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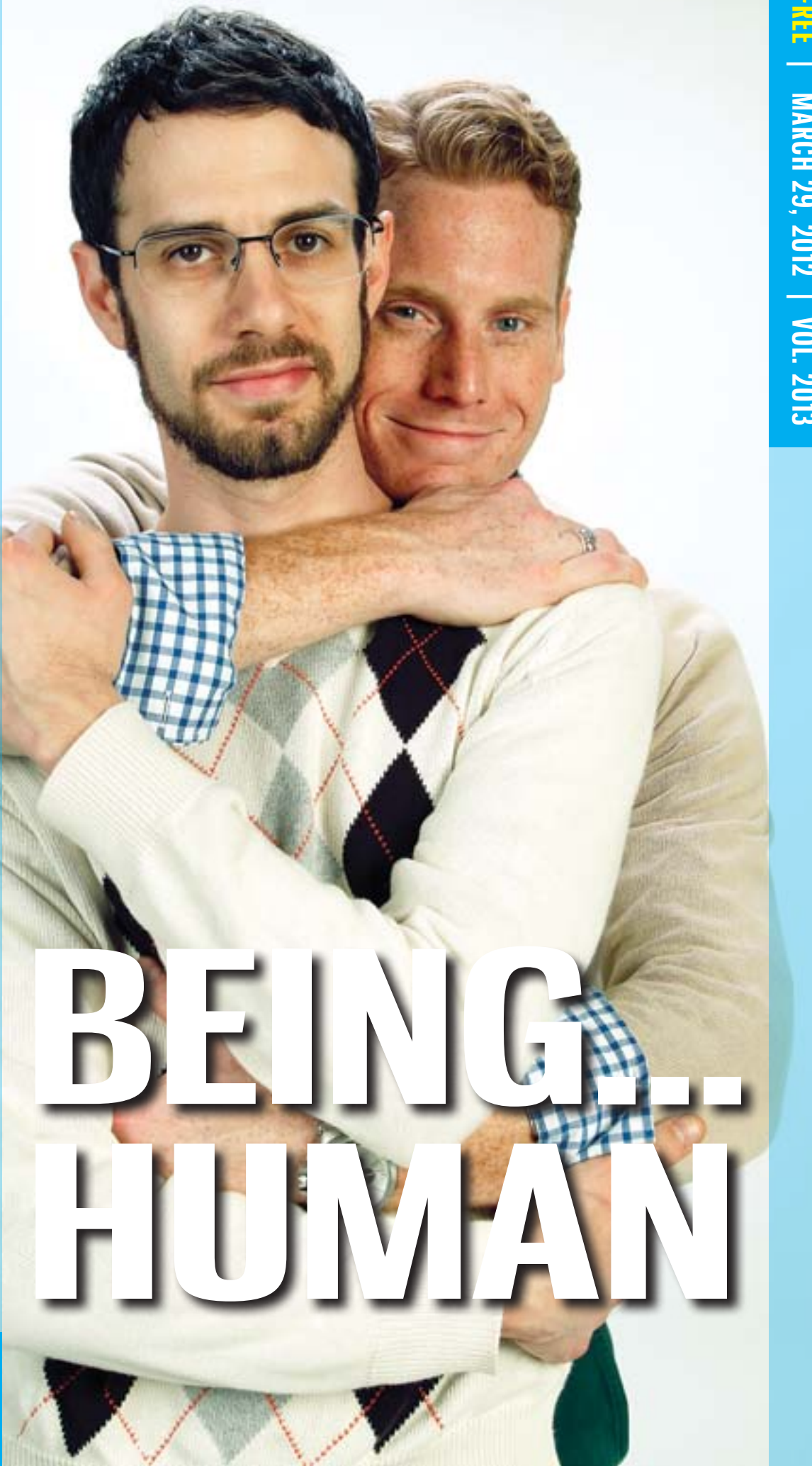
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Friday Night Live!

Saxophonist and composer Larry Ochs formed *Kihnoua* to combine his interest in Korean singing and improvisation with the sounds and structures of Western improvised music. 7 and 8:30 p.m., Rivera Court

Family Sundays

Joe Reilly's environmentally-themed songs and stories for young audiences help celebrate Earth Day this month. 2 p.m., Rivera Court

Sunday Music Bar

Multi-instrumentalist Ara Topouzian performs Armenian and Middle Eastern music on the *kanun*, a laptop harp. 1 and 3 p.m., Kresge Court

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Michigan Odawa Indians' tribal council considers recognizing same-sex marriages

American Indian tribe would be first in Michigan to legalize gay marriage

HARBOR SPRINGS (AP) - The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' tribal council is considering a constitutional amendment that would recognize same-sex marriages.

The Petoskey News-Review and WPBN-TV report the American Indian tribe would be the first in Michigan and among a few nationwide to legalize gay marriages if the amendment is adopted.

Most of the about 4,000 people in the tribe live in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. If the measure is approved, at least one of the partners would have to be a member of the tribe. The idea was initially encouraged by two tribal citizens in a letter to the tribal council urging consideration of an amendment.

The proposal currently is in a public comment period. The current tribal constitution defines marriage as between "one man and one woman."

Voter ID law focus of discussion

The ACLU of Michigan Annual Oakland Branch meeting will take place on April 15 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave. in Bloomfield Hills. The speakers will examine the rise in regressive voter suppression laws, which pose significant barriers for eligible voters trying to exercise their most fundamental constitutional right this November.

ACLU of Michigan Racial Justice Project Staff Attorney Mark Fancher will offer expert insight in his discussion "Sabotaging Democracy: Roadblocks to Political Engagement in Communities of Color."

Director Shelli Weisberg will be discussing how poll taxes and literacy tests have given way to more modern voter suppression tactics packaged as voter ID laws, restrictions to voter registration and cuts to early voting.

Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

A vibrant 'busy place' emerges

Seven months in, Dave Garcia talks about Spring Bash, Affirmations and electricity

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - When Dave Garcia took over as executive director for Affirmations Community Center, he was given what some described as an essentially fresh start by the organization's interim director Kevin Howley. Programming and staff had been reduced to whatever was specifically funded and the hours the center stayed open had been reduced to save money. The focus then was on how to fortify the organization's balance sheet as they searched for their new executive director and figure out how to best manage the funding of the center.

Enter Garcia, an energetic single father with a background in journalism, teaching, activism and nonprofit administration, who arrived full of energy, ideas and collaborations. He hit the ground running with two bold announcements - longer than ever hours and membership privileges to anyone willing to pay as little as one dollar. He added new staff, with programs blossoming to attract more people to the center and more value for the community. Affirmations now provides space to multiple organizations including Agape Ministries, Transgender Detroit and Detroit Latinos. They've been asked to be the fiduciary for Al Gamea.

And the center has been, well...central, to creating waves of activism that have rippled through the state, with participation in projects like the LGBT Aging Coalition, the Faith Initiative and the rally held in Lansing this past January in support of gay families, after Gov. Snyder signed anti-gay legislation denying partner benefits.

The rally also saw the creation of the Community Center Network - a network that includes all the current centers operating around the state as well as those cities seeking to create a community center.

And as Garcia approaches his eighth month as the executive director, he is ready to don a black tie and tux for the center's bigger and better Spring Bash. No, it's not the Big Bash any more. This year there are two big bashes, Garcia said, one in Spring and one in Fall. The Spring Bash is a black tie affair at the Detroit Institute of Arts, with this year's theme being the Art of Re-Creation. With tickets starting at \$200, this event could leave some members feeling left out, so there will be a more attainable bash in the Fall as well. The Spring Bash has sold out ahead of the event this year for the first time.

Greater stability

Saturday's event will undoubtedly be a celebration of the Center's greater stability and commitment to community vibrancy. The



Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia has delivered a high energy base of activity and participation in his first seven months on the job. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

mortgage on the multi-million dollar facility is now under 180k. "We're in much better financial shape," Garcia said. "Our mortgage is about \$2,000 a month, which is do-able. Our donor base it up. We went from about \$25,000 in the bank to \$200,000 in the bank because donations have increased. We have been able to increase programming and hours with a combination of increased donors, a successful end of year appeal, staff restructuring and overwhelming response to our Spring Bash black tie." Garcia even discovered a flaw in electrical billing that landed Affirmations with a \$119,000 credit and a reduced energy cost each month.

"Funny story just from this week," he said. "When I first got here on the job I was looking at the bills and stuff, I noticed our energy bill

was \$5,000 a month. I've been a camp director and I had entire camps that didn't have that kind of bill. So I called DTE and asked for an energy audit, and then all of a sudden the bill went down to \$1,000 a month.

"They said 'We sent out a meter person, and they sent someone out and they changed the multiplier so you can expect to have a lower bill from now on.' I don't even understand what exactly a multiplier is, but I know it wasn't something that we had anything to do with. So I said, 'Okay well that's great, but I want a refund. I didn't expect them to do much, but we opened the bill last week and we've got a \$119,000 credit. We don't have to worry about the electric



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Bullied Michigan student's online petition creates rating change

Katy Butler moves 500,000 people to sign

BY BTL STAFF

The Weinstein Company announced March 26, that "Bully," the award-winning documentary about the epidemic of school bullying in the U.S., will open in theaters on March 30 as "unrated" after nearly 500,000 people signed an extraordinarily popular online petition at Change.org demanding that the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) remove the "R" rating initially given to the movie by the MPAA's ratings board.

"I am happy 'Bully' will maintain its authenticity and will be an accurate portrayal of what thousands of kids experience every day," said Katy Butler, a bullied high school student from Michigan who was outraged that the MPAA gave "Bully" an "R" rating by just one vote because of brief language.

Butler, who had her finger broken by bullies in middle school after they learned she was a lesbian, urged the MPAA to remove the "R" rating from "Bully" so that middle school and high school students would have a chance to see a movie that could potentially save their lives.

"The MPAA might not recognize the reality that thousands of bullied kids face each day in school, but nearly 500,000 people around the country, from celebrities to politicians to bullied kids themselves, stepped up to speak out about bullying by signing my petition," said Butler. "The brief use of vulgar language in this film reflects what so many kids hear each day in school when they're being bullied. The MPAA said they wouldn't drop the 'R' rating unless this language was removed, but nothing can remove it from the halls and playgrounds of schools where bullied students hear it each day, except education and exposure."

Lee Hirsch, director of "Bully," said that the "unrated" designation for the film will allow the film to portray the real trauma and torment that bullied students experience each day in school.

"The small amount of language in the film that's responsible for the 'R' rating is there because it's real. It's what the children who are victims of bullying face on most days," Hirsch



Photo courtesy of GLAAD: Harvey Weinstein and Katy Butler at GLAAD Media Awards in NYC last week. Credit: Larry Busacca/WireImage 2011

said in a statement put out by The Weinstein Company announcing the "unrated" designation. "All of our supporters see that, and we're grateful for the support we've received across the board. I know the kids will come, so it's up to the theaters to let them in."

Gerry Lopez, the CEO of AMC Theaters, one of the largest movie theater chains in the world, signed Katy Butler's Change.org petition. He said previously in a statement that he will make sure "Bully" plays at AMC Theaters even with an "unrated" rating.

"AMC will show this movie, and we invite our guests to engage in the dialogue its relevant message will inevitably provoke," Lopez said.

Lopez is just one of several high profile

See Bullied, page 7

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"If I were to die while the children are still minors, April would be treated as an unrelated adult to N and J in the eyes of Michigan's legal system, she would have to start from scratch to either be their foster or adoptive parent. She would have no legal right to visitation or custody of N and J without pursuing legal action."

- Jayne Rowse

Challenges of current law

In an affidavit filed with the court on March 13, Jayne Rowse outlined the problems her family faces because of the state laws:

"Because our three children have many special needs, it continues to be problematic for our family that April is not recognized as N and J's legal parent by medical personnel and other care givers, and conversely, I am not recognized as R's legal parent. This becomes an issue as we approach each new treating facility or care giver if April is unable to accompany R, or if I am unable to accompany N and J. Especially in the unexpected emergency medical care situation, where time is of the essence, and decisions have to be made quickly, I have no legal authority with respect to R's care, and April would have no legal authority with respect to N and J's care.

"I cannot cover April's daughter, R, on my insurance the way married heterosexual parents and stepparents can. I would have to buy the insurance for her and it is prohibitively expensive.

"If I were to die while the children are still minors, April would be treated as an unrelated adult to N and J in the eyes of Michigan's legal system, she would have to start from scratch to either be their foster or adoptive parent. She would have no legal right to visitation or custody of N and J without pursuing legal action.

If I died, R has no automatic legal rights of inheritance. If April dies, N and J have no automatic right of inheritance.

If I die or become disabled, R is not eligible for social security benefits through me, and if April dies, N and J are not eligible for social security benefits through April.

"We have contemplated all of these circumstances, along with all of the rights, privileges and protections that we lack and that heterosexual married parents take for granted, and this situation creates unnecessary stress and anxiety in our lives, and unnecessary risk and instability to our children."

Hazel Park moms take adoption restrictions to federal level

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

HAZEL PARK – The State of Michigan doesn't think that the federal courts should be allowed to compel them to accept second-parent adoption applications from unmarried individuals, but attorney Dana M. Nessel disagrees.

"The State Defendants insist the law can only be changed by the state legislature, and that the federal courts ought to play no part in mandating that gays and lesbians and their children be permitted basic civil rights enjoyed by the rest of Michigan's population," said Nessel. "Of course we would love to see the legislature take the initiative on this matter, and legislatively create equal rights for all Michigan's citizens. However, the Michigan legislature, time and again, seems determine to ensure that this will never occur. And when a specific population is denied basic civil rights, the federal courts have an obligation to step in. It's simply not up to the state legislature to decide who among us is entitled to our Constitutional rights and who is not. The legislature doesn't get a vote on that.

