kris Heck, passed away in 2001, Rick Henning of Warren got comfort from making a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the young man's name. Heck was only 37 years old when

disease took his life.

"His smile is what was infectious," Henning said as he remembered. "He was so happy and energetic. We'd get up every day and work out, and it didn't affect him much until the end. The last two months when the HIV turned into AIDS he couldn't do all that. We were both at the hospital 24/7.... In the end he said that he was ready. He said 'I didn't have any regrets except I didn't have more time with you.""

Henning crafted a simple panel of dark blue fabric and a large red velvet rose with a gift tag on it reading "Whatever tomorrow brings I'll be there, with open arms and open eyes, Love, Rick 11/26/01."

The 3 x 6 panel is part of the NAMES Project, which has collected over 45,520 such panels containing over 83,000 names for the largest collective art project in the world to memorialize those lost to AIDS. Since 1987 the project has been shown in pieces throughout the world, including covering Washington Mall. Heck's red rose panel was back in the Detroit area on Dec. 2, as part of Affirmations AIDS Memorial. Four 12 x 12 sections were on display in the community center in downtown Ferndale, containing panels that originated in the Metro Detroit Area.

As members of the community gathered to view the quilt's panels, they also screened a film called "untitled," which was created as part of a Day With(out) Art. Visual AIDS launched Day With(out) Art as a World AIDS Day initiative in 1989 as the national day of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis. The film, created by Jim Hodges, Encke King and Carlos Marques da Cruz, was shown in over 55 museums, community centers and other venues nationwide. It was essentially an eclectic collection of footage documenting human rights atrocities around the world,

including the early hatred and ignorance surrounding the AIDS epidemic.

When the film was over, attendees gathered at the front of the center to take part in a minute of silence while holding candles in memory of those who have passed away. They then shared stories. Henning, who is also the CEO of Higher Ground, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people with HIV and AIDS, did not attend the public viewing of the quilt, saying he preferred to go alone the following day to see Heck's red-rosed panel again in private.



Johnny Jenkins, director of programming, led the vigil. "I came out at a time when all this with AIDS was out there. I had no idea what I was getting into. But I faced it and I came out anyway," he said

Rachel Crandall, who works at Affirmations on the Helpline and is also the founder of Transgender Michigan, lost a mentor in the early 90s from the Lansing area. "His name was Don, I don't want to give his last name, but he was really inspirational," she said. "He came out long before I came out. He was so flamboyant and I was so shy. But when he left I think he left a piece of himself here with me. I think of him when I need to be more flamboyant or bold."

Others spoke of relatives and friends, including those who are alive, but infected, and hoping for a cure. The Center for Disease Control estimates that 40,000 people contract HIV each year in the United States.



Members of th ecommunity gathered at Affirmations Community Center Dec. 2 as part of World AIDS Day activities. Part of The Names Project quilt was on display. BTL photos: Crystal









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Creep of the Week

David Usher

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

arriage between same-sex couples has, to say the least, become a complicated social issue. Mind you, it shouldn't be complicated. But it's hard for some folks to wrap their brains around the



David Usher

idea of a lady wanting to marry another lady or a dude wanting to marry another dude.

One

of those folks who can't seem

to get a grip on the concept is David Usher of the Center for Marriage Policy, a group that is anti-gay, to say the least.

But I've got to hand it to him. Usher has come up with one of the batshit craziest gay marriage conspiracy theories I have ever heard. On Dec. 1, Usher was a guest on The Janet Mefferd Show, yet another right-wing radio show, where he shared his theory about where "gay marriage" came from. Naturally, man-hating feminists are to blame.

"What happened was back in the late 80s, feminists decided that the only way to fix the structural problem of the single income family is to make it possible for any two welfare mothers to marry each other. But they couldn't come out of the box saying, 'Hey we want welfare mothers to be able to marry each other,' because nobody would buy it, so they had to come up with a game that would work. And of course feminists being what they are, being really good at coming up with equality-based arguments that are as phony as a four dollar bill, they came up with the concept of gay marriage."

Got it? Feminists, who didn't want a man because, eww, penises, decided that they would combine their single parent income power by marrying each other as a big F.U. to the government, probably in response to never passing the Equal Rights Amendment. They obviously thought this all the way through

recognizing how easy it would be to gay-marry each other.

Usher is super serious about this. In a November column on the Center for Marriage Policy website he claims that feminists "intend to convert marriage into a feministcontrolled government enterprise and subordinate the rest of America to fund it."

It's not "gay marriage," folks, it's "feminist marriage." And all the cool ladies are doing it.

Of course, you might be thinking to yourself, "Okay, I can understand why lesbians would want to marry each other, but why would heterosexual women want to cook up a fake marriage? It all seems so complicated."

Yes. But so much fun. See, even if you aren't a lesbian, being married to another woman doesn't cramp your style. In fact, according to Usher, feminists are big sluts who want to get pregnant all the time and have as many kids as possible so the government and unsuspecting child support paying fools can support them

Usher has come up with one of the batshit craziest gay marriage conspiracy theories I have ever heard.

Usher writes, "Feminist marriage will be far more attractive to all women than heterosexual marriage. Sexual orientation does not matter when two women marry and become 'married roommates.' They can still have as many boyfriends as they want, and capture the richest ones for baby-daddies by 'forgetting' to use their invisible forms of birth control. On average, a feminist marriage will have at least four income sources, two of them tax-free, plus backup welfare entitlements."

"Mo' money, mo' problems," right? I'm kidding. It's the perfect plan! I just can't figure out why more straight women aren't doing it. I mean, the fact that this really and truly is not happening on some kind of grand "destroy marriage" scale is making Usher look kind of foolish. He needs to do a better job getting the word out.

Frank: Leaving the arena but not the fight

RY IISA KFFN

Something changed for U.S. Rep. Barney Frank between February and November of this year. In February, he announced he would seek re-election in 2012, to a 17th term in office. And on Nov. 28, he announced this current term would be his last.

The announcement was big political news on the front pages of most media outlets this week, but it is more than just front-page news for the LGBT community. It is the loss of the community's most powerful player in the national political arena. Frank is not only one of just four openly gay members of Congress; he is the most senior, the one with the most legislative know-how, and the one with the greatest chance of getting pro-LGBT measures passed.

It was Frank who made the critical deal that led to passage of Don't Ask Don't Tell in 1993, a compromise that was unpopular with the community but far better than the complete ban on gays that many in Congress sought. And it was Frank who helped lead the charge with Rep. Patrick Murphy in repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) through a bill passed last year. It was Frank who decided to send through the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act** (ENDA) without gender identity in 2007 and saw it passed by the House. And it was Frank who agreed to add gender identity to the bill during the last term even though he knows it



U.S. Rep. Barney Frank

won't pass the Republican-controlled House.

Frank acknowledged in a press conference Nov. 29 that he doesn't believe ENDA will pass unless Democrats control both houses of Congress and the White House. But even more important may be the absence of Frank himself.

In explaining his decision to retire at the end of this term, Frank said he does not have the energy or capacity to wage a full-time campaign for re-election, now that his Congressional district has been redrawn to include more than 300,000 new constituents in some geographic areas of Massachusetts that he is not familiar to or with. He said he had "always" planned to retire before he turned 75 and that addressing the

concerns of these new constituents "requires a time commitment longer than the next two years."

Frank acknowledged, albeit indirectly, the impact of his absence, saying it is "important" to have openly LGBT people in Congress to drive home the reality of discrimination.

"The best antidote to prejudice is reality," said Frank. Frank said he was "proud" to have "voluntarily" acknowledge publicly that he was gay in 1987.

Frank's acknowledging he was gay did not cost him the support of voters, but voter support began to erode over the past few re-elections and, in 2010, he won re-election with only 54 percent of the vote, well below his previous low of 68 percent.

Frank said "there are other things in my life I'd like to do," such as "writing, teaching, and lecturing." He also hinted he might consider some pro bono appearances on "gay rights."

Frank talked about the prospects of being able to speak freely as a private citizen. One idea that seemed particularly interesting to him was do such things as debate Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich on the Defense of Marriage Act.

"I think he is an ideal opponent for us when we talk about just who it is who is threatening the sanctity of marriage," said Frank, an obvious reference to Gingrich being on his third marriage. It was a sign that, while Frank is leaving the political arena, he is still a political animal.

Attorneys in same-sex marriage ban file briefs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Attorneys in the battle over California's

Attorneys in the battle over California's same-sex marriage ban filed legal papers in federal court Dec. 2 on the California Supreme Court's ruling that the proposition's supporters could defend the measure in court.

The filings by supporters and opponents of the Proposition 8 comes after the California Supreme Court ruled last month that sponsors of the ballot initiative had the right to defend the measure in court even though the governor and attorney general have

refused to do so.

Following the Nov. 17 ruling, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel in San Francisco asked both sides to file legal papers on the ruling and how it would impact the case.

In the filings Friday, lawyers for the coalition of religious and conservative groups who successfully campaigned for passage of the proposition, agreed with the ruling, while opponents disagreed, and said the higher court should dismiss the appeal. Opponents of Proposition 8, including attorneys for Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier, a lesbian couple from Berkeley, said permitting backers of the proposition to appeal the ruling would disregard precedent, and that the higher court should dismiss the appeal.

If the panel accepts the Supreme Court's interpretation, it would clear the way for the appeals court to consider the merits of an appeal challenging a lower court ruling that overturned the ban.

Obama escalates support for LGBT people worldwide, part of Human Rights Day Dec. 10

BY LISA KEEN

On Dec. 6, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on the governments of all nations to ensure that their LGBT citizens are treated with respect and dignity. In doing so, she also announced that President Obama was issuing a memorandum directing the State Department to lead an interagency group to provide a "swift and meaningful response" by the U.S. government to "serious incidents that threaten the human rights of LGBT persons abroad."

