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PROGRAM

|            |  |
|------------|--|
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| Telemann   | Suite in a minor for Alto Recorder, Strings, and Basso Continuo, (b. 1681) |
| Sammartini | Concerto in F Major for Soprano Recorder and Strings (b. 1700)             |
| Geminiani  | Concerto Grosso No. 12 in d minor, "La Folia" (after Corelli) (1726-29)    |
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# The year ahead for LGBT issues



This is an official U.S. Navy photo which was auctioned off to couples who wanted to be considered for selection. Fire Controlman 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) seen kissing her fiancée, Fire Controlman 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, purchase 50 raffles to win the chance to be in this photo. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Mann

## DADT's repeal brings sea change to Navy, huge story of 2011 equality

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.** – Just four months ago this kiss could have caused both these military professionals their careers.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) kissed her fiancée, Fire Controlman 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, following the ship's return to homeport Dec. 21 after a three-month deployment in the Caribbean. Oak Hill supported Southern Partnership Station 2012, an annual deployment of U.S. naval assets in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

On Dec. 22, 2010, President Obama signed into law legislation that set conditions for the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654, known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT). Training was given to all active duty, selected reserve, and civilians who supervise military personnel using a tiered approach. Effective Sept. 20, 2011, United States Code, Section 654 was officially repealed, ending 18 years of confusing and often arbitrary dismissals of otherwise qualified, trained military personnel, just because they were suspected of being gay.

Since DADT was enacted in 1993 over 12,500 military personnel have been discharged.

DADT's repeal was in part predicated on the finding in a report submitted to Congress in November 2010 from a Comprehensive Review Working Group which found that gay

servicemembers had little to no effect on unit cohesion or military readiness. When asked about the actual experience of serving in a unit with a co-worker who they believed was gay or lesbian, 92 percent of active duty servicemembers stated that the unit's "ability to work together" was "very good," "good," or "neither good nor poor." When asked about how having a service member in their immediate unit who said he or she is gay would affect the unit's ability to "work together to get the job done," 70 percent of service members predicted it would have a positive, mixed, or no effect.

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BY LISA KEEN

Significant events are crowding the calendar for 2012, and each promises considerable drama and suspense for the LGBT community. Here are the ten most important to keep an eye on:

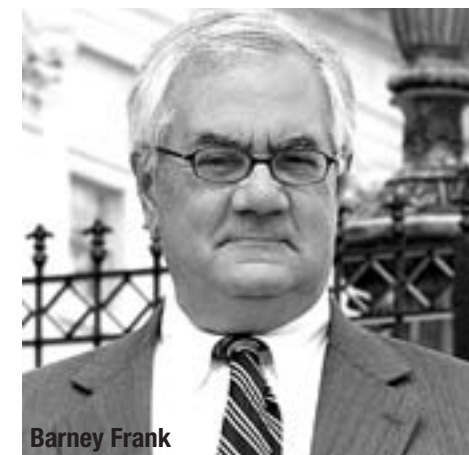
**1 The next decisions on Proposition 8:** A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals could release its opinions any day now. That's "opinions," plural. Before the panel can rule on the constitutionality of California's law banning marriage for same-sex couples, it must decide whether the Yes on 8 coalition has legal standing to appeal the federal court ruling that Prop 8 is unconstitutional, and it must decide whether there is any justification for Yes on 8's request that the lower court decision be vacated. The list of possible outcomes in *Perry v. Brown* -the case brought by the American Foundation for Equal Rights with famed attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies leading the charge--is mind-boggling. Whatever the results, any or all aspects could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court immediately or they could be appealed to a full 9th Circuit bench and then to the Supreme Court. But the panel's decision will almost certainly have political impact, too. Not only will it affect the momentum of the marriage equality movement, it will almost certainly become fodder in the presidential campaigns.

**2 The decision, on appeal, in DOMA:** A three-judge panel of the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments, perhaps as soon as early February, in a powerful challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act denial of federal benefits to same-sex married couples. The challenge, referred to most often as *Gill v. OPM*, is actually three consolidated cases, two brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and one by the state of Massachusetts. While there are other challenges underway to DOMA, this is the "big guns" challenge and the one most likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court first. And while there is no deadline by which the panel must render its decision, it is likely to turn out one by year's end. Then, as with Proposition 8, the case could go to the full circuit court for appeal or straight to the Supreme Court. And, if the appeals court decision is rendered before the November elections, it will almost certainly provoke debate on the presidential campaign trail.

**3 Tammy Baldwin's historic bid:** U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is not the first openly gay person to run for U.S. Senate, but she's the first who has a real chance of winning. The daily *Capital Times* is already referring to her as the "likely" Democratic nominee to fill the seat being vacated by Democrat Herb Kohl. She doesn't have a challenger for the nomination. But she will have a very tough battle against whomever the Republicans put on the ballot. That's because the battle will be for more than just one seat in

the powerful U.S. Senate, which currently has a breakdown of 53 in the Democratic Caucus and 47 in the Republican. It will be part of a multi-state slugfest between the parties over control of the chamber, the Congress, and the nation's laws.

**4 The fight for the U.S. Senate:** Polls at the moment indicate voters are inclined to vote for Democrats over Republicans next November. But that sentiment is not providing a large margin (one or two points), and it's too soon to guess who the voters will blame for what 11 months from now. But some Senate races -in addition to Baldwin's--could have big consequences for LGBT voters. In Virginia, a pro-gay former governor, Tim Kaine, will likely be pitted against an anti-gay former senator, George Allen. In Massachusetts, a pro-gay challenger, Elizabeth Warren, will almost certainly be the Democrat facing incumbent Scott Brown, whose attitude toward the community has been much less friendly. And at least seven other states are expected to have competitive races for the Senate. (BTL editor's note: Michigan's U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow is being targeted for defeat by Republicans.)



**5 Counting the "Gay Caucus":** U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) will be starting his 40th year in Congress when the House reconvenes January 17. And it will be his last. He announced last year that he would retire. When he does, the clique of four openly gay members of Congress - Frank, Baldwin, and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline--will shrink by one. If Baldwin fails to win a Senate seat, it could shrink by half. But there are prospects for adding members. Openly gay Wisconsin Democratic Assemblymember Mark Pacon is running for Baldwin's U.S. House seat. And there are two other openly gay candidates for the U.S. House this November: Marko Liias from Seattle, Washington, and Mark Takano from Riverside, California. So, the number of openly gay members of Congress could go from four to as low as two (though zero is, technically, possible) to as high as six. But no one will have the seniority and clout that Frank has had and used to advance pro-gay measures.

**6 On hold, and on defense, in Congress:** Pro-LGBT bills -such as efforts to repeal DOMA and pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) – are not likely to see much action in 2012. Anti-gay measures might. Why? Because it's an election year and Republicans still control the House. Supportive Democrats will not be inclined to push controversial legislation during an election year, because it can detract from the focus on jobs and the economy, where most voters want focus right now. Republicans, on the other hand, have often used hostile measures aimed at gays during election year as a way of putting Democrats on the spot with voters generally and gays specifically.

**7 Ballot battles abound:** There will be important LGBT-related ballot measures before voters in several states this year: North Carolina and Minnesota will vote on whether to ban same-sex marriage through an

Republicans, on the other hand, have often used hostile measures aimed at gays during election year as a way of putting Democrats on the spot with voters generally and gays specifically

amendment to their state constitutions. Voters in Maine will decide whether to strike down their existing ban on same-sex marriage. LGBT activists in Washington State are gathering signatures to put a measure on that state's ballot to gain marriage equality. A small group in California has until May 15 to gather more than 800,000 signatures to put a measure on the ballot there to repeal Proposition 8. And the California Attorney General is expected to announce by Jan. 9 whether opponents of a new bill to include information about LGBT figures in history as part of the public school curriculum can begin circulating petitions to get a repeal measure on the ballot there. All of these have the potential



to be big, expensive, and consequential battles.

**8 Fight for freedom of religion:** The right-wing Alliance Defense Fund and others have a concerted effort underway in the courts to undermine laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Their strategy is to argue that people who discriminate against LGBT people do so because their religious beliefs require them to do so. Their question to the court is, "What rules? The First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion or the equal protection clause that says all citizens should be treated equally under the law?" One case has already reached the U.S. Supreme Court and failed, but other cases -many other cases - are winding their ways through nearly every circuit in the country. And their outcomes have the potential to chip away at the strength of the nation's legal mandate that all people be treated equally. (BTL editor's note: A similar strategy is underway in Michigan's state house led by Republican Rep. Tom McMillin who has introduced House Bill 5039 that would deny protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity currently in place in localities throughout the state).

**9 A fight for the White House:** The difference for LGBT people between having President Obama in the White House and President George W. Bush has been stark. So the consequences of November's presidential election will also be profound. Either Obama stays, and things continue to improve - in law and in society's attitudes -- or a new president is elected from a field of Republicans who seem, at times, to be vying for the mantle of most gay hostile candidate. In the latter case, LGBT people can expect progress to halt or backslide.

**10 Ah, the unpredictable:** One of the bigger LGBT stories of 2011 happened in February, and it was one nobody expected: The Obama administration announced it considered DOMA unconstitutional and would not argue for its defense in most cases. Another big story that no one expected: The Obama announced a major new diplomatic mission to push for protection of human rights for LGBT people around the world. And given that Rep. Frank said in January 2011 he'd run for reelection in 2012, it was a surprise, in November, when he announced that he would not. As Frank pointed out, circumstances change.

Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin's historic bid for the U.S. Senate will be the first time an openly gay candidate running for this position has a real chance of succeeding.

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## Creep of the Week

### Amy Koch

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It's always sad to watch a person self-destruct. Especially when that self-destruction is happening in that person's pants.



Amy Koch

Minnesota Senator Amy Koch recently stepped down as Senate Majority Leader after it was discovered that she's been messing around with a man who is not her husband and who actually worked for her. This relationship was deemed a conflict of interest.

