

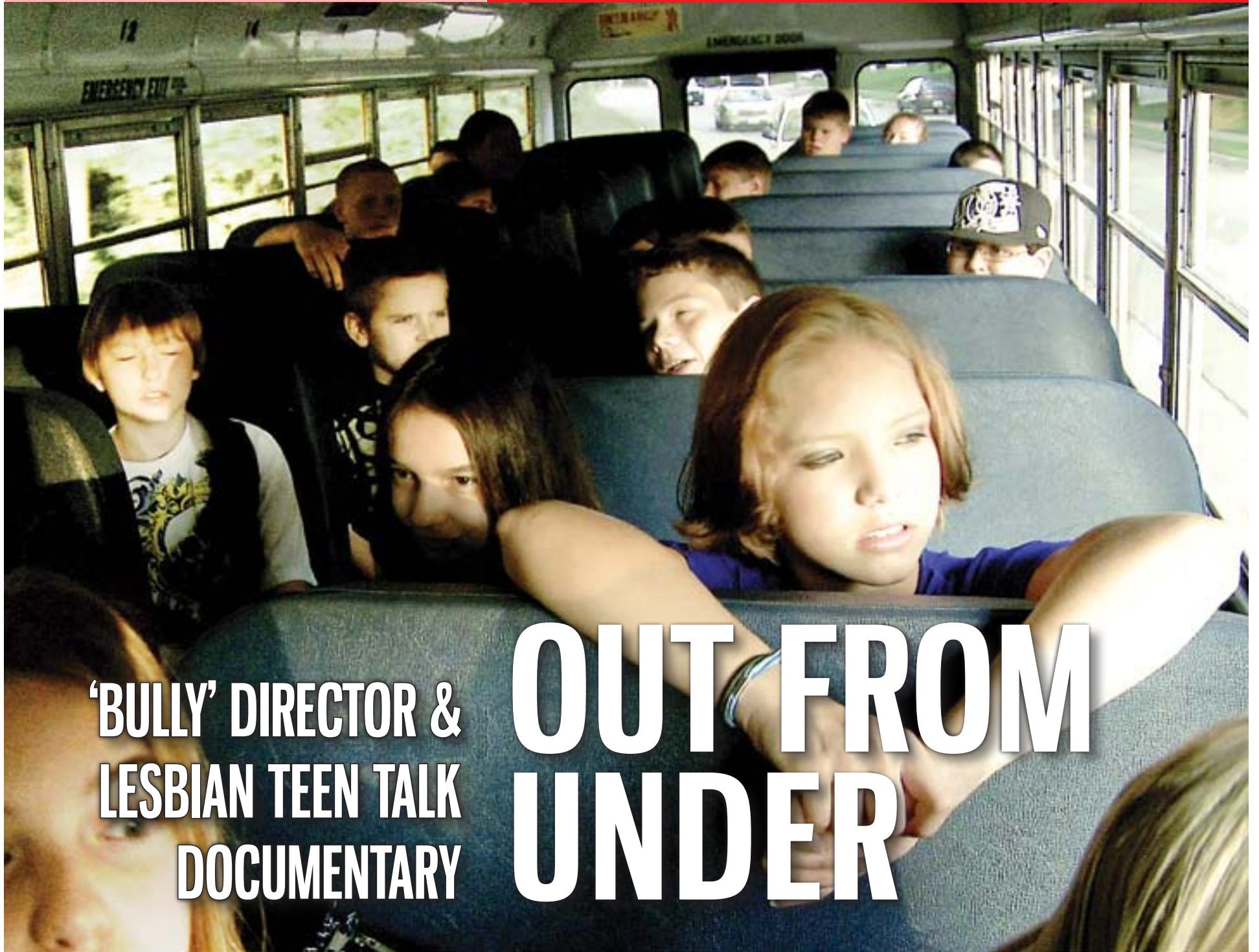
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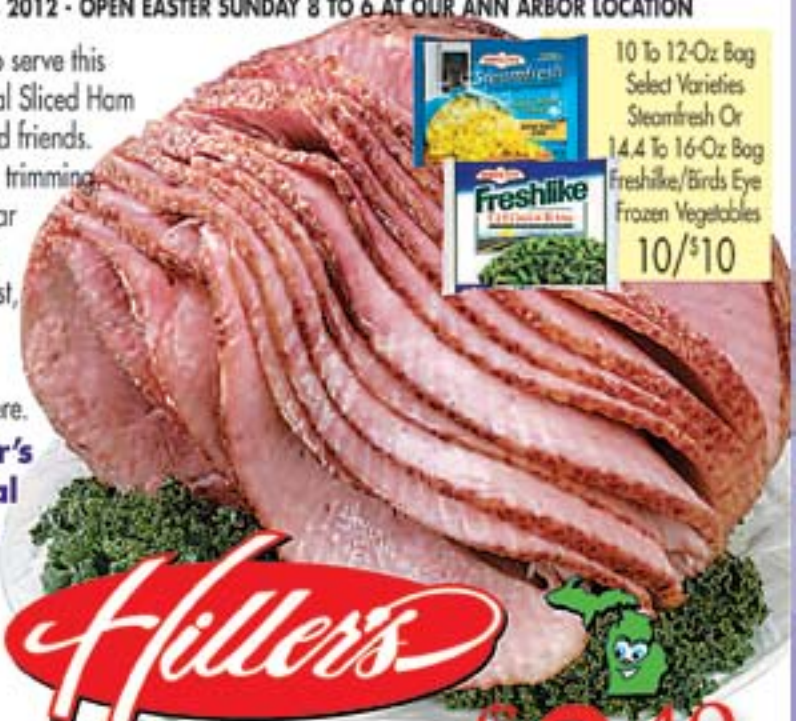
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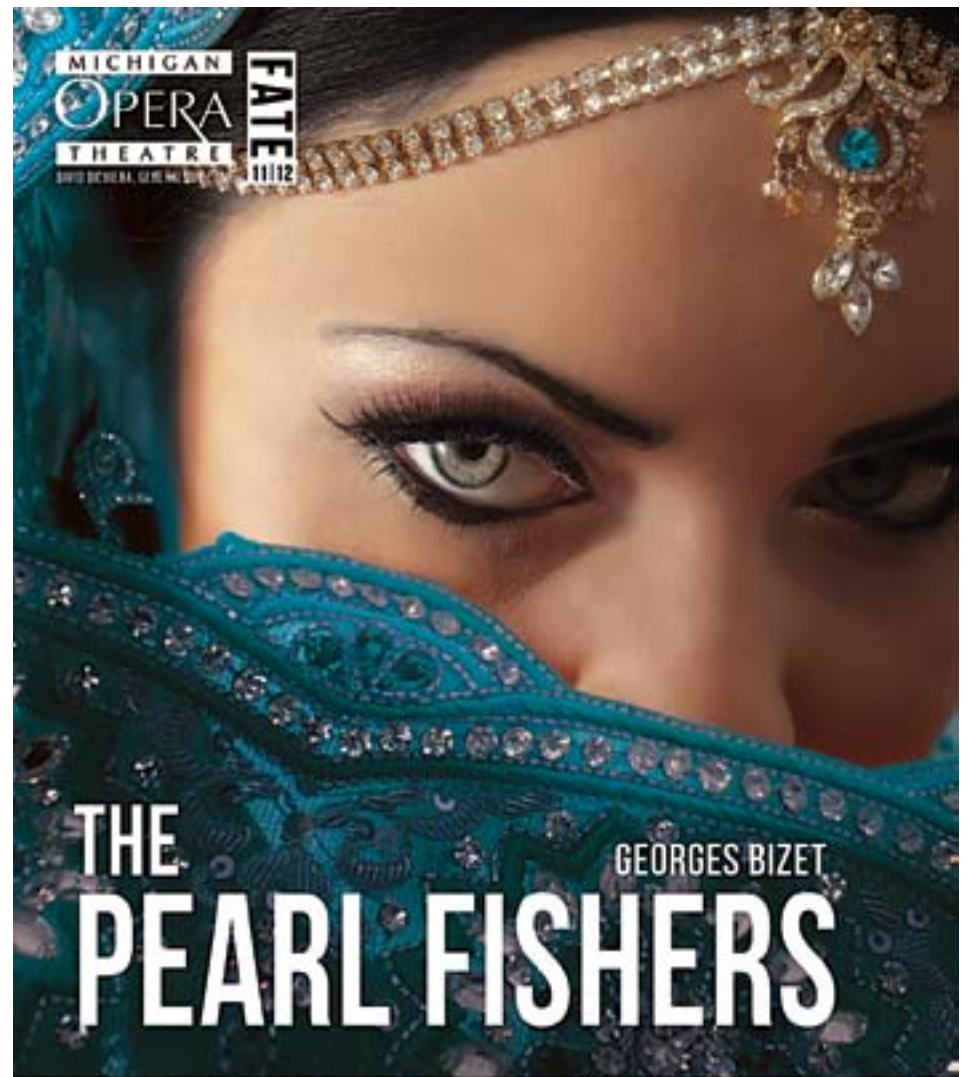
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Affirmations Spring Bash signals turnaround