The memorandum and speech represent a dramatic escalation in the Obama administration's support for the human rights and respectful treatment of LGBT people worldwide. And a State Department official said it was a follow-up to a statement signed in March by the United States and 85 other countries, calling for an end to violence and persecution against LGBT people.

President Obama's memorandum directs federal agencies involved with dispensing aid and assistance to foreign countries to "enhance their ongoing efforts to ensure regular Federal Government engagement with governments, citizens, civil society, and the private sector in order to build respect for the human rights of LGBT persons."

It also directs federal agencies to ensure that LGBT people seeking asylum or status as refugees have "equal access" to protections. And it calls on agencies engaged in activities in other countries to "strengthen existing efforts to effectively combat the criminalization by foreign governments of LGBT status or conduct and to expand efforts to combat discrimination, homophobia, and intolerance on the basis of LGBT status or conduct."

A senior State Department official, who spoke to reporters on the condition that he or she was not identified, told a group of reporters en route to Geneva Tuesday that the administration

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that the "perhaps most challenging" argument against treating LGBT people with respect "arises when people cite religious or cultural values as a reason to violate, or not to protect, the human rights of LGBT citizens.

had "instructed ambassadors to challenge laws that criminalize LGBT status or conduct."

"We're putting some money into it," said the official, of the memorandum's aim. "We're setting up a global equality fund, \$3 million, to support [non-governmental organizational] activists working on this subject."

The State Department released a transcript of the press briefing, including a question from a reporter who asked, "How does the Administration reconcile the fact that the President won't explicitly endorse marriage for gay couples at home, but here you are touting human rights, of which marriage is one?"

The State Department official responded that Clinton's speech in Geneva and the administration's global policy on civil rights for LGBT people are "dealing with the first iteration of questions."

"You don't attack, you don't commit a violent act, against somebody because of their sexual orientation. You don't criminalize conduct," said the official. "And so, we're here, trying to, again, broadly speaking, identify a human right, a global human right, which starts with those fundamental principles and which is consistent with everything we're doing across the board."

The State Department official characterized the President's memorandum and Clinton's speech as "the most expansive articulation of what has...been a policy of the Administration from the get-go." The State Department official said the speech was being delivered at the Palais at United Nations headquarters in Geneva to an audience of invited members of "the diplomatic community and nongovernmental community and others...."

The speech was delivered in recognition of the 63rd anniversary of Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, the date when the United Nations adopted a "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." It was webstreamed live at noon EDT Tuesday and appeared to take place before a relatively young and mostly white audience of about 500 people in a large auditorium. The audience gave Clinton and her speech a prolonged and warm reception.

But Clinton made clear she knew she was speaking to a tougher audience.

"Raising this issue, I know, is sensitive for many people," said Clinton, "and that the obstacles standing in the way of protecting the human rights of LGBT people rest on deeply held person, political, cultural and religious beliefs. So, I come here before you with respect, understanding, and humility."

She acknowledged that "my own country's record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect," noting that, "until 2003, it was still a crime in parts of our country."

She even seemed to make an elliptical reference to President Obama's famous statement that his opinion about same-sex marriages is "evolving."

"Opinions are still evolving" on the issue of rights for LGBT people, said Clinton, but she

said she is hopeful that "opinion will converge once again with the inevitable truth - all persons are created equal."

Clinton said she understands "some believe homosexuality is a western phenomenon," but that it is not.

She said that the "perhaps most challenging" argument against treating LGBT people with respect "arises when people cite religious or cultural values as a reason to violate, or not to protect, the human rights of LGBT citizens." She likened such justifications to ones used against women and other minorities.

"Some people still defend those practices as part of a cultural tradition," said Clinton, who had just rattled off such practices as genital mutilation and widow burning, used against women in some countries. "But violence toward women isn't cultural, it's criminal." Slavery, once justified as "sanctioned by god," said Clinton, "is now properly reviled as an unconscionable violation of human rights."

She closed her speech, saying to LGBT people, "you are not alone."

"People around the globe are working hard to support you and to bring an end to the injustices and dangers that you face.... You have an ally in the United States of America."

"How does the Administration reconcile the fact that the President won't explicitly endorse marriage for gay couples at home, but here you are touting human rights, of which marriage is one?"



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Heard on Facebook

Troy's new mayor posted an anti-gay slam on her Facebook. What do you think should be done?

I think she should resign. Her wages are paid by us taxpayers. Gay taxpayers.

-Duane Harter Jr.

Boycott the city and her employer. See how much real estate she sells now.

-Joe DiSano

This is some real back-woods inbred thinking for what is generally a very forward thinking city. As a life long Troy resident, I am going to see what I can do to help oust this idiot for her position.

-Holly Weasel

This woman is my friend's next-door neighbor. The excuse, "I wasn't running for office when I said that" infuriated me even more. A person's character is what it is, running for office or not. She's just one of many in our state that need to go.

-David Paul Rudzinski

She clearly cannot serve all the people of Troy equally. She should resign. I called a couple of stores in Troy and explained why I was no longer coming to Troy. They were upset and knew nothing about this story.

-Bill Krout

She makes Snyder look smart.

-Thomas Hammond

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Bill Browning

"If you care about gay rights, you'll skip the Salvation Army buckets in favor of a charity that doesn't actively discriminate against the LGBT community. The Salvation Army has a history of active discrimination against gays and lesbians. While you might think you're helping the hungry and homeless by dropping a few dollars in the bright red buckets, not everyone can share in the donations. Many LGBT people are rejected by the evangelical church charity because they're 'sexually impure.' The organization has a record of actively lobbying governments worldwide for antigay policies - including an attempt to make consensual gay sex illegal. I've seen the discrimination the Salvation Army preaches first hand. When a former boyfriend and I were homeless, the Salvation Army insisted we break up before they'd offer assistance."

-Bil Browning, blog founder/editor in chief, in his column titled "Why You Shouldn't Donate to the Salvation Army Bell Ringers," www.bilerico.com, Nov. 21. "This isn't the life I want, but it's the life I've got, and I can't let the life I've got kill me before I get the life I want."

-Juan Gallaher, 21-year-old, a homeless, FTM transgender person, homeless and abused as a child, former ward of the state, he lost his apartment and his subsidies because he is no longer eligible for services from the Illinois child welfare system, in an article titled "Homeless Youth Struggles to Build a Life in Chicago," www.nytimes.com, Nov. 26.



Caitlin Ryan

"New research has found that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth who attend middle or high schools with Gay-Straight Alliances have better mental health as young adults, are less likely to drop out of high school, and more likely to attend college. This is the first study to show that GSA participation is related to long-term benefits."

—In a press release, about a study titled "High School Gay—Straight Alliances and Young Adult Well-Being: An examination of GSA presence, participation, and perceived effectiveness," co-authored by Stephen T. Ruessell and Dr. Caitlin Ryan, based on a survey of 245 LGBT young adults, ages 21-25, compiled by the Family Acceptance Project at SF State University, rennacommunications.com, Nov. 15.



Stephen T. Russell

"This study adds to the mounting evidence that youth-led clubs are important for healthy development - especially for youth at risk. For LGBT youth, high school gaystraight alliances make a significant positive difference. This new study on the benefits of GSAs to health and education adds to our growing understanding of the importance of social environments and the need to provide institutional support for

LGBT youth to promote well-being in adulthood."

-Stephen T. Russell and Dr. Caitlin Ryan, co-authors of "High School Gay-Straight Alliances and Young Adult Well-Being," rennacommunications.com, Nov. 15.

Memorial service remembers Michelle Moore Hilliard

The Ruth Ellis Center held a private service on Dec. 5t in memory of the late Michelle Moore Hilliard. More than 70 family and friends gathered at

the Center to pray, sing and dance to celebrate Michelle's life. The service included an open prayer with Bishop James Curry, singing performances

by Michele's sister, Jonkae, and Ruth Ellis Center youth, Curtis Collins, and a dancing performance by the J-Setters. Additionally, Hilliard's mother spoke

about her daughter's life and those who attended partook in a burning bowl.

Ellis Center youth stated, "Tonight's memorial for Michelle showed me that real families and gay families can come together as one to share their support of



Photos: Courtesy of Ruth Ellis House







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Getting down to earth with one of the scariest men on television

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

as hell. But today, in the back of homo-hotspot Saint Felix in West Hollywood on his day off, O'Hare doesn't project the eeriness he does as a horny "True Blood" vamp and mysteriously deformed man who just suffocated a potential homebuyer on "American Horror Story."

So far during the debut season of the smash FX show, O'Hare, who plays Larry Harvey, has dosed a house in gasoline, killed the-man-of-the-house's mistress and fought fervently for a home that's become a tough sell – and not just because the economy is sucking.

"Murder House," as it's called, is a freaky L.A. residence with a dark past and a new family: the Harmons, a threesome hopeful for a new start. But what's up with the neighbors, including Jessica Lange's crazy super-mom Constance? And who's this Larry guy and why is this house so important to him?

O'Hare leans back after taking a sip of his cranberry/orange/seltzer water concoction – his "incredibly demanding diva drink" – and tells us. "I don't think he's evil. He's acting out of a particular desire for something. For me, all characters have a justification for their

behavior; they always think that what they're doing is necessary for a reason. Even Phantom of the Opera has a real reason: He was in love with someone, he was scarred, he wants love and revenge."