Koch, not incidentally, is an opponent of marriage equality. She and her fellow Republicans pushed hard to put an anti-gay marriage amendment on the 2012 ballot.

Back in May, 2011, Minnesota Family Council President Tom Prichard, Koch's political ally, told the Star Tribune about the ballot initiative, "[O]ur goal is to not

make it personal. I think we can have a respectful discussion and conversation on the importance of marriage in our state, where there's widespread support that the best environment to raise children is with a loving mother and father."

Is this where I mention that Koch and her husband have a little girl?

And just what does Prichard mean about not making it "personal"? I'm not sure what's more personal than a marriage. And campaigning to deny someone the right to make such an intimate, public commitment is, certainly, personal.

And so when Koch dropped her pants for a penis she was not married to, Minnesota's gays and lesbians can't help but take that personally, too.

Writer John Medeiros issued an open letter to Koch that has gone

viral. In it he apologizes on behalf of gay Minnesotans for ruining her marriage: "We apologize that our selfish requests to marry those we love have cheapened and degraded traditional marriage so much that we caused you to stray from your own holy union for something more cheap and tawdry."

Yes, it's a shame. Gays are the worst.

But when it all boils down, this is yet another anti-gay Republican caught having an extramarital affair. Yawn. Blah, blah, blah... I mean, sure, there's a twist because this time it's a female, but it's really nothing new. Aren't we tired of hearing this story?

We shouldn't be. Whether we're talking about Koch, Mark Foley, George Rekers, Ted Haggard, David Vitter, Larry Craig or any of the others, it matters because repeated hypocrisy should be alarming, not numbing. We cannot and should not accept that the very people fighting against us are using a set of so-called "values" that they, themselves, do not

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We cannot and should not accept that the very people fighting against us are using a set of so-called "values" that they, themselves, do not truly believe in.

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truly believe in. Picking up the mantle of "marriage defender" when you're screwing around on your wife or husband should be grounds for public humiliation and shame.

Because this isn't about the sanctity of marriage. This is about dehumanizing LGBT people so that we may be used as political scapegoats. This is about furthering a right-wing conservative agenda by any means necessary. By scaring folks with the threat of the "gay menace," Republicans get folks to vote against their own economic, personal, and societal interests. We forget that at our peril.

So let's keep calling them as we see them. And calling them out until this kind of shit doesn't fly anymore. Koch, you're a creep. And sadly you're surely only the first of many in 2012.

# Snyder signs ban on partner benefits for unmarried public employees, lawsuit planned

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – On Dec. 23 Republican Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law HB 4770 which prohibits public employers from providing partner benefits to unmarried partners of public employees.

There had been some speculation that Snyder would not sign the bill when he asked the legislature to take the bill back and amend it to expressly prohibit the law from stopping universities from offering such benefits. Snyder has said that he does not believe the state can regulate the universities because of the autonomy afforded them by the state constitution.

House analysts said the legislation would not exclude universities, but Senate analysts said it would.

"In a signing letter to the legislature, Snyder reiterated the fact that higher education institutions would not be included in H.B. 4770 as the constitutional autonomy of universities has been reviewed and affirmed many times by the courts since the adoption of the 1963 Michigan Constitution. Members of classified state civil service are also not covered by the terms of H.B. 4770 as the constitution gives the Michigan Civil Service Commission responsibility for setting rates of compensation and regulating all conditions of employment in the classified service," said the Governor's press release.

"The decision to take healthcare benefits away from families just in time for the holidays is mean-spirited and cruel. Governor Snyder had an opportunity to show real leadership and put an end to the political games; instead he approved an extreme policy that sets our state back, jeopardizes our economy and puts our families at risk," said Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU. "The bill serves no other purpose than to single out a small minority of people and deprive them of critical protections as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. We are prepared to challenge this law on behalf of Michigan families in the coming weeks."

"This decision was made after a difficult review process, with the ultimate determination that it would NOT apply to public universities. This issue had not been something on the Governor's agenda, and he's looked at it solely from an economic point of view," said Sara Wurfel's, a spokesperson for Snyder.

Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan, also slammed the governor for the signing.



"The bill serves no other purpose than to single out a small minority of people and deprive them of critical protections as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. We are prepared to challenge this law on behalf of Michigan families in the coming weeks."

- Kary Moss, Executive Director  
ACLU of Michigan

"Governor Snyder's support for these bills is appalling. Today, the Governor told unmarried public employees that they can no longer care for their partners or children. He has put hardworking gay and lesbian couples and their children into harm's way by eliminating important health care coverage. He has spent the last two years talking about creating a welcoming state with a attractive business climate, and these bills fly in the face of those goals," said Dievendorf. "All families in our state, including gay and lesbian families, should have fair access to health care coverage. Governor Snyder caved to the radical social agenda coming from the legislature. He has rejected our shared commitment to economic growth. In order to compete in today's global

business environment, we must build a culture that prioritizes fundamental fairness. This law will only serve to hurt Michigan."

Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) called the bill signing "disgusting," and noted that she was concerned the governor had signed the legislation without knowing for sure who it would actually apply to.

Meanwhile, Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan, put out a press release praising the governor for his signature on the legislation.

Democratic State Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) said he was disappointed the governor

had signed the bill.

"If there is any question this governor is a moderate, that has just gone out the door," said Bieda. "The rest of the country we want to attract the best and brightest into the state. I think it sends a message about what kind of state we are. I think it is particularly cruel happening two days before the holidays. It is going to be traumatic and extraordinarily disruptive to a number of families across the state. I had hoped the Gov's better nature would have prevailed, but evidently not."



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Jan. 5, 2012

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BY EMILY DIEVENDORF

Oh, what a year it has been. I think we all expected life to get harder when the state turned bright bloody red as a result of the 2010 election. We expected difficult and slow, if any, progress to be made for equality in Michigan. Few of us expected the “Whoa, what is THAT? Is that coming for US? Is ALL of that coming for US?” type of onslaught the gay community was greeted with this past year.

Our community, the L, the G, the B, the T, and allies came together in 2011 in response to relentless attacks. We united in a way we haven't seen happen in years, and we fought back – and hard. We reached beyond our community to engage the faith communities, communities of color, and businesses and taught them to be the advocates they had been waiting to be.

Defense became our middle name. The extremists in the Michigan legislature introduced bills to strip HIV prevention funding, allow discrimination in counseling services, and dictate when a doctor can grant gender reassignment surgery. They fought to keep protections for sexual orientation and gender identity out of anti-bullying legislation and even introduced a bill to outlaw the addition of any discrimination protections for the gay community to any non-discrimination policy. We learned to wake up unsurprised by a brand new hurdle. We called our legislators, and then called them again, and then wrote them, and THEN called our Governor.

When Lansing's most vocal right-wing hate mongers succeeded in revoking health insurance for public employees, much of our community sat down, jaws dropped and pondered the despicable and grotesque state of equality in Michigan. Gov. Snyder had gone against all logic and his own self-proclaimed philosophy for governing when he revoked the benefits, making Michigan antagonistic toward family and destructive of economic development. The “Keep OUT (or leave)!” sign had been hung at the entrance of every city and town with our “moderate” Governor's stamp of approval.

When I received word that the Governor signed the ban on domestic partner benefits I choked, and then choked up, and then hoped against all hope that we would not lose even one of the fighters that had emerged this year for our cause. I obsessed, and mourned, knowing that it was unreasonable to ask our LGBT families and allies to stay in Michigan. After two days I woke up ready to renew my commitment.

We have a choice. We can use this anger and passion and knowledge of what is just and what is oh so wrong to create energy and moxie where there is little to scrape together - or we can jump ship. Either makes sense when we think of how best to care for our friends and families in a social and political climate this hostile. I am

# Against all logic

## What LGBT people and allies do now

asking you, if you can risk it, to take that harder path with me. I'm going to ask you to take that path with me as OUT as the day you were born. I like to call myself the “Little Bi Engine that Could.” And I CAN, out, but not alone.

In Lansing our elected leaders need to know that we exist and pay taxes AND vote. When our leaders know our names, and our faces, and our stories they are more likely to consider us among the constituents and colleagues they are accountable to. Studies show that having even one openly gay legislator in public office multiplies chances for progress on equal rights. When legislators know us they are likely to remember us when they vote, or when they are in a position to choose to block ridiculous bigoted policy or let it slip into existence as loud and embarrassingly hate-filled law.

Currently, our legislature does not represent us. Over sixty-five percent of Michiganders polled are in favor of adding housing and job discrimination protections that cover sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the Michigan Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. Over sixty-five percent polled also favor providing domestic partner benefits to ALL unmarried families. The extremist lawmakers are the outliers and they are representing the interests of the few and far between. While the outliers are in office we must continue to educate Michigan citizens on the state of equality and we must keep the pressure on our elected officials to make the decisions that represent their entire constituency.

We will lose some of these fights. But with every fight we win or lose the voters will gain a clearer picture of the radical ideology that is being used to harm and banish the gay community – and the clearer the picture gets the

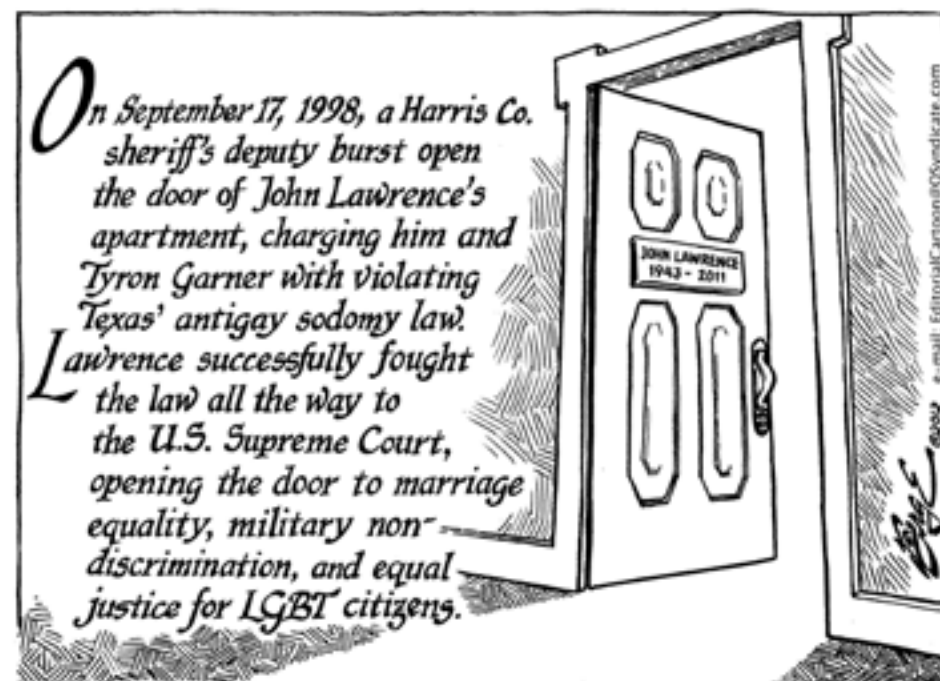
Our community sat down, jaws dropped, and pondered the despicable and grotesque state of equality in Michigan. Governor Snyder had gone against all logic.

less likely those legislators will be invited back. We can make it more likely, as a community, that pro-equality and out candidates are voted into office.

