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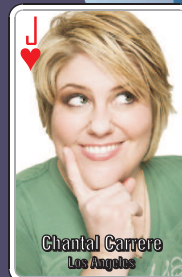
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Recalljanice.com: Troy mayor focus of campaign

Citizens want A 'dangerous, polarizing ideologue' removed

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

TROY – A newly formed Recall Janice Daniels group believes the citizens of Troy must take back their city from a “dangerous, polarizing ideologue.”

According to the group’s website www.recalljanice.com, “In light of widespread clamor for a recall of Troy Mayor Janice Daniels, a few concerned citizens got together and decided to mount the effort.” Daniels has been the focus of citizens, both in Troy and nationwide, since students first noticed a Facebook post by the mayor that was anti-gay.

Last month, a poll by Main Street Strategies commissioned by the website Michigan Liberal showed 72 percent of Troy voters would support recalling Mayor Daniels.

The grass-roots group filed its committee paperwork last week with the Oakland County Clerk’s Office. Their goal as a political action committee is to raise funds for a planned recall effort against Mayor Daniels.

Though a recall petition cannot be filed until May, the biggest challenge in this effort will be the collection of signatures to put the recall question on the ballot. “We will need dozens of volunteers to help canvass neighborhoods. If you would like to help in this effort, please drop us an email to recalljanicedaniels@gmail.com,” reads

a post on the group’s website.

Mayor Daniels has been the center of controversy since December when local high school students found an anti-gay statement on her Facebook page, posted in June prior to being elected into office in November. Later, she told the Troy High School Gay-Straight Alliance that the homosexual lifestyle is “dangerous” and wrote a lengthy position paper personally attacking city employees and council members.

She further upset citizens of Troy after voting against the Troy Transit Center.

It’s for these reasons, among others, that the group has decided to move forward with its plans to recall Mayor Daniels. On its website, the group stated: “We’re in the process of setting the recall up and composing recall language.”

Mayor Daniels told the Troy Patch last week that she is not concerned about the recall effort. “I don’t mind it. It’s an unnecessary distraction to the city, but I’m not worried about it.”

According to the Oakland County Clerk’s Office, the group has six months from when the language is approved to collect and file 7,985 valid signatures. Within those six months, signatures are only valid for 90 days. Recall signatures cannot be filed until Mayor Daniels has served at least six months, which means a recall election could be held as early as August.

White House LGBT conference on housing, homelessness coming to Detroit

HUD Secretary Donovan to attend

DETROIT – The White House LGBT Conference on Housing and Homelessness will be held in Detroit on March 9, and will feature remarks by Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan. The conference will be hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ruth Ellis Center. Participants will receive important updates from senior administration officials and have the opportunity to learn about Federal government resources and opportunities through workshop sessions.

The White House LGBT Conference on Housing and Homelessness is part of a series of conferences that will be held around the country specifically focused on LGBT Americans. From February to June 2012, OPE will convene these White House LGBT Conferences to provide grassroots leaders, community organizers, advocates, students, and interested citizens an opportunity to hear directly from the Administration on efforts to ensure health, well-being, security, justice, and equality for LGBT Americans.

The first White House LGBT Conference, focused on health issues, was held in Philadelphia on Feb. 16.

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Romney, in his own (contradictory) words



GOP frontrunner's tortured history on LGBT rights

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney has been criticized as a flip-flopper during his presidential campaign. Although he's defended himself against accusations that his positions have pivoted on LGBT rights, his record shows he's also changed on those issues.

During a Dec. 15 debate in Sioux City, Iowa, when Fox News moderator Chris Wallace said Romney has changed his positions in the last 10 years on abortion, gay rights and gun control, the candidate took exception to the list and said his positions have been consistent on gay rights.

"I'm firmly in support of people not being discriminated against based upon their sexual orientation," Romney said. "At the same time, I oppose same-sex marriage. That's been my position from the beginning."

But an examination of Romney's previous statements reveals any assertion is false that he's held the same positions on LGBT rights since the beginning of his political career, including opposition to same-sex marriage.

On the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

In a 1994 letter to Log Cabin Republicans, Romney said he would cosponsor ENDA: "We have discussed a number of important issues such as the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which I have agreed to co-sponsor,

and if possible broaden to housing and credit."

But in a 2006 interview with National Review Online, Romney said he no longer supports ENDA: "I don't see the need for new or special legislation. My experience over the past several years as governor has convinced me that ENDA would be an overly broad law that would open a litigation floodgate and unfairly penalize employers at the hands of activist judges."

In a 2007 interview on "Meet the Press," Romney said ENDA-like laws should be left to the states: "At the state level, I think it makes sense for states to put in provision of this. I would not support at the federal level, and I changed in that regard because I think that policy makes more sense to be implemented at the state level. If you're looking for someone who's never changed any positions on any policies, then I'm not your guy. I learn from experience."

On 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

In a 1994 letter to Log Cabin Republican, Romney called DADT a transitional policy that would lead to open service: "One issue I want to clarify concerns President Clinton's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue' military policy. I believe that Clinton's compromise was a step in the right direction. I am also convinced that it is the first of a number of steps that will ultimately lead to gays and lesbians being able to serve openly and honestly in our nation's military."

But in a 2007 GOP debate at Saint Anselm College, Romney said DADT was working: "When I first heard of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, I thought it sounded awfully silly. I didn't think that would be very effective. And I turned out to be wrong. It's been the policy now in the military for what, 10, 15 years, and it seems to be working. This is not the time to put in place a major change, a social experiment, in the middle of a war going on. I wouldn't change it at this point."

In a June 2011 debate in New Hampshire: "I believe it should have been kept in place until conflict was over."

In 2011, he told the Des Moines Register: "That's already occurred and I'm not planning on reversing that at this stage. ... I was not comfortable making the change during a period of conflict, by virtue of the complicating features of a new program in the middle of two wars going on, but those wars are winding down and moving in that direction at this stage no longer presents that problem."

On LGBT Pride

Text from 2002 Pride flier from Romney's gubernatorial campaign: "Mitt and Kerry wish you a great Pride weekend. All citizens deserve equal rights, regardless of their sexual preference."

But in 2012, Romney's campaign disavowed the letter: "I don't know where those pink fliers came from. I was the communications director on the 2002 campaign. I don't know who distributed them ... I never saw them and I was the communications director," Eric Fehrstrom said.

On civil unions

From a 2003 document found on the governor's old website: A day after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision requiring marriage equality, Gov. Romney told reporters that he believed a civil unions statute would "be sufficient" to satisfy the justices' concerns. Joining Romney in the call for civil union legislation was Rep. Eugene O'Flaherty, chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

But in a 2005 interview with Chris Matthews on MSNBC's "Hardball" on the difference between civil unions and marriage: "I'd rather have neither to tell you the truth. I'd rather have domestic partnership benefits, such as hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples. I don't want civil unions or gay marriage, but there is a difference. Even with just the word, there's a difference."

In 2012, a Romney campaign spokesperson reaffirmed the candidate's opposition to civil marriage: "[H]e has not been in favor of civil unions, if by civil unions you mean the equivalency to marriage but without the name marriage. What he has favored, and he talked about this, I believe, last night, was a form of domestic partnership or a contractual relationship with reciprocal benefits."

On same-sex marriage

Romney in 1994 to Boston's LGBT newspaper Bay Windows: Same-sex marriage is "a state issue as you know – the authorization of marriage on a same-sex basis falls under state jurisdiction."

But in 2004 testimony before Congress: "I join with those who support a federal constitutional amendment. Some retreat from the concept of amendment, per se. While they say they agree with the traditional definition of marriage, they hesitate to amend. But amendment is a vital and necessary aspect of our constitutional democracy, not an aberration."

In an August 2011 debate: "Marriage should be decided at the federal level. You might wonder, why is that? Why wouldn't you just let each state make their own decision? And the reason is, people move from state to state of course in a society like ours. ... Marriage is a status; it's not an activity that goes on within the walls of a state. And as a result, our marriage-status relationship should be constant across the country. I believe we should have a federal amendment to the constitution that defines marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman."

In a December 2011 interview with the Boston Herald: Romney expressed support for a constitutional amendment that could create a complex three-tier system of marriage; maintaining marriage rights for straight couples, allowing gays who have already married to remain married, but barring future same-sex marriages. "I think it would keep intact those marriages which had occurred under the law but maintain future plans based on marriage being between a man and a woman," Romney said.

In 2011 to the Des Moines Register: "I would like to see a national amendment defining marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman. But that was tried maybe three or four years ago. I don't think that's likely to receive the necessary support, at least in the near term."

During a January 2012 debate: Romney said he'll advocate for "full rights" for gay people, although he said he remains opposed to same-sex marriage. "If people are looking for someone who will discriminate against gays or will in any way try and suggest that people that have different sexual orientations don't have full rights in this country, they won't find that in me," Romney said.

Special thanks to the Washington Blade for the original reporting on this story.

Santorum crystal-clear on anti-LGBT stance

COMPILED BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum cannot be accused of flip-flopping on LGBT issues. He has been unequivocally negative on all issues important to LGBT citizens.

Here in his own words is what the candidate has said on equality in employment, second parent adoption, same-sex marriage, man-on-dog sex and his belief that the U.S. Officer Corp has been brainwashed into accepting the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

On same-sex marriage

In April 23, 2003 USA Today/Associated Press interview: "In every society, the definition of marriage has not ever to my knowledge included homosexuality. That's not to pick on homosexuality. It's not, you know, man on child, man on dog, or whatever the case may be. It is one thing. And when you destroy that you have a dramatic impact on the quality —" (At this point, Lara Jordan - the reporter - commented, "I'm sorry, I didn't think I was going to talk about 'man on dog' with a United States senator, it's sort of freaking me out", coining a phrase widely used in connection with this incident.)

New Hampshire campaign trail January 2012: Santorum engaged college students who asked about his position on gay marriage, suggesting that allowing gay marriage would lead to the legalization of polygamy and other forms of marriage. The back-and-forth resulted in him being booted at the conclusion of the event. (Bloomberg, Jan. 6)

At another event, Santorum suggested that

children would better off having a father in prison than being raised by lesbian parents. (UK Daily Telegraph, Jan. 8)

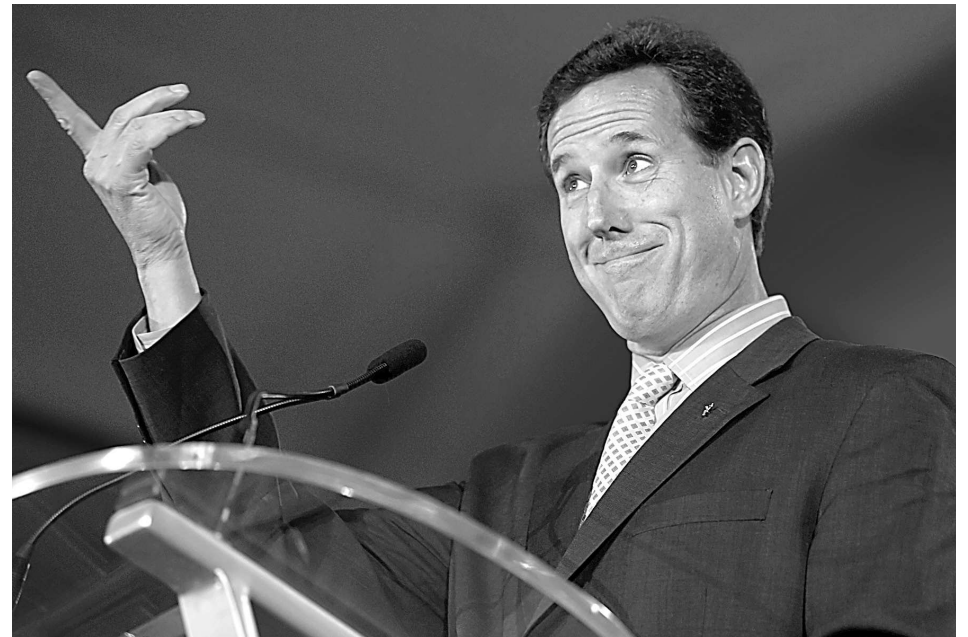
In a May 22, 2008 Philadelphia Inquirer column by Santorum, he reacted to the California Supreme Court in its ruling allowing gay marriage: "Is anyone saying same-sex couples can't love each other? I love my children. I love my friends, my brother. Heck, I even love my mother-in-law. Should we call these relationships marriage, too?"

On the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Santorum told Chris Wallace of Fox News, April 26, 2011 he opposed ENDA. When asked by Wallace if Santorum would give LGBT people rights as a matter of public policy he said: "It depends what you mean by rights? If you are talking benefits as far as rights, they have the rights to employment... I don't know what you mean by rights? What I am talking about are privileges. Here privileges of marriage, privileges of government benefits is a different thing than basic rights to be able to live their lives as they well should and can as free Americans."