From left, Dawn Hausen and Thea Hayak paint the Daniel Cascardo mural in the Diego Rivera Court. Right from top: Gerry Banister and partner Scott Douglas enjoy tour of the DIA artwork. Nancy Orban, Beth Correa and Cindy Wilken pose near sculpture. Below, London Bell receives award and the DIA Courtyard was a wonderful gathering place before dinner. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT – Over 300 finely dressed diners packed tightly into the main foyer of the Detroit Institute of Arts, enjoying gourmet food, pontificating over art, listening to the grand voices of the Sing Out Chorus and One Voice Chorus, and bidding on extravagant items from a fast-talking auctioneer. The announced goal for Affirmations Spring Bash was to raise \$75,000 for the community center, and while the event was an obvious success, the exact amount raised is still being calculated.

“It was an awesome setting, very well attended and everyone was really excited about it. A lot of people really enjoyed looking at the art,” said Affirmations board president Mary Rose MacMillan. “We haven’t had a formal event like this in several years, and it was a great introduction for Dave (Garcia, the new executive director).”

London Bell enjoyed one final night in Detroit. While the event was not really a going-away party for the beloved Health and Wellness Coordinator, in some ways it was a party for her. Bell is a straight ally. She is the daughter of a lesbian couple who witnessed discrimination first hand. She is an attorney and she most recently resigned as Health and Wellness Manager of Affirmations so she can move to Chicago to continue her law career and study International Human Rights Law and Policy and Criminal Justice at DePaul

University College of Law where she earned her law degree. While at Affirmations she coordinated HIV testing, planned health fairs for the LGBT community and the Transgender community specifically, and was a key connection between Affirmations and outside organizations. On March 31 she was recognized at the Spring Bash with the Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award.

As Affirmations Executive Director David Garcia gave rounds of thank yous to the crowd, he noted specifically the importance of the straight allies, saying that in every fight for equality groups, oppressed groups have relied on allies to help champion their cause.

