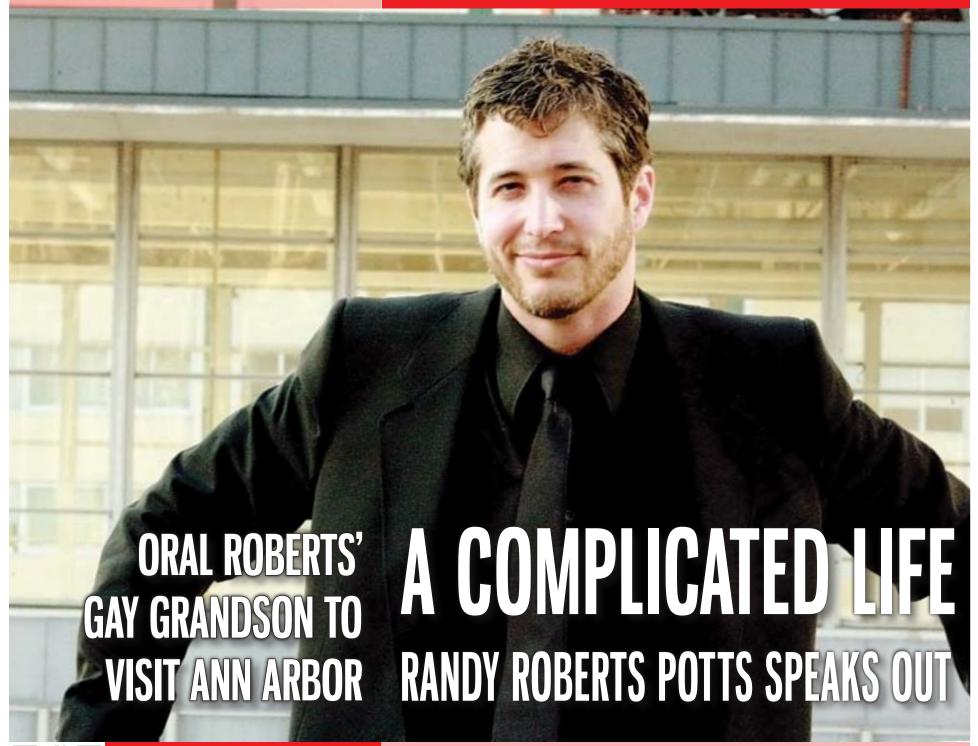
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COMEDYFEST ENTERTAINERS SOUND OFF

LOCAL TEEN FIGHTS 'BULLY' FILM'S 'R' RATING

FLINT 19TH CITY TO PASS NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY



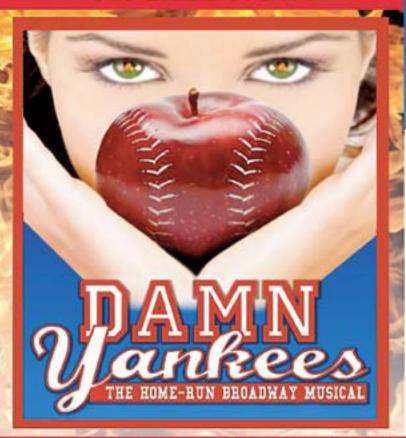


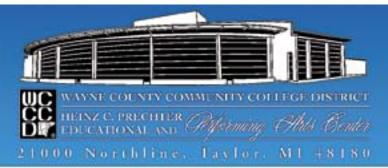
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Growing up on the Oral Roberts compound focus of upcoming talk. Photo: Ange Fitzgerald.

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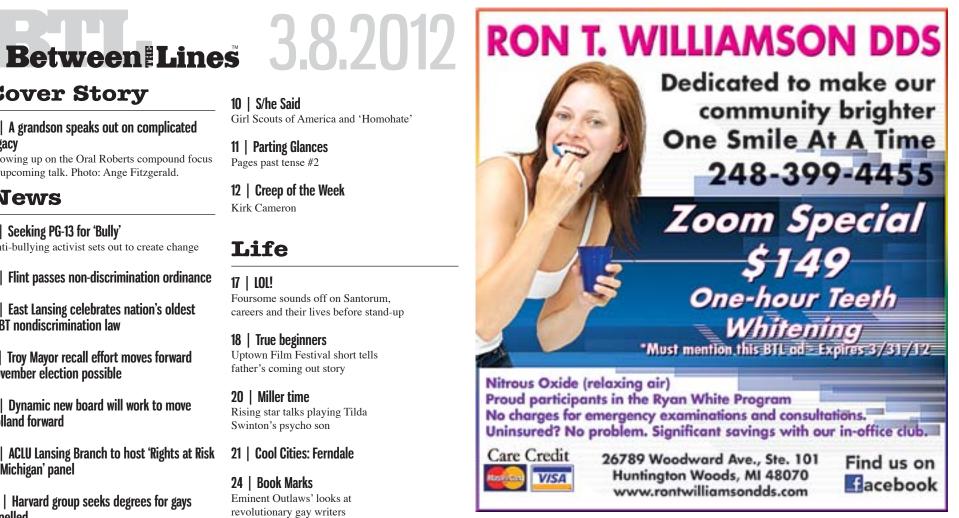


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BY KATE OPALEWSKI

ANN ARBOR - When Katy Butler was in seventh grade; she was bullied for being a lesbian. She would cry in the mornings because she didn't want to go to school. Each day was as she remembers them - "horrible."

Butler endured the brutal ridicule hoping it wouldn't get worse, but one day it did.

"A few guys came up behind me while putting books in my locker. They called me names and asked me why I even bothered to show my face at school because no one liked me. I ignored them because I was scared of what else they might say and who else they might tell if I stood up to them. When I shut my locker, they pushed me against the wall. Then they slammed my locker door shut on my hand, breaking my fourth finger. I held back tears while I watched them run away laughing. I didn't know what to do so I stood there, alone and afraid," said Butler.

She looked around and noticed about fifteen classmates that stood there watching. No one, including school staff, came to her rescue. Butler went home that day and lied to her parents about what happened for fear that their involve-

ment would further escalate the bullying. Butler succumbed to the abuse until three years ago when she began her freshman year at Greenhills High School, a college prep school in Ann Arbor.

"I have no idea how I survived. I really don't know how I got through it. I sympathize with the people who consider taking their own life," said Butler, who made a tough decision to finally share her secrets with her family. "It

was the Day of Silence, but I couldn't keep quiet. I sent my mom a text message confirming what she had already figured out. When I explained to her about the bullying, she was angry and wanted to create a huge deal about it. I asked her not to because it wouldn't change anything," said Butler.

But taking matters into her own hands as an anti-bullying activist is changing everything.

Now a junior in high school, Butler's compelling personal story has made national news since launching a campaign on Change. org (www.change.org). She was motivated by the Motion Picture Association of America's decision to reject by one vote an appeal by The Weinstein Company to lower the rating of their film "Bully" to PG-13 from an R.

"Bully," a new film by Lee Hirsch, documents the epidemic of bullying in American schools. Filmed during the 2009-2010 school year, each story represents a different facet of the bullying crisis in America and raises awareness about a widespread social issue that transcends geographic, racial, ethnic and economic boundaries. As stated in a recent press release, the film illustrates how teachers and administrators often dismiss "aggressive" behaviors with woefully inadequate "kids will be kids" cliches. It also captures the growing movement among parents and youths to change how bullying is addressed in schools, communities and society as a whole.

According to the film's website, The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Safe and Drug-Free Schools estimates that more than 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation. The film's distributor, The Weinstein Company, had reportedly planned to screen the film in middle and high schools across America.

Butler has motivated almost 200,000 people to sign her online petition (http://www. change.org/petitions/mpaa-dont-let-the-bullieswin-give-bully-a-pg-13-instead-of-an-r-rating), which will allow people like her 13-year-old sister Kelly to see the film. The petition reads: "MPAA: Don't let the bullies win! Give "Bully" a PG-13 instead of an R rating. Dear MPAA, Your decision, by one vote, to issue an R rating for the film "Bully" is wrong. It will prevent millions of teenagers from seeing a film that documents the epidemic of bullying in American schools. This film has the potential to change the world and change the culture of violence in many schools. But your decision to give this movie an R means that the people who need to see this movie the most - teenagers who are either bullying their peers or suffering from violence and torment at the hands of bullies - won't get to see this film. Nor will this film be allowed to be shown at middle schools and high schools in this country. Please reconsider your decision to give Bully an R and give it a PG-13 instead. Thank you."

In a Feb. 28 blog Joan Graves, the MPAA Head of Classification and Ratings Administration, responded that bullying is a serious issue and is a subject parents should discuss with their children. "The MPAA agrees with the Weinstein Company that "Bully" can serve as a vehicle for such important discussions. Unfortunately, there is a misconception about the R rating of this

will host a panel discussion featuring local students, parents, school officials, and more, to educate local

audiences about the dangers of bullying and effective

ways to identify and respond to bullying when it

Palladium 12 Theatre

occurs. This panel is free and open to the public.

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March 10 - Movie: 2 p.m., Panel: 4 p.m.

film limiting the audience to adults. This is not true...As with any movie, parents will decide if they want their children to see "Bully." School districts, similarly, handle the determination of showing movies on a case-by-case basis and have their own guidelines for parental approval."

"I think they're creating a cover for not wanting to show this film," said Butler. "It's a harsh reality, but there is nothing negative to be taken away from the film. It will show young people the affect bullying has on others, but also that things get better."

Butler said she has felt an overwhelming amount of support since late 2011 when she and her friend Carson Borbely launched a different petition on Change.org urging the Michigan state legislature to stop the state's "License to Bully" bill that would have created religious and moral exemptions from bullying. She collected more than 50,000 signatures and the legislature passed a modified bill that removed those exemptions.

"It's amazing. The director of the film called me to thank me for doing this," said Butler, who is well on her way to establishing a career in political activism as she was recently invited to speak at the Western Regional Conference 2012: Lead the Movement, Be the Change in California.

"This really has meant a lot to a lot of people. She is so brave in coming forward and is not shy about standing up for young people. People power change and it's quite inspiring,' said Change.org Campaign Manager Mark Anthony Dingbaum. "It's only a matter of time before the MPAA responds."

Flint passes non-discrimination ordinance

torically, the City

has been on the

forefront on fair

housing being

the first in the

Country to pass

a fair-housing

Shariff, one of

the organizers

for the ordi-

nance, said, "It's

about time. This

builds on our

civil rights legacy

as a city. Flint

residents will no

longer be denied

housing just for

Nayyirah

Ordinance."

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FLINT – As of March 1, Flint became the 19th city in Michigan to adopt a Human Rights Ordinance that prevents discrimination based on sexual orientation. In addition to protecting gays and lesbians, the ordinance includes protections for sexual orientation, gender expression, and HIV status in housing and public accommodations.

The ordinance was passed by Flint's City Council, whose power has been usurped by an Emergency Financial Manager appointed by Gov. Snyder in November 2011. Emergency Financial Manager Michael Brown approved the ordinance change, which is now posted on the City's official website.

This ordinance is the culmination of a nearly two-year effort by a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents and allies. Local advocates have been supported by the Flint AIDS Wellness Center led by Stevi Atkins, council member Dale Weighill, long time Flint supporter Art Reyes, the Unity Michigan Coalition, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which held a leadership training Power Summit in Flint this past fall.

Councilperson Joshua Freeman credits Councilperson Dale Weighill with doing "much of the work on this before introducing it to Council," and adding "It seemed like a no brainer to me. Why wouldn't you want everyone to have equal access and to be treated fairly? His-



Flint Councilperson Dale Weighill was credited by his co-worker, Joshua Freeman with doing a lot of work in the two years leading up to ordinance's passage.

being who they are."

"I am delighted to see the City of Flint joining the 18 other Michigan cities in successfully adopting and implementing nondiscrimination laws," said Atkins, CEO of Wellness AIDS Ser-

vices, which hosts Safe Space, a community center for gay and transgender people. "All citizens of our community should be equally protected. We are one step closer to stabilizing housing for many of our gay and transgender clients."

While the ordinance is a victory for equal rights supporters, it could also be short-lived if state-level legislators move forward with HB 5039.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills), would amend the state's 1976 Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to limit protected classes to those outlined in that law. HB 5039 states, "A state agency or unit of local government shall not adopt any ordinance, rule, regulation or policy that includes as a protected class, any classification not specifically included as a protected class under this act. Any existing ordinance, rule, regulation, or policy that includes, as a protected class, any classification not specifically included as a protected class under this act is void." The amendment goes on to state this would apply to any state agency or unit of local government including school districts and cities.

The bill was introduced Oct. 5, 2011 and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee. On Nov. 28, 2011 the committee discussed the bill but no vote was taken. It is currently still in

the committee process. McMillin has answered questions about his proposed bill at town hall meetings in his district, saying that laws that include protections for sexual orientation can be used to discriminate against Christians.

"Because of that kind of law, Catholic Social Services in Massachusetts no longer does adoptions, because of an ordinance like that. There's a photographer who didn't want to photograph a homosexual wedding and he was fined \$8,000," McMillan says in a Rochester Citizen-released You Tube video.

McMillin was likely referring to a 2008 case where a New Mexico lesbian couple tried to hire a photographer for their commitment ceremony, but was turned down. In Willcock vs. Elane Photography (http://volokh.com/files/willockopinion.pdf), the New Mexico Human Rights Commission ruled in favor of the woman who was denied service, and though the woman refused to accept any claims of damages, the court did require the photographer to pay \$6,637.94 in court costs and attorneys' fees.

McMillin also said the issue "should be dealt with at a state level."

In Flint the ordinance only addresses discrimination in housing and accommodations, though several cities have protections in housing, employment and contractor requirements.

East Lansing celebrates, honors nation's oldest LGBT nondiscrimination law

BY TODD HEYWOOD

While some in the Michigan legislature are working to push through legislation that would roll back local nondiscrimination laws, the city of East Lansing recognized the 40th anniversary of the nation's first-of-its kind nondiscrimination law that protected people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation March 6.

East Lansing City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett sponsored a resolution to honor the anniversary at the council's Tuesday meeting.

"Outside of East Lansing and the 18 cities that have passed similar ordinances in Michigan, it's still legal in our state to fire someone for being gay," Triplett told Between The Lines. "That's entirely unacceptable. It's also ironic and tragic that at the very moment we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our groundbreaking policy, there is a bill pending in the state legislature that would void our human relations ordinance and in effect legalize discrimination against LGBT people in East Lansing."