On 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

During the Republican primary debates Santorum has said he would work to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In a CPAC speech on Feb. 20, 2010 he suggested that the U.S. Officer Corp had been indoctrinated: "I'm worried when many people will stand up and say, 'well, whatever the



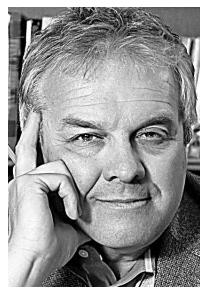
Generals want.' I'm not too sure that we haven't indoctrinated the Officer Corps in this country that they can actually see straight to make the right decisions."

On adoption

May 3, 2011 in Iowa City, Iowa Think Progress Report: "A lesbian woman came up to me and said, 'why are you denying me my right?' I said, 'well, because it's not a right.' It's a privilege that society recognizes because society sees intrinsic value to that relationship over any other relationship."

On Sodomy Laws

Glenn Beck radio show, April 2011, discussing being homophobic after former Republican Senator Alan Simpson called him homophobic: "It's not homophobic, it's a legal argument and it's a correct legal argument. And in fact that is exactly what's happening. We went from Lawrence V. Texas to now a constitutional right to same-sex marriage and they're going into constitutional right to polyamorous relationships. This is the slippery slope that we're heading down and I can't buy it."



Viewpoint

Santorum to the Rescue

BY MICHAEL EINHEUSER

On Tuesday, February 28 I'm going to get up early, go to my local police precinct and do something likely to surprise many of my friends. I'm going to vote to elect Rick Santorum, the next President of the United States.

Michigan's open primary system has given us a rare opportunity. We can enter into a coalition with the state's biggest social conservatives and be part of handing the Democratic party their weakest presidential opponent since Bob Dole.

A little history. 1972 was the first year I could vote in a Presidential election. I was new

to politics and working on behalf of Senator George McGovern. McGovern was the peace candidate pledged to end the Vietnam War. This was also the first year that Michigan held a presidential primary election. We have an "open" system. A voter can choose to vote in either the Democratic primary or the Republican primary.

The Republicans already had their guy. The very creepy incumbent, Richard M. Nixon, had no opposition so the Republican election was moot. What are mischievous Republicans going to do on election day when their votes aren't needed in their own primary? Try and screw the Democrats. The big winner of the Democratic primary election, with an astonishing 51% of the total vote, was the segregationist Alabama

Governor, George Wallace. Senator McGovern came in a distant second with 27% followed by former Vice President Hubert Humphrey with 16%. The conventional wisdom is that as many as a third of the votes cast in that election were by nominal Republicans

This wasn't the last time the Republicans crossed over and supported candidates they thought would be weak in the general election. In 1988 Jesse Jackson did surprisingly well in Republican precincts and in 1998 Republicans helped nominate Jack Keivorkian's controversial attorney Geoffrey Figer to stand against incumbent Republican Governor John Engler.

This year we already have our guy.

At the time of this writing Santorum is

beginning to lead Mitt Romney in several polls. A Romney loss in his home state would be a stunning embarrassment ending his aura of inevitability. It could potentially give Santorum the momentum to either win the nomination or for there to be no winner at convention time. Think of the chaos at a brokered convention.

I've enjoyed watching Mitt, Rick, Rick, Ron, Jon, Herman and Newt do their best to obliterate each other in the primaries and caucuses. The longer we can keep this circular firing squad going the better it is for us.

So come election day let's get some Santorum on our hands.

Michael Einheuser is a political junkie and lives in Detroit

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BTL Editorial

Not much to pick from

So what are Michigan LGBT voters going to do on Republican Primary election day? The choices are dismal, dangerous and represent a giant leap backwards for LGBT rights, women's reproductive freedom, labor and workplace protections and a host of other issues that matter to progressive voters.

Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney, the two leading candidates whose anti-LGBT words we feature in this issue of BTL, are vying with each other for conservative crowing rights. As real campaign issues like the slumping economy and foreign wars fade away because both are seemingly going in positive directions, the scummy vitriol associated with the "social issues," led by gays and abortion, is rising to the top of the pond.

There are some gay Republican voters that want to find something to support in the Romney campaign. We at BTL cannot understand what attraction his fiscal policies could have for anyone except the very wealthy. His simplistic economic outlook harkens back to a time when the middle class was just a dream imagined by the huddled masses of working poor people, not something that actually exists and is worth fighting for. He has retracted what little support he did give to LGBT issues when he was governor of a progressive state, proving that he is very willing to throw us under the bus for political gain. If there are LGBT Republicans who can find some way to support Romney, the logic is lost on us.

Rick Santorum offers no hope. His vision of America simply does not include LGBT people. He is clear that LGBT people should not adopt, have employment protections, serve in the military, marry or otherwise participate in civic life. We believe that a LGBT vote for Santorum can only be the result of deeply held internalized homophobia.

Voting for Newt Gingrich could be a nightmare as well. He is the "bad boy" of the Republican field and the candidate that is least attractive to the Republican establishment. He does not listen well to authority, is mercurial and would wreck havoc as a national candidate. He is terrible on LGBT issues, and is living proof that simply knowing a LGBT person (he has a lesbian half-sister) is no guarantee that one will gain any compassion or understanding of our issues.

Ron Paul believes that we should have no government,

no taxes, no regulations, no social services — that we should rely on ourselves for everything. Apparently he believes that people will be kind, principled, generous and take care of the less fortunate even though all evidence points to

vote against the virulently anti-LGBT rhetoric coming from the rest of the candidates.

There is one election in Oakland County that is important for LGBT voters. The fate of the 29th State House District is in voter's hands as a special election will fill the shoes of former State House Rep. Tim Melton who left to take a job doing education reform.

Democrat Tim Greimel, who is currently on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, seems a likely fit for the traditionally Democratic seat. As an attorney and former school board president, he has experience in many facets of political engagement and a well-known name in the community. However, supporters

fear that because Feb. 28 is also the Republican presidential primary there is a possibility that high Republican turnout could mean the loss of this seat.

We always encourage our readers to vote, so please do so on Tuesday in the primary election. The field is not much to pick from, and we can give little advice, except hope that whoever wins the nomination gets no closer than that to the White House.

As real campaign issues like the slumping economy and foreign wars fade away because both are seemingly going in positive directions, the scummy vitriol associated with the "social issues," led by gays and abortion, is rising to the top of the pond.

the fact that rights for the dispossessed and minorities have always come at great expense and sacrifice. Paul despises collective action of any kind, so for Ron Paul supporters, get you axes and shovels out if you want to see any improvements out there on I-94.

We know that some gay Republicans want to believe that their party has something to offer them. Perhaps voting for Fred Krager, the openly gay Republican candidate who will appear on Michigan's primary ballot can serve as a protest



email: editor@cartoonists.com

Gay candidate takes on tea-partier for congressional seat

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The traditionally Republican, west Michigan 3rd Congressional District may become the state's first to be represented by an openly gay congressman. Democrat Trevor Thomas, 28, is running for the seat vacated in 2010 by longtime Republican Vern Ehlers, and now held by Tea Party-supported, 31 year-old Congressman Justin Amash.

Thomas has been working with consultant Mark Mellman to launch an aggressive grassroots campaign against Amash for the congressional seat.

"It's no secret Michigan has been hardest hit by our struggling economy and our lawmakers in Washington continue to play politics with our future. That's wrong," Thomas said in the Feb. 13 blog announcing his decision to run. "People my age are fed up and leaving. Michigan was the only state in the nation to lose population in the last Census, and too many who are leaving are under the age of 30. But things won't get better unless we make them better."

"Like many young people, I left Michigan for a while. I went to DC to work on repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell, but I came back," he said. "Leaders need to give a reason for young people to come back or to stay."

It is unclear how being an openly gay man will affect Thomas's chances, though Advocate Magazine just listed Grand Rapids as one of the gayest cities in America, and redistricting has made the 3rd Congressional District slightly more Democratic than when Amash ran the first time. "I'm not worried about that," Thomas said. "This campaign is about fighting for the middle class."

Thomas was raised in a working class family, with parents who worked on General Motors assembly lines. He was the first in his family to go to college, attending Grand Valley State University. He worked at WOOD-TV and WGVSU, as a reporter and a producer, before becoming part of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's communications team. He was also an active voice in the campaign to end Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

In his activism with Gov. Granholm and as director of external affairs at Media Matters for America, he has seen how people from all over

the country are affected by what representatives do in Washington.

His Libertarian-leaning opponent, Amash, is removed from the plight of the average American, according to Thomas. His father is a wealthy Palestinian tool importer, who sent him to Kelloggsville Christian School and Grand Rapids Christian High School. He also attended The University of Michigan and got his law degree at the U-M Law School, working



Democrat Trevor Thomas is looking to run in West Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, where he grew up and went to school.

as a corporate lawyer for a year before entering politics.

In the past year, Amash has championed Tea Party causes and co-sponsored legislation such as: H.R. 2 - Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act; H.R. 3 - No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act; H.R. 217 - Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act; H.R. 358 - Protect Life Act; H.J. Res. 81 - Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and H.R. 2514 - A PLUS Act; which would change education funding. The Congressman's website touts a pop-up ap-

peal to end contraceptive coverage in healthcare plans as the main feature of the page.

He's also managed to get into a Facebook war with the National Rifle Association in 2010, over a bill that would allow those with concealed weapons permits to retain their rights when crossing state lines.

While Amash is busy trying to end abortion, access to contraception, uniformity of American freedoms, and funding for education, some in the 3rd Congressional District are wondering, why. In Ionia, a large portion of Kent County, residents are facing issues that directly hit home, most notably the economy. That is why Democrat Trevor Thomas is stepping up to run.

"This is an opportunity for us to be able to fight for families, middle class and working class families that are under attack by the conservative right and we feel that's not right," Thomas said.

"My parents taught me the values of hard work, family, and playing by the rules," he said.

For Thomas, hard work and determination are traits he shares with many middle and working class families. He credits his work at Wood-TV 8 with giving him experience "meeting the people and covering the issues that represent what West Michigan is all about."

The early stages of the campaign are crucial for Thomas. "If there were ever a time to be involved, it's now. In the beginning it's a critical time because we need to show momentum. Donate, volunteer, gather friends for a house party, tweet about us and share our page on Facebook."

Both campaigns seem to be focused heavily on social media. Each candidate has an active Facebook and Twitter account, where they will be working to spread the word about their campaigns. Thomas is hopeful that an online presence will help him win the seat.

"Facebook and Twitter come standard in our generation," he said. "I encourage people to leave comments on our website and our blog because I read them and I look at what is posted on them. I just did a live chat on Daily Kos, and we had a couple of other posts up. That is a real opportunity for folks to know who is representing them."

Find out more at www.trevorforcongress.com

LGBT leaders, community invited to special election fundraiser

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERDALE — On Feb. 28 the fate of the 29th State House District is in voter's hands as a special election will fill the shoes of former State House Rep. Tim Melton who left to take a job doing education reform.



Tim Greimel

Democrat Tim Greimel, who is currently on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, seems a likely fit for the traditionally Democratic seat representing parts of Auburn Hills and Pontiac. As an attorney and former school board president, he has experience in many facets of

political engagement and a well-known name in the community. However, supporters fear that because Feb. 28 is also the Republican presidential primary there is a possibility that high Republican turnout could mean the loss of this seat.

Fundraising is key to winning a campaign, and the LGBT community is getting together on Feb. 23 from 7 - 8:30 pm at Dino's Lounge in Ferndale, 22740 Woodward, to give their support to a political ally.

Jim Rasor, lawyer and owner of Rasor Law Firm and a Royal Oak City Commissioner, helped organize the event.

"Tim is one of the hardest working and knowledgeable people I know, but of particular interest to the LGBT community is his unqualified support of equal rights, including that he and Mayor Dave Coulter of Ferndale worked together to successfully include sexual orientation in Oakland County's EEO policy, a major victory for our community."

"I hope folks will come out Thursday to Dinos and support our strong progressive ally," said County Commissioner Craig Covey, who represents Ferndale along with Hazel Park and part of Royal Oak.

Greimel's fundraiser is open and welcoming to anyone, and many local LGBT leaders are expected to attend. Suggested donations are as follows: \$250 Sponsor, \$150 Host, \$75 Supporter and \$35 Friend

Checks should be made payable to: Committee to Elect Tim Greimel, P.O. Box 431071 Pontiac, MI 48343

Those who would like to attend are encouraged to RSVP via Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/365113323512660/?notif_t=event_invite.

Heard on Facebook **Chris Christie vetoes New Jersey's gay marriage bill. Christie is urging the legislature to put the measure on the ballot. What do you think? Is gay marriage a question for the ballots, or for our representatives?**

Rights should NEVER be voted on. This man needs to be removed from office. Can't they override his veto??

—Rich Waugh

Christie is a coward. There is no legal precedent in NJ for any marriage laws being on a public ballot. Not interracial marriage or allowing freed African Americans to marry. Either all marriages go on the ballot or none. Democracy and equality are not selective or pejorative.

—Anthony Boussie

If the courts decide, they're being activists; if the legislature decides, they're undermining the will of the people; if the executive decides, he's being a dictator; If the people decide, it's the tyranny of the majority. What a joke.