The Jan Stevenson Award was given to Suzanne Wait and Michelle Walters, Center Partners who support Affirmations both financially and with activism. They’ve organized various women’s groups at Affirmations over the years. Michelle is a co-founder of People of Diversity at Chrysler (now GALA) and Suzanne is a founding member of Ford Globe, and they are also active in PFLAG.

The Chuck Moyer and Tim Cavanaugh Philanthropy Award was presented to the estate of Lester London, a longtime supporter of the community center who died in early 2011. In his estate he left over \$500,000 to Affirmations. Attorney Bob Tighe is the trustee of the estate and accepted the award on behalf of the Lester London estate.



“What a God-send that gift was,” said MacMillan. “It has provided us with the chance to pay down some debt, and it gave Dave some breathing room to get started in his new position as executive director.”

The theme of the Spring Bash was art, and one of the fundraisers was the opportunity to paint on a mural done by local artist Daniel Cascardo, who was on hand to help the would-be artists choose their paint-by-number-type section. Docent-led tours also gave attendees a personal look at the DIA’s greatest treasures.

“It is always exciting walking through the main entrance,” said Jerry Banister. Banister was joined by Scott Douglas as they wandered through the galleries before dinner. “Affirmations is a great cause, I’m happy to

give my support.”

While the \$200 a plate Spring Bash was a luxurious evening for those who attended, there will be a lower-cost Fall Bash later in the year, which will give more people a chance to celebrate the successes of Affirmations and be a part of its continued growth. Bell will most likely be in Chicago, but she said she will never forget the three and a half years she spent at Affirmations. “I will miss the staff and the community members that I got to know. I will miss my friends in the community and I will definitely miss the youth.”

Find out more about Affirmations at www.goaffirmations.org.

Unconditional support: A middle way to healthier gay kids

Harm can be mitigated with behavioral approach

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – There are parents who flat out disown their gay children, and there are parents who welcome them openly without question. But what about those in the middle, those who want to love and support their child but don't want them to be gay?

Research from the Family Acceptance Project based in San Francisco, California shows there are more parents in the middle than one might expect. And when those parents are given tools to teach them how they can support their children without the caveat of accepting their sexuality or gender expression, it can make a monumental difference in their child's life.

It's an area of research that can be tough to talk about, the idea that society should expect anything less than full acceptance can be a hard pill to swallow. But

ambivalence and mixed feelings are a fact of life for many families. For many, unconditional love and acceptance seem like an impossibility, but when presented with facts about how specific behaviors can affect a child, most parents agree they want to see more positive outcomes for their children.

Dr. Caitlin Ryan has spent the last 11 years looking at families with roadblocks to acceptance and documenting the effects of family-based intervention and counseling. With a conscious decision to focus on accepting and rejecting behaviors, problems like depression, drug use and suicide attempts can be significantly reduced.

"Most parents want the best for their children," Ryan explained as she presented her research to an audience of social workers, teachers, parents, psychologists and activists at Affirmations on March 30.

"If we can take the emphasis off the overwhelming emotional barriers and put it on behaviors, we can help families."

The FAP identifies behaviors as accepting and rejecting in the context of the parent/child

relationship. Once parents understand the messages sent by their behavior, they can take care to choose behaviors that demonstrate an underlying support for their child.

Ellen Boen works in the Clinic for Child Studies in the Wayne County Juvenile Court and attended the presentation. "We want all children to be supported at home," Boen said. "A lot of kids get into trouble because they feel like nobody understands them and they're rebelling." Boen attended the session in hopes of bringing back information that can help in the local

juvenile justice system. She can also relate to families in strife. "When I found out my son was gay, I ignored it. He was fourteen. I told myself it was just a phase. I was scared. I wanted to shelter him from ridicule. Thankfully he found Affirmations

and he's grown up now, and he's dedicated himself to helping with youth in Washtenaw County. I'm so proud of him. I wish I had been more accepting, but I'm glad he turned out as he did. I want other families to know they can show their kids love and support their kids no matter what."

While there are some behaviors that are clearly accepting behaviors, such as taking the child to LGBT events and allowing them to have LGBT mentors, there are other ways a parent can provide some support. Listening to the child without interrupting, even if they don't agree with what they say, is one way a parent can be supportive. Other accepting behaviors include giving their kid a hug, saying 'I love you,' and standing up for them when others tease them or are unfair.

Parents may not realize the drastic effects that rejecting behaviors can have on a young person. Examples of rejecting behaviors include being dismissive of the child's identity, telling

"Kids start getting the message that gay is bad very early in life. For those that are driven to kill themselves, it's often because they think their parents will reject them if they find out. Death is a better alternative to them than being rejected."

- Dr. Caitlan Ryan

See Support, page 13


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Lesbians work it out on the job

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

TROY - Many women, despite being out to everyone in their workplace, are still uncomfortable in their immediate environment and would like their company to provide more education around LGBT issues. This is according to the recent "Being Out at Work" survey conducted by Evolved Employer, the think tank arm of The Glass Hammer, a career management website for women in financial and professional services.

The survey zeroes in on the L in LGBT and investigates how professional lesbian women perceive their workplace experience, which varies from person to person even within the same company. More than 100 individuals were surveyed for the first in a series of reports on managing identities at work to find out how LGBT women network, how supported they feel and what companies can do better regarding cultural aspects of their workplace.

"Reassuringly, several companies were recognized as going above and beyond in their efforts to ensure organizational and managerial support, reinforced with strong networks and programmatic solutions," said Nicki Gilmour, Founder and CEO of Evolved Employer.