O'Hare, at this very moment, just wants some food. He orders a smorgasbord of nibblers that he eats in between talk of Ryan Murphy's "AHS," the upcoming season of "True Blood" and the new foster child he's caring for with husband Hugo Redwood, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Holding his phone up, O'Hare flips through photos of his family, looking for the one of the kid flashing his happy-as-can-be grin. Like O'Hare's partner, the actor's nearly-1-year-old baby's black, and when he comes upon one pic – of the boy atop O'Hare's lap and a friend's child, who's white, sitting on Redwood – he finally breaks into a maniacal smirk.

"We're the right wing's worst nightmare," O'Hare says. "Wrong colored baby on the wrong person's lap – oh my god!"

And you thought Larry was scary.

Before getting the call from Ryan Murphy desperately wanting O'Hare to take on Larry, the actor was already doing creepy on "True Blood" as the ancient former vampire

king of Mississippi, Russell Edgington.

Premiering this summer, season five sees the return of the Master of Nutcases, as the 2,800-year-old bloodsucker makes a return to the set after skipping out on the last go-'round. What's to become of him after rising from the cement he was buried under?

"Nothing I can share," O'Hare says, noting a recent lunch he had with out "True Blood" mastermind Alan Ball, the creator of "Six Feet Under." "We talked about what's going to happen and I was definitely surprised. It's good stuff. It's always good stuff. With him, and with Ryan (Murphy), they don't go to obvious places. They go where you wouldn't expect them to go."

And so does O'Hare. The actor, who's actually so down-to-earth and non-creepy that he offers to share his food during our hour-long chat, is good at playing bad. He was relentless at getting Sandra Bullock kicked out of the country in rom-com "The Proposal," and played way against type in "Milk" as Sen. John Briggs, who proposes a California ballot initiative to outlaw gay and lesbian teachers. Recently, O'Hare had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it scene in the Hoover biopic "J. Edgar," a chance to work again with Clint Eastwood (O'Hare starred alongside Angelina Jolie in "Changeling" as, what do you know, a psych ward bad guy).

O'Hare, who turns 50 in January, got his start where most actors do: on the stage. Growing up in Michigan, he was in choir and, in 1974, landed a chorus part in a community theater production of "Show Boat." Then it was Broadway, where he played in Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins" in 2004, scored a Tony Award for his performance in "Take Me Out" and was part of the revival of "Sweet Charity."

In January, O'Hare heads back to New York – and back to the stage. He'll be doing "An Iliad" off-Broadway through March, when he returns to L.A. for "True Blood."

The best part of being back in N.Y.? Seeing the family. He married Redwood, an interior designer, over the summer, and the two have been caring for their foster child since April.

"I could've gone to my grave without having kids, but I came around to liking the idea," O'Hare admits, noting he warmed up to the thought after seven years of talks with Redwood. "As a gay man, I find my biggest stumbling block was my own homophobia, my own sense of feeling that gay people shouldn't have kids. I felt pressure from society that we're not supposed to have kids" – not to mention, he says, that once you do, it's like wearing a gay yamaka – "and I was also shy about being a spokesperson for

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Hear Me Out

Rihanna's worst album yet. Plus: Mary J. Blige's second 'Life'



BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Rihanna, 'Talk That Talk'

Rihanna doesn't beat around the bush and that's not meant to be a dirty-minded pun, though her sixth, and worst, studio album is full of them. She's sex on CD, recording some of her raunchiest come-ons since... well, her last album's "S&M." In quickie cut "Birthday Cake," she invites a boy to "put his name on it" before spelling out what she really wants: to screw. On "Watch n' Learn" she's smearing her makeup all over his thing during Sex 101; she gets more basic with "Roc Me Out," which has her doing seesaw motions with "daddy." Split between sonic porn and sweet songs about love, "Talk That Talk" walks that walk when RiRi isn't vapidly filling space with her bedroom fantasies; the barely masked naughtiness of "Cockiness (Love It)," where she wants you to eat "it," is just the kind of cheeky sex song that would fare better if you were actually doing half of what she's asking you to. Otherwise, it's filthy fill to round out an album that feels awfully anorexic and absurdly desperate, and not just because of its 37-minute run time or rampant superficiality. There's an empty, rushedto-release sense - especially on the Dr. Luke-produced "You Da One," an obligatory nod to her Barbados roots that deems it lesser than her last album, released almost a year earlier, and what still remains her best work, 2009's dark detour "Rated R." "We Found Love," though, is electro-house done right, featuring Calvin Harris' stutter-crazy, hyper-dance style and RiRi's most euphoric singing. The album's last song, "Farewell," is a thoughtful if forgettable monster ballad – a moment of reflection that might follow a night of eating, uhh, birthday cake. Grade: C



Mary J. Blige, 'My Life II... The Journey Continues (Act 1)'

Not until the end of Mary J. Blige's seguel to "My Life," a game-changer that bridged hip-hop and soul, does the singer come full circle with her 1994 breakthrough. "So many don't survive, they just don't make it through," she muses, "but look at me, I'm the living proof." True that the soul diva transcended her, well, life by finding the no-more-drama other side, but as MJB mellowed, so did her music. So you have "Need Someone," perhaps her most adult contemporary song ever and, surprisingly to those who miss the drugged-out diva, one of her best. Instead of stomping all over the simplicity of out musician Matt Morris' guitar-led song, she carries it with an unassuming gentleness that's vocally sophisticated and powerful enough to melt a grown man. The rest is really just family affair as usual: Blige's alter ego sasses up her generic hook-up jam "Midnight Drive" with a spirited rap, and Beyoncé shows up for "Love a Woman," a clumsy missed opportunity. If Bey can't bring something to the table, then you know it's in trouble. What's wrong? Aside from songs like "25/8" and the downright inspiring "The Living Proof," nothing really stands out. And, most disappointing, "My Life II" doesn't build musically on the classic from 17 years ago - with its leanings on dance-floor fodder instead of throwback soul songs (even a remake of Chaka Khan's "Ain't Nobody" is tailored for max club play) - nor does it really attempt to aside from its strange reflection with P. Diddy, her collaborator on the original who doesn't appear on any tracks but the spoken-word intro. Perhaps his presence is missing more than she knows. Grade: C+

Also Out



Kate Bush, '50 Words for Snow'

Few could pull off what Kate Bush does on "50 Words for Snow," a farreaching opus

of seven mellifluous, seasonally themed songs that flow as gently as flurries falling from the sky. More than 30 years into her career, the British alt-pop etherealist stretches notes into lovely piano-string lilts that are breathtaking, mysterious and meant for late-night introspection. "Snowflake" floats about in its melancholy state, where Bush conjures imagery cut between two worlds. Loss is also at the core of her duet with Elton John, "Snowed in at Wheeler Street," a romantic stunner about two lovers reuniting in the afterlife. Elsewhere, she uses actor Stephen Fry to speak the 50 words, and makes "Misty" a 13-minute epic. Just one word for it, really: Beautiful.



Sigur Rós, 'Inni'

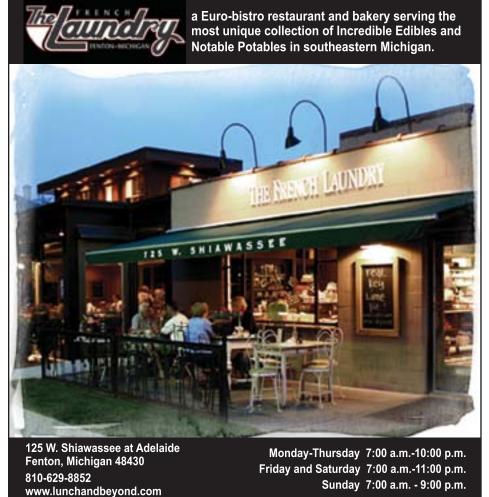
The Icelandic dream-weavers do what they've been for nearly two decades: lay down some of the most gorgeous notes

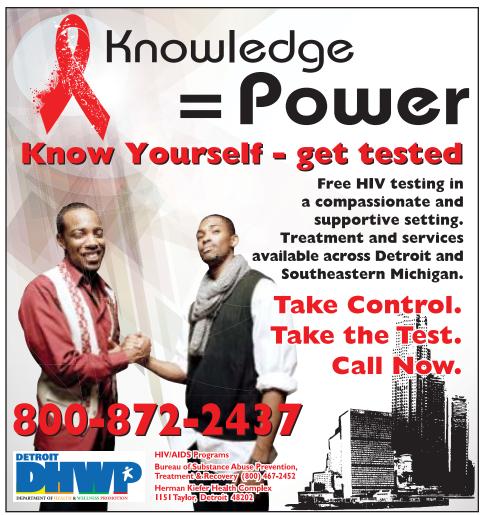
you've ever heard. Even if their new live-from-London set treads closer to a greatest-hits package to tide over fans craving fresh material, it's no matter this CD/DVD reels you in instantly with its otherworldly ambiance, even if the "live" experience only feels live because of the deservedly wild applause. Jónsi Birgisson is blissed-out on the joyous thrill of "Inní mér syngur vitleysingur," and then fragile - even more so here during "All Alright." The overwhelming feelings that come with a Sigur Rós show are difficult to duplicate on MP3, but it may be – because the uncertainty of the band's future - the closest you'll ever get to it.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