—Todd Erickson

Voting on rights violates federal law and the 14th Amendment. It also violates the 1st Amendment. Denying gay marriage, you are effectively denying the 1st Amendment to gay affirming churches and gay people.

—Rich Waugh

You cannot vote on the rights of a minority.

—Johnny Rheume

What if we voted on Christie's marriage?

—BC Cabangbang

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

S/he Said

Perspectives on marriage equality

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Robin Tyler & her partner

"We're human and we went through difficult times. The marriage ran its course. The right to marry wasn't meant to guarantee that gay couples would live happily ever after, but to provide a basic human civil liberty. (Our) marital problems were no different than if the two parties had been a man and woman. Gays and lesbians shouldn't be held to a different standard when granted the same civil rights as everyone else. What is the standard to expect when you integrate equality. We're just like anybody else and that's all they can expect of us."

—Robin Tyler, in an interview about her divorce from Diane Olson, www.NBClosangeles.com, Feb. 08. Tyler and Olsen, having known each other for 40 years and were a couple for 18, were the first same-sex couple to wed in LA before Prop 8 passed and among 14 same-sex couples who originally challenged Prop 8 in the 2008 lawsuit that went to the CA Supreme Court.



Delman Coates

"The people in the pew are further along on this issue than those of us in the pulpit."

—Rev. Delman Coates, senior pastor at the 8,000-member Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland, one of two Baptist preachers who testified in support of the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in a hearing, in an article titled "Speaking out for same-sex marriage law, black minister stands apart," about the opposition to same-sex marriage in the African-American church community, www.washingtonpost.com, Feb. 13. Recent polls show 53 percent of African-American respondents opposed to same-sex marriage; African-Americans are 29 percent of the Maryland's population.



Jim David

"To Rick Santorum and the rest of the GOP field, my marriage will have no value because my relationship itself has no value. As far as gay relationships, Ron Paul ignores them, but he's like an old coot on a front porch with a rifle looking for varmints, and he has forgotten half of what he ever said anyway. Newt Gingrich demeans them, but he demeans everything, and he will turn it around and tell us that our problems are our fault. Mitt Romney was for them before he was against them, and he believes we shouldn't discriminate until we should discriminate. But Santorum can't imagine a healthy gay relationship. It literally pains him to talk about it. In addition to comparing gay sex to sex with a dog, whenever he mentions the 'sanctity of marriage,' his face scrunches into a furrowed scowl that resembles a constipated altar boy about to have a gigantic bowel movement. Watch him. He really does look like he's about to crap in his pants."

—Jim David, comedian and writer, in his column titled "Attention, GOP Candidates: I Have Family Values, Too," www.huffingtonpost.com, Feb. 17.

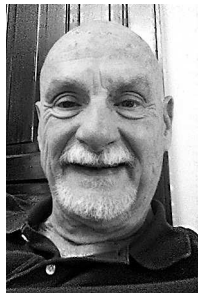


Chris Gregoire

"We're here today to make history in this great state... it is a day that historians will mark as a milestone for equal rights in this state. ...We stood for equality and we did it together. I'm proud of who and what we are as a state. I'm proud that our same-sex couples will no longer be treated as separate, but equal. They will be equal in the great state of Washington. I'm proud that the children in our schools and neighborhoods will no longer have to wonder why their loving parents are considered somewhat different than other loving parents."

—Gov. Chris Gregoire (D-WA), as she signed the bill legalizing same-sex marriage in Washington state, making it the seventh in the nation to offer marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, <http://thinkprogress.org>, Feb. 13.

Parting Glances



Remembering a BHM star!

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

When Detroit-born, Cass Tech graduate Bernard Johnson died, age 60 in 1997, the New York Times carried a quarter-page obit celebrating his life as “a Renaissance man in dance.”

Little bigger than a metronome minute - at five-foot four - he started dancing at age 11. We became friends during our CT senior year, and were part of an integrated black/white circle of art and music students who gathered after class to “dish” and let our hair down at a nearby Dunkin’ Donut Shop in downtown Detroit.

(As art students we were free to roam all seven floors - free-hand drawing in pencil and charcoal, mastering the intricacies of one- and two-point perspective. During warm weather we sketched, painted watercolors, socialized in shady Cass Park.)

Bernard Johnson majored in fashion design, and was much envied for renderings of furs, fabrics, dresses, accessories. At the time there were few CT male students majoring in fashion design. He was also known as an interpreter of ballet and modern dance, invited by our senior art/design instructor Donald Thrall to perform for an all-school talent extravaganza.

Bernard wore a discreetly brief costume and his body was painted a shimmering gold. When he stepped stage center into the spotlight there was an expectant hush among the 1500 students gathered in the balconied auditorium. He posed. Smiled expectantly. Snapped into stunning, full, no-let-up, choreographic mastery.

Music was Lex Baxter’s LP recording of “Le Sacre du Sauvage.” Live bongo drummers drummed Bernard through each flashing movement. Performance was primitive. Limber. Elastic. Gleamingly muscular! When he took several well-deserved bows, sweating glitter from an energetic and orgiastic cadence, everyone stood, whistled, applauded.

Though we didn’t know it then, this was a preview performance for a long and successful career in dance, choreography, film set, and costume design, stretching over 40 wonderfully creative years.

“I believe in the power of metaphysics,” he confided. “Be the best. Associate only with the best. These are the principles I was raised on.” He was fun company; just a bit “swish” and campy. He carried his books like a well-bred debutante. But he was not to be trifled with, as a classmate who called him “Miss Swish” during bell change soon found out.

Bernard -- who had an impeccable sense of timing - knew just when, where, and how to settle a score. In the midst of our design class he loudly confronted the offending dimwit. “If it’s not too much trouble to put that brain you’re sitting on in gear, I’d like words with you.” We held our breath. One by one he read the guy’s beads. We savored every delicious put down.

His accolades are many: fantasy costume designs, many Broadway musical performances; teaching at the University of California at Irvine; induction into the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame; close friendships with Josephine Baker, Judy Garland, Bill Cosby, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Aretha Franklin; international tours, command performances for King Hussan II of Morocco.

For us CT art students - straight, gay, questioning - Bernard Johnson, though short of stature, was someone we all looked up to.

Charles@pridesource.com



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Creep of the Week

Chris Christie

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

Well, marriage equality was nearly realized in New Jersey. But one guy stood in the way. And that one guy was Governor Chris Christie who vetoed the legislation when it landed on his desk.



Chris Christie

Granted, his veto was no surprise. Christie, a Republican, had been promising he would veto it all along.

"I am adhering to what I've said since this bill was first introduced – an issue of this magnitude and importance, which requires a constitutional amendment, should be left to the people of New Jersey to decide," Christie said after vetoing the bill. "I continue to encourage the Legislature to trust the people of New Jersey and seek their input by allowing our citizens to vote on a question that represents a profoundly significant societal change."

An interesting way of looking at things, to be sure. Because last time I checked, the Legislature was elected by the people to, you know, represent them. So isn't Christie, by vetoing the bill, telling the people of New Jersey that he doesn't trust them?

As I said, this veto isn't a surprise. Christie doesn't want to piss off the conservative base – though I think "conservative bass" is more appropriate. It's not that they're the foundation of the party, it's just that they've got the biggest mouths and make the most noise. In the GOP, the lunatics truly have taken over the asylum. And Christie is playing to those lunatics, not the people of New Jersey he claims to trust so much.

For Christie, marriage equality isn't about people's actual lives and civil rights, it's about his political career. The man has political ambitions, to be sure, and

there are plenty of folks, including himself, who would like to see a President Christie someday. So no way in hell does Christie want to be where Mitt Romney is now: trying to explain to the rabid right-wingers how he was in charge of Massachusetts when it became Gay Marriage U.S.A.

As Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality, said, of Christie, "He won't veto the bill because he's anti-gay. He'll veto the bill because the 2016 South Carolina presidential primary electorate is anti-gay."

Cute.

Christie's "solution" to the marriage equality problem in New Jersey is to let the voters decide. A referendum, damn it! When criticized for saying that civil rights should be put to a popular vote, Christie actually said this: "The fact of the matter is that I think people would have been happy to have a referendum

In the GOP, the lunatics truly have taken over the asylum. And Christie is playing to those lunatics, not the people of New Jersey he claims to trust so much.

on civil rights rather than fighting and dying in the streets in the South."

That's right. He saying we should have put civil rights for blacks in America to the majority to decide. And why not? I mean, surely that would have been a whole lot more civilized. Instead of aiming fire hoses as black protesters, racist assholes could have gone behind a curtain and voted instead. And happily, I might add. No doubt this would have worked out fine for black people.

Christie later backpedaled, but you really can't unsay a thing like that. Though I suppose some could look at his analogy as encouraging. I mean, at least he's equating marriage equality with civil rights. But, of course, he has no problem being openly against such a thing.

Tenn.'s 'Don't Say Gay' bill advances in House

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – A proposal that seeks to ban Tennessee public schools from teaching about gay issues advanced in the House on Feb. 15 despite opponents who say the measure could be harmful to gays.

The proposal, dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, passed the House Education Subcommittee on a voice vote Wednesday. Republican House sponsor Joey Hensley of Hohenwald added an amendment that mirrors the Senate version of the proposal, which passed last year.

The legislation limits all sexually related instruction to "natural human reproduction science" in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Opponents of the measure said it's too broad and fear it would prevent teachers and others from speaking out

against the bullying of gay teens.

The parents of one of two gay teenagers who committed suicide in Tennessee recently have said constant bullying over being gay led their son to kill himself.

"This is such a shame that we have ... a Legislature that doesn't care about us," said 21-year-old Eric Patton, one of a number of protesters that attended the meeting. "When we have more kids committing suicide because of this bill, the blood will be on their hands."

Thomas Kleinert, a Nashville pastor with two children, agreed.

"I think this bill shuts down one of the avenues they have for seeking help," he said. "These children already feel isolated and alone and I think this bill reinforces those feelings."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee said in a flier opposing the legislation that the broadness

of the bill's language would "prohibit sharing information on the range of fertility technologies, including in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination, now used by thousands of Tennesseans to create families."

Supporters say the proposal is not intended to be hurtful, but rather give teachers clear guidance for dealing with younger children on a potentially explosive topic.

John Deberry, a Memphis Democrat who voted for the legislation, said he views it as more of a "parental rights bill."

"It's the right to say as a parent, as a grandparent, what I want my children to be exposed to," Deberry said. "It's not about whether I agree or disagree with anybody else's opinion."

Online: Read HB0229 at <http://capitol.tn.gov>

Gay soldiers meeting set for Disney World

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) – A national convention of gay military personnel on active duty will be held at an Army-operated resort on Walt Disney World property next fall.

Convention organizers are announcing Thursday that the Army-operated resort, Shades of Green, will

host hundreds of gay and lesbian sailors, soldiers, Marines and airmen for the second annual Outserve International Leadership Conference in October.

Shades of Green is located on Walt Disney World property near Orlando, but it is owned and operated by the Army.

Convention organizer Joshua Secfried says it's a big step for the Army to allow the conference to be held at the resort, given that it will be just more than a year since end of the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Student attacked for supporting gay rights

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. (AP) – Authorities are trying to identify two people who attacked a writer for the student-run newspaper at the largest state university in Massachusetts because of an opinion piece she wrote in support of same-sex marriage.

Bridgewater State University spokesman Bryan Baldwin said on

Saturday that the assailants approached Destinie Mogg-Barkalow on campus. The man questioned her about the article titled "Prop 8 generates more hate" before the woman accompanying him punched the victim, leaving her with a bruised eye Thursday evening.

No one has been arrested and authorities are investigating the attack as

a possible hate crime.

University President Dana Mohler-Faria sent an email to the whole school condemning the attack and reminding everyone authorities will not tolerate any actions that impede or curtail the rights of members of the campus community to express themselves freely.

Custody battle could go to Supreme Court

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) – A custody battle between two lesbian former partners could be decided by the Florida Supreme Court.

An appeal in the case was filed with the court late Thursday. The women were identified by initials only.

One partner donated an egg that

was fertilized and implanted in the other partner. The relationship ended and the birth mother moved herself and the child to Australia without telling the biological mother. That woman later located them.

The 5th District Court of Appeal in Daytona Beach last year sided with the

biological mother and said both women have parental rights to the child.

A trial judge had earlier ruled that the biological mother had no parental rights though he disagreed with the law and hoped he would be reversed.

Idaho senator fails to add protections for gays

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – A longshot bid to add human rights protections for gays and lesbians to a separate prison contraband bill failed in the Idaho Senate, after it was ruled there was no link between the two subjects.

Boise Democratic Sen. Nicole LeFavour, who is Idaho's only openly gay lawmaker, Thursday sought to

amend a bill that tightens penalties for smuggling cigarettes or cell phones into prison by adding protections for gays and lesbians from workforce or housing discrimination.

That's after a stand-alone bill supported by Democrats to add these protections died last Friday without winning a full hearing.