On March 7, 1972, at the urging of the Gay Liberation Movement student group at Michigan State University, the city adopted a law prohibiting the firing or discrimination of a person based on "sex or homosexuality." City Council passed that first law, which applied only to city hiring

practices, by a 4 to 1 vote.

Gay Liberation Movement was the forerunner to MSU's current Alliance of Queer and Ally Students, the main campus LGBT student group.

The passage was not without controversy, however. An article in The Advocate, dated May 10, 1972, reported that the original provision allowed city officials to fire any employee for homosexual solicitation. That amendment initially passed on a 3 to 2 vote but was rescinded at the following council meeting on a 3 to 2 vote. In addition to the solicitation clause, that same article cites opposition from Mayor Wilbur Brookover, "He said he had once done a study for the U.S. Navy which indicated that 'no person is a homosexual by nature. Their pattern of behavior is to try and get recruits by telling people homosexuality is natural. I don't feel the employees of this city should be open to that possibility."

Even though Brookover was opposed to the move, East Lansing's law laid the groundwork 40 years ago to protecting LGBT citizens from discrimination. However, in Michigan, the state has not adopted comprehensive legislation to extend such protections statewide, leaving it up to each local unit of government to take action. This has lead to serious ballot battles, which were costly and divisive in communities such as Lansing, Hamtramck, and Kalamazoo.

"Because of that first step we can now say

today that hundreds of cities across the country have passed and successfully implemented nondiscrimination ordinances covering gay and transgender people," Jon Hoadley, executive director of Unity Michigan, said in an email to BTL. "This has made millions of lives better without the terrible consequences opponents claim will happen."

Advocates from across the state are celebrating the anniversary.

In an emailed statement to BTL, Emily Dievendorf, policy director for the Equality Michigan, had this to say on the anniversary, "East Lansing was brave enough to do right by all of its residents by addressing discrimination at the very point of its acknowledgment. Now, forty years

later, other cities are still arguing whether it is worth their time to protect their citizens. Cities on the fence should recognize that East Lansing is a thriving success in a struggling economy for a reason. Welcoming communities reflect the kind of big picture thinking that attracts and retains workers and residents committed to each other and, in turn, growth."

In an interview with BTL, Jeffrey Montgomery, former director of the Triangle Founda-



"Outside of East Lansing and the 18 cities that have passed similar ordinances in Michigan, it's still legal in our state to fire someone for being gay,"

East Lansing City Council Member and Mayor Pro
 Tem Nathan Triplett is sponsoring the resolution

tion, praised the anniversary. "East Lansing led the way; others followed," he said. "Michigan was once a real leader in establishing GLBT equality. Now is our time recommit and return to such a role again, "said Montgomery.

Mt. Pleasant, Jackson, and Holland are all municipalities with active movements to adopt nondiscrimination ordinances that include LGBT people. And on Monday, it was announced the city of Flint officially adopted a fully inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance.

A grandson speaks out on complicated legacy

Growing up on the Oral Roberts compound focus of upcoming talk



BY ANDREA POTEET

In more than five decades as one of the country's best-known preachers, famed televangelist Oral Roberts spread his trademark message: "something good is going to happen to you."

But for his grandson, Randy Roberts Potts, the road to that happiness took years of depression, family estrangement and finally self acceptance.

"It was very difficult at first for several years," Potts, 37, says in his whisper-soft voice. "But things eventually evened out and life these days is really good."

Coming out is rarely a pain-free process, but for Potts, who was raised on a compound in Oklahoma with Roberts and other family members, it meant identifying himself as part of a group his grandfather had openly shunned.

"I knew I was attracted to other boys instead of girls at age 7 or so," Potts said, "but I learned early on from my family and my church that it was horrible. It was a long, long process and I "I felt like 'well, I don't have a family to lose anymore and my grandparents are gone and I don't have to worry about hurting their feelings, so I can write freely."

- Randy Roberts Potts, grandson of televangelist Oral Roberts

didn't actually come out until I was 31, after I was married for 11 years and had children."

Roberts' legacy is a complicated issue for Potts, who sees positive and negative aspects of his grandfather's message and who left organized religion at age 18. Though homophobia was never the cornerstone of Roberts' sermons, which also included aspects of faith healing and which culminated in the building of Oral Roberts University in 1963, it was certainly present

in and outside of the church, Potts says. One of Roberts' sons, Ronald, committed suicide after being court-ordered into a drug rehab center following his coming out.

"A lot of people have told me that their parents took their anti-gay attitude from him," Potts said. "In that sense his legacy has not been the greatest. In other ways he was very positive, he tried to focus people on love, he wanted their lives to be good. He had a very positive aspect to his ministry and I think it did help a lot of people."

His coming-out process led to estrangement from many of his family members and a custody battle for his two children, which he won. Though battling with his family was hard, he said it gave him the freedom he needed to write publicly about his complicated relationship with his grandfather, after hashing it out in diary entries for ten years.

"I think when my grandfather passed (in 2009) and my grandmother passed (after a fall in 2005) and my family came out very strongly against me being gay, it sort of gave me per-

mission to consider publishing some of that," Potts, a former English teacher, said. "I felt like 'well, I don't have a family to lose anymore and my grandparents are gone and I don't have to worry about hurting their feelings, so I can write freely.""

Now, Potts shares his story in articles for The Washington Post and This Land Press, in the book version of Dan Savage's video collection "It Gets Better," and in speaking events throughout the country, primarily in churches in conservative areas. He is set to visit First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor March 10, for a chat sponsored by Rainbow Crossing.

"I really would like to encourage especially LGBT youth, that even though it is difficult to come out, things can get better, they can have a good life and they can live any life they want to," Potts said. "I want there to be in place what there wasn't for me, or say my uncle, the possibility of hoping for a better world."

He also strives to do that through activism, like his current project, the Gay Agenda, which sets a local gay couple in a conservative town in a vacant storefront to live their daily lives—from morning cereal to evening television – in front of passersby. The exhibit, designed to give conservatives a visual of how nonthreatening gay couples really are, has already kicked off in

Oklahoma City and is scheduled for stops across the country.

"When you look inside, it will be very boring to watch," Potts says. "If you watch people hanging out at home, it's not very interesting."

Potts said the reaction so far has been positive, though planned protests from religious groups were thwarted by 17-degree weather. He said he wants to eventually work his way into smaller conservative cities, but has fears about the participants' safety.

At each stop, though, Potts reaches out to area pastors in a letter asking to meet them and discuss the project.

So far, he has had no responses.

"It seems to me, pastors of churches who are not gay friendly, they really don't know what to do with me," Potts says. "It's not an angry response, just none. I'll keep sending them and see what happens."

Randy Roberts Potts Saturday, March 10 5 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, 120 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Randy Roberts Potts 5 p.m, dinner 6:15 p.m. (additional charge*) MUSE Cinncinati's Women's Choir 7:30 p.m.

Co-sponsored by FUMC Music & Liturgical Arts Ministries and Rainbow Crossing

*Dinner tickets should be purchased ahead of time. Regular tickets \$15, Seniors \$10, children 12 and under \$8

Sunday, March 11

Mr. Potts will also speak on Sunday at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. at the Church.

Church phone number: 734-662-4536

"I really would like to encourage especially LGBT youth, that even though it is difficult to come out, things can get better, they can have a good life and they can live any life they want to."

- Randy Roberts Potts



Protests last December called for Mayor Janice Daniels to step down. A recall effort began in January and was given the green light to collect signatures last week. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

Troy Mayor recall effort moves forward

November election possible

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

TROY - The public should soon see a petition on the city's streets to recall Troy Mayor Janice Daniels from office. On March 1 the Oakland County Commission deemed clear one of two submissions from the Recall Janice Daniels group during a clarity hearing attended by more than 30 people. The meeting ran for about an hour and a half at the Oakland County Probate Court in Pontiac.

The commission, which includes Chief Probate Judge Linda Hallmark, Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, and Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds Bill Bullard Jr., unanimously approved the language of the first petition, which targets Mayor Daniels "for voting to reject a \$8,485,212 Federal investment grant to the City of Troy on December 19, 2011."

"We are very pleased. We can now move forward with the recall. We have plans to start collecting signatures in the middle of March. Volunteers are coming out of the woodwork every day," said Troy resident and petition sponsor Matthew Binkowski. The grass-roots group filed its committee paperwork on Feb. 13 with the Oakland County Clerk's Office.

Former Troy Mayor Louise Schilling, who served the city for 7 1/2 years said she thought the recall effort was justified for all the reasons cited on the recalljanicedaniels.com website.

"Janice Daniels exhibits her incompetence repeatedly in words and deeds. The wording approved (for the petition) will be only one of the reasons voters in Troy will sign the recall petition. I also believe Janice Daniels was fraudulent in her campaign with printed materials and deliberately misleading comments to voters. From what I have been constantly hearing from residents and businesses in Troy, they want her gone from the position of Mayor as quickly as possible," said Schilling.

According to Michigan's Recall Procedures, each reason for the recall must be based upon the officer's conduct during his or her current term in office. That's why Hallmark and Bullard Jr. voted to reject the second petition.

The language in the second petition targets Mayor Daniels "for refusing to swear to support the Troy City Charter in taking the oath of office and later referring to the Charter as a "whimsical document"; for failing to support a Federal investment in the City of Troy of over \$8.4 million dollars, by voting against the Troy Transit Center project on two occasions, December 19, 2011 and January 17, 2012; for violating the City Council's procedural rules on January 9, 2012, by exceeding the limitations on a council member's speaking time by reading a position paper which publicly denigrated city employees; and for embarrassing the citizens of the City of Troy on January 9, 2012, by telling high school students planning an anti-bullying program that "the homosexual lifestyle is dangerous."

Hallmark said she has "concerns" about whether the oath of office incident occurred during or prior to the time that Mayor Daniels was actually sworn in to office.

In advance of the hearing, Mayor Daniels

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Fri., Mar. 23 at 10:45 a.m.

At Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Sun., Mar. 25 at 3 p.m.

At Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills

TICKETS START

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See TROY MAYOR, page 9

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Viewpoint Run for office

When policy makers, at any level of government, have an openly gay colleague, it is that much harder for them to pass anti-gay policies or stunt progress for equality...

BY EMILY DIEVENDORF



dvocates get a lot of complaints. As Michigan's only lobbyist entirely dedicated to gay and transgender rights I routinely don't make everyone happy. I don't do enough. I don't say enough the right, most effective

way. I'm too blunt and confrontational. I'm too pragmatic and soft. I'm too partisan toward the Democrats. I have too many relationships with Republicans. I'm focusing on the wrong issues or too many issues. I try to help everybody and do everything and weakening my impact by stretching myself thin.

I happen to agree with the last claim and feel it is time to share the responsibility for our equal rights successes and failures in Lansing. I implore you to shape pivotal policy decisions yourself and your way. This time, I'm not pleading for your letters and phone calls. I'm not asking you to march on the state capitol with a giant rainbow flag. While we need all of that, and need to work toward equality from every angle, we also, desperately, need you to run for office.

Part of the reason Michigan has been so slow to make progress is that you are not in public office, out, in your full "I'm a human being with a family who pays taxes and gets sick" glory. PhD Andrew Reynolds, at the University of North Carolina, found a direct correlation between the prevalence of gay or transgender elected officials and the existence of and likelihood of progress toward pro-equality policies. When policy makers, at any level of government, have an openly gay colleague, it is that much harder for them to pass anti-gay policies or stunt progress for equality knowing that their decisions will harm the very real human being they have to face at every city council, county commission, or legislative meeting. Having gay elected leadership in public office provides a much needed voice and perspective, finally illuminating that the gay community has an undeniable stake in nearly every issue. Our presence allows us to advocate to meet our own community's needs and determine when and how we address them.

You may be assuming you can't get elected to office if you are out, or if you are in elected office that you can't get reelected if you come out. You would be wrong. Reynolds found that running for office as an openly gay candidate impacts the margin of your win minimally, and rarely is the factor in the loss of an election.

Our voices and leadership are essential to the success and health of the gay community. A tangible anti-gay sentiment is, right now, not only present but also dangerous and looming over our attempts to provide for our partners and families in even the most basic ways. Many Michiganders have resigned themselves to the conclusion that no progress for equality has a chance until these extremists are kicked out of office. I cannot justify anyone checking out of the movement until November 2012, but it is absolutely correct that without new elected leaders this anti-gay rampage is granted a clear path to continue.

The gay and transgender community, like so many targeted communities, discounted the power of its vote in 2010, and helped to leave all of Michigan with the state government we fear

PhD Andrew Reynolds, at the University of North Carolina, found a direct correlation between the prevalence of gay or transgender elected officials and the existence of and likelihood of progress toward pro-equality policies.

today. We must vote and mobilize others to vote because it is everyone's duty and the public is on our side. The vast majority of Michigan residents are in favor of equality in employment, housing, and access to health benefits. Our charge today, is to give voters pro-equality and openly gay candidates to vote for.

There is support available, and a wealth of resources for candidates to tap into. The Equality Michigan Action Network and the Equality Michigan Pride PAC are looking for potential candidates to step forward to announce their intention to take office this November. Success for new candidates is only possible if your campaign work starts immediately. Daunted pro-equality candidates with tough primaries need to step forward and ask for help in the approaching couple of weeks. Change happens now and through your concerns, talents, demands, and participation in the political process.

I have no qualms with your complaints. Complaints make advocates and leaders better, keep us working harder, and challenge us to question and measure our approaches to political change for effectiveness. Yet, if you are savvy enough to question my work, I insist that you are also responsible for contributing to its success. Take your complaints, turn them into a plan to help move us forward, work with me from the inside – get off that chair and file for candidacy right now.

Emily Dievendorf is the policy director at Equality Michigan and the political director of Equality Michigan Pride PAC.



RUSH LIMBAUGH-THE EARLY YEARS

www.PrideSource.com March 8, 2012 / BTL 9

Dynamic new board will work to move Holland forward

HOLLAND - Holland is Ready has selected a 14-member board of directors that will work to move the community forward to achieving the safety, rights and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the area.