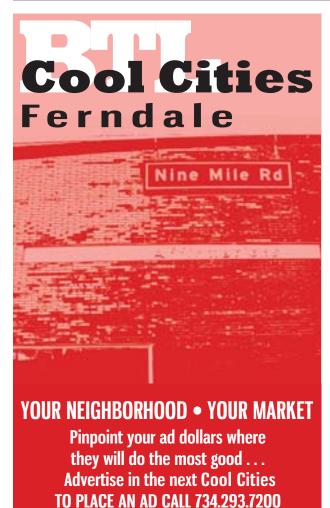


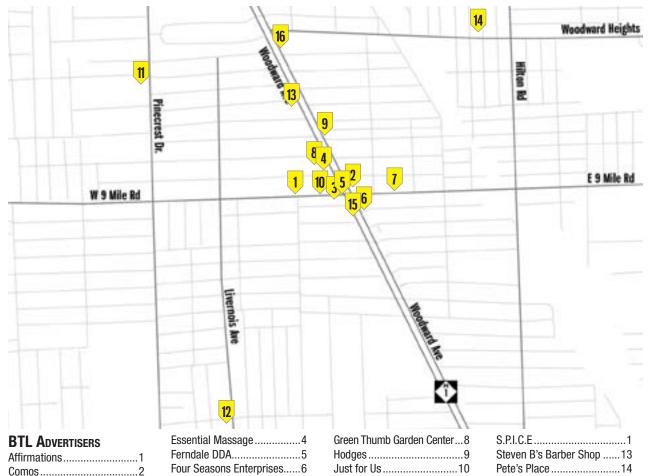






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GLBT Book Club.....*

Go Comedy......7





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Downtown Ferndale Bike Shop. 3

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MCC Detroit11

Michigan AIDS Coalition 12

State Farm, Marty O'Neil.....15

Vogue Vintage......16

Holiday Ice & Winterfest Market bring holiday cheer to downtown

Downtown Ferndale has been transforming itself into an artfully-sculpted wonderland every holiday season for years, but this year the 11th Annual Holiday Ice & Winterfest Market, presented by the MotorCity Casino Hotel, will take your holiday shopping to new heights. In addition to 50-plus ice sculptures, free photos with Santa Claus and an outdoor market filled with unique gift items, families and friends can soar high above Nine Mile and Woodward on a five-story high ferris wheel.

This marquee holiday happening in Downtown Ferndale takes place over three days, Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Hours are 4-9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, and noon-5 p.m., Sunday. Dec. 11. The event is organized by the Ferndale Downtown Development Authority and its partners.

Details of the holiday weekend include:

4-9 p.m. Friday/10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday/noon-5 p.m. Sunday:

· Winterfest Market. The open air market, located on East Nine Mile Road just

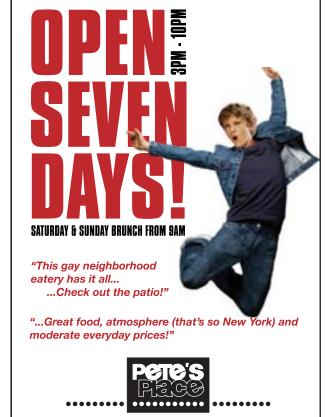
east of Woodward Avenue, will feature unique holiday gift items, including handblown Christmas tree ornaments, artisan chocolates, specialty food items, locally made crafts and a local greens market.

- · Ferris Wheel & More. This ride will tower five stories above Woodward and Nine Mile, adding to the thrill of the holidays with a sky high view of the world. Children will also enjoy a ride on a kid-sized choo choo train.
- · Charitable Giving in Downtown Ferndale. This weekend and every day during the holidays downtown Ferndale businesses will be collecting for Make-A-Wish.
- · Holiday Sounds. Live music from local musicians.
- · Shopping & Dining. More than 80 unique retailers and 60-plus bars, restaurants and entertainment venues will be merrily serving up holiday specials that put you in good holiday cheer.

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday:

· Michigan On Ice. 50-plus ice sculptures, sponsored by local businesses, will be placed all around town on Saturday, Dec. 10. World Champion Carver Tajana Raukar will recreate Michigan icons in ice

- the Mackinac Bridge, the Great White Pine, the Mitt itself. She will also do live carvings throughout the downtown all day Saturday, Dec. 10.
- · Santa Claus. The Jolly Old Elf arrives atop a Ferndale fire truck at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 10. He will land at the North Pole (aka Schiffer Park located at Planavon and West Nine Mile Road) and get right to work taking requests and sitting for free photos from 10–noon and 2-6 p.m.
- · Lunch with Santa Claus. Children can dine with the big guy at Buffalo Wild Wings, noon-1:30 pm.
- · Reindeer & Holiday Hayrides. Children can meet Dancer & Prancer from 11–3 p.m. at the North Pole, then board the free holiday hayride for a tour of downtown Ferndale.
- · Warm-Hearted Cookie Challenge. Local charities team up with downtown businesses in the a challenge to raise the most money selling delicious cookies!
- · Holiday Sounds. A host of musical groups including Sing Out Detroit, Ultra Violet and the Violettes and an ensemble from the State Champion Ferndale High School Eagles Marching Band will perform holiday songs all around town.



THE BROADWAY CAFÉ

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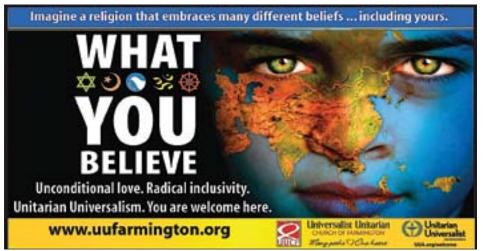
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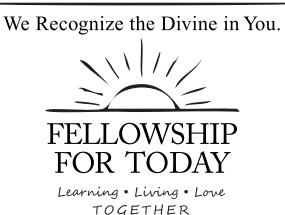












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Reconciliation Metropolitan Community Church is about people, not a place. We gather every Sunday morning at 10am at 3864 Benjamin Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI. We invite you to join with us as we strive to follow the example of Jesus in this world in which we live in.

reconciliationmccgrandrapidsmichigan.blogspot.com
Email: RevStephMaxson@aol.com Phone: 616-364-7633

This is Everybody's Church

COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Come join us for a Christmas Service. We welcome everybody. Christ expects us to. On December 24:

- At 2pm we celebrate Christ's birth and the special gifts of people with special needs.
- At 4pm we have family worship. The Christmas story from a child's perspective.
- We're traditional at 8pm. Everyone is welcome at our communion table.
- At 11pm it's Lessons and Carols. Christmas revealed through scripture and music.

Or join us on Christmas Day at 10am for a special casual service.

This really is Everybody's Church. It could be yours.



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham 1669 W. Maple Road 248.644.2040 www.everybodyschurch.org

Story takes new approach to Old Testament

BY BTL STAFF

What if there was a gay story in the Old Testament? What would be the elements of this story?

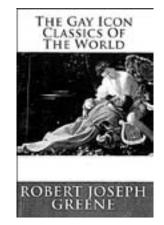
This is exactly what author Robert Greene asked himself when writing "Halo's Golden Circle," the signature piece to his collection of gay short stories called "The Gay Icon Classics Of The World," released earlier this year by Icon Empire Press.

Halos have been used in the iconography of many religions to indicate holy or sacred figures. In his book, Greene explains how the "Halo" came to be. "Halo's Golden Circle" is a gay short story similar to the Masoretic Text of Judaic story of the feud between Cain in Abel set in biblical Judea.

The book addresses the sons of Niac. Halo and Marr, who are 11 generations from the son of Abraham. Like Cain and Abel, the sons battle for admiration but in "Halo's Golden Circle" the brothers are fighting for the admiration of their father.

Halo, after being wronged by his brother, is pitied by God who sends a beautiful angel to sing to him. Marr seek to destroy his brother's holy blessings from God forever.

"I really worried about the impact this story would have in the Jewish and



Christian communities, being based on the Old Testament," said Greene, "so I consulted with them." Greene sent a draft of "Halo's Golden Circle" to several Jewish and Christian Scholars for review. One reviewer was Rabbi Steve Greenberg, the Senior Teaching Fellow and Director of Diversity Project at the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Rabbi Greenberg is believed to be the first openly gay Orthodox Jewish Rabbi. "I remember, after sending the piece, he forewarned me that I should not take it personal, should he not like it. So, I was rather nervous when I sent him the short story."

The reply was "Beautiful story, Robert."

Similarly, Christian scholars also had praise for the story.

"It is so important to me that 'Halo's Golden Circle' be as accurate as possible and adheres to the way Holy Scriptures are written," said Greene. "This has been quite a challenge."

"The Gay Icon Classics of the World" book cover art reflects the story of "Halo's Golden Circle." It is adapted from a Caravaggio painting from the 16th Century.

The idea for the book came about while author Robert Greene was taking summer courses at UCLA. He had met a fellow student from Africa and asked her if she had heard of anything about gay life in her culture. She replied that she once heard of an ancient tribal story about two teenage boys who were banished from a village for kissing each other in public.

Her grandmother had passed down the story to her, but she didn't remember the details. It was from this piece of information that Greene was able to write another story in the collection called "The Soiled Loin Cloth."

Greene hopes that readers will understand and respect the rights the LGBT Community deserves through his collection of short stories.





CELEBRATING THE DIFFERENCES

"We are an Open, Welcoming and Affirming congregation accepting into the full life and ministry of the church all persons, including those of every race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability and economic status. At Woodside our diversity strenghens our faith. Our actions are a reflection of our Christian faith."



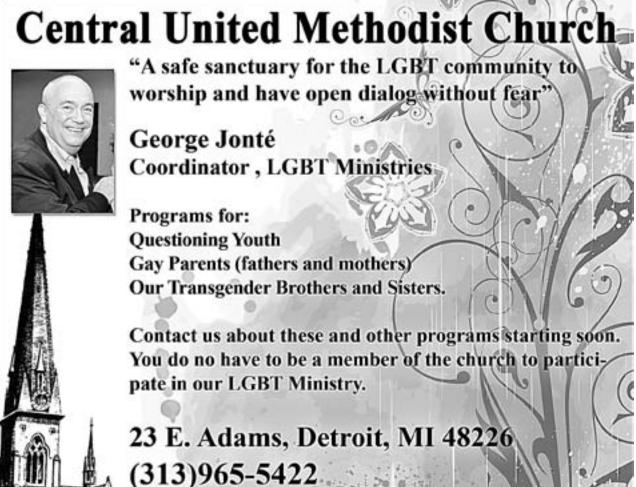
Reaching Out Into The Community

1509 E. Court St., Flint, MI (Next to Mott College) For More Information call (810)767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net

Christmas Eve Service:

7 pm Family Service, 11 pm Traditional Service

Christmas Day Service: 10 am

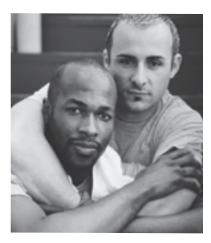


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There's always HOPE.