But Republican Lt. Gov. Brad Little, who presides over the Senate, decided LeFavour's amendment wasn't sufficiently related to the contraband bill to satisfy Idaho's constitutional requirements that legislation deal address only a single subject.

Maryland passes marriage equality bill, Gov. Christie vetoes New Jersey's

BY LISA KEEN

The Maryland House of Delegates passed a marriage equality bill Friday evening with a bare minimum of 71 votes to 67. But it did so under the threat of a referendum, and it did so just hours after New Jersey Governor Chris Christie followed through on his promise to veto a marriage equality bill passed by that state's legislature on Thursday.

Visitors crowded into the Maryland House erupted into a loud and sustained cheer as the House clerk noted that 71 delegates had voted for the bill. The vote came after hours of emotional debate that sounded, at times, like a series of sermons - with delegates declaring what they said god has ordained as marriage and warning that same-sex marriage would open the door to polygamy and marriages with children and that it would encourage children to become gay.

Delegate Kathy Afzali, a Republican, said a Democrat in the House begged her to vote against the bill because "it has caused so many churches to split and fracture." And Republican Michael Smeigiel urged a "no" vote, saying the marriage equality bill would be divisive and that the legislature should give same-sex couples civil unions.

The Maryland Senate, which passed the bill last year and is likely to do so again this year, is expected to vote in the near future. The bill was sponsored by Maryland's Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley.

A key vote appeared to be that of Delegate Tiffany Alston, a Democrat from suburban Washington, D.C. Alston said she supported the bill last year but that her constituents opposed it so she voted against it. She said she was supporting and voting for the bill this year because the House adopted her amendment to enable a referendum on the issue.

The Alston amendment delays implementation of the new law until any litigation surrounding a possible referendum is resolved and states that, if any part of the law is "held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction," the entire law shall be made null and void.

The bill also won the support of a key Republican, Delegate A. Wade Kach of Baltimore, who backed the bill after getting approval of an amendment moving the effective date of the bill back from October 1 to January 1. Kach said he wanted to ensure that the bill did not have any impact on the November elections.

The House rejected numerous other amendments, including one that would have enabled parents to opt out their children from receiving any sex education that mentioned same-sex marriages; one that prohibited a minor from marrying a person of the same sex; one that sought to require a constitutional amendment allowing same-sex partners to marry; and one that sought to allow for civil unions only.



Gov. O'Malley testifies in support of legalizing gay marriage AP Photo: Patrick Semansky

The vote in the Maryland House of Delegates had been expected on Thursday, Feb. 16, but a flood of amendments and the sudden hospitalization of one of the bill's supporters pushed that back until Friday. The chamber, which has 141 delegates, needed 71 to pass the bill.

Many opponents of the measure warned during debate that they would seek a referendum on the measure, if passed. Referenda law in Maryland requires that opponents of laws enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor file 55,736 valid signatures by May 31.

New Jersey

In New Jersey, Christie issued a "conditional veto" against the marriage equality bill there, saying it would create an "Ombudsman for Civil Unions" to "ensure equal treatment under the law."

In New Jersey, supporters of the marriage bill said they would begin the process to seek votes to overturn Gov. Christie's veto. They will need 27 in the Senate (where the bill passed with 24 votes) and 54 in the Assembly (where it passed with 42). But the legislature can take two years to overturn that veto.

There is little expectation that supporters of the marriage equality law will seek a referendum in New Jersey, as Gov. Christie suggested.

Christie, in his veto statement, said "an issue of this magnitude and importance ... requires a constitutional amendment (and) should be left to the people of New Jersey to decide."

"I continue to encourage the Legislature to trust the people of New Jersey and seek their input by allowing our citizens to vote on a question

that represents a profoundly significant societal change," said Christie. "This is the only path to amend our State Constitution and the best way to resolve the issue of same-sex marriage in our state."

Unexpectedly, Christie also emphasized his commitment to non-discrimination through his veto statement.

"I have been just as adamant that same-sex couples in a civil union deserve the very same rights and benefits enjoyed by married couples - as well as the strict enforcement of those rights and benefits," said Christie. "Discrimination should not be tolerated and any complaint alleging a violation of a citizen's right should be investigated and, if appropriate, remedied. To that end, I include in my conditional veto the creation of a strong Ombudsman for Civil Unions to carry on New Jersey's strong tradition of tolerance and fairness. The Ombudsman will be charged with increasing awareness of the law regarding civil unions, will provide a clear point of contact for those who have questions or concerns and will be required to report any evidence of the law being violated. In this way, we can ensure equal treatment under the law."

Lambda Legal Defense still has a lawsuit pending in state court, challenging the validity of the existing civil unions law.

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ONLINE: A look at the North Carolina marriage battle coming in May

Holder won't defend limit on gay military benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Obama administration is extending its decision to stop defending an anti-gay marriage law to provisions affecting same-sex couples in the military.

The 1996 federal Defense of Marriage

Act requires the Pentagon to ignore same-sex marriages even if they were legally obtained in a state that allows them. A group of married gay service members and veterans sued in U.S. District Court in Boston late last year, arguing the law is unconstitutional and they are entitled to spousal benefits.



Attorney General Eric Holder

Attorney General Eric Holder announced a year ago that President Barack Obama determined DOMA is legally indefensible, reversing a policy of defending the law in litigation. On Friday he wrote to congressional leaders saying the administration reached the same conclusion for lawsuits like the one in Boston involving military personnel.

Jury selection begins in NJ webcam spying case

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) - The first phase of jury selection began Friday in the trial of a former Rutgers University student accused of using a webcam to spy on his roommate's intimate encounter with another man.

The case sparked a national conversation about the impact of bullying on young gays after the roommate, Tyler Clementi, committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge in September 2010, days after the intimate encounter.

Dharun Ravi faces 15 charges, including invasion of privacy and hindering prosecution. The most serious charge is bias intimidation, a hate crime punishable by 10 years in prison. The 19-year-old Ravi isn't charged in connection with Clementi's death.

But the suicide looms so large in the case that the judge told jurors about it.

About 2,000 prospective jurors were summoned, but most had conflicts that would prevent them from serving in a trial expected to last three to four weeks.

More than 200 were brought to the Middlesex County Courthouse on Friday to start filling out questionnaires. A few dozen of them were dismissed because of hardships, including one man who said that "emotionally" he didn't belong on the jury. He was excused without being asked to explain further.

Lawyers in the case are scheduled to meet Tuesday to go through the surveys and decide which jurors have conflicts or other reasons that make them ineligible. Those remaining are to be brought back on Wednesday for interviews.

It's not clear when the process will be complete and opening arguments will be held.

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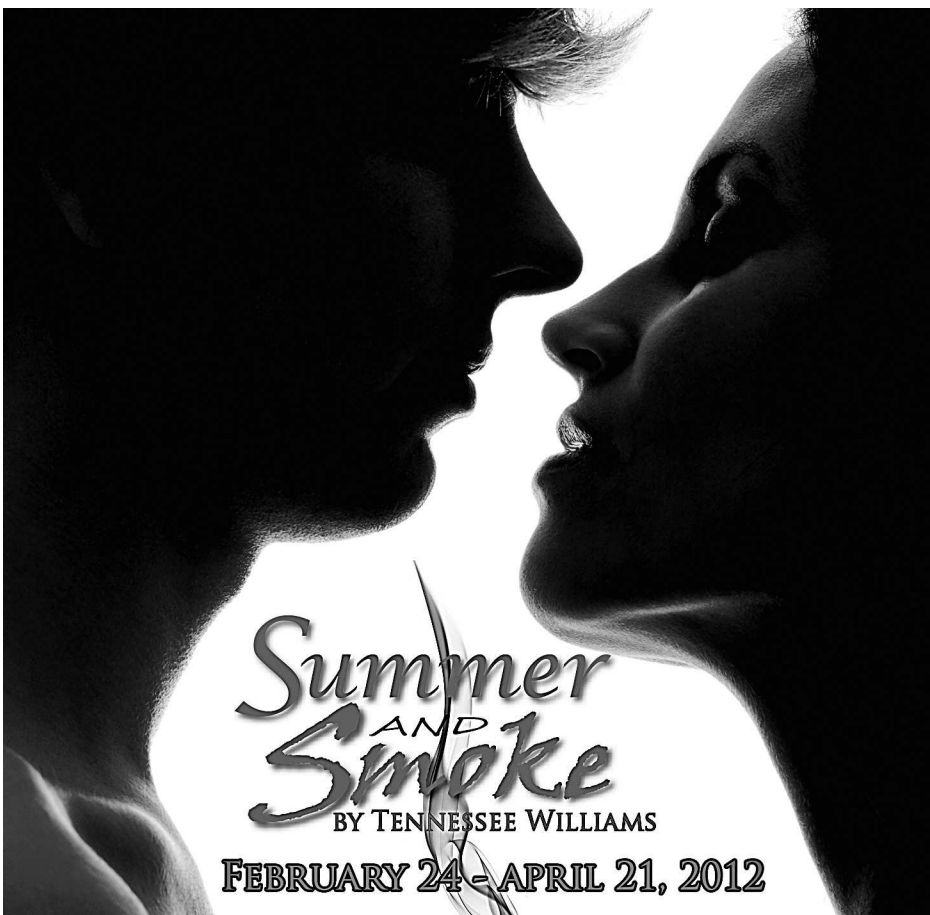
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Liz Blondy and Joe Posch have a shared connection to the Detroit area. After a discussion about how to bring downtown-oriented gay people and their friends together, they teamed up to create Doggy Style.

Who let the dogs out?

Group for canine lovers celebrates four years

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

DETROIT – Canine to Five owner Liz Blondy created an event that allows dog lovers and dogs to meet like-minded people, enjoy a drink and get to know one another in a fun, no-pressure atmosphere.

The gathering, known as Drinking with Dogs and held on the third Tuesday of each month from May to September, brings canines and their owners together on the patio at a diverse

selection of local bars from 6-10 p.m.

“The event has grown every year. This will be the fourth year that we’ve done it. We’re excited about it,” said Blondy, a long-time Detroit resident who, after a decade in sales, combined her love of animals with her hometown passion to establish her dog daycare in Midtown in 2005.

“It gets people to places that they’ve never been before,” said Blondy. In the past, Drinking with Dogs has visited the patios of The Whitney and Traffic Jam in Midtown, Foran’s Grand Trunk downtown and Whiskey in the Jar in Hamtramck. Visit www.CaninetoFiveDetroit.com or its Facebook page as this year’s schedule of events will be available in May.

“I think people want the opportunity to be social,” said Blondy. “This gives them that opportunity. They know they will have something to talk about with other people. Everyone is going to talk to you about your dog. This gives people an easy conversation starter. It’s really surprised me and has exceeded all my

expectations.”

Among those looking for a buddy for their pet or just someone to hang out with will be Blondy and her five-year-old dogs – a Great Pyrenees named Argon and a Newfoundland named Bunny. While Drinking with Dogs is a comfortable and happy event, Blondy reminds dog owners to mind their manners.

“Your dog has to be friendly with people and other dogs,” she said. “Please clean up after your dogs and, because we don’t charge for the event, you have to spend money at the establishment.”

Open City Doggy Style

In the practice of promoting local businesses, Blondy co-founded Open City, which launched in 2007 to bring Detroit entrepreneurs together. That includes her good friend and Supergay blogger, Joe Posch, a small business owner who chronicles his day-to-day life as a professional gay working and living in downtown Detroit at www.SupergayDetroit.blogspot.com. Posch has lived in Boston, Washington D.C., and Ann Arbor.

“When I moved to Detroit in 2005, one of the things I found is that the gay community is so different and is really spread out. Living downtown, I didn’t want to drive to Ferndale or the Royal Oak area all the time. It was kind of

Doggie Style

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frustrating at times. I was making a lot of cool friends, but not meeting a lot of gay people,” said Posch. As a result, he started the Supergay blog in 2006 to write about places where there was a gay scene, gay events, gay-related stuff, and what it’s like to live in the city from a gay perspective.

Blondy and Posch have a shared connection to the area. After a discussion about how to bring downtown-oriented gay people and their friends together, they teamed up to create Doggy Style, a non-dog friendly event held weekly around 9 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Park Bar in Detroit. The last Doggy Style event is on April 3 and will pick up again after the Detroit Tigers baseball season ends.

For those wondering why they selected Doggy Style for their event name, Posch explained: “Liz always orders her drink of choice the exact same way. Whenever we wanted to order together, we ordered it Liz Blondy-style.”



Drinking with Dogs will begin again in May in downtown Detroit.

See Dogs out, page 16



A Drinking with Dogs outing last year.

it's not intended to be exclusive to gays and the crowd is mixed at times, the vibe is gay. It's important to me that gay people have this to do every week. The fact that straight people like it too is a bonus."

► **Dogs out**

Continued from p. 15

Because she owns Canine to Five we started ordering the drink doggy style."