The new board, which met for the first time on Feb. 27, includes people of a variety of ages, professions, faiths, races, backgrounds and gender, including:

Jen Adams, 43, currenlty the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Holland and one of the founding members of Holland is Ready; Charletta V. Berry, 45, works in Hope College's Office of Financial Aid and is an Army veteran; Charley Renee Bowers, Ph.D., 74, is retired from the agricultural division of The Upjohn Company. She currently works part-time as a sales associate at icpenney: Mary De Ridder, 67, retired from First United Methodist Church of Holland as outreach director. She now helps coordinate as a volunteer for Justice for our Neighbors, a faith-based outreach to immigrants, and the Holland area chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians.; Andres "Andy" Fierro is pastor of Crossroad Chapel and a part-time chaplain at Holland Hospital. He is married and the father of two sons; Karis Granberg-Michaelson, 28, is



In January, Holland Is Ready was honored by the city. Board member Jen Adams is seen speaking at the event. Photo courtesy of Jim Larkin.

a Hope College graduate, serves the local community through AmeriCorps and serves on the Board of Directors of Room for All, advocating for the full participation of LGBT people in the life and ministry of the Reformed Church in America; David Hoekstra, 58, is a self-employed woodworker/cabinet maker. A 36-year resident of Holland, David is in his third term on the Holland City Council: Jim Larkin, 58, a journalist who retired from The Flint Journal after serving as a suburban editor and columnist. He is a former Holland Human Relations Commission member; Donald Martin, 33, teaches English at Grand Rapids Community College; Katie Polik, 15, a sophomore at Holland High School, is vice president of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Holland High School and runs cross country and is an active member of the theatre and forensics teams at her school; Magdalena Rivera, 46, is City of Holland Human Relations Commission chairperson and a Holland Public Schools Board of Education Trustee; Joanne Stewart, 51, a chemistry professor at Hope College and a parent of two Holland High School students; Carla Black Vissers, 48, teaches English at Hope College and formerly served on the Holland City Council, Holland Human Relations Commission, and Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance; Lindsay TerHaar, 23, a Hope College graduate, works as a volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity.

"We are grateful for the wonderful response from the community and the commitment of talented board members as we move forward in our work for the safety, rights and inclusion of GLBT people on the lakeshore," Adams said.

ACLU Lansing Branch to host 'Rights at Risk in Michigan' panel

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

EAST LANSING – The Lansing branch of the American Civil Liberties Union will host "Rights at Risk in Michigan," a panel discussion to address threats to civil liberties in the state and what can be done to oppose them, during the branch's annual meeting on April 5 at the East Lansing Public Library.

The panel consists of Brandon Jessup, chairman and chief executive Office of Michigan Forward; Karla Swift, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); and Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT

Project.

According to Paulette Hatchett, acting chair of the branch's Education and Outreach Committee, the panel's three facilitating experts intend to inform the public about recent legislative actions and objectives threatening their civil liberties, such as the Emergency Manager Act and the rescission and prohibition of domestic partner benefits.

"We're hoping anyone interested in learning more about these issues and what they can do to assist in defending, furthering and supporting the maintenance of the democratic process, bargaining rights and LGBT rights will attend," said Hatchett. Jessup will discuss the petition drive and efforts of Michigan Forward to repeal the Public Act 4, legislation imposing a state appointed Emergency Manager over local governments. Michigan Forward is a non-profit organization specializing in creating progressive public policy initiatives for state and local governments.

Swift will discuss how "Right to Work" laws threaten workers and middle class families and the how threats to collective bargaining rights are spreading nationwide.

Kaplan will address the recent legislative actions eliminating domestic partner benefits of public employees and the provision of such benefits for LGBT workers. Kaplan will also

discuss other legislation that could have potential negative impacts on LGBT citizens in Michigan.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the East Lansing Library, 950 N. Abbot Road, East Lansing. The public is welcome to participate and refreshments will be served.

The ACLU Lansing Branch also has begun scheduling presentations of its "School-To-Prison Pipeline Project," an attempt to address issues related to the expulsion of students from public schools.

More information on the Rights At Risk in Michigan panel discussion and the School-To-Prison Pipeline Project is available at mi.aclu.org.

► Troy mayor

Continued from p. 7

prepared written comments to rebut the accusations made against her in the petitions, although she did not have the opportunity to read them aloud. It reads, in part: "The majority of these accusations are refutable conclusions drawn by the complainant. They are not facts...In conclusion, if this honorable board would watch the Troy City Council meetings I believe that they would agree that as a newly elected government official I am making a valiant effort to Chair these meetings with dignity and respect to all persons who come before the board, with an honest effort to follow protocol and with an expressed love for our city and our citizens."

As many of Mayor Daniels' support-

ers stepped up to the podium to express their frustration with the allegations and challenge them, Hallmark reminded them that it's not the responsibility of the commission to judge the accuracy of the petition language, but the clarity of the language.

"Truthfulness is not an issue. We are not defending the petition statements, but only explaining that if a petition statement is false, that is irrelevant to our decision," said Hallmark, adding that the commission does not have the authority, by law, to rule on the reasons for the recall.

"The citizens presented their case as best as they could," said Oakland County Republican Party Chairman Jim Thienel. He stated the proceedings are "extremely objectionable" and the outcome is "shameful."

While leaving the courthouse, Mayor Daniels said, "I am concerned with the process

itself, in that clarity has to have substance to be clear. We need to start working on that as a state legislature to fix these laws in place."

Petition circulators have six months to get 7,985 signatures. Within those six months, signatures are valid for 90 days.

"We're confident that we can reach our goal," said John Kulesz, a local attorney, longtime resident of Troy and volunteer for the campaign. "The number of people that voted for Janice is not relevant to the number of signatures we need to gather.



Learn more about the recall effort at www.recalljanicedaniels.com website. Organizers need volunteers to collect signatures.

But for the record, 14,832 Troy residents voted in the Mayoral election. Janice won with the slightest of margins, 51.98 percent to Robin Beltramini's 47.83 percent. Respectively, the total votes were 7,709 to 7,094. When you consider that there are approximately 56,000 registered voters in Troy, Janice can't claim that she represents the majority of Troy."

Election officials say a recall election could be held as early as November. Mayor Daniels can appeal the decision in Circuit Court within ten days.

www.PrideSource.com BTL \ March 8, 2012 \ Opinion

Heard on Facebook **Rush Limbaugh apologizes for** his personal attack on Sandra Fluke (kind of), do you think it's too little too late?

I don't buy it. Rush Limbaugh has been saying this sort of evil shit for many, many, years. He is only sorry – which I take with a grain of salt – because he is now losing sponsorships. Too bad, Rush.

-Tom Sapp

When the offense is doubled down in spades over days, a later apology is nothing more than a joke and everyone knows it. This evil person needs to be fired, and nothing short of that will appease me in any way.

-Steve Duerksen

Oh, yeah, I'm sure he really meant the apology. He just doesn't want to lose any more sponsors.

-Lynda Schrecengost

Birth control equals no more people like him! -Paula Hopkins

I think that windbag crossed the "too little too late" line a long time ago.

-Scott McClure

Way too little. It wasn't a real apology to Sandra Fluke. It was an apology for his choice of words. Doesn't count. He is just desperately trying to hang on to advertisers after crossing a line which was too hateful, even for Rush.

-Keith Orr

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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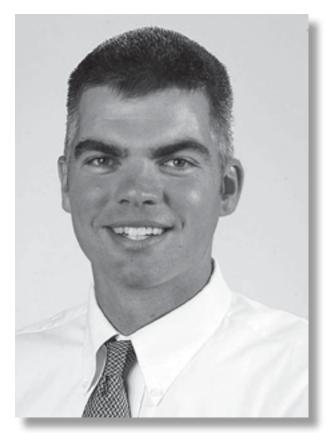


Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

S/he SaidGirl Scouts of America

and 'Homohate'

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Bob Morris

"I did a small amount of web-based research... abundant evidence proves that the agenda of Planned Parenthood includes sexualizing young girls through the Girl Scouts, a tactical arm of Planned Parenthood. Many parents are abandoning the Girl Scouts because they promote homosexual lifestyles. (During) the Girl Scouts education seminar girls are directed to study the example of role models. Of the fifty role models listed, only three have a briefly-mentioned religious background - all the rest are feminists, lesbians, or Communists. Boys who decide to claim a 'transgender' or cross-dressing life-style are permitted to become a member of a Girl Scout troop, performing crafts with the girls and participate in overnight and camping activities – just like any real girl. The fact that the Honorary President of Girl Scouts of America is Michelle Obama, and the Obama's are radically pro-abortion and vigorously support the agenda of Planned Parenthood, should give each of us reason to pause before our individual or collective endorsement of the organization. As members of the Indiana House of Representatives, we must be wise before we extend legitimacy to a radicalized organization."

-Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, in a letter to his fellow lawmakers, explaining why he wouldn't support a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, www.journalgazette.net, Feb. 23.



Leonard Pitts

"Thus does social conservatism skid through the last barriers of basic intellect, simple decency and common sense, hurtling breakneck off the cliff. Next stop: utter incoherence. There is, in a sense, nothing new here. Fear has long been the sine qua non of social conservatism, the fundament of an us-against-them ethos that simultaneously binds social conservatives together in common cause and separates them from the

rest of the world. Logic is where social conservatism fears to tread. It is a worldview driven by fear of the world beyond its racial, gender, religious, cultural and intellectual borders. Historically, it always has been. Fear the Japanese, they said. They are collaborating with our enemies. Fear the communists, they said. They are hiding behind every bush. Fear the gays, they say. They want to recruit our children to their lifestyle. And now? Fear the Girl Scouts. They are trying to conquer America one cookie at a time."

-Leonard Pitts Jr., in his column titled "Fear the pushers of Thin Mints," about Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, in a letter to his fellow lawmakers, explaining why he wouldn't support a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, www.freep.com Mar. 02.



"I use the term Homohate because Homophobia implies a fear of Gay people. I don't agree with that in the current climate. I believe it is a deep hate of us for who we are. I won't minimize it by chalking it up to fear."

-Michael, in his blog posting titled "Know Your Enemy, Know Your Friend - Howard Stern Speaks Out On Homohate," about Howard Stern's views opposing homophobia, http:// michaelsgaythought.blogspot.com, Feb. 12.



Letter to the **Editor**

"Gay marriage and contraception seem to attract a lot of chatter these days. There ought to be a law for or against them, right? We expect the government to pass laws prohibiting behaviors that threaten our safety or freedoms. Neither gay marriage nor contraception is one of those behaviors. I say we pass a law prohibiting people from imposing their values and moral judgments on others. Some things just aren't any of our business."

-Jack Belisle, in his letter to the editor, about the heated debate over contraception insurance coverage, Detroit Free Press www.freep.com, Mar. 04.

www.PrideSource.com Opinion / March 8, 2012 / BTL **11**

Parting Glances



Pages past tense #2

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

5 right; 25 left; 15 right. Click! After 60-plus years I can still recall my locker combination at Harry Burns Hutchins Intermediate, located on Detroit's west side.

I can also rattle off 30 names of my Homeroom 223 classmates ... Lenore Abramowitz, Roland Anderson, Judith Berkowitz, Lois Carmichael, Thomas Diamond, Henry Gonte (forever combing his blond hair), Kenny Lenseski (my persistent - and most welcome - gym wrestling buddy), Ella Maxwell, the Wassermans, Melvin and Saul ...

Most classmates were Jewish; a few, black. Hutchins was located near three synagogs, and when the high holidays fell, only a few "goyim" were left. Of course, we gentiles looked forward to these celebrations, wishing our Jewish buddies mitzvahs.

Hutchins wasn't my neighborhood school, so my mother got Board of Education permission for me to attend. (She said nearby Jefferson Intermediate was too rough.) Each morning for three years, 15 cents plus bus card, I rode two miles to Woodrow Wilson and Blaine.

Coming from a poor family, I found prototype Hutchins palatial. Up-to-date library, wood and print shops, two gyms, two swimming pools, ample auditorium, staffed cafeteria serving 30-cent lunches, a string orchestra, a school song, a "Hutchins Handbook," with rules of conduct to be loyally - and strictly followed. Or else.

In addition to academic subjects I learned to type, balance business ledgers, play cello, write for the Hutchins Star (contest editor), speak some Spanish, shoot basketballs, do woodwork and soldering, practice public speaking and acting, explore art with two gifted teachers.

My homeroom teacher, who also taught math, was Miss Harriet B. Gaston. (I can still forge her hall pass initials.) "What's under the crust of a cherry pie?" "Who's buried in Grant's tomb?" she'd ask when I was on the verge of answering the obvious during remedial sessions.

I got A's in gym, not because of any sports prowess, but because I printed well and wrote out attendance slips for two classes. I had swimming once a week. (We swam naked, and were shyly curious in the shower to see who had pubic hair status. I was a wash out on that score.)

My most embarrassing moment: the day the girl's gym teacher caught me whistling as they passed carefree by an open window. My punishment (concocted with HBG's approval) was to spend one full gym period in my pristine white gym shorts among the girl's gym class.

"Girls, Mr. Alexander, who was impolite enough to ogle you, is our embarrassed visitor today," said Miss Rene Swope. "I suggest you politely ignore him." And ignore me they did, 'til a fire alarm sounded, and I had to march out onto the sports field, where staff, students, God and Orthodox Detroit, bore amused witness to my offense. (That's why I'm gay.)

My last day at Hutchins was sweetly sad. I had made so many close friends, gotten exceptional groundwork in place for high school and college, and took initial and confident steps in exploring my writing, music, and artist creativity.

As we crossed the stage to receive our diplomas to say a three-year goodbye, I tried vainly to hold back tears. 35. 25. 15 ...









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Creep of the Week

Kirk Cameron

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

n March 2 Kirk Cameron was on CNN's Piers Morgan Tonight for some reason.



Kirk Cameron

come as quite a shock that he was still alive (that was Corey Haim,

folks).

To many

it must

viewers

have

But if you want to get people talking about you again, your best bet is to go on TV and say something crazy. And that's just what Cameron did.

Now, Cameron's extreme right beliefs are no secret. He's a pin-up boy for zealous Christianity these days. But usually the stuff that comes out of his mouth has a limited audience. Not so this time.

During the interview, Morgan asked Cameron about gay marriage. Cameron responded, "I believe that marriage was defined by God a long time ago. Marriage is almost as old as dirt and it was defined in the garden between Adam and Eve, one man one woman for life, 'til death do you part. So I would never attempt to redefine marriage and I don't think anyone else should either. So do I support the idea of gay marriage? No, I don't."