At this point, it is impossible not to recognize the terrible offenses the LGBT community faces in Michigan. I have always believed that once you recognize a wrong you become an accessory to injustice if you continue to live in a way that accommodates that wrong. We may not all be safe enough to come out, to run for office, or even to stay in Michigan under these circumstances. Martin Luther King said, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.” Yet, many of us, gay, transgender and allies, are choosing silence when our voices and actions could be a part of a MOVEMENT forward. Without a conscious decision to stay and fight, out loud, I fear our silence could be deafening.

Oh what a day is today. Recommit to equality in 2012.

Emily Dievendorf is Policy Director at Equality Michigan.





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**Heard on Facebook**
**Readers respond: Gov, signs ban on partner benefits for unmarried public employees**

I hope you're prepared not to come home to Ann Arbor, because you won't be comfortable here, (Snyder). You've messed with our families, and that is not okay. So don't count on us being polite. Peaceful, yes. But polite? I don't think so.  
**-Charley Sullivan**

What are all those gay supporters of this son of a bitch saying now? Virg Bernero might not have been perfect but at least he supported us. Taking all of my graduate school applications out of state; let the brain drain continue.  
**-Jena Lewis**

Michigan republicans are the vilest creatures I've seen lately.  
**-Jonathan Elyea**

Judge this governor on his actions not his words. He loves to play the harmless-nerd card, but he's actually a hard-core extremist with a deceptively low-key manner.  
**-Steve Duerksen**

Thank goodness the Governor is keeping his promise of focusing on Michigan's real problems instead of getting into social issues. It looks like it only took him one year to learn how to become a lying politician. So glad I can say I didn't choose him to be my leader.  
**-James Rider**

Once again conservatives have their eye on the ball: sex and religion vs. jobs and the homeless.  
**-Karen Affinito**

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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# S/he Said

## Marriage and relationships

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



**Amy Koch**

*"On behalf of all gays and lesbians living in Minnesota, I would like to wholeheartedly apologize for our community's successful efforts to threaten your traditional marriage. We are ashamed of ourselves for causing you to have what the media refers to as an 'illicit affair' with your staffer, and we also extend our deepest apologies to him and to his wife. These recent events have made it quite clear that our gay and lesbian tactics have gone too far, affecting even the most respectful of our society. Our selfish requests to marry those we love have cheapened and degraded traditional marriage so much that we caused you to stray from your own holy union for something more cheap and tawdry. It is now clear to us that if we were not so self-focused and myopic, we would have been able to see that the time you wasted diligently writing legislation that would forever seal the definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman, could have been more usefully spent reshaping the legal definition of 'adultery.'*

—John Medeiros, in a satirical letter of apology to recently resigned Republican Amy Koch, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader, for causing her to stray from her husband and engage in an "inappropriate relationship" with a male staffer in her Senate office, <http://blogs.citypages.com>, Dec. 22. Koch is a self-defined "social conservative" who campaigned for a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between a man and woman.



**Mark Dayton**

*"I think it underscores that sanctity of marriage is important to most Minnesotans and people who are in same-sex relationships believe in that sanctity also and want a chance to participate in the sanctity in the same way as heterosexual couples. I will say, before you take out the speck in your neighbor's eye, take the log out of your own eye. Somebody whose conduct doesn't measure up to what they're professing to believe in or prescribing for others, then they should be called on that."*

—Mark Dayton (MN-D), in a radio interview, about the speedy resignation of Republican Amy Koch, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader, after it was revealed that Koch was having an ongoing "inappropriate relationship" with a male staffer in her Senate office, [www.dailykos.com](http://www.dailykos.com), Dec. 23.



**Steve Mendelsohn**

*"If my partner were alive, I believe we would have married. I believe that there wouldn't be any gay marriage today if it weren't for AIDS. There was so much intolerance and misunderstanding about who was gay and who wasn't until everyone found out that people were gay because they were dying. And it was their friends, their family, their relatives."*

—Steve Mendelsohn, in an article titled "Gay Marriage Victory Still Shadowed by AIDS," [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), Dec. 31.



**Cary Tennis**

*"First off, you are going to be fine. The only person you need to be honest with right now is your girlfriend. And even with her, you don't need to tell her right this second. Wait until you are ready. Are you ready yet? Oh, OK. I thought you were ready. OK, I'll wait. But I'm not pushing you. Like I said, there's no pressure. The only thing you cannot do is pretend you are straight and get married to this beautiful woman and have kids with her and live 20 miserable years in secret while everyone talks about what a cute family you are until you can no longer stand it and she has spent many miserable years wondering why you don't feel attracted to her and then choose some drunken and traumatic moment on a rainy night to finally announce you're gay and you're moving out. Just taking the lid off this one secret is going to do you so much good! Believe me, you are only 27 and you have a great life ahead of you. This is a manageable situation. You can tell her any time. Is she home?"*

—Cary Tennis, in his column titled "Since You Asked," giving advice to a 27-year-old guy who has been dating his girlfriend for three years, yet he knows he's gay, asking the question: "Do I have to tell my girlfriend I'm gay? I was thinking, maybe, I could just tough it out and marry her and have some kids and not ever have to tell?," [www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com), Dec. 15.

## Parting Glances



### Life's leaky faucet

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

At my advanced age I've come to realize I really don't exist. With the exception of the IRS, my creditors, my column's faithful baker's dozen fans, my friends. I'm a nobody, and an old nobody at that. Sigh. It happens.

Of the seven billion persons on this over-crowded, truculent planet, how many care that I'm but one more bug in the trained flea circus of life?

Everyone knows of course that in Gay US of A oldsters (anyone over 39) are space ghosts, keening but seldom seen. If you don't believe me, ask yourself how many folks do you know of who are willing to admit to being 39? or willing to associate with persons alleged to be of antsy age?

We seniors are last season's limp linguine. And, horror of horrors, us GOPs (gay old potboilers) have weak knees, fixed opinions, sleep apnea, bladder leakage, and not infrequently read newspapers. Youngsters don't.

I suppose that's kinda good. Being eternally pretty is a great burden on society. And God knows the hardest years to be eternally pretty are between 39 and 50 (I got to 45 and came unglued). After that it's why the heck bother. Why diet? Do yoga! Stop drinking? Give up smoking! Sleep eight hours. Nobody cares one way or t'other. Do the honorable thing. Just go to pot. (But legally.)

Yes, Captain Invisible. Shazam! You're over the hill. Stop dyeing your hair. Don't bother with transplants (top or bottom). Forget personal trainers. Leave the Viagra, yohimbe, and horny goat weed alone. Your salad days are over. It's chunky canned noodle soup from here on in.

You think I'm kidding. I'm not. At Thanksgiving I thought I'd peek into one of Chicago's popular gay spots - Faucet's (or some such leaky place) - just to see how the young plumbers plumb, and bingo! I got stopped before I could put one pleated trowser inside the door.

DOOR GUY: "Got three pieces of ID?" TROWSER: "You're kidding. Man, I'm into Social Security. Why in the world do I need to prove it? I'm harmless - reasonably." DOOR GUY: "Sorry, don't croak. I don't make rules. I enforce them. It's too crowded inside anyway! Nothin' to see." TROWSER: "Or be seen by."

I coulda made a scene - I'm a sequin karate belter - but not wanting to besmirch the honor of our line-backing Go Bluers - or Go Blowers - I held my peace.

The evening wasn't a zero. Not far from Faucet's there's a nice, scenic go-go bistro, The Lucky Shoe Horn. It thoughtfully caters to us mature types - plus or minus a few decades - with a nonstop bevy of proverbial "barefoot boys with cheeks of tan".

I know it's a tad déclassé, but for a token of financial support - a dollar or two to help ensure, er, insure, the collective family jewels - said interpreters of the liberal dance arts are quite willing to prove seven billion inhabitants of this wacky planet wrong. I actually do exist.

And, like everyone else over the hill, apparently can be had for the asking (and/or the undertaking).

Charles@pridesource.com

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BTL photos: Andrew Potter

## DSO pays visit to Ruth Ellis for holiday celebration

**Highland Park** – In the season of giving, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Ford Motor Company and the Michigan International Gay Rodeo Association filled the Ruth Ellis Center with the holiday spirit on Dec. 21. The evening began with a 45-minute concert by the DSO's brass quintet, playing a selection of holiday songs. In addition to the performance, Ford's MODEL team was at the Center handing out care packages of non-perishable food items to the youth. The youth enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner cooked and served by members of MIGRA.

"The holidays are especially challenging for the youth Ruth Ellis Center serves because it is an extra reminder of the home and family support system that many of them don't have," said Laura Hughes, Ruth Ellis Center executive director. "For one night, the DSO, Ford, MIGRA and the many volunteers who help are the youth's family. We can't thank these organizations enough for providing this experience for them."