One of those companies is Bank of America in Troy where Senior Vice President, Market Manager Tiffany Douglas said "we embrace the power of our people and value our differences – in thought, style, sexual orientation, gender, identity, culture, ethnicity and experience – recognizing that our diversity makes us a stronger company."

"We are proud to actively promote an inclusive environment where all employees have the opportunity to achieve personal success and contribute to the growth of our business, because without significant contributions from our employees we could not be the world's finest financial services institution. Our investment in diversity and inclusiveness truly pays real dividends for our communities, our customers and ultimately our employees," said Douglas.

"It should be mentioned that some of our respondents were very positive about their company. In fact, 15.7 percent of responses said they wouldn't want to change anything about their workplace regarding LGBT issues," said Gilmour.

According to the 2011 Out and Equal Workplace Survey, while lesbians were about as likely as gay men to be out to their coworkers (62 percent versus 60 percent), lesbians were significantly less likely than gay men to be out to their boss or manager (44 percent versus 56 percent).

"Past research students have concluded women don't ask. They don't



Stacey Cassis and her partner Arianna Moriales have donated both time and money on behalf of LGBT equality. Photos courtesy of ACLU of Michigan.

always feel comfortable asking for the raise, the promotion, the opportunity. It's a byproduct, at least for generations to date, of how girls are raised and their role models versus boys and their role models. So, it makes sense to me that lesbians are less comfortable being out. Again, leading by example, communicating the safe environment, developing women to become integral members of an organization's success combined with corporate leaders who publicly state their acceptance of the lesbian population will raise these numbers over the time," said

developed. Historically, this industry has been male dominated and for many years I was among the one or two women in the room. The question was bigger than lesbian or straight. Instead, how do we encourage more women to enter the industry and stay? Bank of America Merrill Lynch has specific recruiting programs, mentoring programs and employee resource groups to attract, develop and grow women and LGBT associates. Again, by choice, I am active in both worlds as the two are inseparable for me. It will be a matter of time before there is ample networking

"My personal life is very intertwined with my professional life. The growth I was seeking professionally involved integrating my life as a lesbian and a member of my community I wished to serve with my philanthropic and volunteer goals."

- Stacey Cassis, assistant vice-president, senior financial advisor

Stacey Cassis, assistant vice-president, senior financial advisor, The Spickler Group, Merrill Lynch in Bloomfield Hills.

She has spent 30 years in the financial industry and is proudly out, but that was not always the case given the culture of previous employers. "Our firm has a strong culture of acceptance and my decision was to embrace that opportunity to be my authentic self personally and professionally at work," said Cassis, who leads the employee resource group for LGBT employees.

"What's missing in the survey is that the number of women in financial services, lesbian or straight, is not yet fully

and mentoring opportunities for women and lesbians in this industry," said Cassis.

The survey also addresses the issue of living as a double-minority being female and lesbian. Those who come out have concerns and questions about others' perceptions of them, where they fit into a heteronormative, male-dominated corporate culture, who their role models are, and how they can advance in their careers.

"My personal life is very intertwined with my professional life. The growth I was seeking professionally involved

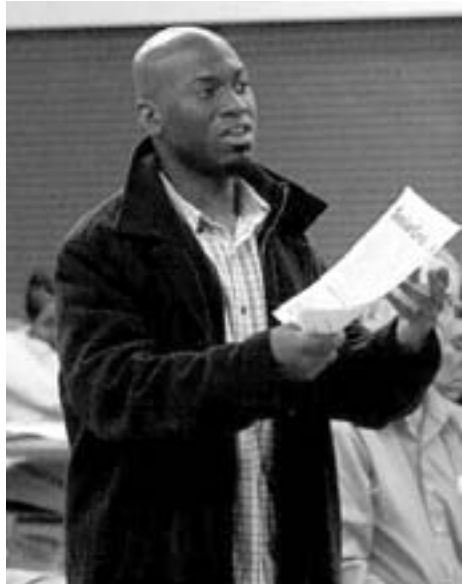
Two murders in Detroit

RIP Dimitrez Griffin, Coko Williams

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

At press time, Between The Lines is still gathering information on two separate killings that occurred over the past week in Detroit.

Dimetrez Griffin, 37, was found beaten to death in his apartment at the Leland Hotel March 28.



Dimitrez Griffin was found beaten to death March 28. Photo courtesy of Griffin family.

“My son was always very respectful to everybody,” said Dorothy Cotton. “He always gave everybody a chance. That’s why it hurts me so that they beat him like he did, because he wasn’t a violent person at all.”

Linda Noble first met Griffin more than a decade ago, when he came into the Horizon’s Project.

“He was just a wonderful young man,” she recalled. “He had a lot of bright ideas that he wanted to do. It took him a minute to get acclimated to what was happening with his life at that time. He had just been recently diagnosed when he was brought into my program.”

The two kept in touch through the years

as Griffin went on to work with Mpowerment Detroit and become a leader with the Black Male Xchange. Griffin, friends say, was extremely socially conscience and had a love of the arts. He had recently formed his own company, DRG Productions.

“He wanted to break into the music industry,” said friend Reggie Dior. “He wanted to be a producer. He was writing music with people.”

Whether writing a song or a speech for a youth group, Griffin just wanted to be heard and to help.

“He was just a wonderful young man who was trying to make his mark in the world,” Noble said. “He was trying to help and be an advocate for other young MSMs to help them be proud of who they were.”

Visitation for Griffin will be this Friday at the Pye Funeral Home on the west side. Funeral services will be Saturday morning at God’s House of Prayer, located at 12929 Joy Rd. in Detroit.

A suspect in this killing is believed to be in custody.