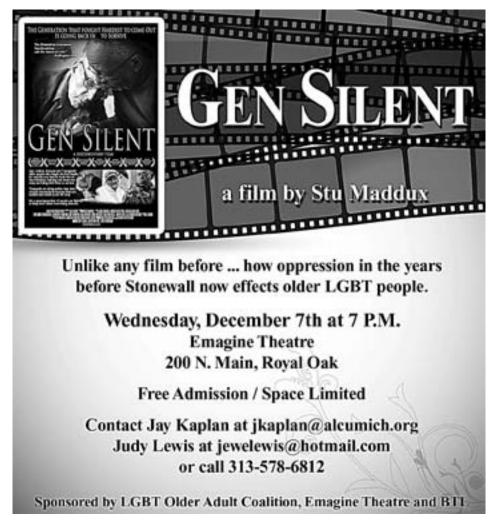
For more than 15 years, The HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has given hope to thousands of area lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and families. The HOPE Fund pools gifts from donors – large and small – to make sizeable, targeted grants to area nonprofit organizations for LGBT programs.

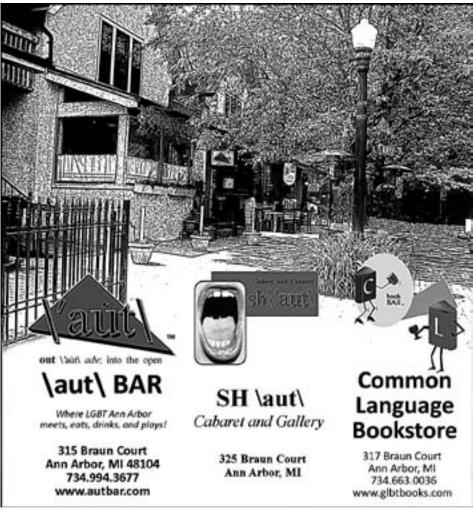
And when you give to The HOPE Fund Endowment today, your gift will keep giving to the LGBT community for generations to come. Plus, you may get up to 50% of your gift back on your state tax return. But hurry, this state tax credit expires after December 31, 2011.

community foundation FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The HOPE Fund

For more information on The HOPE Fund or the expiring State of Michigan tax credit, visit **CFSEM.org** or call **1-888-WE-ENDOW**.





www.PrideSource.com Theater / December 8, 2011 / BTL 23

'Tis the season for Sedaris at The Ringwald

The Joes regift their holiday hit, 'The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings'

FERNDALE – If you're allergic to shopping malls, excessive commercialism or egg nog, Who Wants Cake? has the perfect solution to restore a smile to your overburdened holidays. Opening Dec. 18 at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre for an exclusive four-day engagement is the return of the comedic duo of "The SantaLand Diaries" and "Season's Greetings" from award-winning humorist David Sedaris and adapted for the stage by acclaimed director Joe Mantello.

A young man (Joe Plambeck) arrives in New York with dreams of being a writer for "One Life to Live" and instead lands a parttime job as a Macy's Christmas elf named Crumpet. From humiliating interview to elf indoctrination to scrapes with miscast Santas and obnoxious customers, the author's real-life experiences, detailed in "The SantaLand Diaries," are merrily subversive and fall-on-your-knees funny!

In "Season's Greetings," a determinedly sunny Mrs. Jocelyn Dunbar (Joe Bailey) takes pen to paper recounting the joys and unexpected surprises of the past year -including the arrival of her husband's illegitimate, gold-digging, Vietnamese daughter on the doorstep. Twisted, tragic and hilarious in its lurid revelations, "Season's Greetings" is an antidote to

the chipper holiday newsletter of yore.

David Sedaris is the author of the best sellers "Barrel Fever," "Me Talk Pretty One Day," "Naked," and "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim." He taught writing at the Art Institute of Chicago for two years, and his essays appear regularly in The New Yorker and Esquire. Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on public radio's "This American Life," distributed nationally by WBEZ in Chicago.

"The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings" will open at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, and also perform Wednesday, Dec. 21

through Friday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$10 for all performances. Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens



Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey perform the Sedaris doubleheader "The SantaLand Diaries and Season's Greetings" for Who Wants Cake?'s holiday production. Photo: Colleen Scribner.

45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or Visa/Mastercard.

The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Avenue in the Times Square of Ferndale.

AIN'T AIN'S BEHAVING HAVE AND THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW THE FATS WALTBY, JR. & MURRAY HORWITZ RICHARD MALTBY, JR. & MURRAY HORWITZ THROUGH JANUARY 1 "Fats Waller may not be around to enjoy the results of this across-the-board collaboration, but we are. Lucky us." - Between the Lines "SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW!" WEMUSY BOB AND MARINA WHITMAN LINDA SPRANKLE WYOU PERFORMANCENETWORKORS "734-649-0681 ANN ARBOR" "THE ATRE" 30 SEASON

'Inishmaan': not a bad place to visit

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Remember in the not-so-distant past when Michigan's film incentives brought plenty of excitement to towns all across the state? Well, multiply that reaction by at least three and the result is Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan," a dark, Irish comedy that explores the tight bonds forged by individuals, families and their communities – and the fear of breaking them – now playing at Detroit's Hilberry Theatre.

On a small Irish island circa 1934 - where gossip consists mostly of news about local barnyard animals - local blabbermouth Johnnypateenmike (Brent Griffith) arrives at the general store owned by sisters Kate (Sara Hymes) and Eileen (Lorelei Sturm) with astonishing news: a Hollywood film company will soon shoot a documentary in the nearby town of Inishmore. So siblings Bartley (Joshua Blake Rippy) and Helen (Megan Dobbertin) hire Babbybobby (Christopher Ellis) to ferry them across the water to observe the day's events. When Billy (David Sterrit) learns of their plans, he decides to go along - but for an entirely different reason: Billy, you see, is known as "Cripple Billy" because of a birth defect, REVIEW

The Cripple of Inishmaan

Hilberry Theatre, Wayne State University, Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Feb. 4. \$12-30. 313-577-2972.

www.hilberry.com

and the 18-year-old orphan (who has lived most of his life with his two "aunts") views this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to escape what's left of his sad, short life.

As with many dark, Irish comedies, death lurks along the fringes of "Inishmaan." McDonagh's play is deeper than that, however: It's an exploration into the fabric that holds people together – even when it looks like there's little to bind them. And McDonagh's deeply layered script is filled with such relationships. (It's also littered with salty language, so be forewarned.)

Under Lavinia Hart's subtle direction, each actor creates a unique and fully developed character. And thanks to the fine dialect coaching of Michael J. Barnes, their Irish accents never waiver. (In fact, they're almost TOO realistic!)

Especially notable is Sterrit. Not only is his Cripple Billy consistent from start to



"The Cripple of Inishmaan" continues in rotating repertory through Feb. 4, 2012. Photo: Hilberry Theatre

finish, his demeanor immediately elicits a sympathetic response from the audience that helps propel the story to its conclusion. And you can't help but laugh at Rippy every time he appears on stage in search of "sweeties."

Scene changes are fast thanks to a utilitarian set design by Curtis Green. But a rather jarring lighting change in Act Two made me wonder whether or not designer Jon Weaver planned it that way.

If, as McDonagh repeats many times, Ireland is not a "bad place" to visit, the same holds true of "The Cripple of Inishmaan" at the Hilberry!



For expanded listings & to add a listing, visit our website

Editor's Picks

Outings

Perceptions of Saginaw Valley celebrates its 10th annual holiday party and charity auction Dec. 10.

The evening will include silent and live auctions with a wide array of gifts donated by area merchants and Perceptions members. Proceeds from this year's Charity Auction will go toward the Facilities Fund and the Perceptions Scholarship Fund, managed by the Saginaw Community Foundation. The Perceptions Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate a passion for working for equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race or religion.



The 10th annual holiday party is at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Bay Valley Resort, 2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City. For more information, go to perceptionssv.org/HolidayParty.

Art 'N' Around

The Gallery Project presents a multimedia exhibit in which 32 local, regional and



national artists explore the aftermath of some cataclysmic event at the various levels from interpersonal to global: Post

Post Apocalypse is an opportunity for artists to consider and investigate the actions that led us here and the changes and repercussions of those actions. Artists such as Heather Accurso, Tom Berenz and Denny Gerwin consider an apocalypse in the forms of a world without man, the fall of civilization, life after the deluge, fiscal catastrophe, personal tragedy, zombies or religious prophecy.

Post Apocalypse runs Dec. 14-Jan. 22 with an opening reception Dec. 16 from 6-9. The Gallery Project is located at 215

S. Fourth Ave. in Ann Arbor. For more information, go to www.thegalleryproject.

Theater

Concluding its run at the Bonstelle Theatre in Detroit is William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." This production is helmed by Guest Director Alison C. Vesely, cofounder and artistic director of the First Folio Theatre in Chicago.

Vesely uses a line from the play to sum up the production: "If music be the food of love, play on!" "Twelfth Night" is a comedy filled with strong musical elements, love and mischief. The title is a reference to the twelfth night



after Christmas Day, which was originally a Pagan celebration turned Christian holiday, but had become a day of revelry at the time Shakespeare wrote the play.