View the Online Gallery  
www.pridesource.com

## Holland is Ready to receive award

**HOLLAND** - A community group that earlier this year urged the Holland City Council to add anti-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian and transgender people will return to City Hall on Jan. 18, this time to receive an award for its social justice work.

Holland is Ready will be the recipient of one of four Social Justice Awards to be given out by the Holland Human Relations Commission at the 7 p.m. Jan. 18 meeting of the City Council. It will receive the Government/Community Relations award while other Social Justice Award winners will be the Ready for School initiative for education, Ourstreet and Neighborhood Liaison Programs for housing, and Timmy Kim for youth. A lifetime achievement award will also be given to Rebecca "Becky" Arenas.

Holland is Ready held its first meeting in January of 2010 in response to filmmaker Dustin Lance Black not being allowed to speak and show his movie "Milk," for which he won an Academy Award for screenwriting, on the Hope College campus. About 150 people showed up for that first meeting, where it was decided its mission would be to make the Holland area more inclusive for LGBT people and its monthly meetings continue to draw large numbers of concerned residents, business people, clergy and community leaders.

The group has worked to educate people on the issues faced by LGBT people by, among other things, holding a 2010-11 film series. It has also hosted speakers, helped sponsor the annual Pride Day in the city of Holland and held a community picnic.

Holland is Ready also strongly advocated for changes to the city's ordinances and policies that would give LGBT people the same anti-discrimination protections that others enjoy with regard to housing and employment. Holland is Ready members packed the City Hall on June 15, providing testimonials on why such anti-discrimination protections were needed, but the council voted 5-4 against having that language drafted.

"We were disappointed in the Council's decision last summer to not extend basic rights of protection to members of this community who are LGBT, but a very high percentage of those present that night and in the months that followed indicate that Holland is moving in the direction of equal rights for all of its citizens," said Jennifer Adams, spokesperson for the group. "We are grateful for the city's recognition of our efforts. This is truly an honor and we'll continue to work for a Holland that is able to celebrate the diversity that is present among us."

Holland is Ready continues to be active in the community. It plans to host educational programs in 2012 and will continue seeking support of area businesses that share its mission by holding social gatherings there. They also continue to build and show support for stronger anti-discrimination policies in the city.

For more information, or to volunteer or donate, go to [www.hollandisready.org](http://www.hollandisready.org).

## Faith Initiative to hold kick-off event

**FERNDALE** – Affirmations Community Center will launch their Faith Initiative on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 7 - 9 p.m. with a screening of "Fences." It's the personal faith journey of Antonio David Garcia, the executive director of Affirmations, which

culminated in his visit to Laramie, Wyoming, the site where Matthew Shepard was murdered. The movie will be the substance of a discussion and talk-back. A panel of faith leaders will participate including Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Darlene Franklin, founding minister of Agape Spirit Life Ministries, Rev. Edwin Rowe (tentative) from Central United Methodist Church and special guests Linda Karle-Nelson and Tom Nelson with Fortunate Families.

Light refreshments will be provided. Affirmations is located at 290 West Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information call 248-398-7105.

# Hear Me Out: Top 11 of 2011

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



## 11. Lady Gaga, 'Born This Way'

Music masterpiece? Not quite. But the Lady of the dance-pop pantheon sure knows how to do brain-raping hooks

—you got me, “Edge of Glory”—and indulgent throwbacks to '80s schlock. For goodness sake, she sings about “Hair” and makes it sound like a serious call-for-acceptance. The self-empowerment positivity of this big monster is easy to embrace, and so are the songs: stadium ballad “You and I,” grunge-rock “Bad Kids” and the uplifting “Highway Unicorn.” No poker face here. Just Gaga through and through.



## 8. Beyoncé, '4'

Crazy in love wasn't how most people felt about Bey's slow-to-grow fourth album. But so what: This is the diva's masterwork, where Mrs. Jay-Z had

nothing to prove... but proved everything. “4” features refined ballads, from the restrained sweetness of “I Miss You” to the legacy anthem “I Was Here”; the throwback “Love on Top,” with its Mariah vocal tics; and the funky-cool “Countdown” for her “boof.” Few songs are immediate, but that's the thing: This is Queen Bey standing her ground and securing her crown.



## 10. Dolly Parton, 'Better Day'

Like a big hug from the country super-legend herself, “Better Day” wasn't just one of the primo albums of the year

— it was the most encouraging. “In the Meantime,” a joy-on-steroids rollick, has Dolly dishing wisdom, her attitude as infectious as the music — her best in years. Same goes for the sweetness of “Together You and I” and an ode to her roots, “Country is as Country Does,” delivered with a dose of her humorous snap. Even with a heavy heart on “I Just Might,” the down-home diva looked on the bright side. Now that's something to admire.



## 7. Katy B, 'On a Mission'

Dubstep was reborn through Katy B's brilliantly refreshing debut, a throbbing set of underground dance primed for all-night partying. She had sass, sex and single-worthy songs — a trifecta that should've put her at the top of pop. With the genius of “Easy Please Me,” a cheeky kiss-off to mankind, and the thumping garage sound of “Broken Record,” the British import's mission is inevitably possible.



## 9. Augustana, 'Augustana'

Meet Augustana, new and improved. With claim-to-fame “Boston” behind them, the San Diego guys go from Coldplay to

Springsteenian. And it pays off. Whatever their brand of pop-rock lacks in originality, they make up for in choruses you crave as an early morning wake-up. Motivational upper “Shot in the Dark” bests, but sensitive-guy folk ditty “Borrowed Time” and love sick slow-rocker “Steal Your Heart” are proof that a change does, indeed, do you good.

**See Hear Me Out: Top 11, page 15**



Adele: No. 1

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Florence + the Machine: No. 3

### ► Hear Me Out: Top 11

Continued from p. 13



#### 6. Lykke Li, 'Wounded Rhymes'

Sweden's Lykke Li sings of sadness like she's been put through the wringer, but there's still a very charming wink in the casual girl-group tropes of her second

album. Essentially a testament to innocence lost, established immediately with the deceptively upbeat "Youth Knows No Pain," the indie-pop dream girl decided to live it up ("Love Out of Lust"), have sex ("Get Some") and suck up her brokenhearted blues ("Sadness is a Blessing"). Her pain was my pleasure.



#### 5. Bon Iver, 'Bon Iver'

Just how beautiful are Bon Iver's earthy tunes? Let's put it this way: an f-bomb never sounded prettier. "Holocene" is the centerpiece of frontman Justin

Vernon's melodically moving masterpiece of escapism, an album that takes us outside of ourselves and into the many states – both literally and figuratively – that the log-cabin crooner paints with his singularly evocative voice. From the sincerity he casts to the Phil Collins outro he manages to pull off, it wasn't about making sense – it was about making emotions.



#### 4. Miranda Lambert, 'Four the Record'

The fastest girl in town, as Lambert calls herself on her latest in a series of on-par albums, is also one of the most talented. After opening with

outcast anthem "All Kinds of Kinds," the country badass plays on diversity throughout with her most expansive-sounding disc to date: bluegrass influences that first track, but then she goes cowpunk on "Mama's Broken Heart" and, with "Fine

Tune," tinkers with Auto-Tune. She's also good at turning on the tear ducts with "Oklahoma Sky." One of a kind? You betcha.

#### 3. Florence + the Machine, 'Ceremonials'

Bigger is better in the case of Florence Welch, who wields her powerhouse pipes into competition-crushing glory on her second CD, a trip to enlightenment that sits in your soul. No album but this one, this year, had the intensity of rousing theatrics cutting through it like a tornado whipping up everything in its path. "Shake It Out" is a breathtaking exorcism; "Leave My Body," an orgasmic release. And ballad "Never Let Me Go" rips through the very water she sings of. Oh, Flo – such a size queen.



#### 2. Matraca Berg, 'The Dreaming Fields'

By the strength of her from-the-heart songwriting alone, it's no wonder she's been one of the most sought-after Nashville tunesmiths for big-

deal country stars. On her first album in 14 years, the criminally underrated prodigy – think Eva Cassidy and Emmylou Harris – continues to affirm she has what it takes to be one. The title track is a nostalgic eulogy of long-gone land, both hopeful and heartbreaking. "Racing the Angels," about an afterlife reunion, and the homesick coda are just as wistfully tearjerking.



#### 1. Adele, '21'

The boy that broke Adele's heart? At least he was good for one thing: this album, a timeless classic fueled by the fire of that relationship's demise. Regret and fury are

all piped into the remarkably performed songs – the wonderful weepie "Someone Like You," especially – on the singer's sophomore CD, fully rooted in retro-soul and soap-opera melodrama. "Rumour Has It" and "Rolling in the Deep" show how saucy she can be when she's not all sad (and for much of the album, she is). Nothing studio-tricky about her or that voice, Adele sings her heart out – and captures ours.

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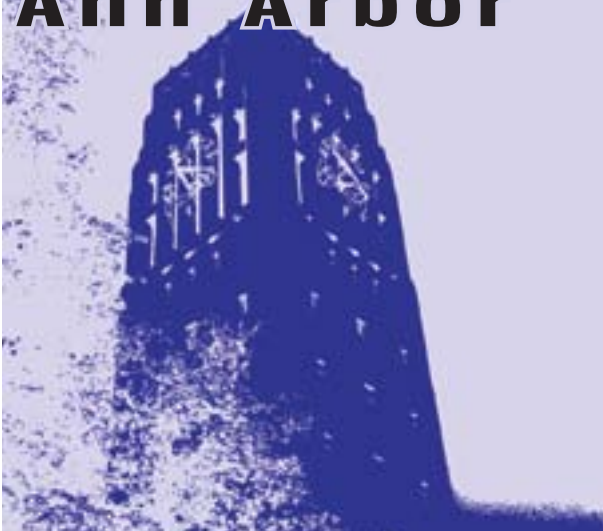
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# The Buy Local Movement...in Kerrytown

BY KEITH ORR

**ANN ARBOR** - The Buy Local Movement has gained a lot of ground over the past few years. The Occupy Wall Street movement speaks to a lot of the same issues (and frustrations) as the Buy Local Movement. Our economic system is letting down millions of hardworking Americans. It seems we have so little control over Bank of America (to name one), while Bank of America has so much control over us.