"When the state legislature in Alabama denied black children the same educational opportunities afforded to white children in the 1960's, the proper remedy was not to beg the state legislature to change their minds about the issue. It was the federal courts that mandated that all children be treated equally. What we are asking now, in Michigan in 2012 is really no different."

That's why she and fellow attorney Carole M. Stanyar are representing a lesbian Hazel Park couple in a case against the State of Michigan to compel them to allow unmarried individuals to jointly adopt children.

The Michigan Department of Attorney General filed a motion to have the case dismissed, claiming that no injury has occurred, that adoption laws "are uniquely within the province of the state," and "Michigan has a rational basis for its long-standing adoption system which seeks to ensure predictability and supports the state's overall policy of recognizing of the importance of the traditional family."

Under Michigan law, children can only be adopted by married couples or single individuals. Many gay couples have children that are only legally adopted by one parent. The law also affects families where multiple people care for a child, such as two aunts, or an unmarried heterosexual couple.

This is problematic because only the parent on the adoption paperwork has parental rights. If something happens to the legal parent, that child then goes into the system, not necessarily to the person who has loved and raised them. The child also would not qualify for health benefits of the legally unrecognized parent, and their rights to inheritance are non-existent. The unrecognized parent has no rights with regard to their child's education and medical needs.



April DeBoer and her partner Jayne Rowse have been together for ten years, and have lived together for six. Rowse is the legal parent of 3-year-old N and 2-year-old J. DeBoer is the legal parent of 2-year-old R.

Inequities hit home

April DeBoer and her partner Jayne Rowse have been together for ten years, and have lived together for six. Rowse is the legal parent of 3-year-old N and 2-year-old J. DeBoer is the legal parent of 2-year-old R. Each of the children was taken in by DeBoer and Rowse after being abandoned or surrendered at birth by their mothers. The women served as guardians and licensed foster parents to the children before adopting them as individuals. Each child could only legally be adopted by one of the women.

The couple contacted Nessel to have guardianship paperwork drawn up, when they decided it was time to stand up for stronger protections for families.

DeBoer remembered when the weight of the inequities really hit home. "The night before Jayne adopted N, I spent two hours crying because I knew I wouldn't have rights any more. It should have been a happy night," she said. "We both had rights as foster parents, but on the day of adoption I lost all of that. I cannot be the one to take him to the hospital because I have no right to make medical decision. I might not be allowed to pull him out of school in an emergency. If anything happens to Jayne he could be taken away, not only from me, but he and his brother can be taken away from their sister - the sister they've known all their lives."

The case is being heard by Federal Court East District by Hon. Bernard A. Friedman. "I hope Judge Friedman does the right thing and recognizes the importance of protecting all families. The State Defendants believe only the

children of so-called 'traditional families' are deserving of rights and protections. We want the law to recognize that all children are equally important," said Messel.

"The case rests on the U.S. Constitution and the 14th Amendment and the assertion that 'All men are created equal,'" said Nessel.

"Things are not equal when this family has to live in fear over rights that other families take for granted," Nessel said. "Michigan adoption law is unequal and irrational. The laws that pertain to children ought to be about what is in the best interest of the children, no matter what type of family those children belong to."

Along with statements from the mothers, Nessel and Stanyar have filed affidavits from experts about the need for second parent adoption in Michigan, and the benefits that two-parent adoptions have for children.

"There is a crisis surrounding the adoption in Michigan," said Kathi Nelson, M.S.W., L.M.S.W. of Hands Across The Water, Adoption & Social Services in Ann Arbor, in her affidavit. "All agencies are in desperate need of placing children of suitable families for foster care and adoption. In 2010 there were 16,406 children, aged 0-17, in foster care. These children need and deserve to be placed with families who will love and care for them, regardless of the sexual orientation of their perspective parents."

Best interests of the children

Jeanne A Howard, Ph.D, who is co-director for the Center for Adoption Studies at Illinois

Bill seeks to amend Elliott-Larsen law to include LGBT protections

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LANSING – In her second attempt to amend The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976, Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) announced Thursday new legislation that would prohibit employers, landlords, and others in Michigan from discriminating based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

“It’s still true in Michigan that people can be evicted from their place of residence, they can be fired from their job that they hold based on their sexual orientation or someone else’s perception of their sexual orientation and this is something we need to fix,” said Warren during a press conference at the State Capitol Building in Lansing.

The Democratic lawmaker was joined by her allies - members of Unity Michigan Coalition and Professor Peter Hammer, Director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School - to introduce the legislation. Unity Michigan Coalition includes the ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations Community Center, Equality Michigan, KICK, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, and The Ruth Ellis Center.

According to a report by MLive, Warren said public awareness and opinions have changed, noting a statewide poll of likely voters released in February 2011 that found two-thirds favored anti-discrimination legislation. In addition, Unity Michigan Coalition pointed out that about 20 states have various anti-discrimination ordinances that include LGBT people.

The bill faces a tough fight as this is Warren’s second attempt to amend the Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status, but not sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Three years ago, the same legislation passed out of the judiciary committee, but never received a vote on the House floor. As a result, Warren is rebranding the message that providing protections for LGBT people isn’t just about fairness and equality, but also about economics.

If signed into law, the bill would not supersede local ordinances that provide higher level protections but would overrule any local ordinances that are in opposition to this bill. This includes HB 5039 introduced by State Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills) in Oct. 2011 to outlaw local gay rights ordinances like the ones already in place in 18 Michigan communities. If approved that law would prohibit municipalities from extending rights to those not covered by the Act, specifically LGBT people.

But Warren said she’s hoping more lawmakers are beginning to realize that such protections are needed to make Michigan attractive to top talent and businesses from around the globe. She said the state “needs to send the message” that it won’t stand for discrimination of any kind.

Say thanks

Please take a moment to thank Sen. Warren for standing up for fairness. Your message to her will also be sent to your state legislators so they will know you support the issue. More legislators are needed to step up to support this legislation. That’s why sending supportive messages to Sen. Warren and letting legislators know where you stand are important next steps.

To learn more visit: www.dontchangeyourself.com/ThankYouSenatorWarren



Sen. Rebekah Warren

Johnny Depp, Meryl Streep, Michael Jordan, Demi Lovato, Randy Jackson, and Drew Brees all encouraged their fans to show support to “Bully,” objecting to the “R” rating it received.

Live signature totals from Katy Butler’s campaign (and comments from signers): www.change.org/bully

► Bullied

Continued from p. 5

individuals who signed Butler’s campaign on Change.org. Ellen DeGeneres signed the petition, inviting Butler to appear on her show and urging her viewers to support the petition, and Anderson Cooper, Kelly Ripa, Justin Bieber,

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Viewpoint



If Only

Collision at the intersection of justice and LGBT equality

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

On Feb. 26 Trayvon Martin, a seventeen year old African American youth, went to the store to get a pack of skittles and an Arizona tea. He wasn't a bad kid. He'd never been in trouble. He was unarmed. He just went out for some snacks and never made it back home.

Trayvon was shot by a member of a neighborhood watch armed with a semiautomatic handgun. George Zimmerman described Martin as suspicious and "looking like he is up to no good."

Zimmerman, who is reportedly Hispanic and grew up in a multi-racial family, claimed self-defense, was not charged and was released by police.

In the aftermath of the shooting, there has been a groundswell of protest across the internet and country demanding an investigation of the shooting, an arrest of Zimmerman and drawing attention to the sad reality that, even now in 2012, there remains a bull's eye on the backs of young African American and Latino youth.

At the height of the protests, discussions and calls for justice, "Fox & Friends" commentator Geraldo Rivera urged parents of Black and Latino youngsters to "not let their children go out wearing hoodies" implying that the wearing of "hoodies" was somehow a contributing factor to the bounty on African American and Latino youth.

HOLD THE PRESSES!!!!!!

As an African American I get it. I had had the talk with my son about dressing, walking, driving and living "while Black." I personally have been followed around stores by suspicious clerks or security for no apparent reason other than my skin color and had to "whiten up" my vocabulary to get or keep jobs.

It's fear – fear of the unknown, fear of the "other." It's stupid, unjustified but it is real - to some a black person in a hoodie at night is still code for "looking like he is up to no good" and subject to suspicion, surveillance and, in Trayvon's case, shooting. We may have overcome but we still have one hell of a way yet to go.

But as I listened to Rivera's remarks saying basically if only Black and Latino youth didn't wear hoodies they would somehow be safer, I once again found myself at that oft crossed

To borrow from President Obama, if I had a son (a daughter, a child) they'd look like Matthew Shepherd, Sakia Gunn, Tyler Clementi, Robert Champion, and yes, Trayvon Martin.

intersection of human rights and LGBT equality.

I cannot tell you how many times while lobbying for anti-bullying legislation not just before federal and state legislators but at school boards, churches and various community groups, the argument against comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying legislation was wrapped around the "if only" argument. - If only they didn't dress that way; if only they didn't want to openly express their sexuality or gender expression - If only they weren't Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender.

What exactly is bullying? Miriam-Webster

defines bullying as the "use of superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force him/her to do what one wants."

But we don't need Webster to tell us about bullying. In lay terms it's more often "If only you behave, follow our rules, be what we want" – we'll leave you alone; let you keep your job and dream of equal rights.

Race, class, hate and fear all crashing at the intersection of civil rights, LGBT equality and our humanity.

To borrow from President Obama, if I had a son (a daughter, a child) they'd look like Matthew Shepherd, Sakia Gunn, Tyler Clementi, Robert Champion, and yes, Trayvon Martin.

We must think about our own kids and ask what can we be that our children might see today? What kind of world are we leaving for them tomorrow?

"If Only" – two words at the heart of our fight to protect our families, our communities, and our youth. We don't need to change. We need to be the change.

If only we stand up against bullying, and stand for justice, we can be the change we want to see.



BTL and Gaypon partner, will offer LGBT daily deals

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LIVONIA - Pride Source Media Group, publishers of Between The Lines, has partnered with Gaypon, an online couponing company, to provide LGBT-friendly "deals of the day" and couponing opportunities. Pride Source Deals, Powered by Gaypon, will launch their first collaborative online deal in the first week of April.

"Many of our advertisers have asked us for a coupon product, and we are thrilled to announce our new partnership with Gaypon. They have the technical ability and political sensibilities that make them a great partner for our readers and our advertisers," said Jan Stevenson, co-publisher and advertising sales manager of BTL.

Gaypon, the website (www.dailygaypon.com/home.php), launched out of West Bloomfield last year. Unlike many of its competitors, Gaypon has donated at least ten percent of their proceeds to LGBT charities and organizations, such as The Trevor Project and Affirmations Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

"Our goal at Gaypon is to offer discounts for the things you do every day and introduce you to new things around town, all while saving money and supporting businesses that are proud of their diverse staff and clientele," said Robert Graham, who founded Gaypon with his business partner Jason Buszta. The pair met through a mutual gay friend. "The idea kind of just popped into my head. I wanted to do something more with my life. I wanted to have a purpose," said Graham, adding that he understands as a Jewish person

the need for diversity and equality in business.

Pride Source Deals, powered by Gaypon, will let consumers connect with local businesses to find a variety of deals – from everyday things like restaurants, fashion and entertainment to travel, florists, LGBT wedding planners, even LGBT greeting cards. Sometimes, the site will feature coupons for multimedia downloads like music and movies, plus live theater and concerts.

The new partnership with Pride Source will allow BTL advertisers to move seamlessly into the coupon arena. Deals will originate through the sales team at Pride Source, and be serviced and managed by the technical team at Gaypon.

Gaypon is often compared to Groupon and while it offers pre-bought, limited-time deals on various goods and services, Graham said the website is "not really a play on Groupon. We think of ourselves more like an Angie's List or Yelp. I think there will always be a need for a tool or service to help people identify why one business might be better than the other."

Pride Source and Gaypon will reach tens of thousands of potential coupon users through their websites and a vast social media network. The PrideSource.com website gets over 20,000 unique visitors every week, and Gaypon already has 25,000 likes on Facebook and almost 3,500 followers on Twitter.

Gaypon is free to sign-up for. "You only pay for the deals you like. There are no set-up fees or up-front costs," said Graham. To sign up go to www.pridesource.com and click on the link to Gaypon and the deal of the day.

decisions for the child. In the worst case, in the absence of second-parent or joint adoption, a child who loses his legal parent to death, incapacitation or even incarceration could lose his relationship with his second parent. Even when parents make accommodation through guardianship arrangements, courts are not required to approve this arrangement and are open to challenge from other relatives of the legal parent.

"Children are also at risk should their parents relationship end. Adopted children typically have legal protection to their relationship to each parent when their parents divorce and courts typically support visitation and on-going parental financial support. Children who cannot be adopted by both parents lack such protections."

The family has started a website to help them raise awareness of their case and to get donations to help with legal expenses. Find out more at <http://deboerrowseadoptionfund.nesselandkessellaw.com>

► Hazel Park

Continued from p. 6

State University, points out in her affidavit that, "Most states either explicitly allow joint or second parent adoption by same-sex couples through law or policy (18 states and the District of Columbia), have allowed it at the trial court level (12 states) or do not speak to the issue," and that, "It is clearly in the best interest of children to have both parents legally recognized. Second-parent and joint adoptions protect children by giving children the legal and psychological security of having two legal parents.