The play runs 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 11. Tickets (\$15) may be purchased at the door at the Bonstelle Theatre (3424 Woodward Avenue) one hour prior to performances. For more information, call 313-577-2960.

OUTINGS

Friday, Dec. 9

Holiday Ice and Winterfest Market 4 and better than ever, Motor City Casino Hotel presents a 5-story ferris wheel, a choo choo train, a local green's market and tents filled with local artisans and their holiday decor. Downtown Ferndale. Corner of Woodward Ave. and Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-546-1632. Downtownferndale.com

Dinner at Tin Fish in Novi 6:15 p.m. Meet other like-minded people who enjoy food. friendship and good conversation. Everyone welcome; group will meet for dinner and networking at a different restaurant on the second Friday of each month. Plymouth Lesbian Supper Meetup Group, 27862 Novi Road, Novi. 248-344-8166. Meetup.com/ Plymouth-Lesbian-Supper-Group/

Ozone House's QueerZone 6:30 p.m. QueerZone is an Ypsilanti-based program that provides a safe space for LGBTQ youth to congregate, socialize, build community and access support services as needed. LGBTQ youth ages 13-20 are also encouraged to join Queerzone's private, confidential Facebook group to keep in touch with other queer youth. Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. 734-662-2265. Ozonehouse.org

Womvn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: The Page Turner - Melanie, a quiet small-town butcher's daughter, is blessed with an uncanny ability to play the piano. She fails the conservatory entrance exam when distracted by the arrogant president of the jury, Ariane Fouchcourt, who indulges an autograph-seeker in the middle of Melanie's audition. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road. Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Arabian Nights 9 p.m. Join AL GAMEA in celebrating the 8th year anniversary of Arabian Nights. Guest DJ will be mixing your favorites Middle Eastern Music live. Cover charge will support the community mini-scholarship program. LGBTQ Association of Middle eastern American. 11425 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck 313-427-3471. Algamea.org

Saturday, Dec. 10

Perceptions' 10th Annual Holiday Party 6 p.m. Tickets: \$30 general, \$20.00 students. This is a Holiday party with dinner buffet and silent auction and live auction. Perceptions Saginaw Valley, 2470 Bridge Rd., Bay City. 989-891-1429. PerceptionsSV.org

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

KGLRC Winter Gala: Award Ceremony and Fundraiser 7:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center Winter Gala: Award Ceremony and Fundraiser. Catered by Food Dance and Cupcake Zoo; Cash bar available. Tickets: \$25 prior, \$30 at the door, KGLRC, 401 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Sunday, Dec. 11

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQIA 25 and over join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: "Marriage should it include multiple spouses? Can spouses be related?" GOAL. 714 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.

Monday, Dec. 12

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, Dec. 13

Parents of Gender Nonconforming People 5 p.m. Free of charge, facilitated support group for parents and parental figures of gender nonconforming people. Group is open and on going, meets the second Tuesday of each month at the same location August through June, University of Michigan Comprehensive Gender Services Program, 2025 Traverwood, Suite A1, Ann Arbor. 734 998-2150. Med.umich.edu/transgender

Wednesday, Dec. 14

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 Pioneel Street, Kalamazoo, 269-349-4234 kalrc.ora

Thursday, Dec. 15

Bullied - A Student, A School and a Case that Made History 6:30 p.m. The Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library present viewing of a documentary film by Teaching Tolerance and the Southern Poverty Law Center. The film chronicles one student's ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies, and offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today. Discussion will follow the 40-minute film. JXN Community Forums, 244 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. 517-734-817-0940. Mvidl.com

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, Dec. 16

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. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, 734-214-9995, Neutral-zong.org

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

Holiday Wine Party 9 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with a wine party. Admission is two bottles of wine per person, any type of red and any type of white. The bottles of wine will be separated onto different tables and raffled off at the end of the evening, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Dec. 17

Holiday of Lights 8 a.m. LanSINGout, Artistic Director Doug Armstead, and Sistrum Artistic Director Meredith Bowen invite you to "Holiday of Lights" a winter concert celebrating our 9th year of collaboration, Tickets: \$20-12 LanSINGout and Sistrum, Lansing Community College, Lansing. Sistrum.org

Christmas Rebooted 6:30 p.m. Detroit Together Men's Chorus presents a holiday concert under the artistic direction of Brian Londrow Tickets: \$18 in advance or \$20 door, \$15 seniors, \$15 students Detroit Together Men's Chorus, 610 W. 13 Mile Rd, Madison Heights. 248-544-3872. Dtmc.org

Sunday, Dec. 18

Holiday Brunch 1 p.m. Enjoy the holiday season with fellow I GBT folks over brunch. RSVP via email. Responsible for cost of meal. Always welcoming new members ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 608 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. the 20 somethings.org

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting 2 p.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann** Arbor, Pflagaa.org

PFLAG Lenawee Social and Support Group Meeting 3 p.m. PFLAG Lenawee is a local support and advocacy group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer, Questioning, Intersexed individuals and their family, friends and allies, PFLAG Lenawee, 1247 E Siena Heights Dr., Adrian. 517-605-4827. sites.google.com/ site/pflaglenawee

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI 25 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic"Is Christmas too commercialized? Should the religious symbols of Christmas be on public display, or should it all be kept private?" GOAL, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak, 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC&

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Static Network "Home for the Holidaze 9" Annual songwriter showcase and charity drive for local homeless shelters The proceeds from the event will go towards purchasing food and winter clothing donations to distribute to the homeless Cover is \$6 or \$5 with a can of people or pet food or winter clothing item The Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. Dec. 16. 313-964-5103. www.corktowntavern.com

CLASSICAL

Michigan Philharmonic "Home for the Holidays" Two performances of the annual holiday tradition to start the season. Individual Concert tickets: \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10 student. Full subscriptions available online. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth Dec. 15 - Dec. 15, 734-453-0870. Michiganphil.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Home for the Holidays" Leonard Slatkin

conducts one of Detroit's favorite holiday musical traditions. Familiar holiday classics, evocative orchestral works and exciting new melodies warm the heart and are sure to satisfy the tastes of any musical palette. Tickets: \$19-105. Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 16 - Dec. 18. Dso.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra

"Handel's Messiah" DSO's performance of Handel's Messiah, with conductor Christopher Warren-Green, soprano Klara Flk and the University Medical Society Chorus, Tickets: \$15, \$50 and \$100, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Dec. 8 - Dec. 10, Dso.org

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► Denis O'Hare

Continued from p. 15

gay adoption."

And now he's the gushing father who's looking for just the right pic to show off the kid's smile. His foster child laughs a lot, but how could

he not? "I speak to him in bad French," O'Hare says, "and he dies."

O'Hare's encounters with gay couples and their kids helped him shake off his internalized homophobia, something he says is difficult to diagnose in ourselves, and he finally accepted the idea of having his own with Redwood. "It's been normalized for me," he says, deliberating. "But it's like being married.

"It's so hard to say the word 'husband' at first. I say 'partner,' and then suddenly realize if I say 'husband,' it might be aggressively political – but then it's like, what the fuck? What else am I gonna say? He's my husband. We are legally married."

And how do other people react? "People are a little shocked at first, but they're gonna get the fuck over it and pretty soon it'll be normal – because it should be normal!"

Part of it, however, is that O'Hare doesn't want everything about him to be "gay." Especially not his acting.

"For me, an actor is an actor. Years ago someone said to me, 'How do you feel about being a gay actor?' I said, 'I'm not a gay actor. I'm an actor. I'm Irish. I'm an atheist. And a bridge player. I ride my bike. Oh, and I'm gay."

He fits right in on the set of "American Horror Story," one of the gay-friendliest projects he's ever worked on. No surprise there: This *is* a Ryan Murphy production, after all. "I've met

more female lesbian gaffers on Ryan's show than I've ever met anywhere else in my life!" O'Hare says.

Because Murphy's schedule is nuts, with "Glee" now in its third season, he doesn't come around the "AHS" set often. But when he does, "he's a great spirit" – no pun intended – "on the set. He's the kind of guy who believes in a world of possibilities. He makes things happen."

"Crazy" is what O'Hare calls the set, shot in the Paramount lot in L.A. right behind the infamous Hollywood Cemetery (as if the show wasn't creepy enough).

"We never really know what we're doing until the day before," he says. "Everyone's cool with it. The scenes, even when they're intense, are fun."

When O'Hare was sent the script directly from Murphy back in March, just a few weeks before shooting, he was immediately intrigued. The show takes cues from many of his favorite horror classics and the legendary names behind them: Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi and Martin Landau.

"What I think is great about the show is that Ryan's kind of consciously quoting from great works," he says. "Don't go in the basement' is one of the biggest horror tropes, or 'don't open the door' – they're all horror tropes, and he's using all of them in a really cool way. And I hear

some people say, 'Well, it's unrealistic. Who'd stay in the house?' That's just a given. Let's just let them stay in the house."

Now he's starting to sound a lot like Larry, who's so insistent that the Harmons stick around you wonder what the dude's got up his sleeve. "I think Larry has a very clear overarching goal, which is redemption and release," O'Hare says, "and that is all tied up in the house."

For O'Hare, the role requires three-and-a-half hours of makeup, transforming the actor's face into the questionable burn victim and leaving O'Hare with half of his hearing and sight. On the first day of shooting, Murphy walked him through Larry's limp and shriveled arm. "He's got the vision in his head, so he had to be very clear about what we should to do," O'Hare says, "and I like that about him – he's a very clear director."

That helps, but with "True Blood," O'Hare knew what he wanted for Russell Edgington.