Buy Local is one way we do have control over our economy. We keep money in our local economy, allowing more money to flow into the cultural and social institutions that create quality of life for all of us.

And it's personal. Let me tell you about my neighborhood:

You want something for your pet, or a dog or cat-loving friend? Stop by Dogma on Fourth Avenue. Alice Liberson owns Dogma. She is passionate about animals. She also supports dozens of local charities. (<http://dogmacatmantoo.com>)

Just across the street, talk to Paul Tinkerhess at Fourth Avenue Birkenstock. He has footwear and also a Sleep Shop (mattresses and other items to make sure you get good sleep). He is a local activist and musician. He and his family are a part of First Amendment history. Don't ask me...stop in there and ask Paul about it. (<https://www.facebook.com/birkenstock.store?sk=wall>)

Around the corner from both Alice and Paul

is Vicki Honeyman's Heavenly Metal. Vicki had a profound influence on the growth of the Ann Arbor Film Festival some years back. She has remained active in social and artistic causes. ([www.heavenlymetal.com](http://www.heavenlymetal.com))

Need a break...stop for coffee at Cafe Verde, run by the member-owned People's Food Co-op. And though it is member-owned, the "face" of the co-op is Kevin Sharp. Kevin shares a passion for Border Collies with me. He's also the reason Sculpture Park is kept clean and the landscape is well-tended. ([www.peoplesfood.coop](http://www.peoplesfood.coop))

Or you might stop for your coffee in the Kerrytown Market and Shops at Sweetwater, owned by Chris Hutton. ([www.sweetwaterscafe.com/cafes/kerrytown.php](http://www.sweetwaterscafe.com/cafes/kerrytown.php))

While in Kerrytown you can visit Mary Cambruzzi on the second floor at Found, a truly unique store, or Jan and Sharon at Mudpuddles, or Bob at Sparrow Market, or Mike at Monahan's. And especially Mary at Everyday Wine. She is a big part of making Ann Arbor Wine Cellar (a benefit for HARC) a success.

See, I have names to all these businesses. When you buy local you are supporting Alice and Vicki and Paul and more than one Mary, and so many others. And they support the community, and their employees are a part of the local community and the local economy.

*Keith Orr is a bar owner, bookstore owner, classical musician, dog person, political junkie, fundraiser and more.*

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# Book Marks

## Best of the year

BY RICHARD LABONTE

Bests are subjective, and Top 10s are limiting, but these are the books that stuck with me most in 2011. Some are examples of formal queer fiction or standard homo memoir/autobiography forms, several take a more daring – or daunting – approach to the art of literature; and, auguring well for the future, five of the 10 fiction titles are debuts. In fact, it was a good year for gay (male) debut fiction: among my other favorites are “Mitko,” by Garth Greenwell; “Dirty One,” by Michael Graves; “We the Animals,” by Justin Torres; “Chulito,” by Charles Rice-González; “Songs for the New Depression,” by Kergan Edwards-Stout; “Quarantine,” by Rahul Mehta; “Moffie,” by André Carl van Der Merwe; and “My Brother and His Brother,” by Hakan Lindquist – not, technically, a debut, though it’s his first novel in English translation. Kudos, too, to two novels by women: Jodi Picoult’s formulaic but formidable “Sing You Home,” in which the desire of two middle-aged lesbians to have a child collides head-on with Christian hatred; and Rebecca Makkai’s daring and compassionate “The Borrower” (another debut), in which a young woman librarian befriends (well, kidnaps, in a good way) Ian, a precocious 10-year-old booklover and bound-to-be queer, when his parents try to de-gay him.

### My 10 Favorite Fiction Reads of 2011

**“The Empty Family,”** by Colm Toibin, Scribner.

Master Irish storyteller Toibin queers it up, after last year’s essentially straight novel, “Brooklyn,” in this collection of nine haunting stories set in different countries and different times, but linked by a pervasive sense of melancholy, longing and loss. There’s not a single clunker in a no-word-wasted collection.

**“The Fog: A Novel of Desire and Reprisal,”** by Jeff Mann, Bear Bones Books.

Sex is violence and passion is pain in Mann’s relentlessly brutal yet irrepressibly romantic short novel. From first page to last, except for a redemptive epilogue, this pitch-perfect erotic novel epitomizes a thriller genre known as torture porn, though the poetry of Mann’s prose imbues even the most intense scenes with tender moments.

**“The Girls Club,”** by Sally Bellerose, Bywater Books.

Bellerose’s warm debut embraces the concept of sisterhood with propulsive gusto – mostly the real deal of three very different sisters caring deeply for each other, even as they squabble, but with hints that the sisterhood of nascent feminism has reached the small town where they are realizing their emotional and sexual selves.

**“Love/Imperfect,”** by Christopher T. Leland, Wayne State University Press.

As in real life, gay mingles with straight in Leland’s first collection (after five novels). Seventeen sensual tales, linked by the thematic threads of intimacy, desire and love, depict worried mothers, absent fathers, inter-class sexual affairs and men afraid of their desires. Leland’s supple prose marks him as a short story virtuoso.

**“The Marbled Swarm,”** by Dennis Cooper, Harper Perennial.

A liturgy of salacious acts invested with luscious language and sly wit, this seductive, exhilarating labyrinth of a novel, with its secret passageways, elusive truths and elegant intricacies, is splendidly unlike anything Cooper has previously written, even as it echoes themes of earlier work

**“The Two Krishnas,”** by Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla, Magnus Books.

A closeted husband, an unsuspecting wife, an aching needy younger lover – the three pivotal people in Dhalla’s second novel are stock gay-fiction standards transformed into wrenchingly real characters by the

author’s mastery of human emotion; in the story’s nuanced universe, duplicity has consequences and tragedy is inevitable. This is not a happily-ever-after story; its heartbreak is cathartic and inevitable.

**“The Mechanics of Homosexual Intercourse,”** by Lonely Christopher, Little House on the Bowery/Akashic Books.

The nine stories in this exuberantly nontraditional collection will challenge traditionalists who prefer their queer fiction come from formalists such as Ed White or David Leavitt. One hopes those readers will accept that challenge – homo fiction can always use more young writers

who are queer in every sense of the word.

**“The Metropolis Case,”** by Matthew Galloway, Crown Publishers.

First-time novelist Galloway strikes beguiling chords in this inventive blend of mystery, romance, music and,

skillfully, the supernatural. Technically, it’s a 2010 title, released at the end of December, close enough for 2011 – a cunning novel embracing the universal themes of searching for love, the meaning of life...and the glorious world of opera.

**“Wingshooters,”** by Nina Revoyr, Akashic Books.

Xenophobia is rampant in rural Vietnam War-era Wisconsin, where tomboyish 10-year-old Michelle LeBeau, her small town’s only non-white resident, confronts discrimination, bullying and isolation with admirable resilience. Revoyr writes about deep heartache, flawed characters and squandered anger with grace.

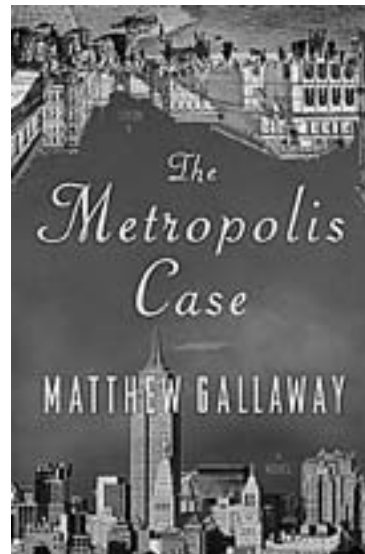
**“Zipper Mouth,”** by Laurie Weeks, The Feminist Press at CUNY.

The narrator of this woozy, rapturous short novel, set in Manhattan’s edgy 1980s, engages heroin and cocaine with dedicated delight, maintains a soul-crushing crush on her ambiguously straight drug buddy, Jane, and shares her angst in unrequited letters to the likes of Sylvia Plath and Judy Davis. It’s an ecstatic debut.

### My 10 Favorite Nonfiction Reads of 2011

**“Big Sex, Little Death,”** by Susie Bright, Seal Press.

You’d think that a memoir by a founder of the pioneering sex-positive lesbian magazine “On Our Backs” and author of the “Susie Sexpert” column would be all about sex (and there’s that title). Sex there



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# Editor's Picks

## Outings



A2Ethics hosts its second "Big Ethical Question Slam: An Ethics Improv Competition" this year at the Conor O'Neil's Traditional Irish Pub in downtown Ann Arbor. A2Ethics is a web-based social network dedicated to establishing a public forum where Ann Arborites and their neighbors from all walks of life can address ethical concerns, issues and decision-making.

This Slam is an opportunity for teams of two-six people to competitively answer big ethical questions such as "What virtues are vital for the 21st century?" and "Should love conquer all?" The team with the strongest and most unique argument will win a \$600 grand prize. All Slam judges have local affiliations, a long-standing interest, commitment, sensitivity and open-mindedness toward ethics matters and issues.

The Big Ethical Question Slam begins 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at Conor O'Neil's, 318 S. Main St., in Ann Arbor. Registration for teams, as well as "big question" submissions, are still open at [a2ethics.org/big-ethical-questions-slam](http://a2ethics.org/big-ethical-questions-slam). The audience is encouraged to cheer for their favorite teams, and tickets are \$5 each. All proceeds will be used to support A2Ethics.org.

## Theater

The Motor City Musical Theatre, a fresh collection of current students and graduates from Wayne State and Oakland Universities, plus talent from across the border in Windsor, invites you to begin the new year with the family-friendly musical comedy "Saturday Night," with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

"Saturday Night" features brilliantly intricate and playful songs whose melodies will surely follow you after you leave the theater. Motor City Musical Theatre couldn't have asked for a better time to stage the rarely performed piece: The nation's current disdain with Wall Street and an ever-expanding class gap between rich and poor provide countless hysterical and clever parallels to play on.