Now, someone who believed in evolution obviously wouldn't be making the argument that marriage was *older* than dirt. Certainly if we turn to science we would find otherwise. But facts are for the godless. I also think it's important to point out that the Bible says a lot of stuff about marriage, and it isn't all "one man one woman for life." Some crazy shit happens in the Bible, people.

Morgan then asks if homosexuality is a sin.

"I think that it's unnatural," Cameron says. "I think that it's detrimental and ultimately destructive to so many of the foundations of our civilization."

How does Cameron know

what will "ultimately" be "destructive to so many of the foundations of our civilization," you ask? Because he's seen the future. He starred in the low budget movie based on Tim LaHaye's Left Behind series, a zany Armegeddon-Rapture rom-com. He's no doubt read the whole series. He knows the Truth.

But what if one of Cameron's six kids ended up gay?

"I'd sit down and I'd have a heart to heart with them," Cameron says. "Just like you would with your kids."

Morgan interrupts: "But it one of my sons said that I'd say, 'That's great son, as long as you're happy.' What would you say?"

"Well, I wouldn't say that's great son as long as you're happy,"

Here's hoping that none of the Cameron kids are gay. And here's hoping that if they are they're strong enough to break away from Daddy's homophobic stronghold and misguided sense of morality.

Cameron responds. "I'm gonna say there's all sorts of issues that we need to wrestle through in our life and just because you feel one way doesn't mean we should act on everything that we feel."

Hoo boy. Here's hoping that none of the Cameron kids are gay. And here's hoping that if they are they're strong enough to break away from Daddy's homophobic stronghold and misguided sense of morality.

Cameron's comments caused quite a stir, needless to say. Morgan even said that Cameron was "brave" for saying these things. I don't think "brave" is the right word. "Tone deaf" and "ignorant" feel more accurate to me. And that's the Truth.



Demonstrations at Harvard University last week were calling on the school to award posthumous degrees to seven students expelled in

Harvard group seeks degrees for gays expelled

BY DENISE LAVOIE

BOSTON (AP) – Students and faculty at Harvard University are calling on the school to award posthumous degrees to seven students expelled nearly a century ago for being gay or perceived as gay, and they timed a rally for their cause to coincide with a visit by Lady Gaga.

But Harvard says it doesn't award posthumous degrees, except in rare cases where students complete academic requirements but die before degrees have been conferred.

The university apologized a decade ago, after a student reporter found a file marked "secret court" in the university archives and wrote about the expulsions.

"In 2002, the University expressed its deep regret for the way the situation was handled as well as for the anguish experienced by the students and their families almost a century ago," Harvard spokesman John Longbrake said in a statement.

Activists say the apology isn't enough and it's important for Harvard to confer honorary degrees.

"It's not reparations, it's more of a gesture to the present LGBT community that this university has cemented its values on the right side of history and it's willing to address - not just put in the past - the aberrations of the 1920s," said



Lady Gaga kicked off her Born This Way Foundation at Harvard last week. BTWF will work to combat bullying. AP

Jonas Wang, a 21-year-old transgender student. "You can say that the people of the court were the victims of their own culture, but this is something we are addressing in the present."

A group of students and faculty members planned a rally during a campus visit by Lady Gaga, who visited Harvard on Wednesday to launch her Born This Way anti-bullying foundation. The singer has been a strong activist for the gay community.

The group wants Harvard to formally abolish the secret court, a tribunal of administrators that investigated charges of homosexual activity among students at the Ivy League school in 1920. The tribunal remained a secret for decades and only became public in 2002 after the report in the Harvard Crimson magazine.

More than 2,700 people have signed a petition on Change.org urging Harvard to confer the honorary degrees, and organizers delivered the petition to Harvard President Drew Faust's office after the rally.

Lady Gaga's new foundation, named after her 2011 hit song and album, will address issues such as self-confidence, well-being and antibullying through research, education and advocacy. The singer was joined by Oprah Winfrey, spiritual leader Deepak Chopra and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius during Wednesday's kickoff event.

"Given the Born This Way Foundation's commitment to this mission and their choice to launch their foundation at Harvard, we felt like this was an opportunity to ask for their support and would hope they would join us in asking Harvard to do the right thing here and help seek justice for these students," said Kaia Stern, a visiting faculty mem-

House sponsor stands by 'Don't Say Gay' bill

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The Republican sponsor of a proposal to ban the teaching of gay issues to elementary and middle school students said Feb. 28 that he's not backing off the legislation despite concerns from GOP leaders.

The proposal was scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee. But Rep. Joey Hensley of Hohenwald told The Associated Press he plans to delay the measure for up to three weeks to work out its language.

The legislation, known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, would limit all sexually related instruction to "natural human reproduction science" in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Supporters of the proposal say they've heard



Tennessess Family Equality members demonstrates at state captiol last month.

reports of some teachers discussing "alternative lifestyles," such as homosexuality, and they want to prevent that.

State education officials say such instruction is already banned from the current curriculum, but proponents of the bill feel it's necessary in case the state Board of Education decides to change the curriculum.

"We don't want students to be exposed to alternate lifestyles," Hensley said. "If their parents want them to know about that, they can teach them at home."

Hensley acknowledged the proposal's language needs more work to avoid any unintended consequences.

"We don't want to introduce sex education to K-8 students because they are not supposed to be teaching sex education in K-8 now," he said.

One amendment being considered won't prohibit "any school counselor, nurse or other authorized employee ... from appropriately responding to a student whose circumstances present issues involving human sexuality."

Hensley said that proposal is being tweaked because there's some concern about allowing the school districts to develop their own policies.

Opponents of the measure say it's too broad and fear it would prevent teachers and others from speaking out against the bullying of gay teens.

Republican House Speaker Beth Harwell has called for further review of the overall bill, and Republican Gov. Bill Haslam has said he would prefer for it to be dropped.

"I think there's better things to be doing,"

Hensley, however, said he's adamant about passing the legislation this session. He said his office has received hundreds of calls in support of the hill

"It's certainly not off the table," Hensley said. "We're moving forward with it."

Harvard Continued from p. 12

ber at Harvard who attended the rally.

In 2002, former Harvard President Lawrence Summers called the episode "abhorrent and an affront to the values of our university."

"I want to express our deep regret for the way this situation was handled, as well as the anguish the students and their families must have experienced eight decades ago," Summers said in a 2002 statement to The Harvard Crimson

The Harvard tribunal began its investigation after student Cyril Wilcox committed suicide in May 1920. Wilcox was having academic problems and had been asked to leave Harvard.

When Wilcox's brother, George, informed the acting dean of the college, Chester Greenough, of Cyril's suicide, he passed on letters that left no doubt that Cyril was part of a group of gay men at Harvard.

After consulting with Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell, Greenough convened a group of administrators to gather evidence.

The expelled students, including the son of former U.S. Rep. Ernest William Roberts, were told to leave the Harvard campus - and Cambridge - immediately.

One student, Eugene Cummings, 23, committed suicide at Harvard's infirmary after he was questioned by the tribunal.

A student movement called "Their Day in the Yard" was founded in 2010 to urge the university to grant the honorary degrees to the students expelled in 1920.





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Teacher planning same-sex wedding is fired

NORMANDY, Mo. (AP) – An openly gay music teacher at a Catholic school in suburban St. Louis has been fired after church officials learned he was planning to marry his partner of 20 years.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Al Fischer's Feb. 17 firing from St. Ann Catholic School follows a Jan. 11 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that religious employees of a church cannot sue for employment discrimination.

Fisher, who had worked at the north St. Louis County school for four years, declined to discuss the firing other than to confirm it. He referred to a letter emailed to parents in which he encouraged parents to talk to their children "about whether or not justice was served."

The letter continued: "I do not want the lesson from this for the kids to be, 'Keep your mouth shut, hide who you are or what you think if it will get you in trouble."

Fischer's partner, Charlie Robin, executive director of Washington University's Edison Theatre, told the Post-Dispatch that the couple's relationship was in no way a secret at St. Ann. He said he attended staff parties and showed up at school concerts.

But Robin said that shortly after a representative of the St. Louis Archdiocese overheard Fischer talking to co-workers about his wedding plans, Fischer was told he would be fired March 9. That's the couple's 20th anniversary and the day of their planned nuptials in New York, where same-sex marriage is legal.

Robin said the timing of the firing was moved up after he wrote about it on Facebook on Feb. 16.

The Rev. Bill Kempf, St. Ann's pastor, said in an emailed statement that the parish was "recently informed by one of its teachers of his plan to unite in marriage with an individual of the same sex. With full respect of this individual's basic human dignity, this same-sex union opposes Roman Catholic teaching as it cannot realize the full potential a marital relationship is meant to express."

The St. Louis Archdiocese said in statement that it supports the school's action "as it is in full compliance with the Christian Witness Statement signed by every educator in the Catholic school system." Among other things, the statement requires that educators "not take a public position contrary to the Catholic Church" and "demonstrate a public life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church."

Although the Roman Catholic Church does not condemn homosexuals who remain "chaste," it opposes same-sex marriage and homosexual acts.

Robin, who is a practicing Catholic, said he hopes to see the church change how it treats gays.

"Everyone involved in this process I know is committed to good," he said. "The problem is blindly following the doctrine isn't committed to good."

Rutgers student says he was 'uncomfortable' with roommate

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J (**AP**) – Jurors in the trial of a student accused of using a webcam to spy on his roommate kissing another man can't hear about an email passage in which the alleged victim referred to the defendant's behavior as "wildly inappropriate," a judge decided Wednesday.

But the jury can hear about another part of the email in which Tyler Clementi said he believed his privacy had been violated, the judge ruled. The email said Clementi was "extremely uncomfortable sharing a room with someone who would act in this manner."

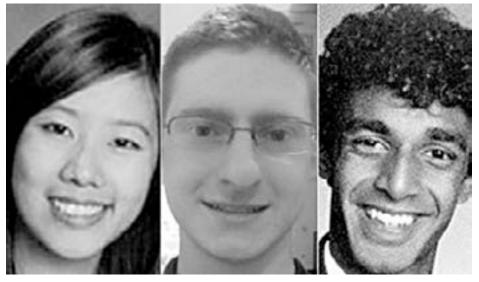
Clementi killed himself shortly afterward. Raahi Grover, a resident assistant in the young men's dorm, said Wednesday he had received the email from Clementi. Defense lawyers wanted to exclude it from testimony, arguing jurors should not hear that Clementi said he believed roommate Dharun Ravi should be punished.

Ravi, 20, is on trial on charges including invasion of privacy and bias intimidation over allegations that he secretly watched Clementi's encounter with another man in their dorm room in September 2010.

Student Lokesh Ohja testified Wednesday that he helped Ravi adjust the webcam to get a better view of Clementi's bed on Sept. 22. Authorities say Ravi's attempt to spy on his roommate that day - the day before Clementi's suicide - was thwarted when his computer was unplugged.

The other man allegedly viewed on webcam, who has been identified only as M.B., could testify soon, possibly Thursday. He has been mentioned often in the first three days of testimony in the trial.

Little is known about M.B. from court filings, but witnesses have described him as a "sketchy" man around 30 years old. His identity has been kept secret, and it remained unclear Wednesday how tightly M.B.'s identity would be shielded during his testimony.



Molly Wei, Tyler Clementi, Dharun Ravi

When the man takes the stand, it could mark the highest-profile testimony in the case, which has drawn national attention as an example of the societal challenges facing young gays and lesbians.

In earlier testimony, former Rutgers student Molly Wei said Ravi showed her a live web stream of Clementi, 18, kissing a man in the dorm room the young men shared.

Wei was initially charged too, but she entered a pretrial intervention program last year that can keep her record clean. One condition of the program is truthful testimony in Ravi's criminal case.

Wei said she invited Ravi, whom she had known since middle school, to her dorm room for a snack a few minutes after 9 p.m. on Sept. 19, 2010. When Ravi tried to go back, she said, Clementi told him that he wanted the cramped dorm room to himself for a few hours. So Ravi returned.

Within a few minutes, she said, he used her computer to view live images from his webcam. It was then, she said, that she saw about two

seconds of Clementi and an older man kissing.

Even though she said they initially agreed not to talk about what they had seen, she asked Ravi to tell a friend about it during an online chat that began at 9:20 p.m. And within minutes, word got around the dorm.

She said she agreed to turn the webcam back on at the request of a woman who was among a group dropped by her room.

"It was the exact same image, except that they had taken their tops off," she said. "As soon as they saw it, I turned it off."

One student who testified got a chuckle from jurors when she described M.B. as "not obscenely old," though another said his age was considered "scandalous."

She said she called Rutgers police a few days later after learning about a Twitter message Ravi posted on Sept. 21, when Clementi requested privacy in the room again.

"Anyone with iChat," he posted, "I dare you to videochat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes, it's happening again."

NJ same-sex marriage support at new high

NEW JERSEY – A Quinnipiac University poll released March 1 and taken immediately after Gov. Chris Christie's veto of same-sex marriage legislation, shows that a supermajority of New Jersey voters - 57 percent - support the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples.

"New Jersey voters know that gay and lesbian couples' exclusion from marriage harms families and helps no one. They've seen through their neighbors in New York that extending the freedom to marry boosts the state economy, enhances the quality of life for gay and lesbian couples and their families, and provides them with a critical safety-net of protections. And they

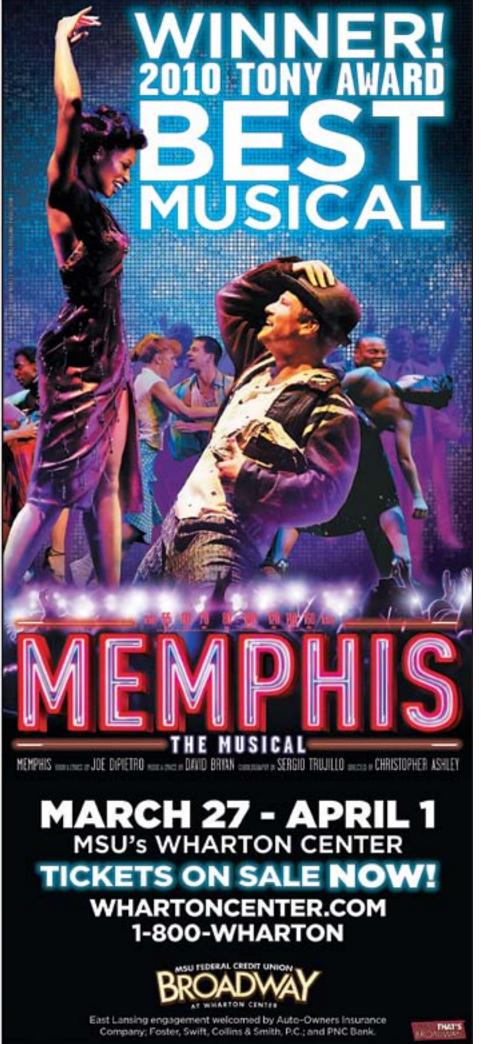
know that civil unions are a failed experiment in New Jersey. Freedom to Marry will continue working with Garden State Equality to ensure that legislators whose understanding is still evolving hear from their constituents, join us on the side of fairness and equality for all Garden State families, and override Governor Christie's veto of the marriage legislation," said Marc Solomon, national campaign director at Freedom to Marry.