"Many of these protections are financial: automatically establishing rights to inheritance, Social Security benefits, retirement benefits, health insurance coverage, and protection from wrongful death of both parents. In addition, joint or second-parent adoption enables both parents to make medical, educational and other legal

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Heard on Facebook

What do you think of the controversy 'Growing Pains' star Kirk Cameron ignited when he said that being gay was "unnatural" and "destructive"?

"Unnatural" and "destructive?" Kind of like his acting. HEY-OHHH

—Chaz Brack

He's a little homoskeptical in my opinion.

—Curtis Ray

To be totally fair though, is any kind of marriage really "natural"? I've always thought it was an invention of human civilization. Are there other animals in nature performing heterosexual weddings? And no, Kermit and Miss Piggy's wedding doesn't count.

—Chaz Brack

He also doesn't believe in evolution, so I'm not sure he's the best to comment on what's natural and what's not.

—Enku Occupy Ide

It's also unnatural to be a highly paid actor. Anyway, heterosexual marriage was not "the underpinning of Western civilization for 2,000 years," so much as slavery and women-as-property was.

—Steve Duerksen

I never heard homosexuals spend so much time talking about what goes on in a heterosexual bedroom. Who the hell cares!

—Young Latta

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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S/he Said

Starbucks, Santorum and Savage

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Howard Shultz

"Any decision of this type or magnitude has to be made with great thoughtfulness and I would assure you that a senior team at Starbucks discussed this. To be very candid with you, this was not something that was a difficult decision for us and we did share this with the board as well. We made that decision, in our view, through the lens of humanity and being the kind of company that embraces diversity. I would say, since we've made that decision, there's not been dilution whatsoever in our business."

—Starbucks CEO Howard Shultz, at a Starbucks shareholders' meeting, responding to questioning from a National Organization for Marriage (NOM) agents, claiming to be stockholders, about Starbucks' support of marriage equality, www.seattlepi.com, Mar. 21. The assembled stockholders responded to Shultz's remarks with enthusiastic applause.

"To the CEO and Board of Directors of Starbucks: I am deeply offended by your corporate position to support same-sex marriage and your decision to wage a culture war against the moral views of half your US customers and the vast majority of your international consumers. Starbucks is using its resources to invalidate traditional marriage in the US and redefine the institution of marriage despite the strongly held views of so many of its customers, including me. Therefore, I will no longer purchase anything from Starbucks until you change your corporate values to be more reflective of my own."

—Petition of the "Dump Starbucks" campaign launched by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) lobbying group opposing same-sex marriage, calling for a world boycott of Starbucks because of the company's support of marriage equality, www.dumpstarbucks.com. Stating that Starbucks "has declared a culture war on all people of faith," NOM's "Dump Starbucks" advertising campaign appears in the U.S., the Middle East and Southeast Asia.



Rick Santorum

"I would tell him that I'm praying for him. He obviously has some serious issues. You look at someone like that who can say and do the things that he's doing and you just pray for him and hopefully he can find peace."

—Rick Santorum, Republican presidential candidate, in a RealClearReligion interview, asked what he would say if he ran into Dan Savage, sex columnist, www.realclearreligion.org, Mar. 19. In

2003, in response to Santorum's anti-gay remarks, Savage redefined the former senator's last name into a now-popular phrase involving anal sex which has become a prominent search result for Santorum's name on web search engines.



Dan Savage

"Rick Santorum thinks that women who have been raped should be compelled - by force of law - to carry the babies of their rapists to term, he thinks birth control should be illegal, he wants to prosecute pornographers, etc., etc., basically the guy wants to be president so that he can micromanage the sex lives of all Americans...and I'm the one with issues? Because I made a dirty joke at his expense eight or nine years ago and it stuck? I'm the one with issues? Okaaaaaaaaaaaaaay. Rick can pray for me. I'll gay for him. And we can call it even."

—Dan Savage, sex columnist, responding to comments made in an interview by Rick Santorum, Republican presidential candidate, motherjones.com, Mar. 19.

Parting Glances



One snappy fairy tale

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

"Your condition can be changed using this box of amazing cure-alls," hOOTy hOOTed Dr. Exodus Barn Owl, shoving a package of Miracle Elastics, Assorted Colors, Funny Farm, LTD., across his highly polished oak-tree desk to Reggie Rabbit, referral patient #248.

"Pink's for mania, to handle your obsession with chasing after hares instead of rabbits. Red's for over stimulation. Your premature e-jack-rabbit-ulation. Orange, for hip-hoppy thoughts that get you tossed into prickly briar patches.

"You're a southpaw, so put the snapper on your right wrist. Elastics come in different strengths. You'll need a sting that's sharp as a wasp rather jabbing like a bumble bee. The sooner you start, the better. Call me Doc Barney."

"I don't suppose a hornet sting would do the trick?" asked Reggie, who thought he knew a thing or two about things horny and prickly.

"Tut. Tut. Tut. You shouldn't be looking for an easy way out," hOOTed Dr. Barney. "With these elastics you'll get 500 snaps each. That'll get you through the day without wanting to bunny hop in the bramble every hapless hare you fancy."

"I advise you to change rubbers, er, elastics at bedtime," Dr. Barney winked. "That way should you be aroused by an off-color dream of misbehaving in Mr. McGregor's garden, you'll get around-the-clock protection of the Association of Barn Owl Reparative Therapy, ABORT system.

"How hard should I snap, doc," asked Reggie, wanting to make sure the cure, for which he emptied two piggy banks, would work. "Light, medium, hard, or, zippy-do-dah, that hurts like heck?"

"The harder, the better. Oh, yes: here's a ginger snap-happy tip. If you see a lively hare that really gets your tail in a twitter, snap with a Sky Blue elastic. Twelve to a box. It's no blow. Just go blue!"

"I'll try anything, doc. How long does this pre-scare-a-tOOTy-whatever take?"

"I can't say for sure - it's not professional - but I've seen hare-raising changes in twelve snappy months. When you've worn out these magic elastics, come back for more - ten percent discount."

Whereupon Dr. Exodus Barn Owl shut his big blinking OOs and - straight as an arrow - fell asleep, dreaming of mice, rats, and delectably fat, but rarely obtainable, voles.

Reggie Rabbit took the Miracle Elastics, chose a Sky Blue one, slipped it next to his Mickey Mouse watch, and SNAPPED it full jab, then hopped hopefully and gaily into the glen to pick daisies for a chain. As he did so he snap, snap, snapped. And snap, snap, snapped ...

"Well, Reggie, are you still having thoughts about humping hares instead of jumping rabbits?" asked Dr. Exodus Barn Owl one year, seven days, four hours, three snappy minutes later.

"I'm afraid so," answered Reginald sheepishly. "I've snapped - snapped so many thousands of times my wrist's gone perfectly limp. Say! What's up, doc? I still want to hump hares. Give me my money back."

"Well, isn't that a hOOT," said Dr. Exodus, staring blankly off into space. "Sorry, Ex-Patient #248. There's no refund for hare brains like you."

Charles@pridesource.com

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Creep of the Week

Pat Robertson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Pat Robertson

Congratulations, Pat Robertson, for being chosen as Creep of the Week. There were a lot of outstanding candidates this week, but I chose you. Why? Alas, it's not because you're special. In truth, it's because I'm tired. I've been reading about racism and homophobia and terrible horrible things all day and your doughy, lemon-shaped head managed to swirl into my field of vision as my deadline was approaching.

Or maybe it's because I thought of you yesterday while I was at the grocery store, walking down an aisle that had all manner of boxed macaroni and cheese and recalled your confusion over this American food staple on a recent episode of *The 700 Club* when you asked if mac and cheese was "a black thing." I imagined you standing there, amazed, especially as you watched white people throwing that shit into their carts.

So I guess you could say, Pat, that you've been on my mind.

What did you do, you ask? As you know, the list is long. But this time I'm taking issue with your equating homosexuality with demonic possession on your March 26 episode of *The 700 Club*.

It was during a segment featuring Shawn Derritt, a Christian recording artist and self-proclaimed "ex gay."

Here's how you introduced the segment: "It didn't matter who he did it with! Because Shawn Derritt wanted it that badly. He was hungry for it. So for seven years, Sean trolled the streets longing for cheap sex with other men. All the while Sean's wife was at home and completely clueless."

Woah. First of all, I would pay good money to unhear and unsee you talking dirty to me. Secondly, it sounds like you are describing a terrible and sad situation where nobody is happy, and everybody is going to get hurt. I mean, obviously Derritt and his wife aren't exactly compatible since he's, well, gay and she's, well, "clueless." And even if she weren't clueless, finding out about Derritt's escapades would certainly be a dealbreaker. (Am I right ladies?)

Unless, of course, we can just remove the part of this equation keeping it from fitting *The 700 Club's* narrow parameters for acceptable human existence. That's, of course, the gay part.

And so Derritt prays the gay away. And everything is wonderful and he's totally straight now. For Jesus.

Against all odds, am I right Pat?

Here's what you said: "You know the world today says, 'Ok Sean, so you are gay, you want to go out and have affairs with men, that's cool. You have an absolute right to do that, why not? So you're married, well that's too bad. So your wife doesn't like it, well tough.'"

Took the words right out of the world today's mouth. Definitely godless heathen gays encourage people to step out on their wives and husbands to engage in clandestine affairs with same-sex partners. #1 item on the Homosexual Agenda, in fact.

But Pat, this sexy-time moral free for all is not cool to you, it turns out.

"That's not the right attitude, the attitude is that this is sin, it's wrong. And Sean realized it was wrong but he couldn't control it," you said. "And it's time in society we say certain things are wrong. However you look at it the man is married and he's got a child and he's out having multiple affairs with men. He's picking them up on the streets. So he's obsessed, he has a compulsion. I would think it is somehow related to demonic possession."

You would think so, eh Pat? Yeah. I guess you would. Crazy talk is one of your specialties. I hope that Mr. Derritt and his family make it through this shit storm okay. But righteous moral judgment isn't exactly the same thing as sound advice.

Planned Parenthood opens in Ferndale, Oakland County's first

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERDALE - On April 2 Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan (PPMSM) will open a new health center in Ferndale. Located at 23338 Woodward, the new facility is Planned Parenthood's first in Oakland County.

"We are thrilled to start serving the people of Oakland County closer to home," said PPMSM CEO Lori Lamerand. Oakland County currently has no reproductive health care facility that serves patients on a sliding fee scale. "Especially in these tough economic times, it is more critical than ever to provide access to essential health care including affordable birth control and cancer screenings."

Although there is controversy associated with Planned Parenthood's referrals to abortion services, 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are basic, preventive health care, like annual exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing and counseling, and procedures to address pre-cancerous conditions of the cervix.

"Last year, we saw nearly 67,000 patients from Benton Harbor to Detroit," said Lamerand. With the addition of the Ferndale health center, PPMSM now has 17 facilities that serve patients in 31 counties. "Seventy-five percent of our patients are women between the ages of 20 and 40, many of whom are struggling without health insurance. We're here for them."

In 2010, PPMSM bought a building at I-75 and Opdyke Road in Auburn Hills.

In the face of stiff opposition from a small group of conservative activists, PPMSM filed a lawsuit in May 2011 seeking judicial confirmation of its right to open a health center at that location. In January, PPMSM won a summary judgment in the case, but that judgment has been appealed by the defendants.

"There is a need for multiple centers in Oakland County, where the State of Michigan has documented the need for affordable reproductive health care," said Lamerand. "We will assess whether we will open a facility in Auburn Hills when the legal process is final. In the meantime, we're open in Ferndale."

Magnitude of need

Ann Heler has seen the magnitude of the need in Oakland County as president of the board of FernCare, the city's free medical clinic that serves patients from Hazel Park, Royal Oak and Madison Heights.

"Since FernCare Free Clinic, Inc. opened in August of 2010, we have seen the enormous need in this community for access to basic health care," said Heler. "We are thrilled that Planned Parenthood is coming to Ferndale to help fill the gap. While people are playing politics with reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood continues to push forward to help those who need it most."

Oakland County Commissioner Craig Covey is supportive of the center's opening. "Political pressure from religious ultra-conservatives had kept Oakland County bereft of a formal Planned

Parenthood presence for years," Covey said. He noted that Oakland County has the second largest number of low-income women without health insurance in Michigan and said, "We are thankful that an organization like Planned Parenthood provides health care for so many people. The alternative is much higher health care costs in emergency rooms and for advanced disease that would be borne by us all."

"More than half of all pregnancies in Michigan are unplanned, and two thirds of those births are then publicly funded, costing our state taxpayers \$282 million annually. Each one dollar spent on preventing unplanned pregnancies saves more than six dollars in local, state, and federal Medicaid costs for maternal and infant care in the first year alone." Covey's commentary on the opening can be read online at his blog - {URL <http://coveys-corner.blogspot.com>}.

Planned Parenthood offers affordable reproductive health care through medical services, education and advocacy. Ninety-seven percent of services are focused on cancer screening, Pap tests, breast exams, birth control, vasectomies, sex education (including abstinence), and diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. With 17 health centers serving 31 Michigan counties, PPMSM serves more than 69,000 women, men and teens each year.

To make appointments, patients can call 800-230-PLAN, or go to www.plannedparenthooddetroit.org.



BY ABBY DEES

Thinking Out Loud

In a family way

Why reproductive rights should matter to the LGBT community

If you're like me, you don't think a whole lot about birth control. You probably don't have much heterosexual sex, though I shouldn't assume, and you likely believed that we'd come to a grudging truce around a woman's right to control her reproductive life. In the 80s and 90s, of course, abortion was the battleground of the culture wars; nowadays we all know that it's about

the gays.