Coko Williams

A 35-year-old transgender woman, Coko Williams, was found shot to death in the 100 block of Parkhurst Street in Palmer Park, near the intersection of Woodward Avenue and McNichols (Six Mile) Road at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday morning.

“We are saddened to hear of yet another life ended too soon,” said Nusrat Ventimiglia, director of victim’s services for Equality Michigan, in a statement. “Our thoughts go out to Ms. Williams’ family and friends who have suffered a great loss. We urge anyone with information about Coko’s killing to contact the Detroit Police.”

Friends recalled Williams as a loner.

“She was really a sweet, quiet girl,” said Dada, who had known Williams for the past 15 years and told BTL that she sometimes worked as a hair stylist. “She was never shady or nasty. She wasn’t that type of girl at all. She was always respectful of herself and to other people. It’s sad for her to go out the way she did.”

straight and a tremendous advocate for women in our industry. To her, my identity was a nonevent. She has given me constant support and courage to build a life and profession that reflects me,” said Cassis. “Of course, my inspiration will always come from my partner, Arianna.”

A copy of the report can be found at www.evolvedemployer.com/media/2012/02/LGBTResearch_PRINTCOPY.pdf

► Work

Continued from p. 6

integrating my life as a lesbian and a member of my community I wished to serve with my philanthropic and volunteer goals. Coming out was natural for me as I was ready and being at a new firm meant no old baggage. My good fortune is role models here are plentiful. My lead business partner, Melissa Spickler, who founded our financial advisory team, The Spickler Group, is

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Transmissions



Universal discrimination

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

A transgender woman, Jenna Talackova,

ended up as a finalist in the Miss Universe Canada pageant, likely the first known transgender finalist in Miss Universe - or at least the first I'd ever heard of. For a brief period of time, a transgender woman was part of one of the world's biggest pageants dedicated to feminine beauty. Then something happened: Talackova was removed from the event.

We don't know why she was removed, behind a statement from the pageant stating, "She did not meet the requirements to compete despite having stated otherwise on her entry form." Unfortunately, I could not find a copy of the form in question: all the website for the pageant provides is a simple web form, asking for name, contact information, date of birth, and things such as headshots and swimsuit pictures. They list their basic requirements as follows: "To qualify for the 2012 competition, you must be a Canadian Citizen and at least 18 years of age and under 27 years of age by February 1st, 2012." Note it does not mention anything about actually being female, let alone not being transgender. Heck, it doesn't even require you to not have had any cosmetic surgery.

We can easily guess what the pageant has decided, however: surgically created vaginas do not a woman make. Even though she was deemed pretty enough to compete prior to hitting the finals, the very fact that she was not born with certain sexual characteristics was enough for her to be kicked out. Meanwhile, the pageant couches their decision in a statement that makes it sound like Talackova was being dishonest, stating that she met the requirements when she supposedly did not.

For me, personally, I don't see much value in a beauty pageant. Perhaps it's merely a case of sour grapes, but I don't see why we have contests based simply on who can look the prettiest prancing about on a stage. It feels just a step above the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, and not what we should be rewarding.

Nevertheless, many people opt to participate, and it's a part of our culture on one level or another. With that in mind, it was great that a transgender woman was participating - and all that more upsetting that she was removed.

This points to a bigger issue that I think most transgender people face: no matter Talackova's feelings, no matter the therapists who treated her, no matter the sexual characteristics she gained by surgery and hormone treatments, and no matter how much of a woman she is - inside and out - her gender can be swept aside in a heartbeat when someone decides she isn't one based on her own personal history.

This is why non transgender people might

ask a transgender person what their "real" name is, referring to the name they were given at birth. Or why people feel they can ask questions about the genitals of a transgender person that they'd never dream of asking their non-transgender brethren.

No matter how much of a woman she is - inside and out - her gender can be swept aside in a heartbeat when someone decides she isn't one based on her own personal history.

It's at the heart of most anti-transgender discrimination: not only the assumption that we are always what we are at birth, but the assumption that if we don't share our history, we are being deceptive. Painting transgender people as deceptive, too, is what ends up being used by foes of transgender anti-discrimination ordinances.

It's what lies at the heart of any anti-transgender murder where the killer claims "transgender panic," that one freaks out and cannot control one's self when it is discovered that the person he or she was intimate with was a transgender person.

It may even fall at the heart of the so-called "cotton ceiling" controversy, about lesbians who may well support transgender causes - but would never dream of actually being sexually active

with a transgender person. While this issue broke around lesbians sleeping with transgender women, I am sure the issue is much broader, touching all forms of gender identity and all forms of gender identity in partners. Once again, though, we see people who might understand that a transgender man is a man, and a transgender woman is a woman - yet, at some core level, are unable to accept that one is such.

More so, those who argued against this so-called "cotton ceiling" used it to claim that transgender women were simply making such an argument in order to perpetuate rape culture and even to force non-transgender women to have sex with them against their will. Again, the issue of deception coupled hand-in-hand with our very nature and being.

The decision by the Miss Universe pageant to disqualify Talackova, and the subsequent claim that she was being removed because she was somehow dishonest in her application? Ridiculous. While discrimination against transgender people is not explicit in Canadian law, it is likely. Talackova has seemingly done all she can to present herself as a woman in spite of her history. Yet the pageant decided that her being a transgender woman was enough to disqualify her, and that she was somehow being deceptive even while being "out" about being a transgender woman.

This story does, however, have a happy ending: the Miss Universe Pageant has reinstated Talackova, "provided she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions." It remains unclear exactly what other international competitions they may be referring to, and it's unclear at this time if Jenna Talackova will choose to rejoin the competition.