Gov. Christie has called for a referendum on marriage and this poll showed that voters are split 48 - 47 percent on whether Gov. Christie did the right thing in vetoing same-sex marriage legislation last month.

Steven Goldstein, Chairman and CEO of Garden State Equality said, "First, you don't put the civil rights of a minority up to a vote of the majority. The last time New Jersey did that was in 1915, when a statewide referendum was held to determine whether women should have the right to vote. 58 percent voted no, and 42 percent voted yes."

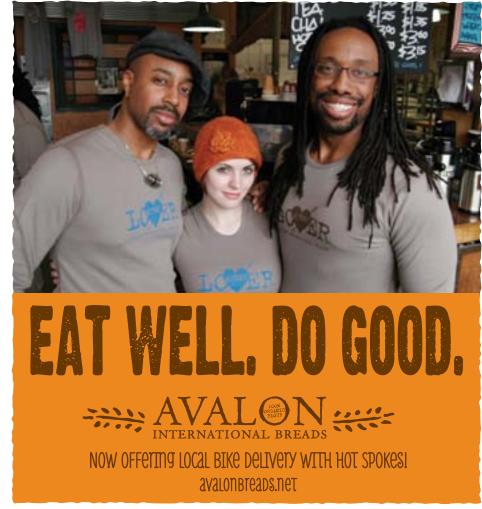
The poll indicated that voters support 67 - 28 percent, Gov. Christie's proposal to let them decide the same-sex marriage issue by placing it on the ballot for a November referendum.





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Clockwise from left: Chris Douchette, Chantal Carrere, Erin Foley and Diane Amos

Foursome sounds off on Santorum, careers and their lives before stand-up

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

eed a laugh? Meet this year's Michigan LGBT ComedyFest bunch: Chantal Carrere, Erin Foley, Chris Doucette and Diane Amos (the Pine-Sol Lady!), all performing as part of the 16th annual event at 8 p.m. March 10 at Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

Chris Doucette

Baby, were you born this way?

Totes. After I was born, I got a tattoo that said,

"I'm never doing *that* again." I've never taken the scenic route since.

What do you find funny?

So much! The fact that people who run half-marathons brag twice as much as people who run full-marathons. Calvin and Hobbes. Elizabeth Smart got married and her honeymoon was in an "undisclosed location." You'd think she'd be sick of that place. And the YouTube video of that guy screaming at his cats? It kills me every time. "I will end you!" LOL.

Santorum. What's the first thing that comes to mind?

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www.comedyfest.org

Sanitorium. You can't spell it without Santorum. (I might be a Words With Friends geek.) I feel like Santorum's campaign is the "Custer's Last Stand" of the white Christian population before the power finally shifts to our Chinese and Mexican overlords. Who, by the way, get half off at all my shows. Love you guys!

What's unique about your coming out story?

I came out in college and my dad threatened to stop paying my tuition. I had to remind him that I was paying for everything with student loans. He said, "OK, well, at least I can say that I tried something."

What was your life like before you became a comedian?

I worked for 10 years for a variety of nonprofit organizations in Washington, D.C., until, one day, I realized that I get no actual fulfillment from helping people. It's pretty scary when your

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True beginners

Birmingham's Uptown Film Festival short tells father's coming out story



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BY KATE OPALEWSKI

In her non-fictional directorial debut, Sophia Kruz tells a story about personal triumph, love

Filmmaker

Sophia Kruz

and self-acceptance. Through her documentary film "Time Dances On," Kruz incorporates video production and still photography to follow the story of her father, Jim Kruz. Like a real-life "Beginners," she captures his life from childhood through his stint as a swing-dance teacher in Ann Arbor, his marriage to Kruz's mother Deb, and his ultimate acceptance of who he truly is – a confident gay man.

The film, nominated in three short-film categories at this year's Michigan Film Awards, will screen at 12:30 p.m. March 10 at the Birmingham 8 Theatre during the second annual Uptown Film Festival in Birmingham. It won Best Documentary Feature at the 2011 Made in Michigan Film Festival and was also nominated for Best Gay/Lesbian Film at the 2011 Great Lakes International Film Festival.

"Time Dances On" served as Kruz's senior thesis, earning her a Bachelor's degree in Screen Arts and Cultures from the University of Michigan in 2011.

"I am overwhelmingly happy with the film," says the 22-year-old, who owns and operates Ann Arbor-based Sophia Kruz Productions

(www.sophiakruzproductions. com), founded in 2009. "This is certainly more than I could have ever asked for. The film speaks to a broader audience and is getting attention for that. Being nominated is a really great surprise."

With just her laptop and her camera, Kruz has humanized her father in a way nobody else can. She researched her family's history and Michigan gay history for the film, which includes interviews with her parents and their friends, archival photos and news clips. Born into a devout Catholic home in 1950s Detroit, Jim was the third in a family of four straight boys. He discovered his attraction to other boys when he was around the age of 13, but never acted on it.

While attending the University of Michigan, he made

new friends, but still wasn't comfortable being himself. Being gay then wasn't an option. "He met my mom teaching swing dance," Kruz says. "They hit it off and for the first time he felt like it could work with a woman, that he could have a wife

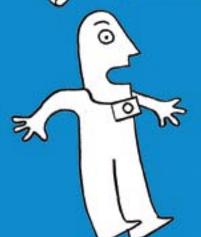
and kids and lead a straight life. I truly believe they were in love.

"My mom wanted to be with someone who was attracted to her. She initiated their divorce, but they stayed very good friends. My dad told her about his attraction to men. The transparency and honesty in their relationship is so special. They continue to raise me from separate homes, but all major decisions about me are made together."

Kruz was inspired by her personal history, but hopes to raise awareness about gay parenting as well. "The film shows an example of a successful gay parenting story. I love him a lot and he did a great job," Kruz says. "He's been so supportive every step of the way. He's been open and honest with the questions I've asked and shared stories from well before I was born. My parents are both private people, and although my mom hesitated at first, she gave me the go-ahead to create the film. I'm not sure what my next personal project is, but I am still young and would like to continue doing documentary films."

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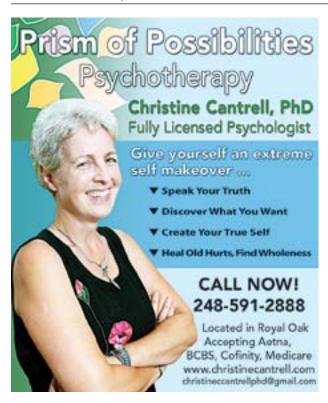
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Rising star talks playing Tilda Swinton's psycho son

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Ezra Miller plays a bad, bad boy in "We Need to Talk About Kevin," director Lynne Ramsay's adaptation of Lionel Shriver's chilling novel about Kevin, a sociopathic teen, and his tormented mother, Eva.

As Kevin, Miller exudes undiluted malice – with assist from his exotic, sculpted features – while Swinton, who helped develop the project with Ramsay (and is credited as an executive producer), turns in another devastating, awardsworthy performance.

Miller's own mother was moved to tears when she saw "Kevin" with him at its Cannes Film Festival world premiere last May. "I never heard her cry this particular way before," Miller recalls, "and it was the first testament to the possibility that the performance and film had been a success."

Mind you, the 18-year-old Miller has played his share of provocative young characters whose antics would inspire premature grey hairs in most parents, including a prep school kid with a taste for violent Internet porn in 2008's "Afterschool," chubby-chasing horndog in 2009's "City Island" and gay teen in 2010's "Every Day."

Via telephone, the New Jersey-born actor, who also plays drums in band Sons of An Illustrious Father (which recently released their second album, "One Body)," dished about how Swinton measures up as a mom, his June 2011 bust for marijuana possession, and being gay (again) in the upcoming "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"... as well as off-screen.

You make poor Tilda's life a misery in "Kevin." What would it be like to actually have Tilda as your mother?

It would be amazing. Honestly, having Tilda as a mother would be a beautiful, lovely, wonderful experience. She has two children and they're absolute angels, really wonderful people, and it seems like they're being raised so right. They stay away from technology, they have vivid imaginations, they play all the time. It would be very dreamy and quite the polar opposite from the relationship our characters had in the film.

Have you had any bad seed moments in real life?

I remember I put chewing gum in my friend Devon's hair when I was in, I don't know, second grade. I did it for no reason. It was one of those things where you're holding chewing gum in your hand and see the hair and do it. I remember my parents were very horrified. Kids, naturally, in the exploration of life and your own capacity as a human being, discover how to lie and hurt and deceive and manipulate and have to do it (to) flex their muscles.

Tilda played another mother in crisis in "The Deep End," in which her gay son gets

caught up with dangerous characters. Did you watch that prior to working with her?

I had seen that film before I was considering this one, but didn't refer to it in the work. One of the most important things about working with an actor you know the work of is, to the best of your ability, to forget about it. Those characters and situations are irrelevant. You're creating a story with someone who, in my mind, is a real person to my character. Eva was just my mother. To actually detach all associations of other characters she's played is a natural part of the objective and easy because she carves a lot of distinction into each of the characters she plays.

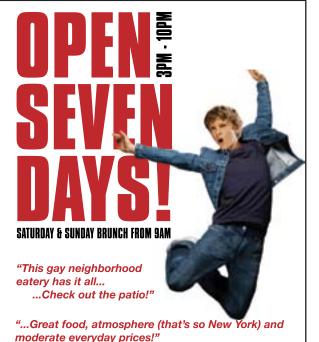
I read in an interview with Lynne that you were underage and lied about it when cast in the film.

That is a bold-faced lie! They made a mistake. They just assumed I was of age. There was a sheet in the casting director's office that said, "write down your birthday if you're under 18," and I wrote down my birthday. I admitted it. They've been trying to blame me for it since. You can't believe everything Lynne Ramsay tells you.

Was that a big problem?

I think they did have to make some accommodations and get a general verbal

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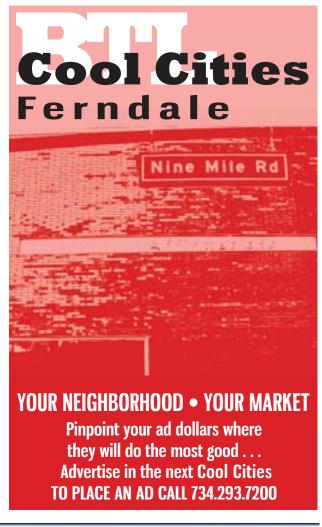


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Book Marks

Eminent Outlaws' looks at revolutionary gay writers

BY RICHARD LABONTE



"Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America," by Christopher Bram. Twelve/Grand Central Publishing, 378 pages, \$27.99 hardcover.

It's only a wistful whisper, but if there's an emotion threaded through Bram's clear-eyed gaze at gay writers and writing

from the 1950s to the current decade, it's this: those were the days, my friend. The author himself of nine fine novels (among them, his 1987 debut, "Surprising Myself," and "Father of Frankenstein," basis for the Academy Award-winning film "Gods and Monsters"), Bram discusses several dozen gay writers, but has wisely chosen to focus primarily on a few – Ginsberg and Vidal, Capote and Williams, Isherwood and Baldwin, Crowley and Albee

and Kushner, Kramer and Holleran, Maupin and White, seminal figures all in the post-WWII emergence of an assertive and self-affirming queer literature. In a meaty book that is both a celebration and a lament, both a critical study and a fount of literary gossip, Bram's assessment that "the gay experience ... energized American literature" can't be faulted. (And do read through the source notes at the back of the book, chockfull of insightful, anecdotal tidbits.)

"Camptown Ladies," by Mari SanGiovanni. Bywater Books, 304 pages, \$14.95 paper.

The satire is broad and the broads are buxom - large "boobs" are a recurring image - in this rowdy follow-up to SanGiovanni's first laugha-lot novel about the rambunctious Santora family, "Greetings from Jamaica, Wish You Were Queer." The three Santora siblings have inherited immense wealth from a dead aunt, and something silly ensues - headstrong dyke Lisa's plan to buy a dilapidated summer camp, enlisting her lesbian younger sister, Maria, and their hopelessly straight brother, Vince. As for their love lives: Lisa hits on every woman she sees, Maria has broken off her affair with a closeted Hollywood actress, and Vince is heartbroken because the woman he loves -Erica, a contractor for whom Lisa once worked,

and for whom she has feelings – has ended their relationship. Maria and Vince, despite their doubts, see Lisa's project as a place to lick their emotional wounds – until Erica is hired by Lisa to renovate ramshackle cabins, to the soul-shaking astonishment of sister and brother. It's not great art, but this slapstick novel earns its giggles.

"Citizen," by Aaron Shurin. City Lights, 92 pages, \$10.95 paper.

Poetry in paragraphs. For readers for whom poetry is an occasional delicacy rather than a literary staple, the form can be confounding - no line breaks suggesting where it's OK to take a breath, certainly nothing as readerfriendly as rhyme or as familiarly formal as a sonnet, a haiku, even a sestina. With Shurin's eleventh book (including a short memoir and a collection of ruminations on AIDS), he returns to the genre-straddling prose poem almost 30 years after publishing "The Graces." These new, 60-plus, mostly one-page entries are bursts of lyric intensity and sensual imagery with at times hints of personal passions and sexual moments - "...A pulley system raising chin or ass - yanked in - grommet eyes - your grin flushed out as your hand clutches...." Each of the solid texts is saturated with words, a rush and a tumble of exciting and excitable but at all times controlled excess. This is writing that is volatile and nuanced, vivid and innovative, vital and inviting.



"An Arab Melancholia," by Abdellah Taia, translated by Frank Stock. Semiotext(e), 144 pages, \$14.95 paper.