In its fifth season, Doggy Style started quietly in 2007 featuring interesting and well-curated video compilations produced by Posch and enjoyed by a variety of people watching on several video screens while gathered around Park Bar's circular bar. From the '50s to current music, there is a heavy emphasis on gay culture and gay icons.

"I like to call it Detroit's best gay-er night," said Posch. "Although

Canine to Five is Metro Detroit's only dog daycare, boarding and grooming facility, located in the heart of Detroit's Historic Midtown Neighborhood. The facility includes 4,500 square feet of cage-free, indoor climate-controlled play space and 8,900 square feet of secured, fenced in, well-lit outdoor play space. Separate play area for puppies, small dogs and quiet time, and 12 large secure kennels are available for overnight guests. Canine to Five Detroit Dog Daycare is located at 3443 Cass Avenue in Detroit, just south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Its regular business hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.detroitdogdaycare.com.

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dog grooming: \$165 to \$220. DIY grooming aids cats: \$22. DIY grooming aids dogs: \$65.

5. Pet extras per year: Dog toys: \$40. Cat toys: \$19. Dog beds: \$39. Cat beds: \$30. Dog crates: \$80. Cat cages/crates: \$30. Dog carrier: \$35. Cat carrier: \$40. Dog harness/halter: \$25. Flea/tick control products: Cats: \$57. Dogs: \$76.

6. DIY training: Books, pamphlets, videos on cat care and training: \$35. Books, pamphlets, videos on dog care and training: \$18.

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New Beginnings for neglected cats

Animal rescue efforts have a happy ending for all

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ROYAL OAK – New Beginnings Animal Rescue is offering a group of neglected cats a new lease on life. Over two dozen cats, many of them Persians, have been rescued from a terrible hoarding and neglect situation in Western Michigan. The cats were living in their own filth, resulting in skin burns, matted coats and illness.

“Normally we only take owner surrendered animals, but we were contacted by another rescue who needed our help. When we learned about the situation, how could we say no?” said Jennifer Fritz, NBAR vice president.

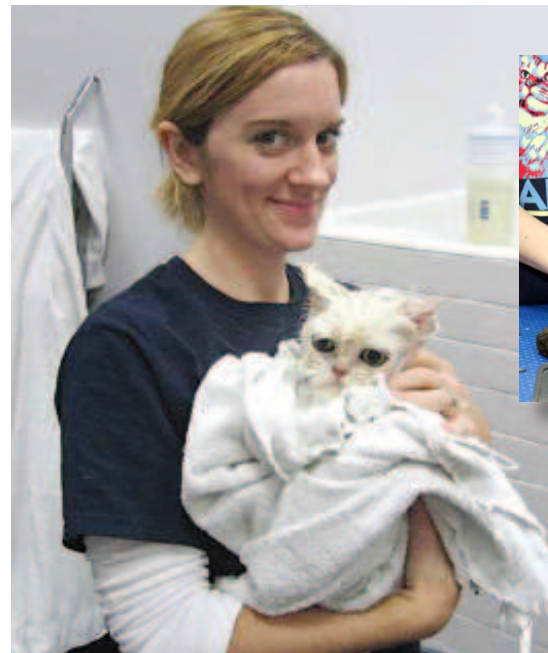
“We found out about the situation via email,” she said. “The group that initially rescued the 31 cats was just overwhelmed with the sheer volume and condition of the animals. They sent out an SOS to any rescue they could, and we were fortunate enough to be in a position to help, so we took 10 of the cats.

“They all had to be shaved down to nearly their skin because they were so badly matted and some had urine burns and lesions from living in their own filth; some even had tears in their skin where the mats were literally ripping their skin.

“We’ve had them now for over a month and the wounds have all healed and

their coats are starting to come back in, although a lot of them are kind of patchy. They look pretty rough, but they’re at least clean and smell a whole lot better. We can’t

in great foster homes and some are really starting to blossom. Freddie and Jason are doing excellent in their foster home - they are friendly and love to snuggle; they play and love to get into mischief like typical boys! Cora is also doing very



Jennifer Fritz of New Beginnings with Cora. To right, Jason gets a clean cut.



well; her foster mom is crazy about her and is always sending pictures and videos. Cora loves treats and will ask for more. She head-butts for attention and purrs like a maniac.

“Nora and Bowie are doing OK; their progress has been a bit slower, and they’re both being a bit more stubborn. Chickpea and Fury are progressing more slowly; their

foster dad was finally able to pet them without them hissing or growling. They are still hiding, but at least they’re eating, drinking and using the litter box.”

Some of the Persians (Freddie, Jason and Cora) will be on hand at a special adoption event 3-6 p.m. at Berkley Animal

See Beginnings, page 21

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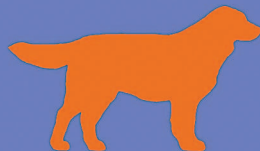
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A terrier's cautionary tale

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

TROUT LAKE, Mich. – What can be more fun for a dog than a road trip up north with your family and the chance to run free in the woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula? For 13-year-old Eva, the frolicking came to an abrupt end when the 40-pound terrier mix impaled herself on a sharp stick that happened to be jutting out of the ground.

Timothy Risk and his partner Monique Sinnott were far from their Ferndale home when the pet emergency happened. Risk shared his rescue story:



“Eva was out for an afternoon walk with Sinnott's father Daniel and two of his dogs. They were about a quarter mile from the

house, in the woods. The dogs typically run free, chase smells and generally romp. At some point he noticed Eva was limping. He saw a small drop of blood on her front paw and thought she'd hurt it. He tried to pick her up to carry her home, but she cried out and put her mouth on his hand as a warning. Thinking she had hurt her leg or a paw, he let her limp home. When they came in the house, Monique looked her over and realized she had a piece of wood sticking out of her chest about two inches. It was impossible to know how far it had gone in and pulling it out could have been deadly.

“We carried her to the car on a board and drove her to the vet in Sault Saint Marie, 50 minutes away on snow covered roads. There, they took X-rays and then gave us the cost estimate to remove the stick surgically. I think it is interesting how vet clinics approach these topics. They kind of tiptoe around the fact that the dog is 13, lived a long happy life and we are now faced with a \$500-\$800 procedure. This has to be a difficult decision for many people. Our dogs are like family members; we don't hesitate in these situations. In fact, this isn't Eva's first emergency vet visit. They've all been in for emergency visits for one injury or another. We have a special savings account we started a few years ago, when Lilley's heart disease was diagnosed.”

Lilley is the dog they lost last year due to a long battle with heart disease. Because of their deep love for animals, they didn't hesitate to get Eva the help she needed. They realized that the half-inch diameter stick had impaled Eva's pectoral muscle, deflected



13-year old Eva after her emergency surgery while on vacation.

off her sternum and stayed out of the chest cavity. The stick was 3-1/2 inches deep.

While in the care of Dr. Lynn and Dr. LaHuis at The Sault Animal Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Eva had the stick and a pre-existing cyst removed.

Risk explained that they put Eva under general anesthesia through an IV catheter in her left arm, removed the stick without incisions, flushed the wound, and gave the poor pooch some antibiotics and pain reliever.

“The stick wound was required to stay open so it could drain while it healed from the inside out. This is to prevent infection. We initially wrapped her in an ace bandage and then put an old T-shirt on her to protect the wound,” he said. The cyst required cutting and stitches.

“While Eva was in the care of the vet, we went to a local restaurant for lunch. One and a half hours later, they called us to tell us Eva was OK, stick and cyst removed, and had already woken from the anesthesia and was walking around.

“It was snowing pretty hard during the drive home, and it was dark by this time. Eva was whining and crying as she continued to emerge from anesthesia. I was on pins and needles trying to keep the car on the dark snowy country roads. After we arrived in Trout Lake, Eva was acting pretty miserable. Eventually we fed her dinner and she quieted down. She loves meal-time and her internal clock works really well. It only took a day and a meal for Eva to forget she'd impaled herself on a stick. By the third day of recovery, she tore her T-shirt off so she could get around easier.”

Risk and Sinnott are happy to report that Eva has healed properly from this late-December accident, and is back to her old self.

“Eva is an optimist and extremely energetic. She's the kind of dog that jumps straight up in the air when she's happy. She loves attention and will happily crawl into your lap if you invite her. Even if she's only known you for a few minutes. She is extremely loyal and obedient. She only barks when someone comes to the door. Otherwise she howls and whines when she is excited or hungry. Even at 13, she still acts like a puppy.”

Eva's best friend is Bugsy. “I adopted Eva from Planned Pethood in Toledo in March of 1999. My cousin is a foster caregiver for the organization. They found Eva in a Meijer parking lot – emaciated, injured and covered with fleas. I wanted another dog to be a companion to my dog Bugsy, a nice shepherd mix I adopted from the Humane Society in Lansing. They have been together all their lives and complement each other perfectly. Bugsy was the quiet gentle boy while Eva was the exuberant, feisty girl. They always played together well. Now they are aging gracefully together.”

Eva and Bugsy also share the house with their two humans, two kitties and backyard pond with a bunch of goldfish. The humans are getting married later this year. Risk is self-employed as an architect and homebuilder, and Sinnott finished her second degree in nursing this past December and is studying for her state registration exam. She also organized a clothing drive for the Ruth Ellis center in Highland Park this past December.

FYI: When traveling with pets...

*Learn where emergency vets are in the area you plan to visit

*Consider an emergency vet savings account for unplanned injuries

*With wounds, don't remove sticks or other impaled objects; let the vet X-ray and do it to avoid a potentially deadly decision.

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Chickpea after her bath at Bingo Pet Salon.

► **Beginnings**

Continued from p. 18

Clinic (3996 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley) on Feb. 25.

“When I think about the conditions these cats were in, it brings me to tears. They have spent their entire lives living in one room with little to no human affection. We’re so glad we were in a position to help,” said Lisa Hill, NBAR president.

Partnering with Bingo

“Bingo has been an incredible partner with us. Many of our cats have found their forever

homes after modeling in the front window at Bingo on Thursdays. When I approached Brian Lane, promotions manager at Bingo, with the situation, everyone at Bingo was ready and willing to help,” said Hill.

“It’s a shame the condition these cats were living in, and I was horrified when I heard their story,” said Lane. “We are just glad we can offer our facility to help and we hope that these cats can get cleaned-up and into a new home ASAP.”

Before-and-after pictures will be available on the Facebook pages of both New Beginnings Animal Rescue and Bingo Pet Salon. Bingo is located at 108 W. Fourth St. in the heart of downtown Royal Oak, near Main Street. They will be accepting donations, food and kitty sweaters; people are welcome to inquire about the adoption and fostering process as well.

New Beginnings was started by Hill and Fritz in 2010. The couple and the other volunteers typically only handle single-owner adoptions. They also run a Pet Food Pantry that allows approved pet caregivers to supplement their food supply in times when money is tight. They give out over 1,000 pounds of food each month. “My partner and I shared the same dream - to have our own animal rescue,” Fritz said. “We are lucky enough to be living our dream.”

To find out more about the animals available, visit the NBAR website at www.nbarmichigan.org

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Sherry Vine's DRAG Romance

From YouTube to TV show, the queen satirist finally makes her dream come true

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Think of Sherry Vine's rise to the (figurative) top as a fairy tale. She begrudgingly waited on people – as a server – until realizing she could dress all pretty and make a lot of money. Next up was singing about penis, poop and boobs (hey, if the shoe fits), referencing those while spoofing pop icons in her outrageous YouTube takes on “Born This Way,” “Rolling in the Deep” and Madonna's newest single, “Give Me All Your Luvvin'.” Then, finally, her happily-ever-after: She got a TV series, a zany half-hour, anything-goes variety show called “She's Living For This,” premiering Feb. 24 on the here! network.

We got Vine on the phone recently to chat about paying homage to variety show icons, her reason for doing drag and how she gets so much penis (take that, Cinderella).

The show is a modern twist on classic TV variety shows – because if there was one thing missing from “The Carol Burnett Show,” it was penis.

(Laughs) I agree! One of my favorite topics. Penis and boobs.

Where does your dirty mind come from?

I don't know! But I remember being in high school, and we would do musicals and I would literally sit there and write dirty lyrics to all the songs and then read them or sing them to people. I have no idea where that comes from.

Your parents?

Well, they're pretty silly, actually. And they have a good sense of humor and are a little on the dirty side. Some of my videos they love, and there are definitely some that cross the line for them. Anything to do with fist-fucking is really not for my parents. But the poo-poo ones, they love!

How do you conceptualize the sketches?

I keep a little book that I've had forever, and I always write down ideas and then I might not look at it or think about it for 10 years. Sometimes other people come up with the ideas and I will

write it down, but people – friends, people I work with, tweets – are always offering ideas. “You're a Homo” came from a drag queen in Orlando who wanted a parody of “Alejandro.”

This variety show's been a longtime coming, right?

Oh yeah. It's been a lifelong dream.

How does it feel to get it off the ground?

It really is like a dream come true. I'll be there in front of the cameras and I still can't believe it's happening. I feel like I've been doing Sherry Vine for 20 years and it's all been building up to this.

What was Sherry Vine up to 10 years ago?