Which is why I have this queasy feeling that I've time traveled back about 30 years. Abortion is the hot topic and I notice that plastic jewelry and jumpsuits are back at Macy's. No one's talking about gay marriage, and women are on TV explaining why having sex for pleasure doesn't make them sluts.

Has the far right (and by that I also

mean the 2012 Republican presidential candidates) given up on the gays? Are fundamentalists going retro? It would be nice to imagine they've gotten tired of us. Maybe we can worry about other things now, like whether Martina Navratilova has had some work done.

But don't relax just yet.

See Family way, page 14

► Affirmations

Continued from p. 4

bill for a while, and that really helps.”

Solar panels and other green technology are options on the table that might further reduce the center's reliance on the grid, saving even more money in the future.

The buzz

The buzz at Affirmations isn't just about the electric bill. There is a palpable increase in warmth and energy from the volunteers, staff and members who make it a true community center.

“The general feeling is one of excellence. I don't think the high has diminished since Dave (Garcia) started here,” said Cass Varner, director of communications. “The center is busier and users seem happy that we're open more hours again.”

Jack Miller, who works as the facilities manager and also puts in volunteer hours at the front desk, got misty-eyed as he spoke of the center's resurgence. Miller is a veteran who served in both the Army and the Navy and did not come out of the closet until he was retired. “It's neat seeing all these other groups coming in and using the place. There are so many people coming and going, all these connections being made, all this great work being done. When Dave started talking about this I thought, how cool. I can just see how all of it is working and we really are a community. I see all the resources we have under one roof and I just think, my God if I were a kid and we had a place like this, how different would my life have gone? I love my kids and my grandkids more than anything, so I can't say that I would have changed anything. But to give young people a chance to really be themselves, and give

them the support, it's really an amazing thing. When we cut back, well nearly closed down, it broke my heart. A lot of people were crushed. Now look at what we're able to do.”

Miller works with Jon Fitzgerald, the director of operations. Fitzgerald is in the process of calculating volunteer hours and center usages statistics for an upcoming volunteer appreciation event, but says the numbers are definitely up. “We are definitely seeing an increase in facility rentals along with other organizations starting to meet at Affirmations on a weekly or monthly basis. It is very exciting. As an employee and a community member, I am excited about the many changes that have occurred over the past seven months. During this time I have not had anyone approach me or share any negative feedback with me about the new leadership or the direction the organization; all feedback has been positive,” Fitzgerald said.

One of the groups benefitting from Affirmation's new openness is Agape Spirit Life Ministries. The congregation has been holding Sunday services in the community center, although that will be stopping after next week as the group is considering shared space with another similar congregation. Whatever happens with their programming, Spirit Life and its founder Darlene Franklin are committed to supporting the center and taking advantage of all it has to offer community groups.

“I like the direction in which they're heading,” Frankoin said. “It's more welcoming than it ever has been. It's more welcoming to the community for sharing the space. David is very warm, welcoming and yet a visionary. He's not afraid to take risks to address the needs of the community and try new things. We're going to have a conference there in May, and this is the first time I've formally taken volunteer trainings,” she said. “I see the new face of

Affirmations being culturally diverse. That's a benefit to all of us. We have a responsibility in the LGBT community to host events there, to use the center and to support him.”

So what are some of Affirmation's new offerings? Advocacy-wise there are two significant new coalitions that have a home in the community center. The Faith Initiative has been organizing religious leaders and church members of multiple faiths to seek ways of bridging the gap between homosexuality and religious beliefs. And the Older Adult Coalition is building a system of support for aging community members and training care facilities to be aware of LGBT issues among their clients.

Other advocacy projects included the rally for gay families in Lansing, and an Out 4 Equality program that uses art, music, and spoken word to advocate for gay and transgender issues. There is also a legal referral service, run by Alicia Skillman. And the introduction of the nonprofit groups mentioned earlier adds multiple levels of other services and activities.

Affirmations also provides a place for youth to feel safe, connect and grow. The center provides a youth hang out space, several clubs and support groups, and a Youth Empowerment Program where young people are taught mentorship and leadership skills, and where they can develop programs that they are interested in.

There are groups for adults too, like Caring Caregivers, Men's and Womyn's Film Club, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gender Non-Conformists, Senior Koffee Klatch, Newly Single, Dykes on Bikes, Young @ Heart, Men's

Discussion Group, and a group for euchre.

The health and wellness programs that Affirmations are known for continue. There is HIV testing, Tobacco Free Michigan project, increased mental health counseling services and more recreational activities. Yoga has already started, and Zumba groups are in the works. The Helpline continues to be an important resource as well.

So far Garcia's energy and ideas have been paying off for the community center. “I was on the search committee and I was privileged to be part of the group that got to meet him. He's a really great community builder and we've seen a lot of expansion,” said Miller.

When asked about his first seven months, Garcia said “It's been a challenge. I've really, really enjoyed working with the community and getting to know people. I've really enjoyed the staff. I had to make difficult choices in my first month, but we have a staff I know I can depend on.”

Moving forward, Garcia mainly wants to see Affirmations continue being a busy place.

“I would encourage more community members to get involved in any way you can. Keep increasing in volunteers and encourage people, especially those that have nonprofit experience, to join the board. There are positions open on the board and volunteering is flexible. Most importantly, come on out and use the community center. That's what it's there for.”

To learn more visit www.goaffirmations.org

Appellate Court next stop in same-sex benefits case

BTL STAFF REPORT

LANSING – The Michigan Attorney General's office cannot skip the Court of Appeals level in the case over whether the Civil Service Commission overstepped its bounds by approving domestic partner benefits for its employees, the Supreme Court ruled late Friday.

On Oct. 6, 2011 Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Paula Manderfield ruled the CSC had the authority to sign agreements with employee unions that allowed live-in partners of state employees to receive state benefits despite Proposal 2 of 2004, the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Manderfield agreed with the CSC that it had the power to approve them as part of an agreement between the state employer and the state employee labor unions.

Attorney General Bill Schuette is fighting

the Manderfield decision and had hoped to skip straight to the Supreme Court level. He was unsuccessful.

“We believe that the Michigan Civil Service Commission clearly has constitutional authority under Michigan's constitution to permit certain state employees to select other eligible adults to receive health insurance coverage and that the Attorney General's lawsuit is without merit,” said Jay Kaplan, LGBT legal project staff attorney at the ACLU. “What the Supreme Court said in its decision is that if the Attorney General is unhappy with Judge Manderfield's opinion, he has proper procedural channels, such as appealing to the Michigan Court of Appeals, rather than going directly to the Michigan Supreme Court.”

The case was sent back down to the Appellate Court, leaving Manderfield's interpretation in effect and allowing the benefits to continue for now.

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Remarks by US AIDS director draw mixed reviews

BY TODD HEYWOOD

With a president who has declared the end of AIDS is in reach, Dr. Grant Colfax has a massive job in front of him. But his first interview with BTL and The American Independent has some activists challenging his take on controversial elements of the epidemic impacting an estimated 1.2 million Americans.

The former director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health HIV programs was appointed by President Barack Obama to run the Office of National AIDS Policy March 14.

[Read the story online](#)

Company won't allow safe-sex ad on Ohio billboard

Campaign aims to help save struggling gay Indiana club

Vt. military college holding first gay pride week

What makes NC different in gay marriage debate?

Family of victim in webcam case: Jury got it right

Proposed revisions to U.S. customs forms would recognize LGBT households

White House supports amending rules to be more inclusive

BTL STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON DC - The Family Equality Council and Immigration Equality praised the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Treasury March 26 for supporting a proposal to allow all families - including those headed by LGBT parents - to file a single customs declaration form upon returning to the U.S. from travel abroad.

"Immigration Equality is proud to see this change come to fruition," said Rachel B. Tiven, the group's executive director. "We asked the Obama administration to stop discriminating against families on federal customs forms, and today's announcement is welcome news. Separating families in the customs line was a waste of government resources and a painful symbol of the double standard LGBT families face at the federal level. This proposal ends that insult. It sends an unmistakable message that the Administration, and the United States, recognize gay families as 'real families,' too."

The changes in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection regulations would broaden the definition of "members of a family residing in one household" to include the different types of family relationships that currently exist across the country, including the relationships that exist between LGBT couples and their children.

"No child should have to ask their parent if they really are a family because of an arcane customs form," said Family Equality Council Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler, "but that is what is happening to LGBT families who are treated differently when re-entering the United States through Customs and Border Protection after travelling abroad. In many cases couples are forced to declare they have no relationship with their spouses and parents are forced to split up their children in order to get through the customs process."

The current regulatory definition of "members of a family living in one household" includes "all persons ... who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption ..." This definition excludes members of any family who may not be related by blood, marriage, or adoption, but who still function as a family living in one household.

The proposed change will undergo a series of reviews prior to implementation, including a period of public comment. Immigration Equality vowed to rally public support for the changes, including support from families directly impacted by the change, such as Mihail S. Lari and his partner, Scott Murray.

In June 2011, Mihail, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Pakistan, and Scott entered the U.S. following a European trip. They filled out one customs form, "since it states that

only one form is needed for each family," said Mihail. The customs officer asked why they had only completed one form, and when they replied they were domestic partners registered in the state of California, the officer said, "The federal government doesn't recognize that."

"Scott and I met the qualifications on the customs form, including a shared address, yet the federal government refused to recognize us as a family," said Lari. "After waiting years for citizenship because federal law would not allow Scott to sponsor me, we were then faced with the reality that, even after I naturalized, we were still not family in our government's eyes. This proposal is one step towards correcting that, and our family is glad to see it moving forward."

When adopted, this proposal will end discriminatory treatment of LGBT families, who until now have been forced to fill out two separate forms despite the fact that the form says "only one written declaration per family is required."

"President Obama and this administration have recognized the need to modernize forms and regulations to reflect the reality of today's American families and we applaud them for that," added Chrisler. "We look forward to the day when LGBT families are recognized, respected and protected by all laws and policies."

[Learn more at www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org), www.immigrationequality.org

► Family way

Continued from p. 12

The far right still has its sites on us. Today's crusade against women's sexual autonomy is only a redecorated version of the same moral outrage that has always given them such good political traction. There's good reason for LGBT people to pay close attention to what's happening to reproductive rights:

Consider the new breed of abortion laws, such as a Texas law that forces women seeking an abortion to endure an internal ultrasound, a detailed description of the fetus, audio of its heartbeat and a 24-hour waiting period. This isn't about any health concerns, just morality. In fact women report that the experience is degrading, complicated, and, in essence, medical rape. They're being put through the wringer for making personal choices about their bodies. Sound familiar?

Women can exempt themselves from part of the requirement by signing a sworn affidavit that they got pregnant through rape or incest. In other words, they didn't mean to have sex; someone made them. If the real issue here were the sanctity of life, I don't see why rape should let anyone off the hook. But proponents of these

Proponents of these laws say they exist to "protect women." I'm ware of this word, "protect," when I see the harm done to LGBT people in order to "protect" the family.

laws say they exist to "protect women." I'm ware of this word, "protect," when I see the harm done to LGBT people in order to "protect" the family.

A bill recently passed the Arizona House that would force doctors to lie about the breast cancer risks associated with abortion (there aren't any, by the way) to scare women out of terminating their pregnancies. This protects women from the truth, evidently. Hiding the facts has been a frequent anti-gay tactic too. For example, the Prop 8 people successfully sued to permanently seal the video record of the federal Prop 8 trial, a record that beautifully demonstrates the importance of LGBT rights. In Tennessee, legislators are trying to forbid any discussion about LGBT lives in school, as if

ignorance were a moral virtue.

Almost all of this moral hypocrisy is wrapped in the mantle of religious freedom, as in, "Your laws about equality and respect for people trample on our religious rights." The far right howled when Obama pushed for contraception coverage in business run by religious institutions. If you heard any Rush Limbaugh last month, you heard some of the story. What you might have missed amid all the outrage about Rush's "slut" and "prostitute" language is how he reframed the debate so that people who are restricting women's freedoms were presented as the real victims - victims of religious persecution. This is a continuing trope also used against LGBT people for ostensibly forcing our lifestyles on God-fearing folks, in violation of their 1st Amendment rights. It's a clever trick.

All of this shows how quickly issues that we thought were settled ages ago suddenly become debatable again. History proves that progress can turn on a dime, but I don't really think that's happened yet. Still, we're far from being able to sit back and chill, assured that anyone's freedoms are here to stay.

Abby Dees is an attorney in California.

LGBT activist, Iraq War vet to speak at UM-Dearborn

Lt. Dan Choi talks DADT, living every day with integrity

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

DEARBORN – LGBT rights activist and gay Iraq War veteran Lt. Dan Choi visits UM-Dearborn's campus April 5 for a lecture titled "Equality, Honor and Overturning 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'" in the University's BorgWarner Auditorium.

Lt. Choi graduated from the United States Academy at West Point with degrees in Arabic and environmental engineering in 2003. After serving in Iraq for two years, Choi served with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry in Manhattan. In May 2009, Lt. Choi publicly came out on The Rachel Maddow Show and, despite the U.S. military's need for Arabic speaking officers, was promptly notified that proceedings to discharge him from the military had begun under the United States' "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Since then, Lt. Choi has become thoroughly involved in LGBT rights activism. On March 19, 2010 he handcuffed himself to the White House fence with gay veteran Capt. James Pietrangelo II. The two were arrested and released the next morning. On April 20, the two veterans repeated their protest, this time joined by four other veterans including transgender navy veteran Petty Officer Autumn Sandeen.

After his fourth arrest for protesting, Lt. Choi was invited to attend the bill signing that repealed DADT.

University of Michigan - Dearborn's Student Activities Office has worked extensively to organize the event are excited to bring his message to Dearborn's diverse campus.