Performances begin Friday, Jan. 6 at the Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, in Livonia. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Jan. 14, with 2 p.m. matinees Sundays, Jan. 8 and 15. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors.

For reservations, call 313-535-8962.



# OUTINGS

## Thursday, Jan. 5

**Euchre Tournament** 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw County's original GLBT chorus. \$10 entry, cash prizes. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 South Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. 734-265-0740. [outloudchorus@gmail.com](mailto:outloudchorus@gmail.com) [olc.org](http://olc.org)

## Friday, Jan. 6

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Laughing Matters; Gender, politics and life get skewered in this unusual documentary featuring four lesbian comics who've blazed a trail since the 1980s. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

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

## Saturday, Jan. 7

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

## Sunday, Jan. 8

**GOAL Book Club** 4 p.m. Reading: Tipping the Velvet by Sarah Waters. This book is available for purchase at [five15.net](http://five15.net) and also at many metro Detroit libraries. Get Out And Live!, 515 S Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. [Getoutandlive.me](http://Getoutandlive.me)

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

**The Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI 25 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: What is on your Bucket List (things you want to do before you kick the bucket)? Get Out And Live! 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. [MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com) [GetOutAndLive.me](http://GetOutAndLive.me)

## Monday, Jan. 9

**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. [Pajeho@umich.edu](mailto:Pajeho@umich.edu) [spectrumcenter.umich.edu](http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu)

## Wednesday, Jan. 11

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

**Trans-Masculine Trauma Recovery Group** 4:30 p.m. This free recovery group is by registration only. It will last for 8 weeks and will be led by an experienced trauma counselor and facilitator. Please call 734-998-2150 if you are interested. The location has lots of free parking and

is wheelchair accessible. University of Michigan Comprehensive Gender Services Program, 2025 Traverwood, Suite A1, Ann Arbor. 734-998-2150. [Nquay@umich.edu](mailto:Nquay@umich.edu) [med.umich.edu/transgender](http://med.umich.edu/transgender)

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

**GOAL Writing Group** 7 p.m. An LGBTQI and allied writing club. Discussion surrounds favorite authors, challenging projects, assistance from peers, goals and all things writing-related. Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. [Getoutandlive.me](http://Getoutandlive.me)

## Thursday, Jan. 12

**Feast of St. Aelred** 7 p.m. The feast of the Patron Saint of Integrity USA, St. Aelred. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. Integrity USA is a nonprofit organization of LGBT Episcopalians and their straight allies. Integrity USA, 4252 Breton Rd. SE, Kentwood. 616-949-7034. [rectorpastor@comcast.net](mailto:rectorpastor@comcast.net)

**2nd Annual Big Ethical Question Slam** 8 p.m. Once again, the Slam will shine a spotlight on some of the big questions of our time. And once again Ann Arbor Ethics invites community groups to form teams and tackle some big, vexing questions in convivial surroundings. Winning team will receive \$600. Ann Arbor Ethics, 318 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. A2Ethics.org

## Friday, Jan. 13

**Dinner and a Show at Joey's Comedy Club** 6:15 p.m. Tickets: \$30 per person. RSVP on Meet up site before Jan. 1. Plymouth Lesbian Supper Group, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 734-261-0555.

**Ozone House's QueerZone** 6:30 p.m. QueerZone is an Ypsilanti-based program that provides a safe space for LGBTQI youth to congregate, socialize, build community and access support services as needed. Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. 734-662-2265. [Ozonehouse.org](http://Ozonehouse.org)

**Older Lesbians Organizing** 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734 6782478. [jasmithers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jasmithers@sbcglobal.net)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Red Doors. Ed Wong longs to break away from the monotony of his daily life, but the outlandish dramas of his daughters Samantha, Julie and Katie make escape difficult for this father of three. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**Drag Queen Bingo** 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxe or September Murphy. Open to all 18+. Refreshments and bingo food fare. Reservations available by phone. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. [Five15.net](http://Five15.net)

## Saturday, Jan. 14

**Pancake Breakfast** 10 a.m. Breakfast followed by AA meeting with open speaker: Bill R. from Grand Rapids. Cost: \$8. Together We Can, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. 248.838.9905. [TWC@twcdetroit.com](http://TWC@twcdetroit.com) [MotorCityBears.org](http://MotorCityBears.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](http://Goaffirmations.org)

## Sunday, Jan. 15

**GOAL Bowling Night** 12:15 p.m. GOAL is teaming up with a bowling group that started up in early fall 2010. This is a nonleague-bowling group. Get Out And Live!, 600 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. [Getoutandlive.me](http://Getoutandlive.me)

**Coffee with the Guys** 2 p.m. New gay men's group. No dues. No requirements. Opportunity to expand social circles in a safe non-bar atmosphere. The coffee and conversation are free. West Michigan Pride, 211 Logan St. SW, Grand Rapids. [Westmidpride.org](http://Westmidpride.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](http://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](http://sites.google.com/site/pflaglenawee)

**The Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI 25 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Pretend you are writing an ad for the Personals. What would it say (can be serious or funny)? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. [MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com) [GetOutAndLive.me](http://GetOutAndLive.me)

# MUSIC & MORE

**Majestic Theatre** "Shift the Frequency" Magic Stick's first dub step show of the year. Performances by Shadowattack, Coloreater, Megazoyd, Z Jump, Battlestar Galackteffect, Dub Lee. Tickets: \$10-12. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 7. 313-833-9700. [Majesticdetroit.com](http://Majesticdetroit.com)

**Majestic Theatre** "Theophilus London" A rapper, songwriter and producer from Brooklyn, Fader magazine places London at the center of the borough's new urban pop movement. Tickets: \$12-14. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 7-Jan. 12. 313-833-9700. [Majesticdetroit.com](http://Majesticdetroit.com)

**Olympia Entertainment** "Young Jeezy" With special guests Travis Porter and 2 Chainz. Tickets: \$59, 69, 79, and 89. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 14. 800-745-3000. [Olympiaentertainment.com](http://Olympiaentertainment.com)

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "In Flames" With special guests Trivium, Veil of Maya and Kyng. Tickets: \$20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th St., Royal Oak. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 13. 248-399-2980. [Royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://Royaloakmusictheatre.com)

**The Ark** "Mountain Heart" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 13. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

**The Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Gretch Parlato and Vijay Iyer" Seductive voice that captivates fans paired with a unique piano style. Ticket information available at [dso.org](http://dso.org) Max M. Fisher Music

Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 6-Feb. 17. 313-576-5111. [Dso.org](http://Dso.org)

# THEATER

**A Bright Room Called Day** \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 14 - 30. 248-545-5545. [whowantscaketheatre.com](http://whowantscaketheatre.com)

**Bernhardt on Broadway: The Musical** \$25. Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Ann Arbor. Jan. 14. 734-864-3244. [www.BernhardtOnBroadway.com](http://www.BernhardtOnBroadway.com)

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** \$16. Sky's the Limit Productions at The Berman Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Jan. 12 - 22. 248-661-1900. [www.TheBerman.org](http://www.TheBerman.org)

**Nunset Boulevard** Previews Jan. 4-6 (\$24-\$30) \$24-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Jan. 4 - 29. 248-370-3300. [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com)

**The Snow Queen** \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Jan. 28. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**The Tempest** \$40. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 21. 313-444-2294. [www.parkbardetroit.com](http://www.parkbardetroit.com)

**The Wizard of Oz** \$23+. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 14 - 15. 810-237-7333. [www.TheWhiting.com](http://www.TheWhiting.com)

# ART 'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum** "Hands On Holiday Winter Games" Admission: \$10. Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 26 - Jan. 6. 734-995-5439. [Aahom.org](http://Aahom.org)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Best of the Best" Twelve prizewinning artists from the Gallery's four annual juried shows. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 11 - Jan. 28. 248-544-0394. [Lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://Lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Michigan State University Museum** "On Death and Horses and Other People" Comprised mostly from photographs made as the people of Roztoky walked across fields and over Bare Hill to the neighboring village of Unetice. It also has a few of her earliest Czech Carnival photographs that were made in Prague. Michigan State University Museum, West Circle Drive, East Lansing. Jan. 1 - Jan. 18. 517-355-2370. [Museum.msu.edu](http://Museum.msu.edu)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Once Upon a Time: Prints and Drawings that Tell Stories" Telling stories through prints and drawings. Includes selections from familiar series, portfolios and books, several that have rarely or never been seen. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Dec. 18 - Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. [Dia.org](http://Dia.org)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Face of Our Time" Examines more than 100 works by five photographers who operate within "documentary style." University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 12 - Feb. 29. 734-764-0395. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)

Add your events to next week's issue!

<http://www.pridesource.com/calendar.html>

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**Pancake Breakfast** Together We Can 2012

**Date:** 1/14/12 Sat

**Time:** 10 am breakfast  
11 am AA Open Talk

**Suggested Donation:**  
**\$8**

**Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
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**Back To Basics 2012**  
Together We Can

- + Pancakes, eggs, fresh grilled sausage & fruit w/coffee & orange juice bar
- + 50/50 raffle
- + AA Speaker: Bill R., Grand Rapids, MI

*Proceeds benefit the 2012 Together We Can Conference. Together We Can's goal is to provide educational opportunities on substance abuse to the LGBT community. More at : [www.twc-detroit.com](http://www.twc-detroit.com)*

**Spring Bash**  
March 31, 2012  
6:00 pm - Midnight

**Affirmations**  
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SUNNY WAR DAVID WAX MUSEUM

**SAT / JAN 28 / 6:30**  
**EMMYLOU HARRIS**  
**GLEN CAMPBELL**  
**NANCI GRIFFITH**  
JOE HENRY SARAH JAROSZ  
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## ► Best of Book Marks

Continued from p. 19

is, but Bright's account of a peripatetic childhood, of teenage radicalism, of labor organizing and, latterly, of contented motherhood is much more than a trip down orgasm lane.