Really the same, but YouTube clearly opened me up to a much bigger audience. I've been making a living performing as Sherry in larger cities for the past 15 years and it's just been the past three years, since the invention of the YouTube, that it's spread.

How did TV variety show icons, like Cher and Carol Burnett, inspire the show?

Carol Burnett was the biggest influence. I was a little kid when Carol Burnett was on, but

I remember watching it and thinking that's what I want to do. And Cher with her out-of-control glamour, and even Donny and Marie – I remember watching them and thinking it was so much fun.

But they didn't have penises on their shows. What inspired the full frontal?

We don't have the censorship. So, right away, we wanted to just introduce to people that this is going to be different than what they're used to seeing. And we weren't expecting all that penis! (Laughs)

I've only seen the first episode.

That's what I mean. The one!

How do you find the penises for this show?

Oh, honey, I fucking love Facebook because I can put something on Facebook – “anyone wanna have a nude walk-on?” – and I'll get 20 responses in an hour.

What else do you live for besides this show?

Right now, that's it. My focus is this right now because I want to give it everything I can possibly give. I want to make sure everything is

See Sherry Vine, page 24

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► Sherry Vine

Continued from p. 23

right. Everything bigger and better than before.

Does that mean you're putting a hold on video parodies?

No. We had a little break in January and I took advantage of the time and whipped up some videos. We did one with this medley, which was just for fun, and the Pandora Boxx one was big because it involved a lot of people flying in from L.A. for the day to shoot the video. I'm working on a video parody right now; we just wrote it, and we're recording it and then we'll shoot the video hopefully in a couple of weeks – another one with Peppermint Gummybear. So yeah, there will be more of those coming.

What's the trick to spoofing a song or video?

I feel it out depending on how big the original song is. If it's Lady Gaga, then I go all out and do a parody of the video, not just a parody of the song. Then you take her video and, luckily, Lady Gaga just gives you so much to play with. (Laughs) The "Telephone" one was probably my favorite in terms of what we did if you look at her video and then ours. Every little thing – how do we make fun of her cigarette glasses? – we picked apart. And then there are some where it's me standing in front of a green screen and it's just meant to be silly. Those are the ones that cost, like, a dollar. (Laughs)

Is there anywhere you won't go?

There are definitely places I won't go, for sure. I wouldn't make any AIDS jokes, obviously. Even on the TV show, if I'm making fun of anyone it's myself, and there aren't lines I won't cross in terms of scatological humor or sex jokes – but there's definitely places I wouldn't go. I remember being one who'd never make a 9/11 or Princess Diana joke. Never, ever.

Have you heard from any of the artists you've spoofed?

Totally. Katy Perry liked the "Fire Crotch" video; she actually tweeted it and sent it out and thought it was funny. And I've gotten two messages from Lady Gaga. One for the "Born This Way" parody and the other one for a cover of "You and I." She responded to both of those – tweeted them, responded to them on her website and wrote me a really sweet email.

Do you and her have a history?

No. I met her – and I don't know if she even remembers – before she was hugely famous in a teeny dive bar. She was walking from bar to bar performing "Just Dance" and I met her and hung out with her. But we weren't friends, no.

When did you first realize you wanted to do drag?

In theater school, I was always drawn to female parts. I would read "A Streetcar Named Desire" and think, "Oh, Blanche is the good part; I don't want to be Stanley, I want to be Blanche." I was just drawn to the female parts more than the male parts because they were just more interesting to me as an actor.

When I first started drag, the focus was not performing at bars or clubs or singing; the reason I first started doing drag was because I wanted to be the leading lady of a theater company I helped start. And then I was like, "I don't want to wait tables anymore, so let's see if I can make money in drag."

Did you wait tables for a long time?

It felt like a long time! I waited tables for six years. Long enough to hate it.

What's the secret to your legs?

(Laughs) It's from wearing those heels. People would make fun of my legs growing up as a kid – telling me I have skinny chicken legs – but they work in heels!

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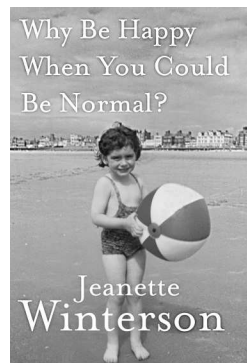
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Book Marks

BY RICHARD LABONTE



"Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?," by Jeanette Winterson. Grove Press, 224 pages, \$25 hardcover.

More than a quarter-century after her searing autobiographical novel, "Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit," Winterson revisits

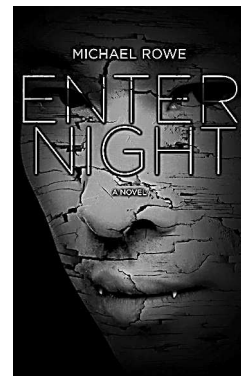
the bleak childhood depicted in that story – and, in this seething memoir, suggests that life in the home of her evangelical adoptive mother was even bleaker, more hellish and more violent, and that reality was far worse than fiction. The novel "was a book I could live with...the other one is too painful," she writes now, suggesting that, from the perspective of years – and after

a nervous breakdown (following the end of a six-year relationship) and an attempted suicide – there's a truer story to be told about her early years. After revisiting her past, Winterson recounts a no less harrowing present, in which a "savage lunatic" is both desperate to be loved while repelling the women who would love her, and in which an adult searching for lost mother-love becomes obsessed with searching for her birth mother. Their eventual reunion turned out to be lukewarm comfort; it didn't fill the author's emotional gap.

"For the Ferryman: A Personal History," by Charles Silverstein. Chelsea Station Editions, 340 pages, \$20 paper.

Readers might have expected more in this memoir about psychiatrist Silverstein's heroic, historic effort in the early 1970s to remove homosexuality as a mental illness from his profession's diagnostic manual. Or about his authorship in 1977 (with Edmund White) of the groundbreaking (and, in some

places, eyebrow-raising) how-to tome, "The Joy of Gay Sex." Both of those high points in the author's memorable life are covered, of course, though briefly, as are his pre-gay years and the horror of the early AIDS years. But Silverstein focuses mostly on his tempestuous 20-year relationship with William Bory, a stunningly handsome 21-year-old with daddy issues when they met (Silverstein was 15 years his senior). Their love was true and deep, but not always a bed of roses: Bory was sexually alluring and intellectually brilliant but emotionally mercurial and, for years, an addict who stole from his partner. This searing memoir's depiction of their years together, at once adoring and despairing, is testament to the enduring power of love, even as it addresses both men's frailties and flaws.



"Enter, Night," by Michael Rowe. Chizine Publications, 420 pages, \$15.95 paper.

Rowe's outstanding first novel – after editing horror anthologies and penning well-crafted essays – is hard to categorize. There's a vampire, but it's not just a

classic vampire novel (though blood is sucked and holy water splashes). There's the mystery of a murder to be solved, but it's not a traditional detective story. Both gay pride and gay shame figure in the plot, but it's way more than a gay read. Set in a small northern Ontario town in 1972, Rowe's characters include Christina Parr, destitute after the death of her husband, Jack, one-time scion of mining wealth but long estranged from his truly wicked mother, from

whom Christina has sought shelter; her feisty daughter, Morgan, who befriends 12-year-old loner Finn, the hero of the tale; and her queer brother-in-law Jeremy, who like his brother Jack fled Parr's Landing after bedding a buddy. And the vampire? He's the embodiment of a 17th-century Catholic priest whose evil spirit, trapped in an archeological site near town, bathes the streets of Parr's Landing with horrific blood in this terrific story.

"Growing Up Delicious," by Marianne Banks. Bella Books, 232 pages, \$15.95 paper.

Life in the small, mean town of Delicious was miserable for young Jennifer. Her mother was a tyrannical clean freak, her father was mostly drunk (though always caring) and her first lover, Ruthie, the preacher's daughter, abandoned her to marry a man. The town's notorious tomboy, she was forever the odd girl. And her misery only worsened when, at her sweetheart's wedding, she tried to drown the preacher. A quarter century later, Jennifer, content in a relationship with a sensible woman, is called home by her hysterical (and hysterically straight) sister, Dorothy, who found their mother hanging from a beam in the family barn, an apparent suicide. Though reluctant to return, she finds comfort in the welcome of crusty gas-station owner Rosie and of Ina Lewinski, whose home was a safe harbor for young Jennifer – but disdain from others. Banks' debut is a broad-stroke satire of homophobic attitudes, small-town hypocrisy, religious intolerance and – in a serious back story that meshes well with the novel's dominant humorous tone – repressed shame and closely held secrets.

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.

Featured Excerpt

William and I were perfect mirror images of each other's needs. He was looking for a father to take care of him, while I, in the role of an idealized father, searched for my "son," myself, to love as a substitute for the father who had abandoned me. In a psychological sense, it was a marriage made in heaven, a perfect union of two gay men in search of their phantom fathers. When I made William happy, I felt vindicated; when I failed, I was sure that I was culpable for his discomfort. And I continued to believe this tortured reasoning until the day he died.

– from "For the Ferryman," by Charles Silverstein



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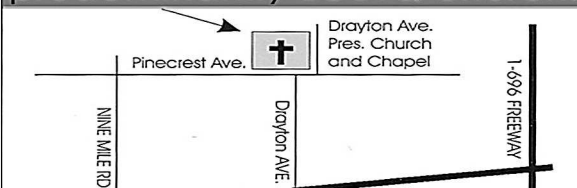
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Taylor tribute premieres at The Ringwald

BY JOHN QUINN

This week we once again participated in the mass hysteria on the passing of an entertainment icon. Every time the news cycle stops dead in its tracks for an untimely death, I mull the possibility that our decadent obsession with the cult of celebrity enables famous people to behave badly. Celebrities are larger than life; how else can one stay in the spotlight if one doesn't live an over-the-top lifestyle?

March 23 marks the first anniversary of Elizabeth Taylor's death. I don't remember then the rending of garments and gnashing of teeth that we've experienced this week, maybe because the last bright star of the Hollywood studio system had been in ill health for years and was, in the words of my Irish-born great-grandmother, "old enough to die." Since Feb. 27 would have been her 80th birthday, the fertile imaginations of The Ringwald Theatre are commemorating the actress with two plays performed in repertory. First up is the world premiere of Kim Carney's comedy, "Elizabeth the Beautiful."

This "what if" fantasy explores the transformation of Taylor from self-obsessed personality to generous philanthropist and ardent advocate. The time is 1978, near the election of then-husband John Warner to the U. S. Senate. The place is an up-scale Virginia hotel where Elizabeth is recovering from back surgery. During an unfortunate encounter between throat and chicken bone, Elizabeth sees her life flash before her in the form of a Dickensian visitation from the Ghosts of Marriages Past. The unlikely Jacob Marley and master of ceremonies for the intervention is twice-husband Richard Burton. If there is a moral to the story, it

REVIEW

Elizabeth the Beautiful

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Plays in repertory through March 12. \$10-20. 248-545-5545.
www.TheRingwald.com

is that real beauty is more than skin deep, and a contemplative individual can find unexpected depths of beauty if one mines deep enough.

But there's a catch; there usually is at The Ringwald. Elizabeth is not "the beautiful" anymore; she is a big, blousy, loud, foul-mouthed, booze-swilling haridan. She is, in short, played by company stalwart Joe Bailey.

Female impersonation is larger-than-life entertainment. It includes exotics wigs, exaggerated make-up and exotic fashion statements. There tends to be a fair amount of bawdy badinage. Female impersonation of a cultural icon is going to be, at its best, burlesque; travesty, in every sense of the word, at its worst. Here, fortunately, we have burlesque; we can just sit back and enjoy the absurdity.

Parody, though, requires an element of truth between the subject skewered and the comedy. It is hard for this reviewer to reconcile the public persona of Elizabeth Taylor with scary private one depicted here. In the text, Elizabeth admits to not being a great actress. The Jekyll-Hyde transformation the play implies was worthy of another Oscar – had anybody known about it. That being said, Bailey's campy performance is consistently on the mark.

Mike McGettigan as Richard Burton



Joe Bailey stars as Elizabeth Taylor in the world premiere of Kim Carney's "Elizabeth the Beautiful" at The Ringwald. Photo: Colleen Scribner

and Patrick O'Conner Cronin as The Man – a market basket of selected portraits of husbands and friends – take "Elizabeth the Beautiful" even farther "out there." While Cronin changes voice and body language with each change of Vince Kelly's nifty costumes, he can't disguise the underlying theme that Taylor's men tended to share the same foibles. McGettigan has all the elegance of the iconic Burton – and certainly the voice – but, given Bailey's caricature of Taylor I miss the rather pompous Shakespearian actor delivery Burton even brought to TV interviews.

Director Bryan Lark deftly handles the unexpectedly sensitive turn in the plot, and the play, performed in one act, is a neatly tied bundle of fun. Now if only we could let the Jacksons and Ledgers and Houstons and, yes, the Taylors, lead the private lives they would choose, rather than the ones we choose for them.

Maybe it's time we all just get a life.