"I had the privilege of seeing Lt. Choi speak at a conference a year ago, and I can still recall his words about choosing to live as his true self even at great sacrifice" explains Director of Student Activities, Kris Day. "After seeing him, I knew that UMD's Student Activities Office needed to bring Lt. Choi's powerful message to our campus community."

Lt. Choi will discuss the repeal of DADT, the battles still facing many LGBT individuals in the United States military and what it means to live every day with integrity and honor.

"To be so valuable to the armed forces – as a West Point graduate and an Arabic translator – yet discharged so easily

for speaking the truth is upsetting," says Day "It speaks to the inequality that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' promoted."

"I think it's wonderful that the SAO is taking the lead and bringing Dan Choi to the university," says UM-Dearborn LGBTQ

Coordinator Rick Robinson. "Lt. Choi's message is still very relevant, as thousands of military service individuals removed from their positions have yet to be let back into the military. That's truly the next battle, and I am sure Lt. Choi will address that."

Lt. Dan Choi visits UM-Dearborn 6 p.m. April 5 at the BorgWarner Auditorium located in the campus' Institute for

Advanced Vehicle Systems Building. This event is free, open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the IAVS building lobby. For more information, e-mail UM-Dearborn's Student Activities Office at student_activities@umd.umich.edu or call 313-593-5390.



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Body talk

Alvin Ailey dancer tells tales of HIV-afflicted for Detroit Opera House performance

BY ANDREA POTEET

Since he was a teen, Daniel Harder has loved dance for its ability to communicate emotions that words sometimes can't.

And as the lead in New York-based Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre's ballet "Home," which comes to the Detroit Opera House March 31 to April 1, he puts his body to work telling the stories of people who have lived with HIV.

The ballet, a partnership with pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb, emerged from a contest – called "Fight HIV Your Way" – to highlight the company's HIV medication REYATAZ. To compete, people submitted their stories of life with the disease and the 10 winning stories were morphed into dance steps by hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris set against uplifting gospel and house music.

"It takes a lot out of you emotionally," says Harder, 24. "It's not something that I can relate to personally, but putting myself in

someone else's shoes and going through all those emotions that he or she may go through and trying to convey that to the audience, it's an incredible experience as a performer."

The dance group, founded in 1958 by renowned choreographer Alvin Ailey who died from AIDS in 1989, will also perform "Arden Court" set to a baroque score by William Boyce and Ailey's signature piece "Revelations."

As a gay dancer, Harder said he's excited to have the chance to perform in a ballet with themes so close to the gay community and to dance in a company that prides itself on showcasing performers of various races and orientations.

"It's important for us to continue to enlighten and inform one another," Harder says. "Not just in the gay community, but in the world period. And I think that's the beautiful thing about having the chance to be in a company like Alvin Ailey. Essentially, we are reflections of the audience. So whether you're gay or straight, you can see yourself on the stage and know that someone else shares your truths, your highs

and your lows."

In addition to enjoying the physical, fast-paced house-style dance moves, he said he hopes the audience will come away from the performance with more understanding of the disease and its effect on those afflicted with it.

"I think the biggest thing I would want an audience member to walk away with is maybe challenging themselves to open up and to see a different picture or a bigger picture," Harder says. "A lot of times when situations as human beings do not directly affect us, or we only know what we read or what we hear, we develop all these ideas. When you get to have an experience or see a performance, it will hopefully touch you and move you and challenge you to question your thoughts and think outside the box."

For Harder, who began dancing at 15 while attending Maryland's Suitland High School's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts and has danced with Ailey's first company for the past two years, his lead role in the weekend

matinee performances of the ballet is the realization of a dream he's had since attending Fordham University in New York, where he earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance.

But his love of dance was originally sparked by a more mainstream muse. As a child growing up in Maryland, he studied Janet Jackson videos with the intensity some reserve for schoolwork.

"I, for so long, wanted to be a backup dancer for her," Harder says. "It was something that I just knew could happen because I was completely enamored with her."

On his path to joining Janet's rhythm nation, Harder learned that behind the hip-hop moves, all her dancers had classical dance backgrounds.

"So that's when I fell in love with those," Harder says. "Because I said, 'If they've done it, then that's what I need to do.'"

And now that audiences can watch him living out one of his dreams, he says there's only one left to go.

"If Janet called me," he says, "I'd be there."

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Dev doesn't let the sun go down on debut. Plus: Springsteen's powerful new album



Dev, 'The Night the Sun Came Up'

"It's Dev," the punkish pop up-and-comer – first entering mass consciousness with a sampled spot on Far East Movement's hit "Like a G6" – announces halfway into her debut. And before the official release of this long-delayed disc (originally slated to drop a year ago, after the release of a flurry of viral Internet videos), that mention would've seemed appropriate: "Bass Down Low," on which she's posing as a Ke\$ha wannabe on top of a Black Eyed Peas bass-thumping beat, left her in the dark... and wisely never made the cut. She's better off with the songs on "The Night the Sun Came Up" that at least attempt to have a point, and do it without sounding like just another Auto-Tuned name on a catchy thump-thump. That originality is established immediately with "Getaway," morphing from haunting lost-girl ballad into self-professed "swag-pop" rap throw down. For as good as some of the songs are, especially the string-flexed stargazer "Perfect Match," this bipolar identity crisis begets a disjointed album that just makes Dev come off as artistically eager-to-please and desperate for cool cred in too many genres. Pop kids will go for the suggestive butt-grinder "In My Trunk"; the harmonious emo-angled "Shadows" is aimed at the hipsters. "Naked" is sexy-time without the payoff, floundering through a surging discolored club track produced by the Cataracs, who helped discover Dev – and definitely not as titillating as the title suggests. First times can be so awkward. *Grade: C+*



Bruce Springsteen, 'Wrecking Ball'

The poetic voice of liberal America – the suffering, the broke, the hopeless – returns for a feisty follow-up to 2009's "Working on a Dream." It's still a work in progress, as it turns out, on "Wrecking Ball," where Bruce is looking forward to a "Land of Hope and Dreams," imagining a train of people (hat-tip to Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready") – mostly dark horses, from "saints" to "whores" – headed toward freedom, peace and glory days. For nearly seven minutes he wails with mutually felt fervor, the gruffness of his voice rising with the music like an active volcano, before launching into a rousing spiritual celebration of life on "We Are Alive," capturing the rawness of music from his prime – down to the scratchy LP crackles that open the track. "Wrecking Ball" is steeped in wide-open emotions of not just a city of ruins but a world of ruins, affected by warfare, commercialism and broken politics. His advice: "Don't fall to your fears," and he really means it; the title track is a powerful anthem of riled-up rage and perseverance, set to a driving thunderous march of drums and the late Clarence Clemons' bittersweet sax accents. Bruce Springsteen isn't The Boss for nothing. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



The Jezabels, 'Prisoner'

The dreamy sky-high reach of Hayley Mary's voice elevates the Aussie quartet's entire full-length U.S. debut, a super-strong DIY first that explores new wave rock with unwavering panache. Lots of influences are at work here – namely Tori Amos and Kate Bush, who do enigmatic weirdness just as well – and so "Prisoner" feels as much an homage to classic-rock as it does a forward-thinking goth exploration. Drums thrash, guitars rev and Mary's ethereal lilt soars (don't miss three-in-one splendor "City Girl"), only sometimes wailing so hard it seems she's lost track of what she's singing. The emotions, however, come through loud and clear.



The Shins, 'Port of Morrow'

New album, new slang: 10 songs, however slight, that delight with frontman James Mercer and band's wistfully indie-rock sound... but now more pop than ever. With new mates on board after all members but Mercer dropped out (or got thrown out, or something), their fifth album – with its ear-trapping '60s-esque melodies and sunny-day vibes – reveals a group in limbo, straddling the lines between maintaining indie-roots distinction and mainstream pandering. A couple constants connect the dots: Mercer's affecting tenor and thoughtful turns of phrase; songs that aren't necessarily life-changing (sorry, Natalie Portman) but at least worth passing the time with.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

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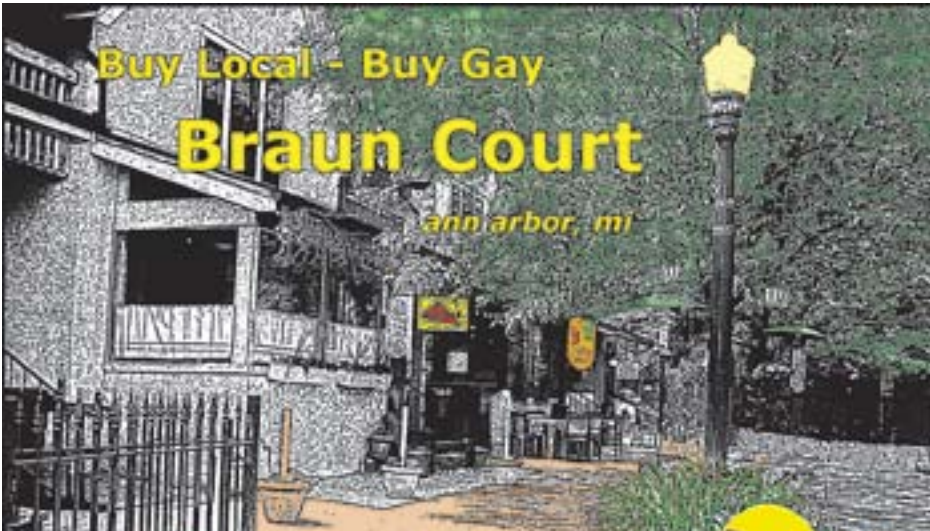



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Just announced: Ann Arbor Art Fair, July 18-21

The Ann Arbor Art Fair will be held from Wednesday, July 18 through Saturday July 21. Each year more than a half a million people converge on the streets of Ann Arbor to enjoy the works of more than a thousand artists.

Each artist has been selected by an independent jury, consisting of professional artists, professors and gallery owners. As tradition has it, the Art Fair will feature a wide variety of art media, including 2D and 3D-mixed media, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry and works in metal, stone and wood.

Guests will also be treated to a number of live performances, children's activities, artist demonstrations and sidewalk sales from Ann Arbor businesses.

For more than 50 years, artists from all over the world have returned to the streets of Ann Arbor, exhibiting their creative talents to more than 500,000 people each year. The Ann Arbor Art Fair is composed of four independently juried art fairs taking place simultaneously and contiguously throughout Ann Arbor. The event is an art lovers' destination of original works of art, street performances, culinary treats and a variety of shops featuring sidewalk sales.

For more information, visit www.TheAnnArborArtFair.com.



Crowds enjoy the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair. Organized by The Guild of Artists and Artisans, it is one of four art fairs in Ann Arbor. Photo: Susan Montgomery

Ann Arbor Film Festival continues through April 1

AAFF will feature two queer filmmakers during Films In Competition 11 at 1 p.m. April 1 at the Michigan Theater: George Kuchar's "Hold Me While

I'm Naked" and Bobby Abate's "The Evil Eyes." For the complete lineup, and for more information, visit <http://www.aafilmfest.org/50>.

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Jonas Greenberg, Russ Jameson, Shannon Rafferty, Brad Rutledge, and Lela Ivey in "Next Fall" by Geoffrey Nauffts. Photo: John Douglas Imaging

The challenges of being... human

Peppermint Creek's production 'Next Fall' runs March 29-31

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

One of the most relevant aspects of "Next Fall" to the gay community, said Peppermint Creek Theatre Company's artistic director, is that it treats the same-sex couple the same as it would a heterosexual couple. The issue is their struggle, not their genders.

"It isn't cliché in any way," Badgero said. "There are straight people who are Christian and atheist and there are gay people who are Christian and atheist. This is what a couple struggles with. That is what I love about it. It's not about the issue of homosexuality; it is really about the issue of a couple struggling with the same things that any couple struggles with."

"Next Fall," by Geoffrey Nauffts, explores what happens when one member of a couple that has been together for five years is in an

REVIEW

Next Fall

Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. March 29-31. \$15. 517-372-0945.
www.peppermintcreek.org

accident and ends up in a coma in the hospital. The Southern Baptist family shows up and their son has never come out to them. They meet their son's partner in the hospital and through a series of flashbacks, we learn of the struggles the couple has had.

Badgero has seen the production both in New York and Grand Rapids and he knew early into his first viewing that he wanted Peppermint Creek to do the show.

"I went in blind and was so glad that I did," Badgero said. "It is very witty and funny. The dialogue is wise, there is humor and pathos. I knew immediately that I wanted to direct it here in Lansing."

After having seen two productions, he says he appreciates the nuances that his cast has brought to the roles. Jonas Greenberg has brought a grounded aspect to the role of Adam, the atheist, while Brad Rutledge has really played up the paternal aspect of the father, Butch.

"There is so much truth and heart in the words they are speaking, and they have really approached the material in a very respectful way," Badgero said. "I come as a director into a production with an idea of what I think these characters are like, and that's how I've cast them. My actors have done a lot of what I've expected, but they have found some really great things I never would have expected."

He said their interpretation has moved it away from the sitcom feel that he experienced when he first saw it on Broadway and made it a more human show with a more overall serious tone, despite the inherent humor.

It's an approach that has brought out the universal themes that any couple struggles with. It focuses on the differences in faith that the couple experiences and the ways they try to resolve it.

"The characters have a different approach to their life and the way spirituality factors into that. Some are very specific and traditional, such as the very traditional Southern Baptist father. Then there is Luke who came from that father and was raised as a Southern Baptist, but he is gay and lives in New York City. He's an actor who is surrounded by Democrats and liberals and has had to figure out how that factors into his life now."