"I felt no need to make Russell act gay, because he is gay," he says, adding that because the vamp's so ancient, homosexuality didn't even really exist then, "and I know as a gay man I don't have to demonstrate that I'm gay. The fact that I'm sleeping with a man is the demonstration."

And that's gay?

O'Hare smiles big and non-creepy. "Not always, but for the most part."

CONCERTS

Fox Theatre "The Ultimate Doo Wop Show" Combining the genre's most memorable hits with the classic standards of the holiday season. Tickets: \$32.50-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark "Raul Malo Christmas Show" Tickets: \$40. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 12. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ragbirds "Ebird and Friends" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Whiting "Holiday Pops" Tickets: \$10-32. Hosted by Bill Harris and ABC12's Angie Hendershot. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 6 p.m. Dec. 17. 810-237-7333. TheWhiting.com

DANCE

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

"December Dances" Tickets: \$18 general, \$14 senior, \$10 student. Annual December production featuring the Michigan premieres of Nature of Human, an exciting multi-media work by Indiana choreographer Elizabeth Shea, and the comedic Dance Sport, by Chicago choreographer Harrison McEldowney. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Dec. 9. 248-559-2095. Ede-dance.org

Fox Theatre "Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker" Annual return of the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. Tickets: \$28.50-122 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3 p.m. Dec. 11. 313-471-6611.

OTHER

4731 Gallery "Look Before We Leap" A fundraising celebration of art, music and courage. DJ performance from DJ Prime Minister. Musical performances from Alonzo Freed, J. Knox, 24/7 and more. Visual art from Sengor Reid, Mario Moore, Ant Lovelle, Gregory Johnson and more. 4731 Gallery, 4731 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Dec. 17. Hookbridgechorus.com

The Dance P.E.A.C.E. and Ann Arbor Community Center "African Dance Tour dance classes" Cultural exploration of Africa through African-inspired dance, movement and music. Every other Saturday. Admission: Adult and youth \$10, children (6-12) are \$5. Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 22 - Dec. 17. 734-829-7930.

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Christmas Carol \$16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through Dec. 18. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Christmas Belles \$18. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Dec. 8 - 17. 734 483-7345.

Irving Berlin's White Christmas \$23-12. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Dec. 18. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

The Five Golden Rings \$15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Dec. 10 - 11. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

8th Annual Christmas at the Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Dec. 17. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

A Christmas Carol \$16. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Dec. 24. 810-238-1350. flintyouththeatre.org

A Christmas Carol \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Dec. 23. 248-370-3316. mbtheatre.com

Ain't Misbehavin' \$30-\$46; \$75 New Year's Eve. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Jan. 1. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org Cirque Dreams Holidaze \$20-65.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 13 - 18. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Dividing the Estate \$7. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Dec. 11. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Engagement Rules \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Escanaba in da Moonlight \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 31. 734-433-7782. purplerosetheatre.org

Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Ther Some!) \$15-\$24.50. Etico Productions at Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Fugue \$15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theatre, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Dec. 18. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

God of Carnage \$36-\$43. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Dec. 7 -Jan. 1, 248-788-2900, jettheatre.com

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play \$15-\$20; or \$49.95-\$59.95 per couple for dinner & show. HappenStance Productions at Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Jan. 15. 248-348-4448 ticketmaster.com

Puppet Scrooge \$12. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Dec. 18. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

Rock of Ages \$30+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts' Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 13 - Dec. 18. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

Silent Night of the Lambs \$10-20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Dec. 19. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com The 59ers \$18. The Detroit Ensemble Theatre, Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Dec. 10. 877-636-3320. michiganactorsstudio.com

The All Night Strut Holiday Show \$20-45.

Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Through Dec. 31. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com The Christmas Carol Caper, Scrooge This

\$16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd. Eastpointe. Through Dec. 23. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com The Christmas Schooner \$20. What

A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Rd., Springfield. Through Dec. 17. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

The Cripple of Inishmaan Plays in rotating repertory. \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, Wayne State University, Detroit. Through Feb. 4. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The Don't We Boys! \$10. Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave., Grand Rapids. Dec. 15 - 17. 616-894-1252. DogStoryTheater.com

The Importance of Being Earnest \$28-\$30 Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Dec. 18. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

The Sunday Punch \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Dec. 17. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

The Tempest \$40. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 21. 313-444-2294. parkbardetroit.com

This Wonderful Life \$20-\$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Dec. 23. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

Tony n' Tina's Wedding \$63 (includes show, dinner, dessert and entertainment) Detroit Actors Guild, Andiamo's Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren. Through Dec. 9. 586-268-3200. tonvtinadetroit.com

Wicked \$39-99. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St. Detroit. Dec. 7 - 31. 313-237-7464.

ART'N' AROUND

323East "The Brooklyn - Detroit Connection" 323East's The Future is Now Part II. Kimyon Huggins, AVONE, and Ellis G all Brooklyn based artists in the Motor City Spotlight. 323East, 323 E. 4th St., Royal Oak. Nov. 5 - Jan. 4. 248-246-9544. 323east.com

The Gallery Project "Post Apocalypse" Exposes all the doomsday scenarios that are out there, everything from the end of the world to the Rapture. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 14 - Jan. 21. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Small Works Exhibition" Annual "Think Small" juried exhibition, over 75 local artists will submit work in all media, two and three-dimensional. The only limiting factor is size -- no piece will exceed 12XX in any direction. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 30 - Dec. 24 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Stephanie Nava: Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory)" A work in progress, developed by French artist Stephanie Nava. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sep. 16 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010" Contemporary artists present photographs and video inspired by Detroit, its people, diverse culture, and industries in work created from 2000-2010. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Oct. 16 Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus" Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn's finest paintings, prints and drawings that portray Jesus and events described in the Bible. The exhibition includes 70 works. Tickets: \$16 adult, \$8 youth. Group rates available via grouprequest@dia.org. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Nov. 20 - Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

The Gallery Project "Post Apocalypse" Exposes all the doomsday scenarios that are out there, everything from the end of the world to the Rapture. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 14 - Jan. 21. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

The Scarab Club "98th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition" 98th annual exhibition of Scarab Club member artwork. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Nov. 23 - Jan. 8. 313-931-1250. Scarabclub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Face of Our Time" Examines more than 100 works by five photographers who operate within what Walker Evans referred to as the "documentary style." University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 12 - Feb. 29. 734-764-0395. Umma.umich.edu

Yourist Studio Gallery "Annual Holiday Sale" Show and sale of works by studio members, with everything from beads to sculpture to functional ware. Free admission. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 - Dec. 11 734-662-4914. Youristpottery.com/news/ index.html



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Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / **Thursday / Sunday**

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

Warren-Monday

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

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Horoscopes

Think ahead, Sagittarius!

BY JACK FERTIG

This week's lunar eclipse will be partially visible in New Zealand, but felt everywhere as brainstorms lead too easily to arguments. Rather than inadvertently showing off what you don't know, think about what you need to learn.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19):

Turn on the charm at work! Just be careful not to be too pushy about it. Jealous colleagues may accuse you of brown nosing. Be considerate of them, but don't worry too much about it. If you can't win, don't play the game.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Playful teasing can easily get out of hand. That could goad you into adventures that will test your limits. Be careful what you talk yourself into. You're likely to discover things about yourself that you've tried not to admit.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Conversations with friends can easily degenerate into arguments. What do you need to prove? In the larger sense, aren't you on the same side? Sexual tension may be feeding into the stress. Keep your home neat and ready for company.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Pay attention to anxieties, especially those that may seem trivial or exaggerated. They can teach you a lot about yourself. New info from a distant relative or a spiritual teacher can help you better to understand family problems.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Some playfulness is good for the soul. Worrying too much about the outcome inhibits your creativity and your growth. Get wild! What you release can offer insight into your work and your health.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Burying problems at home will only make them worse. Go ahead, have the arguments and get them out of the way. Just remember that one of you is wrong and will realize it soon. Even odds on who that is!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Work out any domestic problems with your domestic partner, especially where monev's involved. No partner? Downhome charm and fashions can help you find one. Some witty flirtation will help get things started.

SCORPIO (October 23 -November 21): As Shakespeare said, "Neither a lender nor a borrower be." Arguments with friends over money can lead to betrayal, hurting you a lot more than you would expect. Don't worry about the future. You'll figure it out as it comes present.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Standing up to authority will only get you smacked down. Friends you expect to be on your side won't be. It's possible you could be wrong. Think ahead! Be very pragmatic about your goals and how you intend to make them.

CAPRICORN (December 21

- January 19): Working hard is necessary. Working "too" hard is dangerous. Proper breaks and rest help you work smarter, not harder. If you must tear apart authority figures, make sure they're far away. Politicians are always fair

AOUARIUS (January 20 -February 18): Listen to that deep inner voice as you consider sexual adventures. Just trying to prove yourself can lead to injuries. Be especially careful of your mid and lower backside. Talking with a sibling about family history can be amazingly healing.

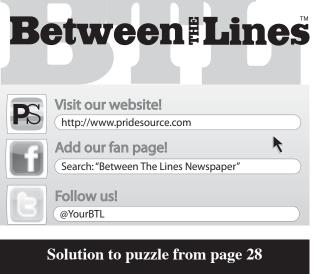
PISCES (February 19 - March 19): Turn lazy moods into times for creative reverie. Tough, honest introspection yields powerful insights. You may not like what you see, but remember you often go hard on yourself. Guard against crankiness with your partner. You may need to face some hard truths there, too!

Reach professional astrologer Jack Fertig at www.starjack.com.