Detroit Concert for a Cure presents benefit concert

FERNDALE – Cast members of the NETworks touring production of "Shrek The Musical" – coming to Detroit Feb. 28 through March 11 at the Fisher Theatre – will perform in a very special concert to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the John F. Kennedy School PTA in Ferndale. The benefit takes place 7 p.m. Monday, March 5 at The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Avenue in Ferndale.

Guests attending can support a good cause as they enjoy an intimate evening featuring a cabaret-style performance by members of the cast from the national tour of "Shrek The Musical." The evening will also feature a silent auction, which will allow guests to bid on items graciously donated by the Broadway community and local businesses. Singer/songwriter Steven Mullan closes out the event with a performance. A cash bar is available during

the evening.

Admission for the event is \$15 cover charge at the door. All funds raised at the event (admission and silent auction) will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Ferndale's John F. Kennedy Elementary School PTA.

"Shrek The Musical," based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks film that started it all, brings the hilarious story of everyone's favorite ogre to life on stage. In a faraway kingdom turned upside down, things get ugly when an unseemly ogre – not a handsome prince – shows up to rescue a feisty princess. Throw in a donkey who won't shut up, a villain with a short temper, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand. And his name is Shrek.



Steven Mullan is scheduled to perform at the Detroit Concert for a Cure along with cast members from the national tour of "Shrek The Musical." Photo: Courtesy Steven Mullan.

Doors open at 6 p.m. This is an 18 and over event.

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Editor's Picks

Outings



Affirmations community center has announced a variety of new weekly and monthly services and social groups to better serve the metro area's LGBT community.

Shaolin Master Mesan Williams leads free group Chen Style Tai Chi (QiDong) sessions 6 p.m. every Wednesday evening; AJ Skillman P.C. will host an advocacy program providing free legal referral services 4 p.m. every Thursday; a new support group, Coping with Disabilities, will lead discussions about friendly LGBT doctors, counseling, health benefits and personal therapeutic activities 1 p.m. on every second and fourth Wednesday of the month; and Agape Spirit Life Ministries will hold unique Feast and Fellowship services, using unique alternative literature in addition to the Bible to "gain practice tools for daily living," at 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

These are only a few of the numerous weekly and monthly groups and events taking place at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, in Ferndale. For more information, check the Pride Source Calendar (pridesource.com/calendar.html), goaffirmations.org or call 248-398-7105.

Theater

From blues to rock 'n' roll, popular music has long been the sound of young America. On March 2-4, the young artists of Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit will celebrate the iconic "pop" artists of the '60s through the '80s with "Singsation! Mosaic Singers in Concert" presented at the Detroit Film Theatre in the Detroit Institute of Arts. Music from Queen, Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin and Michael and Janet Jackson take center stage in this year's "Singsation!" concert, with exuberant dance, a live band and lots of excitement.

The 75 young artists in the Mosaic Singers range in age from 11-18, which is ideal for the ideas and feelings expressed in popular music.

Performances take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3 and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 4. Tickets are \$20 and \$12 for students and seniors with valid ID. Tickets can be purchased at the DIA box office or by calling 313-833-4005.



OUTINGS

Thursday, Feb. 23

Legal Referral Services 4 p.m. Weekly advocacy program and referral services provided by AJ Skillman. AJ Skillman P.C., 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to view and discuss films of interest to men. Film: Queens, 2006. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Friday, Feb. 24

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: The Help; In 1960s Jackson, Miss., aspiring writer Eugenia Phelan crosses taboo racial lines by conversing with Aibileen Clark about her life as a housekeeper, and their ensuing friendship upsets the fragile dynamic between the haves and the have-nots. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. 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

Grape Expectations After Party 10 p.m. A significant partner of KGLRC, Volunteer Kalamazoo has been the center for volunteerism in Kalamazoo since 1965. It is a member of Volunteer Centers of Michigan and an affiliate of the HandsOn Network. The KGLRC's Executive Director, Zachary Bauer will host along with other community leaders. \$15 covers to benefit Volunteer Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 310 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.com

Saturday, Feb. 25

Lezhike 11 a.m. Hike with GOAL on a 3-4 mile hike through short hills and gorgeous winter scenery. Park admission costs \$5. Lezhike is a lesbian hiking group for all adult women. GOAL, Kensington Metro park, Milford. Getoutandlive.me

Partnerships in Parenting 1 p.m. Promoting the importance of relationship and family development for LGBTQ parents and their children. Seeking to build a stronger connection between parents and children through social networking and community outreach. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 734-574-5953. Ky.intimates@gmail.com GoAffirmations.org

Lezread 4 p.m. Ann Arbor's book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. lezread@yahoo.com

Mitten Mavens Roller Derby Double Header 5 p.m. Lansing's Mitten Mavens Roller Derby is proud to have their junior team, the Cap City Wild Childs, play in their very first bout in a double-header with the Mavens. The Wild Childs will be playing the Atomic Cupcakes out of Brighton, Michigan. After their bout, the Mitten Mavens will welcome the

Barry County Black Heart Maidens from Hastings, Michigan to the track. Prices: \$10 general, children under 10 free with paying adult. Mitten Mavens Lansing Roller Derby, 7977 Centerline Dr., Dimondale. Mittenmavens@gmail.com Mittenmavens.net

Art and Wine Night 6:30 p.m. The Network and Roots are excited to present this no-cost (though donations are greatly appreciated), open-to-all, evening of fantastic art, entertainment, food, wine and networking. The Network, 343 Atlas St., Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. thenetwork@grlgbt.org

Xpress Yourself A Dance Party 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 online, \$15 at the door. Downtown Publications, 100 Marquette Dr., Detroit. Xpressparty.eventbrite.com

Sunday, Feb. 26

Make A Change 12:30 p.m. A health conference providing education, resources and easy, practical changes that can be made to benefit heart health. Presentations by health care professionals, cooking experts, physical fitness experts and more. The conference is free. All are encouraged to attend. Brighter Day Community Development Corporation, 149 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Pontiac. 248-335-9333. ABrighterDayCDC@gmail.com Brighterdaycdc.org

Agape Spirit Life Ministry Service 1 p.m. Potluck style event. Bring "The 12 steps of Forgiveness by Paul Ferrini" and a Bible to worship in a diverse, welcoming community. Participants will use various books along with the Bible to gain practical tools for daily living as we worship. Every second and fourth Sunday. Agape Spirit Life Ministries, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

TransCend 4:30 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@kglrc.org kglrc.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Meet every Sunday for good conversation and food. LGBTQI and allies. New topic for discussion each week. Topic: Does pornography influence or cause sex crimes? Get Out And Live!, 714 S Washington, Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Feb. 27

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 spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Wednesday, Feb. 29

Wild Wednesday 5 p.m. A supportive LGBT youth group that meets every Wednesday. All youth are welcome. Dedicated to Make a Change, L3C, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Jimtoycenter.org

Chen Style Tai Chi (QiDong) 6 p.m. Provided by Shaolin Master Mesan Williams through April. Program may continue if interest follows. For more information, contact Director of Programs at Jenkins@GoAffirmations.org. Shaolin Master Mesan Williams, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, March 1

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

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to view and discuss films of interest to men. Film: Prayers for Bobby, 2009. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Brahms's Requiem" Leonard Slatkin leads the Orchestra and the University Musical Society Choral Union in Brahms' A German Requiem and American master John Adams' response to 9/11, On the Transmigration of Souls. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 24 - Feb. 26. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Peter & the Wolf / Alice in Wonderland" Some childhood favorites are so compelling that they have the power to enchant and delight any generation. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 1 - March 3. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "The Art of the Duo" Violinists Gabe Bolkosky and Rachel Noyes explore the often-complex range of texture within the duo and solo violin repertoire. Tickets: \$10-25 general, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 24. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

University Musical Society "Hagen Quartet" Regarded internationally as one of the foremost string quartets of the day. Ticket information available at ums.org. Rackham Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Celtic Nights - Journey of Hope" Six of Ireland's most prominent vocal talents are complemented by six of its most accomplished step dancers. Tickets: \$19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 25. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "A Sci-Fi Spectacular" Renowned pops conductor Jack Everly brings an out of this world production featuring music from Star Wars, Star Trek, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Day the Earth Stood Still and more. Complete with an appearance by Mr. Sulu himself, George Takei. Tickets: \$19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9 - March 11. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "MasterWorks 4: Appalachian Spring" One of America's best known and most beloved works for orchestra - Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 24. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. Lansingsymphony.org

Olympia Entertainment "Anticipation 2our" Performance by Trey Songz with special guest Big Sean. Tickets: \$38.50-98.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 24. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Musiq Soulchild" Tickets: \$45, 48 and 53. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 23. 866-782-9622. Motorcitycasino.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Brit Floyd" Pink Floyd Tribute Show. Tickets: \$37.50.

Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St. Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Feb. 29. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Susan Werner and Rosebud" Contemporary songwriter, Susan Werner. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 25. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

OTHER

Detroit Opera House "Harold and the Purple Crayon: A Dance Adventure" The hour-long interactive dance adaptation, for children 4 through 11, was inspired by the 1955 classic children's book by Crockett Johnson. Tickets: \$5-20. Michigan Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 3. 800-745-3000. Ticketmaster.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Farmer's Talk" Homer Walden and Dru Peters from Sunnyside Farm in Dover, PA share their experiments and experiences with winter gardening, rotational grazing and growing a small tractor-less farm business. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 1 p.m. Feb. 25. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Static Network "The Erotic Poetry & Music Festival 25th Anniversary Show!" \$10 with a portion of the proceeds to benefit Paws with a Cause. The Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 25. 313-964-5103. Facebook.com/EroticPoetryAndMusicFestival

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Cheaper by the Dozen \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Through Feb. 26. 734-394-5300. www.spotlightplayersmi.org

Mixed Nuts \$13-15. Avon Players, 1185 Washington Road, Rochester Hills. March 2 - 31. 248-608-9077. www.Avonplayers.org

Moon Over Buffalo \$12. SRO Productions at Historic Burgh, 26060 Berg Road, Southfield. March 2 - 18. 248-796-4645. www.srotheater.org

Smokey Joe's Cafe \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 2 - March 18. 269-343-1313. www.KazooCivic.com

Smokey Joe's Cafe \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Feb. 26. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

The Outsiders \$10. Center Stage Jackson at Jackson Middle School's Parkside Auditorium, 2400 Fourth St., Jackson. Through Feb. 25. 517-782-0322. www.centerstagejackson.org

Whose Wives Are They Anyway \$16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through March 3. 248-553-2955. www.farmingtonplayers.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Cloud Nine \$15. Kalamazoo College Festival Playhouse at Nelda K Balch Playhouse, 1200 Academy St., Kalamazoo. Feb. 23 - 26. 269-337-7333. <https://reason.kzoo.edu/theatre/socialjustice/>

Gladiator and A Gaggles of Saints \$10-12. The Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. March 1 - 10. 313-577-2972. www.wsustudio.com

The Cripple of Inishmaan \$10. MSU Dept. of Theatre at Arena Theatre of the MSU Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Feb. 23 - Feb. 29. 1-800-Wharton. www.whartoncenter.com

PROFESSIONAL

A Stone Carver \$17.50-\$40. The Purple

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

Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 10. 734-433-7673. www.purplesetheatre.org

Amber Waves \$12-14. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through March 4. 810-237-1530. www.FlintYouthTheatre.org

Burn the Red Banner: Or, Let the Rebels Have Their Fun By donation. Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Feb. 25. 313-454-1542. www.theabreact.com

Burying the Bones \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodward Wilson, Detroit. Through March 18. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Dead Man's Shoes \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Feb. 26. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

Drum! \$29-39. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 8 p.m. Feb. 25. 313-934-2354. www.dearborntheater.com

Elizabeth the Beautiful \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Plays in repertory through March 12. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

God of Carnage \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 26. 734-663-0681. www.performancecenter.org

In the Heights \$20-52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Feb. 25. 586-286-2222. www.MacombCenter.com

Love, Loss, and What I Wore \$49.50. Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. Through March 4. 313-963-9800. www.BroadwayinDetroit.com

Mary Poppins \$28 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance

Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Feb. 22 - 26. 616-235-6285. www.broadwaygrandrapids.com

Men Fake Foreplay \$28. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 1 - 4. 800-745-3000. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Rock of Ages \$29-79. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Feb. 26. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Shrek The Musical \$29-79. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Feb. 28 - March 11. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Singsation! Mosaic Singers in Concert \$20. Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit at Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave. (John R. entrance), Detroit. March 2 - 4. 313-872-6910. www.MosaicDetroit.org

Snowbound \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through March 10. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Suddenly Last Summer \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Plays in repertory Feb. 24 - March 11. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Summer and Smoke \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Feb. 24 - April 21. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Superior Donuts \$21-25. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Feb. 26. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

The Last Five Years \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through Feb. 25. 269-282-1953. www.whatado.org

The Whole Vine Yards \$20. Hole in the Wall Theatre Company at The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Feb. 24 - March 4. 313-444-2294.