There are echoes of Taia's strongly autobiographical first novel, "Salvation Army," in this book, which is not so much a sequel as it is a parallel tale. Like its predecessor, it opens

in the small, dusty village of Salé, Morocco, where, in the first of four sections, a 12-year-old dreams of directing films and, something of a loner, welcomes the sexual attention of a slightly older boy and is nearly raped by a gang of tough teens – both situations that excite him. In the second section, the narrator, now studying film. falls haplessly in love with a French photographer, Javier, who would rather just be friends. In the third, he's working in Cairo, Egypt as an interpreter on a film shoot, still longing for Javier. And in the fourth, he's emotionally adrift again, lost in the pages of a journal written during his needy affair with an Algerian, Slimane. On one level, the narrator's loves and losses are typically gay. But Taia writes from within a distinctly different Arab culture in this passionate novel about two worlds intersecting.

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.

► ComedyFest

Continued from p. 17

aha! moment is that you're kind of a dick

Chantal Carrere

Why comedy?

I didn't realize there was another choice! I love comedy. It's who I am and what I'm best at. I'm a truth teller, extremely high-energy and have a rhythm and delivery that is unique. I live to see people laugh.

What were you doing 10 years ago?

Winning competitions, hustling and laying the foundation for my career. I was also eating pudding pops and laughing out loud randomly as I flat ironed my hair.

Who's your celebrity crush?

There are so many hot women, but Stacey Dash is pretty wicked! Why? Have you seen her body and face – she's cute *and* hot!

Santorum. What's the first thing that comes to mind?

Sanitation and someone who won't win the president's seat.

What's unique about your coming out story?

I'm what's unique. That, and I had a hangnail. It's not an ideal way to start out as a lesbian. Who wants a lesbian with a hangnail? Well, there *is* someone. She was a masochist.

Diane Amos

Baby, were you born this way?

Baby, I was born this way – born to perform, born to be on stage making people think and laugh. At 4 years old I knew I was a performer. I put on shows for my mom and her friends – and yes, I charged them. A quarter, dime or nickel, sliding scale – my mom had a lot of hippie friends. I was politically correct before it was popular. I sang, danced and mimicked her friends. Can I get two eggs with that ham?

What do you find funny?

People are funny to me. Full-on human beings make me laugh. We are predictable and unpredictable, sometimes at the same time. My comedy is about folks, real folks we love to love... and hate. I bring characters to the stage so you can laugh at them without getting your ass kicked on a bus or at a party.

Santorum. What's the first thing that comes to mind?

People screwing wildly without birth control and a huge population explosion – mostly black, brown, non-white – speeding up the whites as a minority concept. And Santorum's therapist – he will need one – being a fine ass gay man who sets him straight... in a good way.

What was your life like before you became a comedian?

I took serious drama all through school,

stumbled into Improv in high school in San Francisco, became professional at 15 and never looked back. I went to college for one year to appease my academia mother, quit, worked in banks and large-size women's clothing stores for years to support my acting habit. I went on three game shows, won lots of money, quit my day job, and the rest is history. I have two kids; oldest remembers me having day jobs until he was 8, and my youngest has only known me as a comedian... and the Pine-Sol Lady.

What did being the Pine-Sol Lady do for your career? And did you get a lifetime supply?

That I did! It allowed me to do other things that I enjoy doing in this business. I can do stand-up, movies and plays, and it's given me respect in the entertainment community. You keep this job because people like you.

Erin Foley

Why comedy?

Because life is exhausting. And ridiculous. And overwhelming. And I hate alarm clocks and nude nylons.

What were you doing 10 years ago?

Trying to figure out how to write jokes, perform them, get paid for it and not lose my mind in the process. See present day.

Who's your celebrity crush?

It's a tie between Halle Berry and Heidi Klum. Why? Because I'm really gay. Honorable

mention is Jennifer Lopez when she's not speaking. I would also like to be held by Meryl Streep. I've yet to determine the length of time.

Santorum. What's the first thing that comes to mind?

Toe tapping. In an Amtrak bathroom stall somewhere in middle America. That's my prediction anyway. It's always the most outspoken men in politics that are the gayest. Except we don't want him. We, of course, meaning the entire gay population. I speak for the entire gay population once a week.

What's unique about your coming out story?

Perhaps it's unique because my mother asked me if I was gay at 7:30 a.m. over breakfast. Specifically, Rice Chex. You remember the small details during traumatic events. 7:30 a.m. She knows I'm not a morning person so I was ripe for an ambush. After some roundabouts, I said I was gay and she said she was devastated. Then about an hour later she gave me an article from her AARP magazine about creativity as if our conversation never happened. We never spoke about it again. I never had a conversation with my dad. About a month later I asked them if I could bring my girlfriend home for Thanksgiving. They welcomed her as they would every woman I've dated. My parents are the loveliest, funniest, most adorable non-communicative people on the planet. Oh, Irish Catholics!

For tickets to Equality Michigan's ComedyFest, visit www.comedyfest.org.

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Advice / March 8, 2012 / BTL 25

Dating Diet



Williams So-No-Oh-Oh-ma

BY ANTHONY PAULL

y friend Josh has a dilemma. Single for two years, he's graduated from making love to kitchen utensils. It won't do anymore. It's Black Friday. His love is on clearance, but there are no buyers and he won't settle. Sex with closet cases who hate flamboyant gay men isn't enough. He wants a nice guy who won't be embarrassed to be seen with him at the grocery store.

"Then go stand in the organic fruit aisle and cry vegan," I say. "You'll have a man in no time."

"It's no joke," he states. "I hate waking up without a boyfriend. You know, my ex, the woodpecker. His penis was my alarm clock. His drill, the promise of a new day."

I roll my eyes. "Can you be more dramatic?"

"It's true." Frowning, he kicks at the floor. "How am I supposed to find someone? Where do I meet new people? I'm done with searching for a man on a phone app."

"What's the problem?" I ask. "You have a referral source. What about getting set up by a friend?"

"Good idea," he replies. "Can you? Please. Please. Please."

"No."

"Why?"

I recall a drunk text, where Josh confessed to having an intimate experience with a spatula. I'm not sure what he did, but he had a hard time wiping his ass that week. All he'd say is that his bad behavior would make a rolling pin blush. "I know too much about your kitchen tools," I explain.

"That was one night," he defends. "One onely night."

"You wouldn't like my friends," I state. "They're too superficial for you. You want a traditional guy."

His lips curl with the thought. "Right. A traditional guy."

The next day he takes to his cell phone, making the rounds. He calls seven of his friends but no one is willing to hook him up. They all make excuses, stating their friends are coupled or too critical. Only one friend, Seth, is able to provide a lead. "His name is Rudy," Seth says. "But you have to go slow. He was just in a relationship. He's sensitive. Don't try sleeping with him. He's better than that."

Josh agrees, leaping at the chance to meet a guy who wants more than sex. The good news: the date is a success, filled with academic conversation, romance and hints of intrigue. The bad news: Rudy reveals that As a friend, I know he'll need it to go shopping. For his birthday, I got him a Williams Sonoma gift card. Friend or not, I have no intention of asking what he buys with it.

he used to date Seth, and Seth has a jealous streak. You see, even though Seth introduced the two, he isn't willing to give up what he had. Is that common for gay men? Are we territorial even if we have no rights? For Seth, it makes no difference that he's merely Rudy's friend; he still owns the property. Rudy is on lease. So what if he wants to join Josh and Rudy on dates? Between boyfriends, Seth doesn't like being alone.

"Dude, you can't come out with us every night," Josh tells him.

"Why not?" Seth asks. "I saw him first."

"I introduced you to Rudy. Remember?"

"Yeah, and we're dating now. So we need space to get to know each other."

Seth smiles in agreement but doesn't take the idea well. This new relationship is cutting into his "friend" time. So he begins texting Rudy to win him back. Soon, the texts take a sexual turn, entering the realm of "what if." Do you think we still have something? I miss you in my arms. But Seth doesn't want Rudy. He just wants to know Rudy's there.

On his birthday, Josh breaks it off when Rudy delays their plans for a beach day with Seth. "So much for meeting a man through friends," Josh says, calling me. "I'm back to ground zero."

"Hey, you took a chance," I say, cheering him up over dinner. "There are a lot of guys out there."

"Yeah, but they have friends. So even if they're single, they're not really single."

I wonder if he's right, if we've become a society without boundaries, traveling in packs in fear of being alone. Friends or lovers, it seems we may have lost touch with the notion of deleting someone, feeling guilty for it. Even if the ex-flame, the ex-friend is no longer in your life, they're still looming on Facebook, waiting, watching.

I like to think I'm not like that, that I draw a clear, visible line when in it comes to friendship. So we eat dinner and I give Josh time to spend alone. As a friend, I know he'll need it to go shopping. For his birthday, I got him a Williams Sonoma gift card. Friend or not, I have no intention of asking what he buys with it.





For more information visit pridesource.com

Call 734-293-7200 ext.15 for vendor and sponsorship opportunities

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HOURS: Monday-Saturday 11am-8pm • Sunday 11am-6pm 211 West Nine Mile Road • Ferndale, MI 48220 • 248.547.5878



Tilda Swinton in "We Need to Talk About Kevin." Photo: Oscilloscope

► Ezra Miller

Continued from p. 20

agreement from me that I would be willing to work any and all hours to make this film possible. I think the initial concern was trying to accommodate the hours (since minors have limited working hours on a low-budget shoot). But I voiced great determination to be part of this film and think that commitment comforted them enough.

You play gay in "Wallflower" as Patrick, older brother to Emma Watson's character and friend to the protagonist, Charlie. What can you tell us about that character?

I can tell you he's an outstanding, charismatic, prideful young lad who has a beautiful ability to transform his circumstance into one of levity. He can make light of any situation, which I came to admire. He almost has this internal mechanism to bring the light out of any given situation.

Does Patrick have a boyfriend?

Yes! He has a boyfriend whom he keeps secret, because the boyfriend's closeted and ashamed. He's the high school quarterback. One of those.

It was nice to see you play a well-adjusted, kind, straight-edge gay kid in "Every Day."

Right! He was a good, friendly character. People keep telling me I'm always playing one character. There's a range.

When asked about whether he had gay sexual experiences, Tom Hardy famously said, "Of course, I'm an actor for fuck's sake." Have you ever had a gay moment in real life?

Of course! Many! I've had many, you know, "happy ending sleepovers" in my early youth. My period of exploration. I think that's essential. Anyone who hasn't had a gay moment is probably trying to avoid some confrontation with a reality in their life.

Do you have some gay moments still to come? Is

"Anyone who hasn't had a gay moment is probably trying to avoid some confrontation with a reality in their life."

there any hope for the guys crushing on you?

I'm not sure. Perhaps. I keep my options open. My spectrum remains broad. I've been in love with a lot of girls lately but that doesn't necessarily suggest anything definite about the future.

In June you were arrested for marijuana possession, about 20 grams of it, and ultimately let off. I was shocked to read about the arrest – mostly because I keep forgetting they actually prosecute people for marijuana possession.

Right? They shouldn't. It's a ridiculous law based on ridiculous things. But I think people are coming around. Medicalization of marijuana is happening in more and more states. Of course, there is one sweeping issue, which is nonviolent drug convictions constitute a lot of what puts people in jail in this country and the prison industrial complex is one of our last booming industries. Pot also stands to take a lot of money away from the pharmaceutical industry. It's a painkiller and dopamine inhibitor. It serves all of these functions that all these harmful, extreme drugs prescribed serve. So there's money to be made in the continued illegality of that plant. But I feel no shame. It's a plant. Everybody knows what pot is. And I don't care. It was a very enlightening experience to see the way the chief of police called the media and it all results in me handing money to a judge in the form of a fine. Yeah. My journey in the legal

There's a website dedicated to hotties' mugshots, Hot and Busted (hotandbusted. tumblr.com), so perhaps we can at least make sure yours gets up there.

Yeah, I hope so. I hope I make that cut.

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Seein' plenty of green at the Fisher



Lukas Poost as Shrek, Andre Jordan as Donkey and Liz Shivener as Princess Fiona in "Shrek The Musical" at Detroit's Fisher Theatre. Photo: Joan Marcus

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

When smart theater executives plan their seasons, they do so knowing full well not every show will be a sell-out – and so they plan their budgets accordingly. If a show meets or surpasses its budget and makes money, that's cause for celebration. If it doesn't, it's probably time for prayer, hoping the next will sell like crazy to make up for it.

I suspect that's true at Detroit's best-known venue for Broadway tours, the Fisher Theatre. While some shows pack customers to the rafters – "Jersey Boys" comes to mind – a handful of others (mostly dramas, I'd guess) seem to draw only a hardy few. One genre that seems to go either way, however, is the family-friendly musical – often based on a movie cartoon or a popular children's book. One such show is currently in town, and if the excellent opening night performance of "Shrek The Musical" is any indication, there should be plenty of green to go around – both on stage and in the Fisher's bank account!

Based on a book and characters created by William Steig and the first "Shrek" movie by DreamWorks Animation, "Shrek The Musical" tells the story of two 7-year-olds, an ogre and a princess, whose parents send them out into the cold, cruel world – the ogre to fend for himself, and the princess to fulfill her destiny locked in a tower. Little did either know their paths were fated to cross 8,423 days later when Shrek (the ogre) is tasked by the diminutive Lord Farquaad to go to the tower and fetch his prospective bride. (His reward? The

REVIEW

Shrek The Musical

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

deed to the swamp he calls home, which is overrun by storybook characters Farquaad exiled from his territory.)

But things don't go smoothly for the grumpy ogre, who finds himself accompanied on his journey by a smart-mouthed donkey. Plus, the princess he encounters turns out to be far more than just the object of a business deal he struck with a conniving politician. (Is there any other kind?)

The NETworks production now at the Fisher is a slick and thoroughly entertaining production that accomplished the near impossible on opening night: It held the attention of the very young seated all around me from start to finish. That's a feat any thespian with experience in theater for young audiences will tell you can be quite difficult to achieve – especially for more than two hours (plus intermission).

And why that happened is easy to explain.