Yet even if she does not choose to compete, she has already won: the competition will be working towards full inclusion for future contestants in 2013 and beyond.

Gwen Smith never even placed at the Westminster Kennel Club. You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com



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Heard on Facebook

California colleges are wondering if they should ask if you are gay on their applications! What could the benefits and drawbacks be?

How would the kids who are not out to their parents answer these types of questions? You have to consider how much good versus how much damage acquiring that info could do. Good luck finding that balance.

-Cathy Spoiala

I'm sure there would be a "Prefer Not To Disclose" option, similar to that offered for marking race, ethnicity and religion on college applications.

-University of Michigan Spectrum Center

A very important benefit would be to increase our knowledge of how many of us identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Currently, the data's incomplete at best. If every school did this, the sample would be much larger.

-Meghan Eagen-Torkko

While I see what the benefits might be, having it tied to applications would seem to mean they would be tied to people's names, which just seems overly personal to me. In any case, it still doesn't seem clear what the benefit of knowing this information is, given how it could be misused. I wouldn't trust every college board or even most to be completely and totally fair with this information.

-Robert Burgos

I can understand why the colleges would want this type of demographic data, however it is also data they could manipulate when considering things like housing, for instance. It leaves too much room for segregation, in my opinion.

-Christan Alldaffer Bulin

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

S/he Said

Parenting, religion and remembering Adrienne Rich

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Adrienne Rich

"Adrienne Rich, a poet of towering reputation and towering rage, whose work - distinguished by an unswerving progressive vision and a dazzling, empathic ferocity - brought the oppression of women and lesbians to the forefront of poetic discourse and kept it there for nearly a half-century."

-In the obituary of Adrienne Rich titled "A Poet of Unswerving Vision at the Forefront of Feminism," one of the country's most honored and influential poets, whose finely tuned poetry explored her identity as a feminist, a lesbian and an agent for political change, www.nytimes.com, Mar. 28. Rich died at age 82, of complications from rheumatoid arthritis and is survived by Michelle Cliff, her partner of 36 years.



"The idea that I would be immediately disappointed/angry/suicidal that my son identifies as gay offends me, both as a father and simply as a human. ... Excuse me while I roll my eyes for an hour or two. I don't see how a father, or any parent, can look at their son, the one they've loved since before the child was even born, and upon hearing him say, 'Dad, I'm gay,' turn their back on him."

-Dave, husband of Huffington Post blogger, Amelia, who has blogged about their 7-year-old son identifying as gay, in his blog posting titled "A Father's Reaction to His Very Young Gay Son," www.huffingtonpost.com, Mar. 29.



Dan Merica

"#2. The church's stance on homosexuality: The second most cited reason for leaving the church was that former worshippers felt homosexuals were unwelcome in the church. Pope Benedict XVI denounced what he categorized as the 'powerful' gay marriage lobby in the U.S. When those surveyed were asked if there were any religious beliefs in the Catholic Church that troubled them, a number cited views on same-sex marriage. 'The church's view on gays, same-sex marriage, women as priests and priests not marrying, to name a few,' said one respondent. 'Hypocrisy,' said another. 'History of discrimination against women, anti-gay stance, unwelcoming attitude.'"

-Dan Merica, co-editor, CNN Belief Blog, in his blog posting titled "7 reasons Catholics leave church," about a survey of lapsed Catholics in Trenton, NJ, that asked why they are leaving the church, <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com>, Mar. 30.



Jaweed Kaleem

"The devout Muslims who gathered in a Washington, D.C., conference center seemed like they could have come from any mosque. There were women in headscarves and bearded men who quoted the Quran. But something was different. They discussed how to change Islam's future. A woman spoke about fighting terrorism; she had married outside the Islamic faith, which is forbidden for a Muslim woman. A Pakistani man mentioned his plans to meet friends for drinks, despite the faith's ban on alcohol. In a corner of the room, an imam in a long gray tunic counseled a young Muslim with a vexing spiritual conflict: being gay and Muslim. The imam, also gay and in a relationship, could easily sympathize with the youth's difficulties."

-Jaweed Kaleem, Huffington Post national religion reporter, in his article titled "Progressive Muslims Launch Gay-Friendly, Women-Led Mosques In Attempt To Reform American Islam," about Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV), a progressive and inclusive Muslim organization, rooted in the traditional Qur'anic ideals of human dignity and social justice, founded in 2007, www.huffingtonpost.com, Mar. 30.

Jewish Gay Network co-sponsors 'Melting Away' at film festival

Israel's first film to discuss transgendered youth

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

WEST BLOOMFIELD – Jewish Gay Network of Michigan is co-sponsoring the 14th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival's presentation of "Melting Away (Nameess Bageshem)" at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts.

Assaf's father discovers he is secretly dressing as a woman. With his wife's silent consent, the father forces Assaf never to return, and the family is torn apart. Years later, Assaf's father is dying, and his mother hires a private investigator to bring her son home. But there is no more Assaf; instead, the couple's son has become "Anna," and she makes a living singing at a gay nightclub.

"We did our very best to scour film festival circuits around the globe to bring you top-notch features and documentaries covering a wide range of topics and interests," Film Festival Director



The film Melting Away will screen on April 22 at 5 p.m. as part of the JCC film festival.

Rachel Ruskin writes to potential festival-goers. "As always, we strive to bring you films that you will never forget and that stay with you long after you leave the theatre."

The Jewish Gay Network's sponsored film "Melting Away"

is Israel's first film dealing with transgendered children and is a story of family, healing and forgiveness:

Organized by the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival celebrates Jewish

film, culture and art through over 30 films in venues in the Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, West Bloomfield and Flint areas, April 29 through May 3.