Tony n Tina's Wedding \$70. Detroit Actors Guild at Johnson Center at Cleary University, 3725 Cleary Dr., Howell. 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25. 810-522-7989. www.BrightonRotaryEvents.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Inherent State" Two sets of sisters, Brooks Harris Stevens and Jennifer Harris closely connect with Sarah and Cathy Wagner through their methodologies, imaginations and experiences. Exhibit presents the work of fiber artists and their sisters in creative writing. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 10 - March 18. 734-994-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

Ariana Gallery "Black History Month: African Art" Contemporary and traditional work by artists and artisans who are recognized locally and internationally will be on display. Ariana Gallery, 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Feb. 17 - March 17. 248-546-8810. ArianaGallery.com

Flint Institute of Arts "FIA Faculty Exhibition" Flint Institute of Arts' recent works from FIA Art School faculty, displayed in the Bishop Gallery. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 15 - Feb. 26. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Sara Innes, Paintings and Takeshi Takahara, Printmaker" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth

Ave., Ann Arbor. Feb. 28 - March 30. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "No Going Back" Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Feb. 29 - March 30. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

M&M Enterprises "The Southfield Pavilion Antiques Exposition" Excellent cafe dining, coat check and free parking will be available. The Southfield Municipal Complex - Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. Feb. 24 - Feb. 26. Antiquesexposition.com

Michigan State University Museum "On Equal Terms" Michigan State University Museum, West Circle Drive, East Lansing. Feb. 5 - May 13. Facebook.com/MSUMuseum

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection" Free with museum admission. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Sep. 15 - Feb. 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life" Fluxus emerged in the early 1960s as a loose, international network of artists, composers, and designers led by Lithuanian-born American artist George Maciunas (1931-1978) that was noted for blurring the boundaries between art and life. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 25 - May 20. 734-764-0395. Umma.umich.edu

Yourist Studio Gallery "Serving It Up Just Desserts!" A juried exhibition of ceramic dessert ware by Michigan potters, including a special show of vintage-style aprons. Admission: free. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway St., Ann Arbor. March 1 - April 8. 734-665-5696. Youristpottery.com

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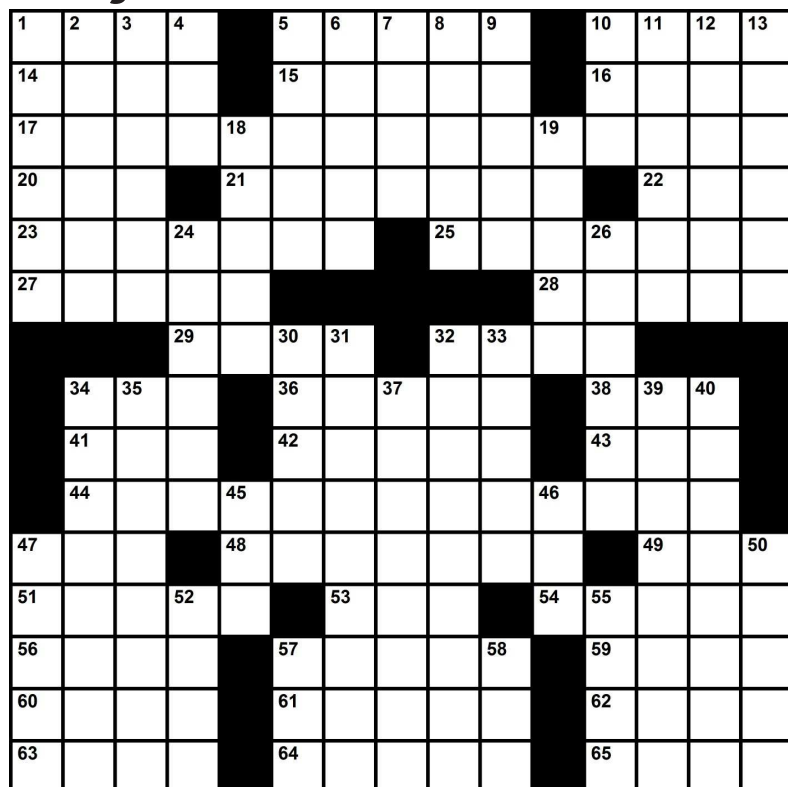
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Hairy Potter



Across

- 1 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
- 5 Eva Gabor's "Green ____"
- 10 Balls
- 14 What an adjective modifies
- 15 Lorna of literature
- 16 From the top
- 17 Actor interviewed in "Heat" about "manscaping"
- 20 Hairy member of the Addams family
- 21 The guy you're seeing?
- 22 The Crimson Tide's st.
- 23 Soft leather
- 25 Author whose poems inspired "Cats"
- 27 "God loves everybody," to Jane Spahr
- 28 Puts stitches in
- 29 Straight, in a bar
- 32 'N Sync member Lance
- 34 Glide on snow
- 36 Cutting light
- 38 It kept 65-Across from shooting off missiles
- 41 Long of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
- 42 Emcee's opening
- 43 McKellen of "The Da Vinci Code"
- 44 Beat poet
- 47 One under Sgt. Matlovich

- 48 Far out, when cruising
- 49 "Ben Hur" novelist Wallace
- 51 To date, but not to go out with
- 53 Eligible for Soc. Sec.
- 54 River of Gay Paree
- 56 Restaurateur Toots
- 57 Stuff in a closet
- 59 Cold shoulder
- 60 Track tipper
- 61 Actress MacDowell
- 62 "The African Queen" author
- 63 French I verb
- 64 Kind of question
- 65 Cold War rival of the USA

Down

- 1 Bring to trial
- 2 Cannot bear
- 3 South Beach souvenir
- 4 Darth, as a boy
- 5 Ike's opponent
- 6 Woes of toes
- 7 Yellow-brick way
- 8 Come as far as
- 9 Groups that make a sound like lovemaking?
- 10 Queer in Quebec

- 11 Disgruntled fan's cry
- 12 Kitchen coating
- 13 Enjoys a good hard workout
- 18 Be a ham in "Hamlet"?
- 19 Yorkshire city
- 24 Domestic
- 26 Bitch role of '50s television
- 30 Garment with a flared bottom
- 31 Reddish-orange fruit
- 32 Composer Leonard
- 33 Hit the decks
- 34 Album item
- 35 With 37-Down, movie in which 17-Across plays 43-Across
- 37 Fellows may receive them
- 39 See 35-Down
- 40 Wide-eyed ones
- 45 D.C. summer hrs.
- 46 U. degrees
- 47 "Oh! Calcutta!" group of actors?
- 50 Painter Max
- 52 Collectible illustrator
- 55 Hairy twin
- 57 One-night-stand partner, crudely
- 58 Keanu in "The Matrix"

Solution on page 32

Pet of the Week

Say hello to Alfie!



This easygoing 1-year-old Beagle mix is fully grown at just 20 pounds. He enjoys playing around in the yard almost as much as he enjoys cuddling up with you. Just be sure to keep an eye on that Beagle nose – once he gets a sniff of something, he's liable to run off after it! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and more! For more information, please contact the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID, 709014.



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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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Horoscopes

Speak up, Pisces!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury in Pisces now semi-sextile to Venus in Aries suggests one of those old screwball comedies where mad impulses and misunderstandings lead to love and happiness. Charm and humor will conquer all!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19):

Don't let arguments become about making you look good or right. That will only backfire. Better to use any disagreement as a test of your diplomatic skills. The voices in your head are offering advice, not orders. Think before acting.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):

Make any social commitments as tentative as you reasonably can. Your friends want your company and you'd find social occasions advantageous, but you might be even better off quietly with a few well-chosen pals.

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20):

Don't let social temptations distract you from your career, but use them to network and to get ahead. Be very attentive to moves behind the scenes and disappointments that could prove to be blessings in disguise.

CANCER (June 21 – July 22):

Engage confusing new ideas. Clarity will come soon. Intellectual and aesthetic challenges will bring lots of opportunities to advance professionally and socially. When you feel overwhelmed, don't be afraid to ask friends or experts to help.

LEO (July 23 – August 22):

Your sexual allure can open erotic treasures and/or Pandora's box. Sublimation can help your career, but needn't be an all-or-nothing proposition. Dangers lurk at extremes of abstinence or indulgence. Use foresight and look for opportunities not necessarily in the bedroom.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):

You are entering a long phase in your life where relationships are becoming even more complicated. Erotic impulses can open up hidden depths and new ways to communicate with the one you love. Some mixed signals are just part of the learning process.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):

Even if you really do know better (and I'm sure you do!) your efforts to help are easily seen as aggressive meddling. Ask first if your suggestions would be welcome. Attending to your own tasks is usually the better way to set an example.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):

There's more to "creative differences" than the idea that you're creative and they're different. As strong as your feelings are steel yourself to welcome constructive criticism as an opportunity to improve. Real friends are not flatterers, but tell the truth.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):

Uncovering family treasures (House cleaning? Talking with older relatives?) can help you realize how much you have to offer in your work. Talking with family elders? Pay special attention to the family's health history.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):

Whether you are arguing with or citing the authorities you can all too easily get it wrong. Check and double-check your facts very carefully. Right or wrong, you are also likely to anger people in charge. Take it slow and easy; be diplomatic!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):

Don't be afraid of arguments. (But are you ever?) New angles of discussion will open your mind as well as others' to intriguing new ideas. A little shock adds extra value. As usual, the trick is to accept challenges more than you offer them.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19):

Being outgoing, even garrulous, will open a lot of doors. Some you may want to shut again in a hurry. Still the good outweighs the bad. Listen more than you talk, but speak up and you'll hear something important.

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

I	L	S	A	A	C	R	E	S	G	U	T	S		
N	O	U	N	D	O	O	N	E	A	N	E	W		
D	A	N	I	E	L	R	A	D	C	L	I	F	F	E
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Cocktail Chatter

I Walked (Barely) with a Zombie

BY ED SIKOV

My birthday was approaching, and Ramona insisted on taking me out to celebrate. "Let's get shitfaced," she advised. She'd just broken up with a 24-year-old gymnast. For some reason she wanted to revisit Le Quai à Nice, the French bistro we'd gone to several months ago.

When I arrived I found Ramona on the sidewalk staring at the storefront. "What's up, Mo?" I asked. "It's gone!" she cried. "Look!" She pointed to a Caribbean restaurant called Turks and Cake-O's. Le Quai à Nice was now a calypso joint. "Oh well," she shrugged. "Conch fritters, anyone?"

We were seated immediately, Turks and Cake-O's not having quite caught on yet. "Two Zombies," Ramona yelled at the dark, handsome waiter before she'd even taken off her coat. "Mo, I really don't think that's a good idea," I said. "F*** you," she advised. "It's your birthday, and I just got dumped by the best lay I've ever had." (This was an achievement; Ramona isn't known for sexual restraint.) "What's in a Zombie anyway?" she asked.

"A laundry list of heavy duty alcohol mixed with some fruit juices so you won't know how strong it is. Let's have one each and switch to seltzer."

"No!" she shouted. The bartender turned and looked at us warily, as did the three other diners in the room. "Fasten your seatbelts," she quoted. "It's going to be a bumpy night." A shiver ran down my spine.

Mo polished off her Zombie before we'd even ordered any food, which gave her the opportunity to describe every inch of Geoff the gymnast's body before getting anything to sop up her boozy misery. I've never heard even the gayest guy describe a man's body in such hot detail. I felt like I'd spent a weekend in the sack with Geoff — with a magnifying glass and Klieg light. The highlights: "The best-tasting treasure trail ever." "Pecs like granite." "I swear he had a 12-pack. I counted!" "His dick was only seven inches, but he made up for it in other ways, if you know what I mean." (I didn't, but didn't care to ask for clarification.) "And the sweetest little hairs around his nipples."

"Another round," Ramona slurred when the waiter arrived with the conch fritters. "I don't think that's such a good idea," I said though my own buzzy haze. Ramona leaned toward me as though she was about to reveal a secret. "Theysayitsyrbrthday, yagonnahaveagoodtime," Ramona said conspiratorially.

The rest of the evening was like limbo — the place, not the dance. I remember helping Ramona on with her coat at the front door with the waiter hurrying toward us with the check, which we hadn't paid; pulling Ramona off the sidewalk, where in an inadvertent homage to "Loony Tunes" she'd slipped on banana peel; folding her into a cab and giving the cabbie \$20 to get her safely into her building; somehow landing in my bed; and Dan waking me up as he pulled my shoes off with a scowl. They don't call them Zombies for nothing.

The Zombie

1 oz. white rum
1 oz. golden rum
1 oz. dark rum
1/2 oz. fruit brandy
3/4 oz. pineapple juice
3/4 oz. papaya juice
Lime juice to taste
151-proof rum to float on top

Pour all ingredients into a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake, then strain into a Collins glass (a tall, usually straight-sided tumbler) filled with cracked ice. Float the 151 rum on top by inverting a spoon over the glass and slowly pouring a thin stream of 151 over the back of the spoon.

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For more information about Spring Bash 2012, contact Events & Sponsorship Manager, Mark McMillan at (248) 398-7105 or MMcMillan@GoAffirmations.org

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