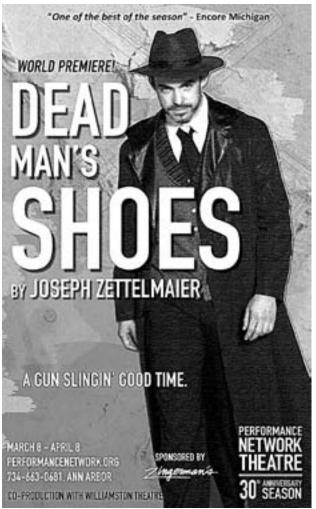
Lukas Poost as Shrek and Liz Shivener as Princess Fiona fully capture the characters audiences have grown to love in the movies, yet each adds a certain flair to their portrayal. Andre Jordan is delightful as Donkey without mimicking Eddie Murphy, while Merritt David Janes is the perfect cartoon villain you love to hate. (My knees ached for him throughout the show, however; see the show to find out why.)

But of equal importance are the many other colorful characters who bring the story to life – aided and abetted by the superb storybook costumes by Tim Hatley. While all costumes are impressive, Luke Yellin's Pinocchio – who is sheer fun to watch, by the way – is by far one of the most unique, yet functional designs I've seen in ages. So too is the dazzling outfit worn by Susan Leilani Gearou as the Witch. (I couldn't keep my eyes off her.) Even the cross-dressing Big Bad Wolf played by Michigan native Adam Steiner is memorably attired.

Also memorably garbed is the stage, with a set designed by Hatley and adapted by James Kronzer. While animated films have the luxury of going any place and any time without blowing up the budget, the entire design team for "Shrek The Musical" (including lights by Paul Miller, sound by Shannon Slaton, make-up by Naomi Donne and puppets by Hatley) has matched the films by creating a gorgeous and amazingly functional fairy tale world in three dimensions.

Granted, I'm not the intended market for "Shrek The Musical." But my visit to the fantasy world of ogres and princesses couldn't have been more enjoyable – and I imagine it's even more so if you have a child with you. So find a youngster or two and introduce them to the magic and wonderment of live theater. I can think of no better show with which to begin a lifelong love affair with the performing arts!





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Editor's Picks

Outings

Gay "Star Trek" and "Heroes" actor and LGBT rights proponent George Takei narrates the newest installment in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Pops Concert Series, "Sci-Fi Spectacular," this weekend at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in De-



George Takei is best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu on the USS Enterprise in the television series "Star Trek." Takei has won several awards for his work on LGBT and Japanese American rights and relations. Takei now uses Facebook to connect with his 1.2 million fans and assures the LGBT community that it's "OK to be Takei."

Takei will narrate for the renowned pop conduct Jack Everly as the DSO performs classic music from "Star Wars," "Star Trek," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still." Performances are 10:45 a.m. March 9, 8 p.m. March 10 and 3 p.m. March 11 at 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Tickets start at \$19. For more information, go to DSO.org.

Theater



The Detroit Actors Theater Company will present "Cabaret" March 8-10 at the iLounge in Pontiac.

In prewar Germany, the dazzling English performer Sally Bowles catches the eye of American writer Clifford Bradshaw, beginning a torrential love affair. The musical extravaganza is framed poetically by the Kit Kat Klub's charismatic Emcee and the marvelous iLounge in Pontiac. Audience members will experience full immersion theater as the Kit Kat Boys and Girls break the fourth wall to bring you an unforgettable experience.

This production is the DATC's first. "This show is a prime example of how the DATC, despite being a community theater, is committed to casting its shows with highly qualified artists," says co-founder Eric Swanson.

Shows will take place at 8 p.m. March 8-10 and 2 p.m. March 10. Tickets, \$20 and \$15 (for students and seniors), will be available at the door. Secured parking is available for a small fee.

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 8

GOAL! Travel Trip Planning Session 6:30 p.m. Get Out and Live are planning their first group trip and have chosen Sonoma Valley as their destination. Join GOAL on their trip and start planning the itinerary. GOAL!, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Getoutandlive me

In Commemoration 7 p.m. Part of the Saginaw community's programming for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pastor Judy Boli host prayer and worship service in commemoration of National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, open to AIDS aginaw HIV/AIDS Task Force, 2720 Tuscola, Saginaw. 989-753-9011.

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to view and discuss films of interest to men. Film: Spinnin', 2007. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Pride Prom: Cirque du So Gay! 8 p.m. Eastern Michigan University's annual Pride Prom. Free admission, food, photo booth and dance. Attendees invited to dress however they are most comfortable, be that in jeans or full drag. Shirts sales and a benefit raffle will benefit Riot Youth. EMU LGBTRC, Eastern Michigan University. Yosilanti.

Friday, March 9

White House LGBT Conference on Housing & Homelessness 8:30 a.m. Providing advocates, community leaders, and members of the public an opportunity to engage with the Obama Administration on housing and homelessness issues that impact LGBT Americans. Register online. The White House, Wayne State University, Detroit. Go. usa.oov/OVd

Black Lesbians Fifty and Over 6 p.m. The new support/discussion group for Black lesbians who are gracefully transitioning into their 50's and beyond. Meetings cover topics relevant to the aging process and include issues around self-care, family, romantic relationships, travel, retirement, eldership in the Black community, etc. and are potluck. Contact Fela Smith for location and information at 313-978-7918. Black Lesbians Fifty and Over, RSVP to receive address, Detroit. 313-978-7918.

Dinner at Mitchell's Fish Market 6:30 p.m. Meet other like-minded people who enjoy food, friendship and good conversation. Group meets for dinner and socialization at a different restaurant on the second Friday of each month. Plymouth Lesbian Supper Meet up Group, 17600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. 734-464-3663. Meetup.com/Plymouth-Lesbian-Supper-Group/

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

Older Lesbians Organizing 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Intention Cards 7 p.m. Part of the Saginaw community's programming for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. Saginaw Community Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Nathan Gritter host a reading of Prayer Intention Cards. Open to all. Saginaw HIV/AIDS Task Force, 6045 Mackinaw, Kochville Township, **Saginaw**. 989-753-9011.

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: The Edge of Heaven; Fatih Akin, the critically-acclaimed director of Head-On, weaves overlapping tales of friendship and sexuality into a powerful narrative of universal love. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, March 10

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Saginaw County HIV/AIDS Task Force. Sharing of poetry expressions regarding HIV/ AIDS. Saginaw HIV/AIDS Task Force, 210 S. Washington St., Saginaw. 989-753-9011.

Crossroads 6 p.m. The Detroit area's oldest and largest peer support group for transgendered individuals and their friends will hold their monthly gathering Refreshments will be available. There is a \$5 meeting fee. Crossroads, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. CrossroadsMI com

Cap City Wild Childs Roller Derby! 6:30 p.m. Junior roller Derby in Lansing. Cap City Wild Childs take on the Darlings of Destruction from Rochester Hills. Admission: \$10. Mitten Mavens Lansing Roller Derby, 7977 Centerline Dr., Dimondale. Mittenmaven@gmail.com Mittenmavens.net

Community Showcase: A Benefit for the Ypsilanti Ozone House 6:30 p.m. Local performers are set to take the stage for the Community Showcase benefit concert for the Ypsilanti Ozone House. Suggested Donation of \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Ypsi Ozone House and its programs for at-risk youth. Ypsilanti Ozone House, 120 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. 734-662-2265. Local performers are set to take the stage for the Community Showcase benefit concert for the Ypsilanti Ozone House.

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Monthly meeting for on every second Saturday. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Shall We Dance? 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments, snacks, door prizes, lesson and open dancing. Admission: \$10. Gay & Lesbian Ballroom & Free Style dance, 247 West. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 248-288-7624. bonjourvous40@yahoo.com

Drag Queen Bingo 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxxe 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

Equality Michigan ComedyFest 8 p.m. Join comedians Chantal Carrere, Erin Foley, Chris Doucette, and Diane Amos for an outstanding night of comedy. With a new single-show format this year, tickets are bound to sell quickly. Tickets: \$35. Equality Michigan, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-934-2354. Comedyfest. eventbrite.com

Strike Out AIDS 8 p.m. AIDS Walk Detroit hosts this annual event to benefit their support of HIV/AIDS services in Michigan. Admission: \$30 includes three games of bowling, shoes, food provided by Astro Lanes Cafe and drinks. AIDS Walk Detroit, 32388 John R. Road, Madison Heights. 248-399-9255. Aidswalkdetroit.org

Sunday, March 11

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

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Meets every Sunday for good discussions and good food. For any LGBTQI or ally over 25 yrs. old. This week's topic: should euthanasia be legal for consenting adults? Should a person have the freedom to choose if they want to die? Get Out And Livel, 714 S Washington, Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. Marcil.Williams@ yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Tuesday, March 13

My Brothers 11:30 a.m. A lunch series for Self-Identical, Men of Color. Sponsored by Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, Spectrum Center Counselor and Psychological Services, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs, and Division of Student Affairs. My Brothers, Michigan Union's 3rd Floor, Ann Arbor. Mybrothers@umich.edu spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Parents of Gender Nonconforming People 5 p.m. Free of charge, facilitated support group for parents and parental figures of gender nonconforming people. University of Michigan Comprehensive Gender Services Program, 2025 Traverwood, Suite A1, Ann Arbor. 734-998-2150. Nquay@umich.edu med. umich.edu/transcender

Wednesday, March 14

Foster Care & Adoption Informational/ Orientation Meeting 9 a.m. Family Service & Children's Aid invites you to come and learn more about foster care and/or adoption. Informational/Orientation meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Family Service and Children's Aid, 330 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. 517-787-7920 ext. 54. Facebook.com/FamilyServiceChildrensAid

Ladies Who Lunch 11 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., Kalamazoo. Kglrc.org

Coping with Disabilities 1 p.m. For anyone with a mental or physical illness that makes every-day life more challenging. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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. gailwolkoff@gmail.com

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 JJenkins@ GoAffirmations.org. Shaolin Master Mesan Williams, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Thursday, March 15

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.orq

State of LGBT Rights by Jay Kaplan 6 p.m. Jay Kaplan, attorney with the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project, will discuss the State of LGBT Rights, both nationally and in the State of Michigan. Perceptions, 301 Cass St., Saginaw. 989-891-1429. Info@perceptionsSV.org Perceprionssv.org

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to view and discuss films of interest to men. Film: Lan Yu, 2001. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Friday, March 16

Shabbot Potluck Dinner 6:45 p.m.
JGN is having a GLBT only Shabbot
Potluck Dinner. Please bring a friend and
a Dairy/Parve dish to pass. Hosted by
JGN president, Michael Phillips. Jewish
Gay Network, RSVP to receive address,
Southfield. 248-432-5661. Mphillips@
jccdet.org Jgnmi.org

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. Discuss relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, and/or omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Meeting usually followed by dinner at / aut/ Bar, two doors down. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/droups/110918256984/

MUSIC & MORE

Arbor Opera Theater "Le Vie De Boheme" Annual fundraising Cabaret will once again be hosted by the superb restaurant, The Earle Downtown. Admission: \$25 general, \$40 prime seating. The Earle, 121 W. Washington St. Ann Arbor. March 11-March 11. 734-994-0211. Arboropera.com/cabaret.html

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

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Classical Roots" Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 16-March 17. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Farmington Players Barn "Blackthorn" Michigan's favorite Irish band returns for St. Patrick's Day. Tickets: \$19 adults, \$17 students and seniors. Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. March 9-March 10. 248-473-1848. Recreg.fhgov.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Sumkali and Wisaal" Two of Michigan's premier world music groups come together for a musical journey around the world. Tickets: \$10-25 general, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 10. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

"MasterWorks 5: Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2" Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, followed by Strauss's tone poem, Death and Transfiguration, a classic of late Romanticism, and concluding with Brahms's second piano concerto. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. March 10. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. Lansingsymphony.org

MCBB Festival of Bands "Motor City Brass Band" Featuring Motor City Brass Band and four of Michigan's best community bands. The closing performance will include more than 200 musicians from the five bands. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students. Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave Dearborn 2 n m March 11. 248-788-6618. Mcbb.org

Michigan State University College of Music "Jazz Orchestra I, II, III" Tickets: \$10. Demonstration Hall, Music Building Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. March 16. 517-353-9958. Music.msu.edu

Royal Oak Music Theatre "TYGA: The Careless World Tour " Careless World: Rise of the Last King is the major label debut studio album by American rapper Tyga. Tickets: \$25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St., Royal Oak, 7 p.m. March 13. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Teitur" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 8, 734-761-1800, Theark.org

The Ark "Caravan of Thieves" Tickets: \$15. The Ark. 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, 8 p.m. March 9. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

A Streetcar Named Desire \$18 PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center. 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. March 8 - 17. 734-483-7345. www.ptdproductions.com

Almost, Maine \$15. Player's Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Through March 25. 313-561-TKTS. www. Playersquildofdearborn.org

Becky's New Car \$12-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. March 15 - 25, 517-482-5700, www. Riverwalktheatre.com

Cabaret \$15-20. The Detroit Actors Theatre Company at iLounge, 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac. March 8 - 10. 248-333-0649. www.thedatc.org

Grey Gardens \$17-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 8 - 11. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Let's Murder Marsha \$33; Show only: 15. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. March 16 - 24. www. Starlightdinnertheatre.com

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

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

Secrets of a Soccer Mom A staged reading, Free, Center Stage Jackson at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 Fourth St. Jackson. 2 p.m. March 10. 517-788-2320. www.centerstageiackson.org

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

The Last Five Years \$14. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave. Royal Oak. Through March 18. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

The Skin I'm In \$10. Matrix Theatre,

2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through March 11. 313-967-0999, www.MatrixTheatre.org

Two Beers & A Hookshot \$12 Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing, Through March 11. 517-482-5700. www riverwalktheatre.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Gladiator and A Gaggle of Saints \$10-12. The Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 10. 313-577Julius Caesar The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Rd. West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. March 10. 248-661-1900, www.theberman.org

Mythbusters: Behind the Myths \$35-\$125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 16 313-471-6611.