### "Halsted Plays Himself," by William E. Jones, Semiotext(e) Native Agents.

This slender but authoritative chronicle of legendary erotic performer and filmmaker Fred Halsted – he reigned back in the 1970s, when daily newspapers reviewed porn films – mixes serious research with sexual relish, fleshed out by reprints of reviews, interviews, a smattering of dialogue from Halsted's classic "L.A. Plays Itself" and – another side of the man – samplings of his erotic prose.

### "Happy Accidents," by Jane Lynch, Hyperion Voice.

Always candid, never coy, Lynch's account of the happy casting accidents that led her to stardom – and, more recently, to love – is the work of a most talented woman. Odd fact: By age 12, Lynch was mostly mooning about girls, though she confesses in this charismatic memoir to a hormonal crush on 1970s-era Ron Howard.

### "Nina Here Nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender," by Nick Krieger, Beacon Press.

Krieger's journey through and beyond gender, from Nina to Nick, from a large-breasted "her" with shaved legs to an after-top surgery "him" with hairy calves, is chronicled with a dash of wit, with nuanced wisdom, and with candid accounts of confrontations with parents – particularly the father – who are puzzled and pained at seeing their daughter become their son.

### "Nocturnal Omissions: A Tale of Two Poets," by Gavin Geoffrey Dillard and Eric Norris, Sibling Rivalry Press.

Gavin lived in Hawaii. Eric lived in New York. Facebook brought them together. Gavin, a former porn star, life-long poet, one-time chef and sometime hermit in his 50s, responded to an admiring post from Eric, a poet 15 years his junior. This two-author collection of 111 poems is the result – playful and passionate, lusty and seductive, erotic and philosophical.

### "Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme," edited by Ivan Coyote and Zena Sharman, Arsenal Pulp Press.

Twenty years after Joan Nestle's "The Persistence Desire: A Butch-Femme Reader," this

rambunctious, truth-telling, gender-confronting anthology both honors its antecedent and pulses with contemporary, assured, personal and provocative prose about the personas of femme and butch within the queer community.

### "A Queer History of the United States," by Michael Bronski, Beacon Press.

From the Puritan imposition of intolerant sexual mores on the land that was to become America, to angry activism in the face of the nation's initial neglect of AIDS, Bronski's cerebral hop, skip and jump assessment of LGBT presence across the centuries is an astute, succinct depiction of the truth that queers have always been everywhere – and everywhen.

### "A Saving Remnant: The Radical Lives of Barbara Deming and David McReynolds," by Martin Duberman, The New Press.

Duberman has crafted a riveting account of the public lives and noble ideals of two fierce early to mid-20th century queers, Barbara Deming and David McReynolds, through which he threads both their commitment to civil rights, peaceful protest and anti-war activism and a well-mannered glimpse into their sexual lives.

### "Taking My Life," by Jane Rule, Talonbooks.

Scholar Linda M. Morra came across an astonishing, never-catalogued find: a posthumous autobiography, handwritten on yellow foolscap paper, recounting Rule's first 21 years from the thoughtful, painfully honest perspective of old age. Best known for "Desert of the Heart," Rule wrote 10 other novels; anyone who has read even one – though every queer reader with taste ought to read them all – will relish revisiting her fluid prose.

### "Tango: My Childhood Backwards and in High Heels," by Justin Vivian Bond, The Feminist Press at CUNY.

The most riveting of celebrated cabaret artist Bond's unorthodox memoir is the revelation that from the age of 11 the author was bullied at school by the boy with whom v (Bond's chosen subject pronoun) was having exuberant, albeit confused and sometimes violent, sex. But this free-form life story is at its best when it recounts the tension between a young trans soul and confused, distraught parents – a universal queer tale.

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

## Footnotes

Though there are fewer gay (and especially lesbian, alas) titles coming from larger, mainstream publishers, smaller and newer publishers like Lethe Press (most venerable of the newcomers), Chelsea Station Editions, Tiny Satchel Press and Sibling Rivalry Press – to say nothing of ever-expanding Bold Strokes Books and some higher-quality self-publishing – are picking up the slack. At the same time, three of

those presses are also publishing magazines, where novice authors and veterans alike can find an outlet for their work. Lethe's Steve Berman edits "Icarus," which focuses on speculative fiction; Sibling Rivalry's Bryan Borland edits "Assaracus: A Journal of Gay Poets"; and at year's end Chelsea Station's Jameson Currier launched "Chelsea Station," the most eclectic of the journals, filled with lesbian and gay fiction, interviews, poems and book reviews.

# Horoscopes

## Deal with it, Scorpio!

BY JACK FERTIG

*The Sun conjoining Pluto in Capricorn heightens awareness of authority and bureaucratic structures that hem us in, as well as the revolutionary urge to smash them. Impulsive acts of rebellion are disastrous. Revolutions need careful planning.*

**ARIES (March 20–April 19):** Sudden outbursts that leave you wondering who you really are reveal hidden depths and secret strengths. When in doubt, open up to some of your more insightful friends. Working too hard can upset the apple cart. Pace yourself to be effective with your colleagues.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Sassy, daring boldness is a bit atypical for Taureans, but work whatever such energy you have to get ahead. You may reveal more of yourself than you had intended, but that should work in your favor, too.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Any long simmering or “politely” neglected domestic problems are sure to boil over. To head off resentments, open up to your partner first about personal fears and anxieties and see how that feeds the other issues.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** Holidays put stress on relationships. This decade is especially tough for that, and the next few years will be worse. Talk about your shared commitment and goals. Learn from rough spots in the present to be ready when they recur in the future.

**LEO (July 23–August 22):** Being nice with some people can be a challenge, but honing your teamwork skills will make it worthwhile. The real trick now is to balance that with the creative impulses that require your very individual initiative.

**VIRGO (August 23–September 22):** Enjoying your work is good. Working at enjoyment might miss the point. Working toward an accomplishment can slide into an obsession. If something that’s supposed to be fun isn’t any more it’s time to step back and think about it.

**LIBRA (September 23–October 22):** When the going

gets tough, the tough get creative. A domestic spat shows serious problems you hadn’t suspected, but the solution is within reach. It’s not easy, but with a small sacrifice on both sides you can fix it together.

**SCORPIO (October 23–November 21):** Your wildest, most revolutionary ideas may well be on the right track, but you need to discuss them with an expert who shares your ideals and your commitment. If your partner feels wounded or neglected swallow your pride, apologize, and deal with it!

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 20):** What would your perfect job look like? You will soon have the opportunity to improve your work situation. For now, nurture the ideal. Limiting realities will focus that into constructive steps soon enough.

**CAPRICORN (December 21–January 19):** Your work and money situation may feel uncertain, but focus your imagination to develop a practical plan. You really can do anything if you calm your mind, relax and stay alert. Your competence and hard work are seen and appreciated.

**AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18):** Discussing plans with friends will help bring out your genius for community organizing. You need that feedback to rein your ideals into the real world, but once you’ve got that worked out you’re brilliant!

**PISCES (February 19–March 19):** Having profound personal insights can be liberating. Sharing them with others may not be such a great idea. Choose your confidants carefully! Even if inspiration propels your career, you probably don’t want colleagues, much less bosses, knowing how you were inspired.



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**Solution to puzzle from page 24**

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| I | C | A | R | E |   | S | I | L |   | N | O | U | S | E |   |   |   |   |
| C | U | T | E | R |   | T | R | E |   | B | E | N | E | T |   |   |   |   |
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# Pet of the Week



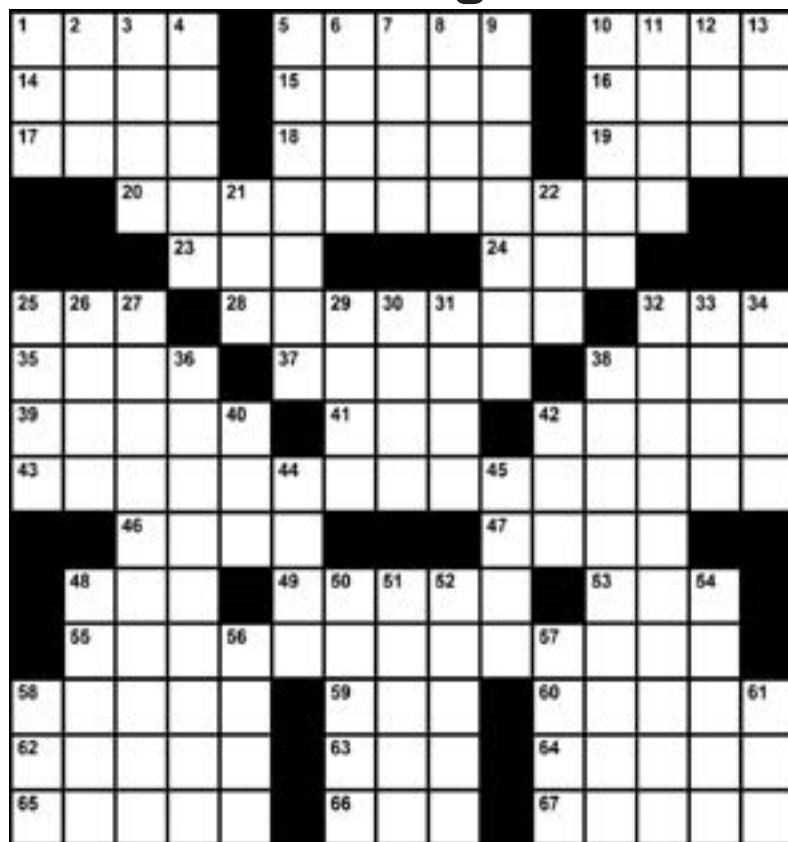
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# Not Just a Cruising Motto