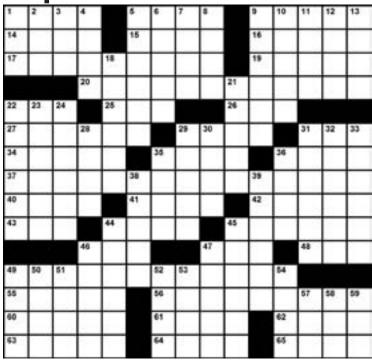






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Helps



Across

- 1 Dick under a Bush, e.g.
- 5 Intense attraction, with "the"
- 9 Amelia Earhart, for one
- 14 Jason went cruising in this
- 15 Hairy twin
- 16 *ACT UP founder Kramer
- 17 Piece of Mary's little pet
- 19 Classic toothpaste brand
- 20 "GoldenEye" actress
- 22 Bruins great Bobby
- 25 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
- 26 Versatile vehicle
- 27 Go over again
- 29 Helps, and a type of activism for the starred clues in this puzzle
- 31 Retired speedster
- 34 Range of the Rockies
- 35 Sweet opening?
- 36 "Angels in America" writer Kushner
- 37 "BUtterfield 8" Oscar winner
- 40 Richard of "And the Band Played On"
- 41 Janet or niece Hunter
- 42 Hubert's successor
- 43 Fruity drink
- 44 Lollobrigida of film
- 45 "Dr. K" of baseball
- 46 Kevin Bacon in "Footloose"
- 47 Awfully long time
- 48 Away from NNW
- 49 *"My Life on the D-List" star
- 55 Vonda Shepard's "It's ____ Kiss"
- 56 Actually
- 60 *Sharon of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
- 61 Baltic Sea tributary
- 62 Pennsylvania city
- 63 One with an hourglass figure
- 64 Bianchi and Hulce
- 65 Pay for a pad

Down

1 Jim Morrison portrayer Kilmer

- 2 Preposition that goes either way
- 3 One that gets laid
- 4 Gay guy, in Brit slang
- 5 Protection for your head
- 6 Japanese industrial center
- 7 Crack the whip at, e.g.
- 8 Hist. or sci.
- 9 Stones for starting fires
- 10 Run out
- 11 Gershwin and Levin
- 12 Sea flier
- 13 Phillippe, once of "One Life to Live"
- 18 Hot breakfast fare
- 21 Sit in on
- 22 Brand of Mexican food
- 23 Staggered
- 24 Go to bed
- 28 Sleep lightly
- 29 Allstate rival
- 30 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 31 They go well with plaids
- 32 Makes noise in bed
- 33 Power of old films
- 33 Power or old III
- 35 In view
- 36 "Equal justice under law," to a gay basher
- 38 Cause to have an orgasm
- 39 Tone deafness
- 44 It regularly blows its top
- 45 Tammy Baldwin's pages, e.g.
- 46 River of Cologne
- 47 "The Deep Six" actor Zimbalist
- 49 Star-___ tuna
- 50 Start to climax
- 51 McAn of shoes
- 52 Historic Stonewall event
- 53 Front end o' China
- 54 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 57 Land of O. Wilde
- 58 Kind of man, in Oz
- 59 To now























Pet of the Week





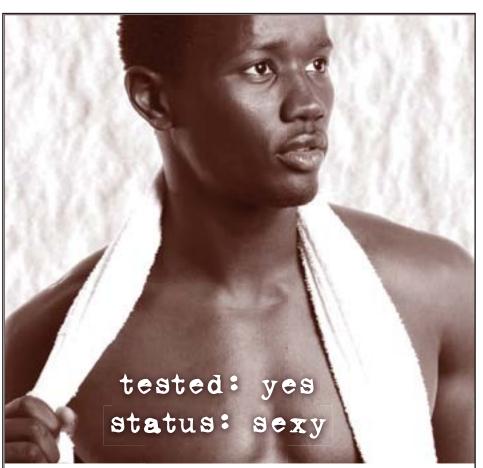
Say hello to Marley!

A happy-go-lucky 6-year-old Shepherd mix, Marley weighs 50 pounds and is hoping to find his forever home very soon. A happy pup who likes being outdoors, Marley,Äôs goofy grin is sure to put a smile on the faces of everyone he meets! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more! For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 63378.

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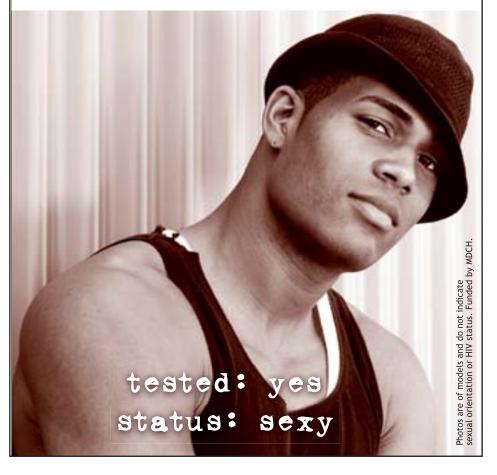




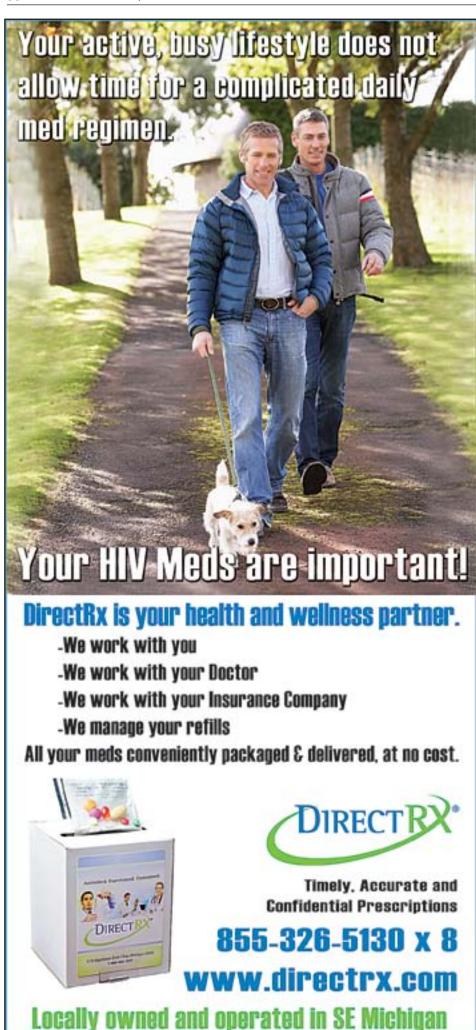
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Deep Inside Hollywood



BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Don't call it 'The A-List'

Contempt breeds ratings and ratings breed copycats and that's why, with the success of "The A-List: New York" and "The A-List: Dallas," comes a reality series - tentatively and awkwardly titled "The Fire Island Summer Project" - about a group of gay men (and "the people who love them") on, of course, Fire Island. Casting is underway and World Of Wonder - the men who've brought you "RuPaul's Drag Race" and about a million other wacky entertainments - is behind it all. So if you're young, look good in a tiny swimsuit and have a borderline personality disorder that can only be soothed by a life lived on camera while you throw drinks in the faces of your friends and scream. "I'M TIRED OF ALL THE DRAMA!" then, by all means, go online and fill out that application. You have only your dignity to lose.

Hooray! 'Arrested Development' is coming to... Netflix?

Look, Romeo San Vicente is just as confused as you are by this news, but the facts are this: "Arrested Development" (featuring the frequently underappreciated comedic skills of Hollywood power-lesbian Portia de Rossi) is, indeed, finally coming back for a handful of new episodes. And you can see them streaming if you're a Netflix subscriber. That's right. Netflix. Apparently the critically acclaimed sitcom is still such an economically uncertain property that no major (or minor) network fought to outbid the DVD subscription service for the rights to air what is meant to be a sort of prequel to the long-gestating feature film. And you'll still have to wait: 2013 is what we're hearing. That gives you time to become a subscriber.

Zachary Quinto was 'Never Here'

The now-publicly gay Zachary Quinto recently appeared in a weird, funny turn on "American Horror Story" and the biggest upcoming project on his plate is the "Star Trek" sequel, where he'll be refitted with those pointy ears. But mega-

events like that take time to plan, execute and market, so the talented young actor is keeping busy with a thriller called "You Were Never Here." Directed by Camille Thoman and costarring "Big Love/The Killing" alum Mireille Enos, the limited information available reveals that it's going to be a "Rear Window"-style (that's "Disturbia," kids) suspense-driven drama. No word yet on how closely it'll hew to that template or if Quinito's going to play the voyeuristic Jimmy Stewart/Shia LeBeouf character or the bad guy across the street. It'll make a difference in the way hair and makeup deals with his extremely expressive eyebrows, to be sure.

Luke Evans: 'An Unexpected Journey'

By now, maybe you've heard about the bold new experiment undertaken on behalf of rising action star Luke Evans ("Immortals"). See, before he was a rising action star, he was an up-and-coming character actor with a taste for telling the truth. He gave interviews to the gay press, identifying as gay himself. But recently, his management and publicity team have decided that "inning" the actor is in his best interest, going so far as to announce that he has a girlfriend. And the mainstream press has mostly played along with this unprecedented reversal of reality. Of course, taking a look at everything the man has on his plate, it's easy to see why career opportunities trump all. Not only will the Welsh actor play Bard the Bowman in both "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" and "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," but he's also co-starring with John Cusack in the Edgar Allen Poe-themed drama "The Raven," the horror film "No One Lives" from Japanese director Ryuhei Kitamura, the British indie "Ashes" with Jim Sturgess and Ray Winstone and "The Amateur American" for director Ross Katz (producer of "Lost in Translation" and "Marie Antoinette"). How will this strange story of one actor's dance with publicity all play out in the end? It's anyone's guess. And if nothing else, it's a fascinating display of nerve and media manipulation.

Romeo San Vicente has taken more than his share of Hollywood actors on unexpected journeys. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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