Badgero said he hopes that Peppermint Creek has established enough of a reputation that audiences will know that they will take a fair and balanced approach to the delicate topic of religion. He found the script to take a very even-handed depiction of the different sides of faith, and they have tried to maintain that in their production. He talks about how the Christian half of the couple accuses the atheist half of being judgmental and says they never would have started the relationship if Adam had known Luke was a Christian.

"The playwright is really trying to show that these people love each other, but they are struggling to understand how to be in a relationship and be fair," Badgero explained. "This play is fair and even-handed and tries to show both sides of this couple and their approach to faith."

He points out that this show doesn't try to say that homosexuality is right or wrong, nor does it take a stance on whether a person should be a Christian or would be crazy to be a Christian. Badgero suggests that is why this play is being produced in so many different parts of Michigan, a state that struggles with LGBT rights in the legal arena. It takes an even-handed approach and encourages people to talk about tough issues.



Brandon Andrus, Brad Weinstock, Jason Kappus and Colby Foytik in "Jersey Boys" at Miller Auditorium. Photo: Joan Marcus

Second national tour pulls its punches

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

"Jersey Boys" is a deceptively challenging musical. It spins a captivating storyline straight out of the memories of the four original members of "The Four Seasons." It is chock full of the songs that helped define an entire genre of American musical history. It is so well crafted and filled with robust material that it is almost a guaranteed crowd-pleaser.

All of which can belie the fact that it is still a very difficult musical to perform and one that relies heavily on the ability of the lead actor to reproduce a voice whose distinctive characteristics made him stand out as nearly unique. The actor playing Frankie Valli must find that perfect blend of falsetto, slight nasal quality and the Jersey accent that captures the memory and imagination of the audience.

In the second national tour that is traveling through Miller Auditorium in Kalamazoo, Brad Weinstock was unable to achieve that delicate balance. The nasal quality in his voice overpowered the other elements making it the defining characteristic, and sparking audience laughter at the sound in spots where little humor was intended. It also sapped the strength of typically show-stopping ballads, making them difficult to listen to as they lacked the moving beauty that had those songs soaring to the top of the charts.

The main foursome, Weinstock

REVIEW

Jersey Boys

Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Tuesday-Sunday through April 1. \$28-62. 269-387-2312.

www.millerauditorium.com

as Frankie, Brandon Andrus as Nick Massi, Colby Foytik as Tommy DeVito and Jason Kappus as Bob Guido manage to capture much of what makes "Jersey Boys" a great musical. They are fine dancers and have great energy throughout the show. They bring a wry sense of humor and avoid the cheap temptation of mugging. They're great storytellers throughout most of the musical, and make strong connections with each other that make the challenges that beset them more meaningful and emotional.

Yet, there were many moments in the Thursday night performance that were off and lacked the necessary punch. This was especially true in the final scene of act one where a big reveal of a plot point was greeted with disgust rather than shock and made for a weak light-out moment.

Likewise, "Cry for Me" didn't foreshadow the eventual break in Tommy's absolute hold over the group. The conflict between the love for the music and the need to be in control was downplayed in the subtext and given only lip service to the words in the script. It was also odd to see them in a jam session

around the piano with no one at the drum set, but the percussion line being a very prominent part of the music being heard.

One strong point in the cast was Barry Anderson's Bob Crewe. His physicality and vocal affectations were in a beautiful harmony that told as much of the story as his words did. He embodied the character in a fashion that was entertaining while creating the environment that the Jersey boys lived.

Many of the supporting characters added the necessary color to create the world around the four Jersey boys. Christopher Messina, who doubles as the dance captain, brought a squirrely energy to the role of Joey.

The three women in the cast were wonderful actors who played a wide range of characters, each with their own depth and differences. Kaleigh Cronin's Miss Frankie Nolan, Natalie Gallo's Mary Delgado and Ruby Lewis' Francine were all nuanced and interesting in the short time they had on stage. They were strongest as actors and weakest in their singing ability as The Angels. They made a pretty picture and were capable dancers in "My Boyfriend's Back," but the music lacked in vocal strength.

This second national tour provides a scaled-down version of the musical hit that earned encores around the nation. It is a working-class, glamour-free version of the superstar that gets the job done and pleases the audience without worrying about wowing them.

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Sunday, April 1

11 AM - Palm Sunday Worship

Friday, April 6

7pm - Passion Through Broadway's Eyes

Sunday, April 8

8:30AM - Almost Sunrise Service (at the church)

9:30AM - Easter Breakfast (Suggested Donation \$3.00)

11:00 AM - Easter Worship Celebration

11:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt for the kids



Editor's Picks

Outings

Volunteer organizers have coordinated the fourth annual HomeGrown Local Food Summit, bringing together stakeholders and community members to strengthen Washtenaw County's local food system.

This year's Local Food Summit will highlight Michigan's unique agricultural past in order to link the state's history with future agricultural possibilities. Highly recognized author, Michigan historian and storyteller, Larry B. Massie will bring light to this year's theme by speaking about Michigan's culinary history. In honor and remembrance of the late filmmaker and local food champion, Chris Bedford, there will also be a discussion and screening of Bedford's last film: "Getting Real about Food and the Future" that evening.

The Summit is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 2 in the Morris J. Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. Registration costs \$35 and need-based scholarships are available to those who can't afford registration. To learn more or register online, go to localfoodsummit.org.

Music & More



Presented by the University Musical Society, the St. Lawrence String Quartet returns to Ann Arbor's Rackham Auditorium on April 5. During UMS' 09/10 season, this Quartet performed a stellar program of Haydn, Ravel and John Adams. This performance was originally scheduled for Nov. 12, 2011, but was postponed.

For this year's performance, Haydn returns to the program's repertoire with Quarter No. 57 in C Major, Op. 74, No. 1 and Quartet No. 61 in d minor, Op. 76, No. 2.

These songs are accompanied by R.M. Shafer's Quarter No. 3 and a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, the Argentinean composer who has worked with the St. Lawrence String Quartet since the early 1990s, titled "Kohélet."

The St. Lawrence String Quartet performs at 7:30 p.m. April 5 at the Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., in Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$22-46. For more information, go to www.UMS.org or call 734-764-2538.

Theater

The U-M Department of Theatre & Drama will present "Cloud Nine" by British playwright Caryl Churchill. "Cloud Nine" plays at 7:30 p.m. March 29 and April 5, 8 p.m. March 30-31 and April 6-7, and 2 p.m. April 1 and 8 at in the Arthur Miller Theatre in Ann Arbor.

"The first act of the play is rigidly structured, which parallels the rigid rules and regulations set down by the Victorians for a civilized world," said director Tim Ocel. "But those rules oppress the individual: women, children, Africans, and gays are all repressed, self-repressed, or closeted – and we watch the chaos that happens (both humorous and violent) when individuals attempt to be true to themselves. In Act II, all the rules and mores have been taken away, and the former Victorians don't know who or what they are anymore."

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



OUTINGS

Thursday, March 29

Transgender Day of Visibility Open Mic Night 6 a.m. Stories, songs, poems, or rants about experiences with transgender or gender non-conformist identities, issues, and communities. Allies welcome. No cover charge but snacks and drinks are available for purchase. Transgender Michigan, 515 S Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Transgendermichigan.org

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

Cancer Coalition Health Fair 6 p.m. Representatives from more than 15 local cancer-related organizations sharing information about programs and resources, including family support activities, financial assistance, transportation, and summer camp sessions. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, 3517 Rochester Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-577-0800. Gildasclubdetroit.org

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to view and discuss films of interest to men. Film: Zerophilia, 2005. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Friday, March 30

Ladies Night Out: "Pawing" to Celebrate Women 5 p.m. Comedienne Evelyn Smallbladder shares insight on aging gracefully. Flowing beer, wine, appetizers, Mexican buffet. Women-owned business vendors, Mini-spa (extra donation), Raffles, Silent Auction and more. Tickets: \$35. Dearborn Animal Shelter, 26116 W. Warren, **Dearborn Heights**. 313-943-2697. Friends@dearbornanimals.org Dearbornanimals.org/events/ladies-night-out

5th Annual Drag Show 7 p.m. LGBT student organization for Saginaw Valley Living Proud's annual drag show. \$1 donation at the door. SVSU's Living Proud, 7400 Bay Road, Saginaw Valley State University, **Saginaw**. Arhelton@svsu.edu

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Made in Dagenham; Sally Hawkins stars in this cheeky dramatization of the landmark 1968 labor strike initiated by hundreds of women who rebelled against discrimination and demanded the same pay as men for their work in a London automobile manufacturing plant. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Arabian Nights 9 p.m. Guest DJ will be mixing Middle Eastern Dance Music live. Hosted by Crystal Harding. \$10 cover charge will support new mini Scholarship program. Al GAMEA, 928 W. McNichols, **Detroit**. 313-427-3471. info@algamea.org Algamea.org

Saturday, March 31

Adodi Detroit Men's Retreat 9 a.m. Adodi Detroit welcomes all SGL men of African descent 18+ to "Vessels of Praise Loving the Black Male Body," an intensive retreat exploring the spiritual and sexual potential of the physical self. Adodi Detroit Same Gender Loving Men of African Descent, 1420 Hill St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-846-6545. AdodiDetroit01@Gmail.Com Sites.google.com/site/adodidetroit

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

Transgender Visibility Day Celebration 6 p.m. A celebration of the Transgender community in West Michigan. RSVP at [Facebook.com/events/312351588808868](https://www.facebook.com/events/312351588808868) Transgender Education Collaboration and The Network, 343 Atlas St SE, **Grand Rapids**. Transgendercollab@gmail.com trans-edu.com

Affirmations Spring Bash 7 p.m. Affirmations proudly celebrates 22 years of service as metro Detroit's community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender people and their allies at its 13th annual fundraising event, Spring Bash. Black Tie affair at the prestigious Detroit Institute of Arts. With this year's theme, The Art of Recreation, Affirmations will combine the elegance of the Detroit Institute of Arts with the excitement and vision of our new Executive Director, Antonio David Garcia under the grandeur of the Walter B. Ford Great Hall. Affirmations, 2100 Woodward, **Detroit**. 248-398-7105. Info@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, April 1

Equality Band of Michigan Initial Meeting Rehearsal 4 p.m. The Equality Band of Michigan holds its initial meeting and rehearsal for the upcoming 2012 Pride season. New musicians of all skill levels are welcome to join. Equality Band of Michigan, 201 E. Grand River Ave., **Old Town Lansing**. 517-525-1732. Equalitybandmi@gmail.com Website

Conversation Station 6 p.m. LGBTQI and allied, 25 and over - join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. New Topic: Tell us whom you are without telling us what has happened to you. Get Out And Live! 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarcilWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, April 2

HomeGrown Local Food Summit 8 a.m. Washtenaw County's 4th annual summit to strengthen the local food system. This year's Local Food Summit will highlight Michigan's unique agricultural past in order to link our history with future possibilities and focus on how to connect the context of our past and present to strengthen our region's food system and move forward into the future. \$35 registration. Need-based scholarships are available to those for whom the registration fee is not affordable. HomeGrown Local Food Summit, Washtenaw Community College, **Ann Arbor**. Localfoodsummit@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 3

9th Annual GSA Drag Show 7 p.m. Oakland's GSA hosts professional Alice in Wonderland themed drag queens and kings. Expect great costumes and greater choreography. Free. GSA@OU, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, **Rochester**. 734 891 0501. GSAatOaklandU@gmail.com

Becoming a Champion of Inclusion on Your Campus 7 p.m. Hudson shares his journey of becoming a straight ally for the LGBT community and helps others learn how they can be an integral part of the solution. SVSU Student Affairs, 7400 Bay Road, Saginaw Valley State University, **Saginaw**. Athleteally.org

Equality Denied or Preservation of Traditional Values? 7 p.m. This panel discusses equal protection and religious freedom, impact on families, and impact on jobs, the budget and the Michigan economy. Panelists include Gary Glenn, President of the American Family Ass. Michigan; Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project; Darlene McKinnon, Culture and Employee Engagement Director, Dow Chemical Corp.; and Elizabeth Ullrich, Ass. Professor of Political Science at Delta College. Free and open to the public. Delta College Foundation, 1961 Delta Rd., **Bay City**. 989-696-9224. foundation@delta.edu

Rainbow Writing Group 7 p.m. Geared towards members of the LGBT community who are writers. Allies are also welcome to join. During meetings, members read samples of their work, provide feedback, and discuss the ever-changing world of publishing. Meets the first Tuesday of the every month at the Network. Rainbow Writing Group, 343 Atlas St., **Grand Rapids**. rainbowwritinggroup@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 4

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**. Angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kgirc.org

Transgender 101 2 p.m. OCC's Auburn Hills Campus presents a talk by pre-operation trans man Ryan Oliver in which he relates his personal story and explores the various identities of being transgender. A question and answer period follows the presentation. Oakland Community College, 2900 Featherstone Road, **Auburn Hills**. 248-341-2000. oaklandcc.edu/news

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

Network Men's Group 7 p.m. A support group for bisexual, gay, and coming out men. 21 and up. Single or partnered are invited to join the group. Weekly discussion topics and issues. The Network, 345 Atlas Ave., **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grigt.org

Thursday, April 5

An Evening with Lt. Dan Choi 6 p.m. Lt. Dan Choi speaks on equality, honor, and overturning "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Lecture followed by a free reception. University of Michigan – Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. 313-593-3590. www.Umd.umich.edu

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

Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends 7 p.m. JGN Family & Friends group meets the first Thursday of every month. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Offering support, sharing experiences, and learning about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Friday, April 6