Mythbusters: Behind the Myths \$25-55. Wharton Center, 1 Wharton Center Dr., East Lansing. 3 p.m. March 17. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com

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

t&a \$10, \$7 students. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 9 - 10. Crawlspacetheatre.com

The Andersen Project \$24. University Musical Society at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann be on display. Ariana Gallery, 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Feb. 17-March 17. 248-546-8810. ArianaGallery.com

Cass Cafe Gallery "New Work" Featuring the art of two Detroit based artists, M. Saffell Gardner and Tylonn J. Sawyer, this exhibition features two strikingly different approaches to art creation as the artists demonstrate in their work, Cass Cafe, 4260 Cass Ave. Detroit Midtown. Jan. 14-March 17. 313Feb. 28-March 30, 734-769-2999 Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "No Going Back" An exhibit of the new figurative drawings of Linda Logan of Huntington Woods. In this exhibit, Logan challenges herself to create personalities using a medium, which cannot be erased; "No going back, no doing over." Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Feb. 29-March 30. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery

Michigan State University Museum "On Equal Terms" A new exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum takes a look at tradeswomen's 30-vear struggle for access and equality in the construction industry. Michigan State University Museum, West Circle Drive, East Lansing. Feb. 5-May 13. Facebook. com/MSUMuseum

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Joshua White and Gary Panter's Light Show" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 10-April 29. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "The Life and Time of the Pine" Paintings and drawings for this show started with a story about the life and times of a pine, and then continued on to include other landscapes and studies of and with pines. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. March 1-March 31. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Haroon Mirza" Haroon Mirza is a noted visual artist who wants us to listen, to train our ears on the incidental sounds that surround us, and to connect sound to the objects that create it. In his work Mirza explores and attempts to restore the relationships humans have with sound that occur through objects, actions, and forces, relationships largely screened behind the black boxes of electronic keyboards, digital music players. TV monitors, and the bits of information they play. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. March 4-July 22. 734-647-0524. 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



Haroon Mirza's "The national apavilion of then and now" on exhibit at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, March 17 to July 22.

The Cure For Love \$20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. March 15 -25. 269-387-6222. www.wmutheatre.

PROFESSIONAL

A Stone Carver \$17.50-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 10. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

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

Dead Man's Shoes Previews March 8-11 & 15 (\$15-\$32), \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, March 8 - April 8. 734-663-0681. www.

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

Fiddler on the Roof \$19-\$59. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 17. 810-237-7333. www. thewhiting.com

Frank Langella's Cyrano \$12-30. The Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 20. 313-577-2972. www.hilberrv.com

Over the River and Through the Woods \$16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through March 24. 586-771-6333, www.broadwayonstage.com

Passion Play A staged reading. \$7. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. March 11, 810-237-1530, www. FlintYouthTheatre.org

Ruined \$27.50-\$32. Plowshares Theatre Company at Boll Family YMCA Theater, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Through March 11. 313-593-0926. www.plowsharestheatre.org

Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show \$42-52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 17. 586-286-2222. www. MacombCenter.com

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

Sister's Easter Catechism: \$42-52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 10. 586-286-2222. www. MacombCenter.com

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

Spreading It Around Previews March 14-16 (\$24-\$30). \$24-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. March 14 - April 8. 248-377-3300. www mbtheatre.com

Arbor. March 15 - 17. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org

The Comedy of Errors \$15-35. Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. March 13. 269-387-2312. www.Millerauditorium.com

The Comedy of Errors The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. 3 p.m. March 11. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

Treasure Trove \$15-\$65. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. March 14 - 18. 800-745-3000 www palacenet com

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, 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

is an Island: New Dialogues with the Cranbrook Collection" esigned by renowned Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen the exhibition will pair the work of 50 leading contemporary artists and designers with an equal number of objects from the Cranbrook's permanent collection. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 12-March 25, 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "No Object

Kerrytown Concert House "Sara Innes, Paintings and Takeshi Takahara, Printmaker" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor.







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Hold That Thought

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Across

- 1 Chain with fruit syrups
- 5 Guy who cheats on his boyfriend, e.g.
- 8 Billy Budd, for one
- 14 Loose cannon
- 16 Cause of chaotic weather
- 17 Oz city shades
- 18 Some housewarming gifts
- 19 Start of a line from a Whitney
- Houston song
- 21 Bears org.
- 22 Worship service, for Malcolm Boyd
- 23 Says a word to Mary
- 27 Lover that you can't get over
- 29 Have fun with the Kneelers
- 32 Out, at the library
- 34 Title for French ladies
- 38 More of the line
- 40 Tolerate homophobe Robertson?
- 41 Gracefully slender
- 42 Little bit
- 43 Copies of a feminist mag.
- 45 That is, to Cicero
- 46 Site of a Lara Croft raid
- 49 Was out in front
- 51 End of the line
- 57 Stew slowly

- 58 Service later in the day
- 60 Bore that isn't penetrating
- 61 Corsage favorite
- 62 Be too single-minded
- 63 It's over your head
- 64 Hoarse sound

Down

- 1 Land of writer E. Donoghue
- 2 Prefix with sphere
- 3 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 4 Roz portrayer on "Frasier"
- 5 Ariz. neighbor
- 6 Crackhead, e.g.
- 7 Ball lover
- 8 Old photo color
- 9 Fashion designer Perry
- 10 Lover of Henry and June
- 11 Skimpy skirt
- 12 "No" voter
- 13 "I have a headache" and "Not tonight, honey"
- 15 Challenged
- 20 Philip Johnson contemporary
- 23 Get up
- 24 Antigay crusader Bryant
- 25 Story of Greeks that busted some

- **Troians**
- 26 Pork purchase
- 28 Doesn't use
- 29 Word from Tom Bianchi, perhaps
- 30 Salmon that has spawned
- 31 Place to stop when cruising
- 33 Tuck's partner
- 35 Liza, to Lorna
- 36 Stockholder's bonus
- 37 Blown away
- 39 Shakespeare's feet
- 44 Eastern European language
- 46 Wrap it around your package
- 47 Sites for dates
- 48 Powers portrayer
- 50 Sondheim's "___ Day a Little Death"
- 51 Mubarak, for one
- 52 Actor Jude and family
- 53 Staying power, in "Variety"
- 54 Belgian river
- 55 Sometime Capote associate Chaplin
- 56 United, to Vivien
- 57 "Liquor not provided" letters
- 59 Noticeable opening, with The

Solution on page 32

Pet of the Week



Say hello to Tabitha!

This 4-month-old Shepherd/Pit Bull terrier mix weighs just 18 pounds, but definitely has some growing to do! Friendly and playful, Tabitha gets along with other dogs and should transition easily into her new home with her brand new forever family. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, and so much more! For more information, please visit or call the Michigan Humane Society, Äôs Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 710756. Photo courtesy Michigan Humane Society.























Horoscopes

Don't act prematurely, Pisces!

Mercury is slowing down in Aries to turn retrograde while aspecting Venus and conjoining Uranus. Enjoy flirtations, but don't count on them to last. Any "inspirational notions" this week will blow up next week, but could lead to true genius by late April.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Is cooperation more trouble than it's worth? Your colleagues may feel the same way about you. Focus on improving your technical and interpersonal skills. Things will improve soon. Build a track record you can be proud of.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Venus coming home to Taurus opens you up to new dreams, ideas and romances. Stay within your budget, but let all other limits and constraints fly to the wind. Sharing your ideals and dreams will boost your allure.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Wild impulsive ideas can lead to true love or add some juice to an existing relationship. Confess your wildest hopes and some will be fulfilled. Think ahead, though! Life gets crazy next week. Pay attention to details.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Be helpful, kind and supportive, but bending over backwards for others will just get you a sore back. Openmindedness is good, but study basic premises before adopting entire philosophies. You will be heard, so think before speaking!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): You're too sexy for your lover, too sexy for your job. Tone down the charm and charisma at least a little bit. Others can easily make it out to be more than you intended, arousing jealousy and harassment suits.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Your naughty mouth can get you into trouble, delicious or otherwise. Tell the one you love what you'd really like to do when you're alone together. It could do wonders for your relationship.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): A flirtation with a co-worker or an exercise buddy could turn into something serious, unless you take it too seriously. Let it be fun and light. You both need some fresh air and fun, and if that's all it is, that's OK, too.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): As you get over being cranky and critical of your friends, how many do you have left? Getting rid of annoying twits may improve your life, but you probably still have some fences to mend. Make time for the folks who really matter.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Family ties or work in your community can strengthen a foundation for your career. Thing seem to be backsliding now. Recalculate your direction. That will take a few weeks yet. Don't fret over immediate results. Keep your eye on the long run.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Why do siblings or neighbors drive you crazy? It's not about you. Work to understand and be sympathetic to their problems. On a power surge right now, you can afford to be generous.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Try not to take yourself, your ideas or your sex life too seriously. Dissatisfaction drives the search for improvement; an open mind, some humility and a sense of humor will help you succeed. The comforts of home help you keep balanced.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): "Brilliant" financial ideas will soon prove to need correcting. You probably have a good start to a plan, though it needs time and work. Don't act prematurely! Listen to your partner's suggestions politely, but your friends really have the better insights.

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

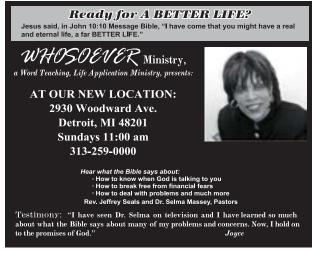


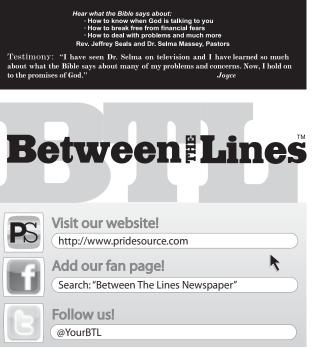


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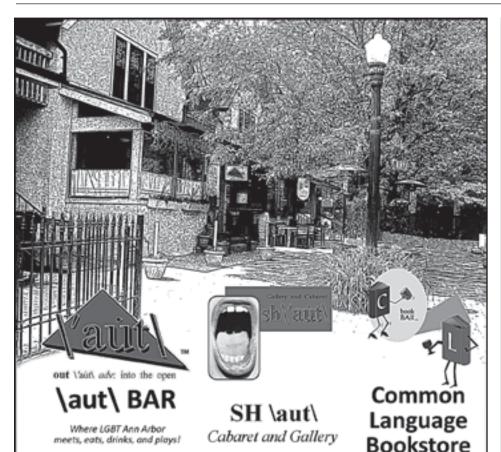




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Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

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Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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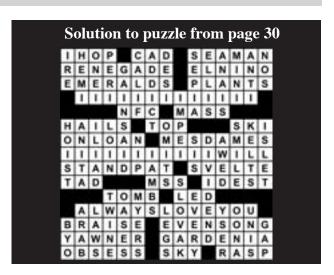
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Keeping it Pride Prom. A fab dance party, good food and a photo booth. We're so funded by MDOH. Photo is of a model and does not indicate sexual orientation or HIV status there. So stop by and meet other guys who are keeping it hot by knowing their HIV status. Find out where to be tested for free and get some fun giveaways. When: Fri., March 8, 8-12 midnight EMU student center ballroom Where: Cost: FREE admission Theme: Cirque Du So Gay A costume, drag, or jeans and a tee. Info at: statussexy.com statussexy.com facebook.com/ssdotcom twitter: @statussexy

Cocktail Chatter

The Salty Dog

BY ED SIKOV

It was with a toxic mix of boredom, curiosity, invigoration and the pathetic devilishness particular to the elderly that I called Kyle and asked him what he was doing Friday night. "The usual," he said, as though I'd stalked him and knew his routine. (OK, there was a brief period when I had stalked him, but let's leave that aside.)

"What's that?" I asked. "Get home around 7, shower, change, meet Robbie for drinks and dinner, and then see what develops. Wanna join us?" In more ways than one, I thought lecherously, but answered, "Sure." Dan was in Duluth – in February! – at an Alzheimer's conference. "Don't forget to come home!" I cried after he shut the door on the way out, knowing he wouldn't deign to unlock the door to reprimand me for my bad taste.

I was in the mood to hang out with youth because I'd picked up a copy of GQ and was shocked to find that I'd heard of none of the people whose handsome faces and superb bodies graced its pages; I knew nothing of the products being touted and advertised; and the recommended hot spots in New York City were as foreign to me as the best places to get grilled yak in Ulan Bator. Where once were my favorite blocks of sleazy sex clubs now stand the showrooms of Stella McCartney and Alexander McQueen. (That particular neighborhood's name, the Meatpacking District, has remained relevant, however. First it was Manhattan's slaughterhouse neighborhood, then a place where men inserted themselves into other men, and now it's where oversized rich women go to squeeze into clothes one size too small.)

Kyle told me to meet him at Naval, a relatively new bar in the far west Hell's Kitchen. I remembered the block as a wasteland of bus parking lots; now it's ablaze with soaring rental apartment buildings, thriving restaurants and

showy bars, including Naval, with its double theme of sailors and treasure trails, all depicted in giant close-up murals on the walls. By the time Robbie got there it was almost 9 p.m. I was yawning.

"Here," said Kyle. "Drink this." He handed me something he'd gotten from the bartender. I looked at the can. "What's a Blue Ox?" "It's an energy drink," Robbie shouted. I took a mouthful and - because it tasted like artificially sweetened crankcase oil pretending to be cola – promptly spat it out on the floor, much to the consternation of the idiot next to me who was wearing shorts and flip flops on a frigid February night and ended up with spat-out Blue Ox all over his shins and feet. "Asshole!" he squealed. I tend to get belligerent when I'm not drunk, so I shoved his shoulders back with both hands and said, "No, vou're the asshole for dressing like you're in Barbados when in fact you're in New Friggin' York in February. Now go poof or I'll beat the crap out of you, you asinine little twink." He spun around and ran away.

Kyle and Robbie stood in silent amazement for a moment then broke into applause. "Butch!" said Kyle admiringly. "Take me home, Daddy," Robbie mewed. "Just buy me a drink," I replied. "A real one. How about a Salty Dog? You think Louise here knows how to make one?" He didn't. I instructed him. *Commanded* is a better word.

The Salty Dog

3 oz. grapefruit juice 3 oz. Absolut vodka Cut lemon Salt Ice, cubes or crushed

Rub the cut edge of the lemon on the rim of a glass, then dip the glass in a plate full of flaked salt. Put the ice in the glass, then add the juice and vodka and stir gently, so as not to disturb the salt on the rim. If the drink is too strong for you, cut it with more grapefruit juice.





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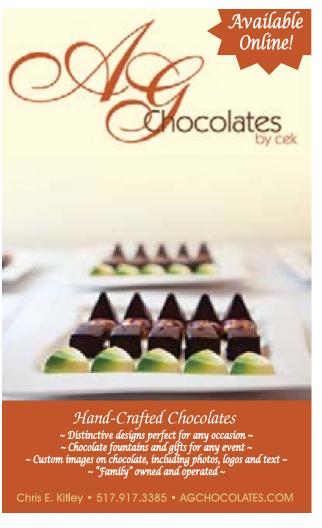
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