"Melting Away" will be screened 5 p.m. April 22 at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield.

JGN also invites members and allies to a wine and cheese reception preceding the film screening with guest speaker Denise Brogan-Kator, executive director of Equality Michigan. The reception is 3:45 p.m. at the Greenberg Suite, D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building, Eugene & Marcia Applebaum Campus, 6600 W. Maple Road, W. Bloomfield. The minimum donation to attend the reception and a movie ticket is \$36.

For more information, a complete schedule of films or to purchase tickets, call 248-661-1900 or visit www.jccdet.org.

Exhibit to feature photos of hate groups from Michigan journalist

LANSING – The Northstar Center announced that for the entire month of April it will feature the photographs of Todd A. Heywood. The photos have been taken over the course of the last decade and document a variety of hate groups and hate ideologies, from Neo-Nazis in Jackson to Terry Jones the Koran burning Florida pastor to anti-gay activists.

"I have thousands of photos and videos from hate groups from around the state," said Heywood. "But I kept thinking 'What good are they doing on a hard drive in my office?' Part of fostering a conversation about hate is also putting images in the public's mind about what hate looks like. And I can tell you, it isn't always as easy to identify as one might think."

Heywood began writing about anti-gay and other hate groups in the early 1990s while at Lansing Community College. His investigative reporting has been instrumental in the Southern

Poverty Law Center's listing of two Michigan organizations as hate groups in their annual hate map. The first group was Young Americans for Freedom at Michigan State University which was listed in 2007, becoming the first university recognized and supported hate group in the Center's history. More recently, Heywood helped to uncover and identify a new Neo-Nazi group, Battalion 14, in Jackson.

"These images are powerful because they remind us how present hate and bigotry are in our world," said David Mitchell of Northstar Center. "We need to see these images, and to be informed. Ignoring racists and outright fascists, only gives them room to grow."

The images on display include photos from the Aug. 4, 2007 "Rally Against Black Crime" in Kalamazoo, several events sponsored by Young Americans for Freedom at Michigan State University, photos of various anti-gay leaders,

and images of anti-gay protesters at the annual gay pride event in Lansing.

Heywood is currently Senior Reporter for the American Independent. The American Independent is a publication of the non-profit news group The American Independent News Network. The photos in the exhibit are the result of Heywood's work for The American Independent News Network, Between The Lines Newspaper and YAF Watch.

Northstar Center is located at 106 Lathrop Street. The display will continue to hang through the month of April. For times, visit Northstar on the web: <http://northstarcenter.net>

One of the Todd Heywood photos on exhibit in April. This one pictures a young man observing the Jackson neo-nazi group demonstrating.

Oakland Community College to host LGBT speakers

Oakland Community College hosts two presentations discussing aspects of the LGBT community this April, sponsored by the university's Student Life Office, Campus Diversity Committee, SAFE and the Womencenter.

Oakland's Auburn Hills campus will present "Transgender 101," a talk by pre-operation transman Ryan Oliver in which he relates his personal story and explores the various identities of being transgendered. "Transgender 101" begins 2 p.m. April 4 in the Auburn Hills Campus' Campus Student Center, Room G-240. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Oakland's Royal Oak campus will present "LGBT and the Law," a discussion led by attorney Timothy Cordes, president of the Stonewall Bar Association of how current laws are interpreted for the LGBT community. The Stonewall Bar Association is a voluntary professional association of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and allied lawyers. Cordes will provide an overview of topics such as marriage equality in Michigan, adoptions rights for same-sex couples, child custody for same-sex parents, hate crime statutes and anti-sodomy laws.

The university's Auburn Hills Campus is located at 2900 Featherstone Road and it's Royal Oak Campus is located at 739 S. Washington St. Free parking is available at both campuses and admission to both presentations is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.oaklandcc.edu/news.



Parting Glances



Pages past tense #5

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

During my Cass Tech High freshman year I was active in the Voice of Christian Youth, a nationwide evangelical outreach that held rallies "on the Devil's Saturday night" at Detroit's Masonic Temple.

Witnessing for Jesus I carried my fundamentalist Scofield Bible to class, passed out gospel tracts, and - decades before the Intelligent Design controversy - spoke out in social studies for Genesis Adam-and-Eve creation a mere 5,000 years ago.

I teamed up with another Cass Tech VC'er, Jerry Curneal, and a friend of his, a church pianist Brian Jones. We formed a gospel team, with myself as a self-styled evangelist/preacher.

I left the women-run Missionary Workers Tabernacle, and joined Jerry and Brian at their home church, Gilead Baptist, a Southern Baptist affiliate, with a congregation of about 1500 and popular TV outreach. I was gladly re-baptized.

I enjoyed the fellowship, the singing, my clean-cut friends. I had a sense of belonging, even though it was understood that the world was made up of millions and millions of unsaved souls. We were the lucky ones. God's elect waiting for Jesus's Second Coming, when Russia - "the biblical Magog" - so preached pastor Bob Parr - would usher in the total Armageddon blitzkrieg in Israel.

There were secret sins. Onanism, the spilling of one's seed; and a growing awareness of my undeniable gayness. I recall after an emotionally moving VC'Y rally, Jerry and I, over coffee, mutually confessed to masturbation. He admitted his sin in tears. (I was relieved to find someone who shared my own moral shortcoming.)

Southern Baptists are steeped in the Puritan work ethic and a pleasure-denying morality. As a born-againer I felt called apart - "in the world but not of it." I didn't smoke, drink, dance, play cards, or go to movies. But ... yea verily! ...