Caring for LGBT Communities with Dr. Henry Ng 1:30 p.m. Dr. Henry Ng is an MSU alum who has gone on to become a leading national expert on health disparities. He helped develop and currently serves as the Clinical Director of the PRIDE Clinic, Ohio's only medical home for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) patients. Dr. Ng will share how his life and experiences at MSU have propelled his career. MSU LGBTRC, Brody Hall, Room 134, East Lansing. 517-353-9520. wlgbrtc.msu.edu

Ozone House's QueerZone 6:30 p.m. QueerZone is an Ypsilanti-based program

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

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: "Wanda Sykes: Sick and Tired" Emmy Award-winning writer, actress and comedian Wanda Sykes brings her hilarious stand-up skills to this sidesplitting performance, serving up comic truth and turning common sense into thought-provoking humor. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Saturday, April 7

Trashy LGBT Romance Novels Discussion 11 a.m. Attempting to create a LGBT book club in Lansing area. Mission to start a dialogue of our community, through the works of authors. All books of LGBT related Romance are suggested this month. The Closet LGBT Book Club, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. vacafrank@gmail.com Facebook.com/TheClosetLgbtBookClub

Sunday, April 8

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@gmail.com

Conversation Station 8 p.m. LGBTQI and allies, 25 and over – join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun! This week topic: What is something you Hate most in life? Not a person, but a thing such as war, fear, cheating, etc. Get Out And Live!, 608 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

University Musical Society St. Lawrence String Quartet's performances of Haydn, as well as a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, the Argentinean composer who has worked with the quartet since the early 90's. Rackham Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 5. 734-764-2538. ums.org

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings "Structurally Sound" A new concert and lecture program that presents chamber music in architecturally significant spaces with repertoire that relates to the spaces unique qualities. The program will include John Henrys Big by Adolphus Halistork. Featuring David Jackson, trombonist, Jerry Herron, Dean of the USU Reid Honors College, and the U of M Trombone Ensemble. Tickets: \$35 regular, \$30 senior, \$10 students. Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 461 Piquette St., Detroit. 1 p.m. April 1. 248-559-2095. detroit-chamberwinds.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Jarvi Returns" Music Director Emeritus Neeme Jarvi returns to lead a newly-adapted suite from Wagner's exhilarating "Die Meistersinger" and the acclaimed Helene Grimaud joins him for Brahms' majestic Piano Concerto No. 1. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 29 - April 1. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Brad Mehldau with Josh Redman, an astonishing master of improvisation. A gifted formal composer. Brad Mehldau demonstrates both in his conceptual musical excursions. Tickets: \$18. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 5. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

CONCERTS

Kerrytown Concert House Ramona Collins, Jazz Master Series: Concert and Conversation, jazz trio Tad Weed, Marion Hayden and Sean Dobbins welcome vocalist Ramona Collins for an evening of music. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 31. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Michigan State University College of Music Charles Hiroshi Garrett, Associate Professor of Musicology at the University of Michigan, Garrett's research and teaching interests focus primarily on 20th-century music, American music, jazz, popular music, music and racial/ethnic representation, and cultural theory. Tickets: \$10. Hart Recital Hall, Music Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 3 p.m. March 30. Music.msu.edu

Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance "Alarm Will Sound" Alarm Will Sound is a 20-member band committed to innovative performances. They have established a reputation for performing demanding music with energetic virtuosity. Tickets: \$20 general, \$10 students. Varner Recital Hall, Varner Hall, Rochester. 7 p.m. March 30. 248-270-2030. Oakland.edu/mtd

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds" Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds are an English rock band formed in 2010 as the solo moniker of former Oasis lead guitarist/songwriter Noel Gallagher. Tickets: \$35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. March 31. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Thomas Dolby: "The Time Capsule Tour" Tickets: \$20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. April 4. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "David Wax Museum" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 30. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

The Ark Seth Glier. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 7. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

The Heart Healers "J'DaVeY" Female vocalist Jack Davey and producer Brook D Leau are the flamboyant twosome that is J'DaVeY. Performing an eclectic mix of soul, new wave, funk, and hip-hop that defies the creative constraints of today's narrowly defined musical categories. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 30. 313-685-5245. ConcertHeartHealers.eventbrite.com/

OTHER

Michigan Opera Theatre "American Dance Theatre Alvin Ailey" By popular demand, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to the Detroit Opera House once again in 2012, performing timeless Ailey classics and new works by contemporary choreographers. Always

a favorite of Detroit audiences, AAADT will bring its extraordinary beauty and grace, electrifying energy and soulful spirit to Detroit. Tickets: \$29-61. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 29 - March 31. 313-237-SING. Michiganopera.org

Penn Theatre "Pride of the Yankees" Thursday Classics of April: "Pride of the Yankees" (1942). Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. April 5. 734-453-0870. Penntheatre.com

The Palace "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" Described by the Los Angeles Times as a "show piece extravaganza," Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance is a magical adventure of sight and sound that transports its audience to a mythical time and place, lifting the spirits and capturing the hearts of all who experience it. Tickets: \$25-60. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 2 p.m. April 1. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

An Evening of Gratuitous Sex and Violence \$10. Flint City Theatre at Anteroom of the Good Beans Cafe, 328 N. Grand Traverse St., Flint. Through March 31. 810-237-4663.

Escanaba in Love \$20. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Through March 31. 1-88-71-TICKETS. StDunstansTheatre.com

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

Next Fall \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. Through March 31. 517-372-0945. Peppermintcreek.org

The Mandrake \$15. Korda Artistic Productions at The Kordazone Theatre, 2520 Seminole St., Windsor. Through March 31. 519-562-3394. kordazone.com

The Most Happy Fella \$24-29. Friends of the Opera of Michigan at Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. March 30 - 31. 313-934-2354. Dearborntheater.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Cloud Nine \$26. U-M Department of Theatre and Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. March 29 - April 8. 734-763-5213. tickets.music.umich.edu

Grey Gardens \$18. Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester. Through April 1. 248-370-3013. oakland.edu/tickets

Louise Heck-Rabi Dramatic Playwriting Competition \$5. The Studio Theatre at Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. March 29 - April 7. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

PROFESSIONAL

At Home at the Zoo \$18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through April 1. 248-270-8440. detroitensembletheatre.org

Autobahn \$18. UDM Theatre Company at Loranger Architecture Building, 4001 W. Mc Nichols Rd., Detroit. Through April 1. 313-993-3270. theatre.udmrcy.edu

Dead and Buried \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. March 29 - May 20. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Dead Man's Shoes \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through April 8. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Driving Miss Daisy \$16. What's That Smell? Productions at The Box Theater, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Through March 31. 586-954-2311. Theboxtheatre.com

Godspell \$18-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Detroit. March 29 - April 22. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Jersey Boys \$28-62. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Through April 1. 269-387-2312. millerauditorium.com

Living Stations \$12-\$35. Living Faith-Fine Arts Apostolate at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through April 1. 800-585-3737. livingstations.org

M-5 \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. March 30 - April 14. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Memphis \$30+. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. March 27 - April 1. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

Our Town \$14-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 6 - 28. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Riverdance \$30.50-75.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 7 - April 7. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Spreading It Around \$24-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. Through April 8. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Spring New Works Series \$10. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theatre, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through April 15. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

Staged Reading Festival Admission is by donation. Magenta Giraffe Theatre is company at Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. March 31 - April 1. magentagiraffe.org

The Red Mill \$15-20. The Comic Opera Guild at The Village Theater of Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. March 31 - April 1. 734-394-5460. canton-mi.org/village-theater

White Buffalo Previews March 29-April 1 & April 4-5 (\$20-\$25), \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. March 29 - June 2. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "The 2012 Degree Exhibition of Cranbrook Academy of Art" One of the largest and most exciting exhibitions of art and design in the country. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills. March 21 - April 13. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookartmuseum.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Flint Institute Book Discussion" Legendary writer, actor and performer Steve Martin displays compassion and skill of observation and understanding in his latest book "An Object of Beauty." Facilitated discussion at FIA. Books available in the Museum Shop. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. March 22 - April 18. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Sara Innes, Paintings and Takeshi Takahara, Printmaker" Exhibit of Sarah Innes and Takeshi Takahara's work. Sarah's

silhouettes function as stencils, which she places on the surface of her paintings and paints over. Takahara's work investigates the phenomena of natural resources and challenges the boundaries of traditional print by creating dimensional pieces incorporating both old and new technology. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Feb. 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.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography 2012" Sixteenth annual photography exhibit. A juried show expected to draw submissions from approximately 100 area photographers. Awards will be given for work in black & white, color and alternative/experimental. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. April 4 - April 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "MSU Museum Wine Tasting Benefit" The Wine Tasting Benefit features more than 150 award-winning selections, independently owned wineries, Michigan wineries, importers and industry professionals on-site. The evening also features live music, appetizers, a silent auction and door prizes. Tickets: \$40. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Harrison Road and Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. March 30. 517-355-2370. Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/359

Michigan State University Museum "On Equal Terms" A new exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum takes a look at tradeswomen's 30-year 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" Joshua White and Gary Panter's Light Show is a new exhibition organized especially for the Museum by two great pioneers of multimedia art. White and Panter have been working together since the late 1990s, and this exhibition is their largest collaborative project to date. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 10 - April 29. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "The Life and Times of the Pine" Paintings and drawings for this show started with a story about the life and times of a pine cone, 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. 734-480-2787. Riversidearts.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

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection" The DIA received the rich art collection from James Pearson Duffy, Detroit's most unorthodox collectors. Showcases drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs. Free with museum admission. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Sep. 15 - May 13. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life" Fluxus emerged in the early 1960s as a loose, international network of artists, composers, and designers "led" by Lithuanian-born American artist George Maciunas (1931-1978) that was noted for blurring the boundaries between art and life. This exhibition was organized by the Hood Museum of Art and was generously supported by Constance and Walter Burke, Dartmouth College Class of 1944, the Marie-Louise and Samuel R. Rosenthal Fund, and the Ray Winfield Smith 1918 Fund. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 25 - May 20. 734-764-0395. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Haron Mirza" 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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Robert Wilson: Video 50" The tiny dramas that comprise Robert Wilson's Video 50 contain aspects of his hallmark aesthetic: surreal or dream-like imagery, the absence of a linear narrative, the conflation of seemingly unrelated characters and micro-stories, and a mesmerizingly slow pace. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. March 1 - April 29. 734-647-0524. Umma.umich.edu

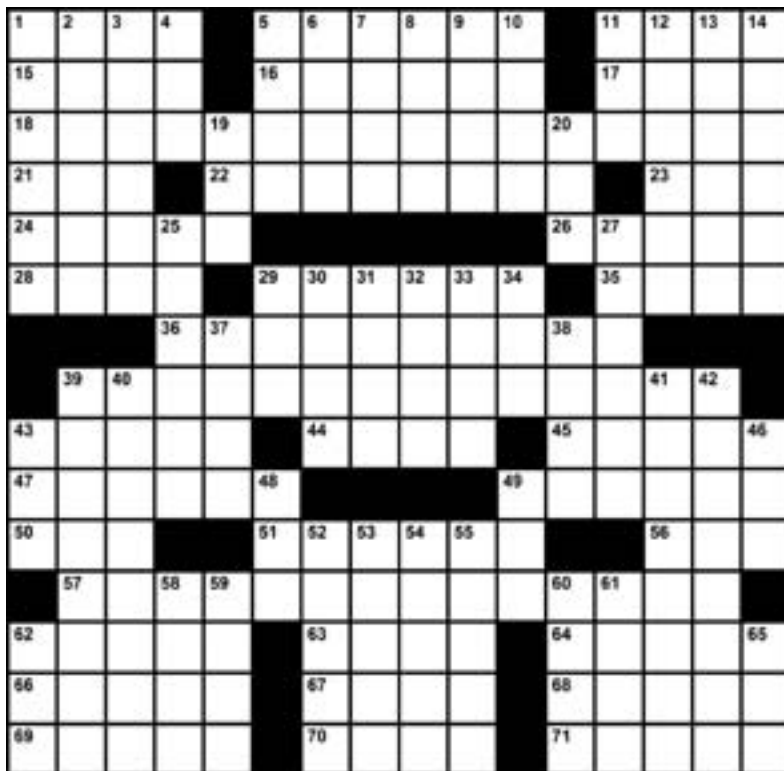


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Puccini for Crossword Fans



Across

- 1 One way to have one's meat
- 5 Group of discussion groups
- 11 Self-description from one's knees?
- 15 Molecule part
- 16 Fixed up
- 17 Wang in fashion
- 18 Question from _Puccini for Beginners_
- 21 Musket attachment?
- 22 The Windy City, to Judy Chicago
- 23 Org. for bears
- 24 Hose woes
- 26 Homophone for hairy ones
- 28 Jodie Foster's "Little Man ____"
- 29 In-flight
- 35 In case
- 36 Choice piece of meat
- 39 Start of the answer to the question
- 43 Everest is on its border
- 44 Barrie buccaneer
- 45 It arouses you in bed
- 47 Hammer type
- 49 Susie Bright, to erotica
- 50 Cont. of Chad
- 51 Theodore of kids books
- 56 "Out" in "The Sound of Music"
- 57 End of the answer to the question
- 62 O'Neal of "The Bad News Bears"

- 63 Airline to the land of the cut
- 64 Towels off
- 66 Pump handle
- 67 Actor Auberjonois
- 68 Ready for anything
- 69 Stimulates oneself, with "off"
- 70 Have top billing
- 71 Like Oscar of "The Odd Couple"

Down

- 1 Most like hard-core porn
- 2 She sprang from the head of Zeus
- 3 Greet with loud laughter
- 4 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 5 Bear up there
- 6 Fashion line?
- 7 Slight advantage
- 8 We, to "Fifty Million Frenchmen"
- 9 Irish pop singer
- 10 It's hard and woody
- 11 College wall climber
- 12 "____ the Ides of March"
- 13 Uses a rubber
- 14 Most happy about orientation?
- 19 Powers that be
- 20 Neighbor of Kan.
- 25 Hit the ceiling
- 27 Acid neutralizer

- 29 Utterance at a gay rodeo
- 30 Roadside stops
- 31 Regard as
- 32 R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World ____ Know It"
- 33 "Aren't ____ lucky one!"
- 34 Classic auto
- 37 Homeland of the Singing Nun (abbr.)
- 38 Learning inst.
- 39 Not any other
- 40 Lily Tomlin's Ernestine, for one
- 41 Writer Barney, and others
- 42 Suit bottom
- 43 Eavesdropping org.
- 46 Woolf's "____ Dalloway"
- 48 A porn star may have a big one
- 49 Fairy's cousin
- 52 Big-mouthed pitchers
- 53 Place to stop when cruising
- 54 Her name is Alexander
- 55 Conger hunter
- 58 "Gag me with a spoon!"
- 59 Med. care grps.
- 60 Grocers who sell this have balls
- 61 First name in mystery writing
- 62 Atlantic City attraction, with "the"
- 65 Place for porking?