### Across

- 1 "Maude" producer
- 5 Source book for "Jesus Christ Superstar"
- 10 Doctors make you strip for it
- 14 Pisa's river
- 15 Old line for cockpit workers
- 16 Brain section
- 17 Began a hole, with "off"
- 18 Cocoon creator
- 19 You may feel it at a gay bar
- 20 Start of the motto of J. Edgar's agency
- 23 More of the motto
- 24 End of the motto
- 25 Gardner of \_ Show Boat\_
- 28 Willingly obedient
- 32 Rock guitarist Barrett
- 35 Streisand, for short
- 37 Forbidden acts
- 38 Former Mets' stadium
- 39 Rosie's favorite dolls
- 41 Old org. of tight ends
- 42 Bottom bumper of boats
- 43 He plays the title role in "J. Edgar"
- 46 Tow job
- 47 Bean town?
- 48 Get off the fence
- 49 Nelson of reruns

- 53 It comes before mature ejaculation
- 55 "J. Edgar" director
- 58 Words of empathy
- 59 The "S" in RSVP
- 60 "We're doomed!"
- 62 Easier on the eyes
- 63 Threesome in "Roma"
- 64 Poet Stephen Vincent \_\_\_\_
- 65 Belief summary for Troy Perry
- 66 Thumbs-up
- 67 Bewilder

### Down

- 1 Caesar's lang.
- 2 Before, in the past
- 3 One way to start
- 4 Drive in Beverly Hills
- 5 Where Stonewall Jackson got his name
- 6 Voyeur's confession
- 7 Silents vamp Theda
- 8 Roman historian
- 9 Humanist of Holland
- 10 First name in talk
- 11 Draw a cross over
- 12 Muscle Mary's pride
- 13 Came upon
- 21 IRS review
- 22 k. d. lang's "Big Boned \_\_\_\_"

- 25 Son of Adam and Eve
- 26 Sheltered spot
- 27 Protection when the artillery shoots off
- 29 One that attacks the fly with a long tongue
- 30 411
- 31 Toss in one's hand
- 32 Date more than one person, e.g.
- 33 Wine list datum
- 34 Amigo of Lorca
- 36 Like a fading erection?
- 38 Made heads get foamy
- 40 Type of sucker
- 42 Poli \_\_\_\_
- 44 What an athletic supporter might do?
- 45 "Why should \_\_\_\_ you?"
- 48 Come to mind
- 50 Full of flavor
- 51 Congo, formerly
- 52 Lesbos and Man
- 54 Ford lemon that was not fruitful
- 56 Peter by the piano
- 57 Sheryl Swoopes' org.
- 58 Former govt. watchdog
- 61 Summer for Rimbaud

Solution on page 23



# Classifieds

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

- Ann Arbor-Friday**  
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.
- Bloomfield Hills-Thursday**  
7:00 pm ,Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.
- Detroit-Tuesday / Friday**  
8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).
- Farmington Hills-Monday**  
8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.
- Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday**  
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.
- Ferndale-Wednesday**  
8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.
- Ferndale-Saturday**  
1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.  
8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.
- Livonia-Friday**  
8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.
- Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday**  
8 p.m., Pontiac Gay AA, Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 West South Blvd. Closed/Discussion.
- Warren-Monday**  
7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

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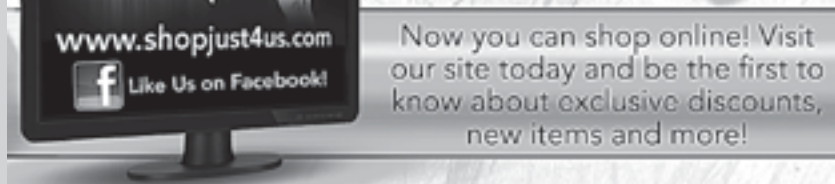





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# The OutField

## The Year of the Gay

BY DAN WOOG

In schools, in the military – and especially in sports – 2011 was The Year of the Gay.

High school, college, even professional athletes came out of the locker room closet. Pro teams asked players to film “It Gets Better” videos – telling LGBT youngsters there is hope in the future – and a broad array of athletes responded. Spurred by intriguing subjects like former Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts (now president of the Golden State Warriors), the media jumped on stories examining nearly every aspect of “gays in sports.”

So what can 2012 do as an encore?

Plenty.

Professional teams can take a stand against homophobic chants and banners. (Yes, you, New York Rangers. The anti-gay atmosphere in Madison Square Garden is so bad, the “New York Times” says, that some LGBT fans have stopped attending games.)

Professional leagues can double their efforts to combat homophobia, and embrace diversity. It’s great that the National Basketball Association fined Kobe Bryant \$100,000 after he called a referee a “faggot.” Now it’s time for all leagues

to include same-sex couples in their promotional videos, sponsor floats at Gay Pride parades, bring in all executives for diversity training – you know, do the same things corporate America has done for years (with great success).

During this summer’s Olympics in London, the media should explore every gay story line (there will be many). Just four years ago in Beijing, Australian diver Matthew Mitcham won an improbable gold medal. NBC – which seldom misses any up-close-and-personal moment, the schmaltzier the better – announcers never said that Mitcham raised the money to bring his boyfriend, Lachlan to China. NBC never showed the medal ceremony, where Mitcham kissed Lachlan. They never even said Mitcham was gay.

All of that is important. Chances are good that at least some of it will happen in 2012.

But the most crucial event of all still seems as far away as ever. Despite all the swimmers, ruggers and soccer players who have come out, we’re still waiting for the first active male athlete

in one of America’s major sports’ top professional leagues – Major League Baseball, the NFL, NBA or NHL – to come out.

In 1998 I wrote “Jocks: True Stories of America’s Gay Male Athletes.” A sequel – “Jocks 2: Coming Out to Play” – was published in 2002. In countless interviews, I’ve been asked the same question: “When will a big-name male athlete come out?”

I always answered the same: “It won’t happen that way. Instead, some athlete who’s been out all along – in high school and college – will be drafted by a pro team. They’ll know he’s gay. They’ll want him because he’s good. So it will happen naturally, from the bottom up. The MVP of the Super Bowl won’t suddenly say, ‘I’m here.’

I’m queer. I’m going to Disney World.”

That line always got laughs. I still believe we’re on the verge of seeing openly gay athletes work their way into the pros, without too much commotion.

But I’ve changed my mind on the importance of the issue. Now – a decade and a half after I first wrote about gay male athletes – there is still not one out male athlete in a major team sport.

I’m tired of waiting.

It’s time for one of dozens of candidates to seize the moment.

Earlier this year David Testo came out. He had just been released by the Montreal Impact, a Division II professional soccer club. Previously, he’d played with Major League Soccer’s

Columbus Crew. Teammates knew he was gay – including big-time stars like Frankie Hejduk and Kyle Martino. Most didn’t care. He was popular, and developed deep friendships.

After coming out, Testo told MLSSoccer.com (the official league website, which impressively highlighted his story on its home page), “It can’t be that I’ve played professional soccer for 10 years and not known one other gay player. You just have to imagine all the guys out there struggling with the same issue, and maybe if I take this step, it will create some kind of moment of change.”

Yet that was not the only reason Testo decided to come out publicly. Another was the recent suicide of 15-year-old Jamie Hubley.

The death of that gay teenager crystallizes for me the reason that an active, major league male athlete must come out this year. He needs to send a message to everyone – teammates, opponents, the media, fans (especially young ones, gay and straight) – that we are indeed here. We’re queer. And we’re on your favorite big-league pro teams.

“It Gets Better” videos are nice. Knowing that an NBA executive is out is fine. But it’s past time for a major sports figure to tell the world who he really is.

So the last question is: Who is he?

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the “Jocks” series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

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## Deep Inside Hollywood



Amber Heard. Photo: Peter Mountain / FilmDistrict

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Amber Heard revs her 'Motor'

Amber Heard, new queen of all car-centric movies? OK, maybe not, but the co-star of "Drive Angry" and, most recently, "The Rum Diary," is at least headed to "Motor City" with director Albert Hughes ("Book of Eli"). In the upcoming feature, Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe star alongside female lead Heard in the story of an ex-con on a revenge mission against the people who framed him and watched him be wrongfully imprisoned. Generic-sounding, sure, but sometimes these sort of things wind up full of surprises (witness "Book of Eli"'s disco gun battle set to the '70s beat of Anita Ward's "Ring My Bell" if you don't believe that). More importantly, don't confuse it with Hughes's usual directing partner brother Allen Hughes's upcoming project, "Broken City" (even flying solo they make movies with similar names). And most importantly – to lesbians anyway – it's another chance to watch Amber Heard strut through a film like she owns the place.

### E! taps David Burtka

Celebrity spouse David Burtka isn't one to sit back and let his man bring home all the bacon. Not only is he not in the running to join the crew of the upcoming "A-List: Los Angeles," he was

recently stunt-cast opposite his longtime partner Neil Patrick Harris in the hilariously raunchy "A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas." (He played a closet-straight Harris's fake-gay "beard," get it?) And now Burtka will have a regular gig, stepping into his own spotlight as a host for the E! network. The actor/chef/co-parent joins the network that brings the world "The Soup" as well as all the Kardashians as a correspondent for "E! News," and he'll also be a talking suit for various specials including "Live From the Red Carpet." The job starts in January: How long before people start calling Harris "David Burtka's husband?"

### An 'American Psycho' Remake? Really?

In the annals of cinematic bad ideas, a remake of an acclaimed American film fewer than 15 years after the original was in theaters takes the current "Worst Of" prize. But that's not stopping the forces behind a reboot of "American Psycho." Already a contemporary classic starring Christian Bale and helmed by Mary Harron with a darkly funny script co-written by indie lesbian icon Guinevere Turner, this update (no longer to be set in the ugly '80s) is from the money-grabbing hands of Lionsgate and will be directed by music video vet Noble Jones. Even the original novel's author, Bret Easton Ellis, supports this project that has no good reason to exist; he has called Jones's vision "genuine." Could it be part of some Ellis art-prank master plan to get the film remade once a decade? Will the kids from "Modern Family" star in the version they make in 2023? And will anyone know all those Huey Lewis and Whitney Houston songs by that point?

*Romeo San Vicente already has a roster of men lined up to keep him warm at Sundance. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).*



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