Solution on page 30



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Horoscopes

Pay attention, Aries!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mars retrograde in Virgo quincunx to Uranus in Aries triggers arguments galore and accidents especially at work. Think and consult before acting! Look before you leap.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You are now as prone to accidents as ever. Second-guessing yourself won't help. Just slow down and pay attention! As a bonus you might notice details that can improve your work, your health and your reputation as a genius.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Seeing your mother in the mirror might be a bit spooky, but there are lessons there (besides acceptance!). With maturity comes an appreciation for what she intended at least. A part of her will always be with you, so find the good in that.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): A hard reality check can make you recalculate your goals, but it's not all bad. We all have to trim our sails now and then. Trust your instincts. Friends offering challenges may not have your best interest at heart. Think ahead!

CANCER (June 21- July 22): If you seek the spotlight, you'll regret it. Someone's likely to shove you under it anyway, and you may not like that either. Share credit, shoulder blame and be careful of who you trust.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Trying too hard to promote yourself can antagonize colleagues. Modesty doesn't mean you have to deny yourself, but try to keep your ego out of it and present your work in a simple, straightforward way.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Erotic exploration is likelier to teach you what you don't like than what you do. Experimenting is fine if you can joke about it afterwards. Trust the instinctive "no." Feeling you have to prove something is the surest way to trouble.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Be very careful of your health. Cold and wet are not your friends! Temptations and invitations to parade around in something skimpy may be irresistible, but if you want to get hot, stay warm!

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Innovative efforts are likely to fail, but even then you can learn something important. Be careful not to damage material resources, working relationships or your health. Your dark, nasty humor wants to emerge for the wrong audience. Be careful!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Unless you and your mate really are partners in work as well as at home, helping each other with work is going to create trouble. If you're seeking new work, polish your resumé over the weekend and get it out next week.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Setbacks at work can get under your skin, triggering arguments with the boss. Don't let passing annoyances get to you. Take it out on some rough or challenging fun. Anything from a game of rugby to a good intellectual stretch will shake off the tension.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Recent inspirations and brilliant utterings may have you feeling invincible, but the gift of gab is passing. Wherever being crude and nasty, or brutally to the point can serve you, have at it. Otherwise modest reticence is best.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Dissatisfaction in love may get so bad that the only thing holding you together is the expense of splitting up. Problems that seem unsolvable now may find answers later. List the positives and the negatives; remember the good stuff when you talk.

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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Dear Jody



Mama drama

Q. I have a problem
with my room-
mate. But first, let me give
you a little background
information so you can
understand where I am

coming from. "Karen" and her daughter moved
in with me about one-and-a-half years ago. We
worked at the same office but I didn't know
her well. One day she came in with a black eye
and was telling me she had been beaten up by
her husband. From what she said, this had been
going on for a long time and she felt she had to
get herself and her daughter out of the house.
She was afraid to go to the local women's shelter
because her husband knew where it was located.

I told her I had an extra room if she wanted
to temporarily move in with me. I have two
daughters about the ages of her daughter. At first
she wasn't sure she wanted to but then decided it
was a good idea. I wrote up a rental agreement
that we both signed. I wanted to make sure the
arrangement was clear when she moved in.
Everything was going well the first three months.
It was really easier for me to have her living with
us. The girls got along great. Her daughter Angela
started going to the same school as my daughters.
We shared cleaning, food preparation and helped
with the kids when either of us needed it. After
three months we decided that it was working so
well that she and her daughter would continue
living with us.

I was aware that Karen drank some in the
evening and seemed to take a lot of pills for
her aches and pains, but it didn't seem to be a
problem. About six months ago Karen started
going out a lot more and coming home drunk.
Now I have been taking care of Angela more
often and Karen doesn't seem to be doing her
share around the house. She also was late on her
rent a couple months. I talked with her, asking
what was going on, and she blamed the behavior
change on having a new boyfriend. She was
embarrassed and promised she would be more
responsible. For a while things got better, but

gradually she has been reverting back to being
irresponsible, not there for her daughter and
coming home at all hours of the night.

Last night was the last straw. I got a call
from a bartender at a place an hour from here.
He said someone needed to pick Karen up as she
was too drunk to drive. She had given him my
number. I had to get the girls out of bed and pick
her up in the middle of the night.

Today she was totally apologetic and
promised she would change, but I just don't
know. If it wasn't for her daughter, I would ask
her to leave, but I am afraid of what will happen
to Angela if Karen moves out with her. I just don't
know what to do. Her behavior is affecting all
of us and I don't trust that she will change even
though she says she will. What would you do if
you were me?

At the End of My Rope

A. I don't know from what you have said
whether Karen is dealing with alcohol
or drug addiction or both, but it certainly seems
that she is using too much, too often. If I were in
your shoes, I would tell her that her drinking and
coming home drunk is affecting you and the girls,
and if she continues she will need to find another
place to live. I would suggest to her that she look
into AA to get an evaluation and hopefully get
her drinking under control.

Make it clear to her that if her behavior
continues you will ask her to move out. I know
you are worried about her daughter but taking care
of Angela while she drinks and parties is enabling
behavior. Hopefully she will choose to stay and get
her drinking under control.

*To learn more about how to deal with alcoholism
with someone you love, visit Dear Jody Valley
on Facebook.*

*Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social
worker. She worked with the LGBT community both
as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas
of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues.
The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly. Reach Jody
at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. Letters may be
edited for clarity and length.*

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Solution to puzzle from page 28

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Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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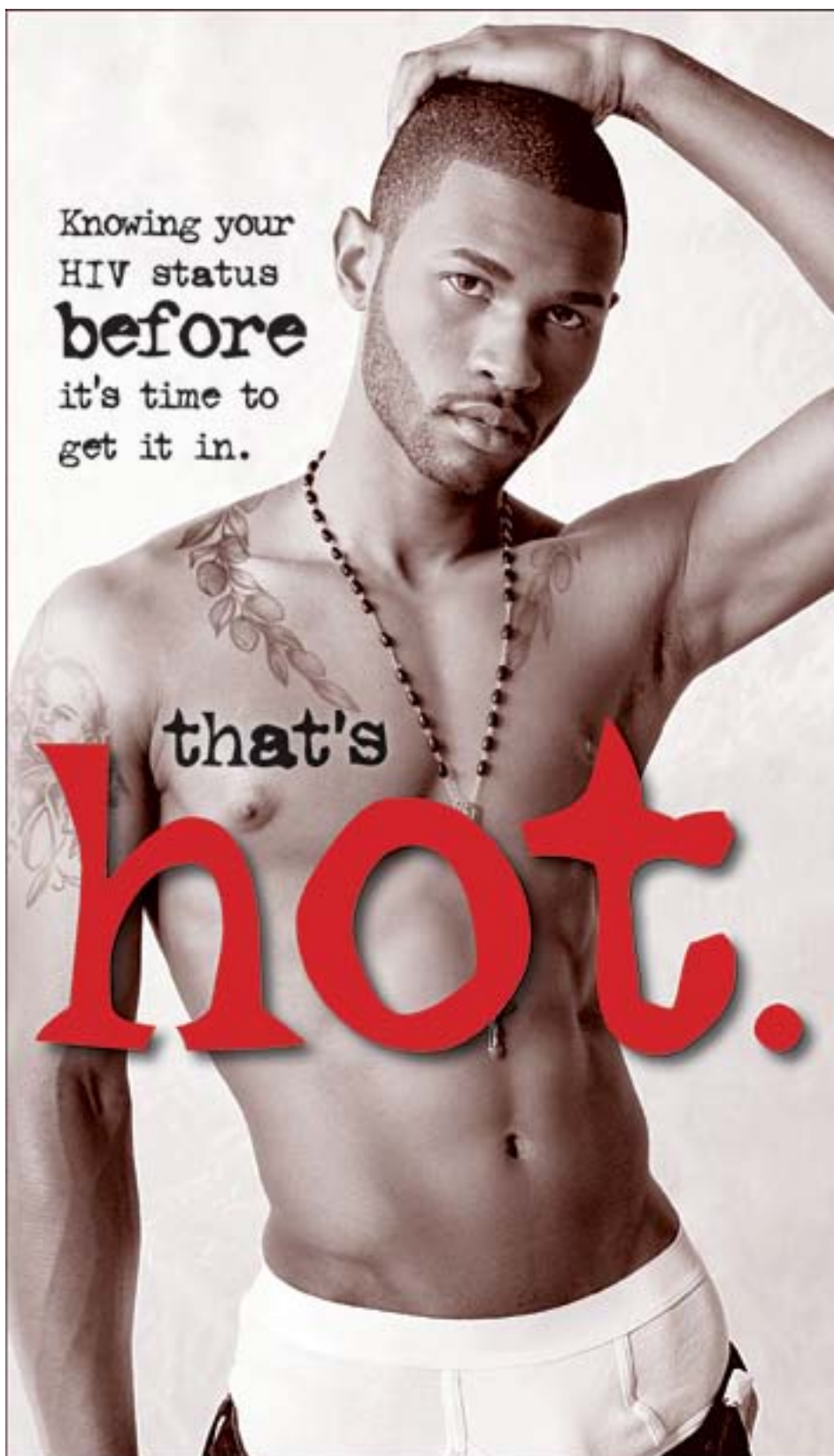


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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE



Beyonce in "Obsessed." Photo: Screen Gems

Clint wants Cruise for Beyonce. Can you blame him?

If you want to get strict about it, there's nothing gay about "A Star Is Born" except for, you know, everything, especially when you consider its two most recent and famous versions starred Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand and the new one from director Clint Eastwood is going to star Beyonce. And now Clint is after big game, chasing Tom Cruise to star as the career-in-decline counterpoint to Beyonce's rising ingénue. This would work perfectly: Cruise is already getting decent buzz for his role in the upcoming "Rock of Ages," and "Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol" was a gigantic hit. That means the megastar's once-soft-as-an-easy-chair box office moment has firmed up again and he could conceivably open an event film like this is surely going to be. Make them duet on "Evergreen," Clint!

'The Carrie Diaries' finally finds a Carrie

First they said it might be Blake Lively, then it was Emma Roberts, but now it's official: "The Carrie Diaries" pilot will star respected teen actor Anna Sophia Robb. Here's a young woman whose already-solid film career includes acclaimed performances in serious-minded kid dramas like "Bridgette and the Chocolate Factory" and last year's sleeper hit "Soul Surfer," so her presence can only elevate what hopefully won't turn into just another flashy teen soap opera. Robb will take on the role of Carrie in the 1980s as she navigates school, sex and, of course, the city, but no word yet on who'll take on the roles of Teen Charlotte or Teen Miranda. We hear that Teen Samantha will be motion-captured by Andy Serkis but that might be just a very cool rumor.

'Go Fish' director gives you a 'Concussion'

Rose Troche, filmmaker behind the classic '90s lesbian indie "Go Fish," is currently wearing her producer hat, hard at work helping her friend, writer-director Stacie Passon, get an unusual lesbian film to the big screen. It's called "Concussion" and, yes, it's about a head injury. Weirder, it's about a lesbian in a long-term relationship who, after the title's accident, decides to become a prostitute for women (look, if women will pay for sex in the fictional lands of "Hung" and "Gigolos," then they'll do it in this movie, too, OK?). The film stars Robin Weigert, an actor who's already fueled butch lesbian crushes such as Calamity Jane on HBO's "Deadwood," but here she'll be considerably less dust-covered. And when that's all said and done, Troche is considered reteaming with "Go Fish" collaborator Guinevere Turner for the 20-years-later sequel. Who do we have to hit on the head to make that a reality?

Who's excited for 'Gnomeo & Juliet 2'? Elton John, that's who.

It was inevitable. Rocket Pictures' Gnomeo & Juliet raked in almost \$200 million worldwide and that means it's franchise time for Elton John, who will not rest until previously inanimate garden decorations have 3D-danced-and-sung their way into the consciousness of every moviegoer on the planet. The sequel to the kid-friendly smash is already underway and its title is "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes," which will see a very small yard-dwelling incarnation of the famous sleuth hot on the case of disappearing garden gnomes. John is currently penning songs for the film and all you have to do is wait for the marketing onslaught to begin. You know a tie-in breakfast cereal can't be far behind.

Romeo San Vicente has electric boots and a mohair suit. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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