... homosexual "abomination" - in contrast to today's cultural-war topic A - was rarely mentioned, discussed, thought of. It was just too shocking, too unthinkable. At 17 my gay episodes - maybe three a year with neighborhood peer partners - were my closeted and damning secret.

Psychiatrists called it "experimentation," a phase most teenagers pass through on the road to heterosexuality.

I prayed often. Asked God to change me "according to His will"; but yielded too easily to temptation. Try as I might I just was not interested in girls or dating. (I had only one teenage date: the high school prom. I behaved awkwardly, danced the Huckle Buck in box-toe loafers like a dolt. Tux and wrist corsage set me back plenty. I was glad when the evening came to a lackluster close.)

There was something about the opposite sex that just didn't register. But I found that handsome movie stars, youthful looking gospel TV personalities, held my attention. I felt an undefinable "something," an emotional longing that demanded a yet unrealized acceptance.

By age 18 I knew. I also realized full well that for that "sin" I was an outcast from my strict, Southern Baptist convictions. I had a choice. Remain a born-again believer. Or be an explorer of my gay potential. I chose acceptance over on-going religion-induced guilt. Truth won out 57 years ago.

Charles@pridesource.com

National LGBT groups issue joint open letter on Trayvon Martin killing

'National call to action' urged to find answers

WASHINGTON — A coalition of national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights organizations issued an open letter Monday that described the killing of Trayvon Martin as a "national call to action"; urged local and federal authorities to find answers in the case that has garnered worldwide attention; and demanded justice be served.

An Open Letter: Standing Alongside Trayvon Martin's Family and Friends

The tragic killing of Trayvon Martin is a national call to action. Our hearts go out to Trayvon's family and friends for the loss they have experienced. We stand in solidarity with them as they demand answers and justice. We represent organizations with diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender constituencies.

Many in our community have been targets of bigotry and bias. We have a great deal of experience grappling with the role bias plays in violent crimes against our communities. We well know the stories of young people targeted for violence just because of who they are: Rashawn Brazell, Lawrence King, Ali Forney, Deoni Jones, Brandon White, Matthew Shepard, Angie Zapata, Sean Kennedy and countless others.

Trayvon's killing is a wakeup call to the enduring cancer of racism and racial profiling. The pain his family continues to endure transcends communities and unites us all. Every person, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, must be able to walk the streets without fear for their safety.

Trayvon's killing is tragic and the stark reality that racial bias played a role in his death has alarmed our nation. Questions must be asked. Answers must be sought. And justice must be served. We join our voices to the chorus of so many others to demand that local and federal authorities find those answers. We stand in solidarity with Trayvon's family and friends as they seek justice

for his killing. In the timeless words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Signatories:

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
 Equality Federation
 Family Equality Council
 Freedom to Marry
 GLAAD
 Human Rights Campaign
 Immigration Equality
 International Federation of Black Prides
 Lambda Legal
 LGBT Progress at the Center for American Progress
 National Black Justice Coalition
 National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
 National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)
 National Coalition for LGBT Health
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
 National Stonewall Democrats
 Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
 PFLAG National
 Pride at Work
 Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
 Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN)
 The Trevor Project
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Continued from p. 5

them God will punish them, barring them from having gay friends, interrupting them when talking, or making belittling comments.

Understanding behaviors

Understanding behaviors can also help young people recognize when their parents are making an effort. “Those with teenagers know that when they tell you something it tends to not be the whole story,” Ryan said. “That’s why we also talked to parents for the study, so we could see things from their perspective.” Parents often fell in the middle, with a mix of accepting and rejecting behaviors. Once a young person understands

that rejecting behaviors stem from concern, and that accepting behaviors are good signs that the parent loves them, it can help ease some of their anxiety over the strength of that relationship.



The FAP research shows that when the level of parental acceptance increases, the potential for negative consequences decreases. For example, 8 percent of LGBT youth in “extremely accepting” homes reported suicidal thoughts. It goes up to 10 percent if the family is “very accepting,” 15 percent if they are “somewhat accepting,” 25 percent at “a little accepting,” and 55 percent at “not accepting.” Thus if a parent can increase their accepting behavior even slightly, it can increase the child’s probability of surviving their coming out experience.

Suicide, school victimization, homelessness, juvenile justice cases, STDs, HIV/AIDS risk, drugs and depression are all impacted by parental behavior in a similar way.

“This is a whole family approach that isn’t always welcome in the LGBT community,” Ryan said. “It’s a real paradigm shift to include the context of family and not everyone is ready for that. We tend to think of families as adversaries, not as allies, but we forget that rejecting behavior is often motivated by care and concern.

“In the psychology world, most LGBT youth are served as individuals or in peer support, not in the context of families. Professionals that do family counseling may or may not know how to help when a youth is coming out. They many not know how to recognize it or how to deal with it. They may not ask the right questions to see if a child is struggling with this. Those that do see a youth struggling may be reluctant to talk about it in family therapy sessions because providers still see families as rejecting.”

A way to reconnect

Ryan hopes that her research will help families to reconnect with the deeper feelings towards the children. With this in mind, the FAP

has created a video and pamphlets in multiple languages that teach parents the importance of their role in keeping their child safe and secure. The video shows the way a “macho” straight dad learns to accept his gay son. The pamphlets use graphics to show how great an impact their behavior has on gay children.

Ryan said since revealing her research in 2009, she’s had a surprising number of people in the faith community approach her about her work.

“Families can have a lot of conflict, especially if their child’s sexuality or gender expression conflicts with their religion. With these tools, religious parents can still express love and support for their child while they come to terms with the conflicts in themselves,” said

“Kids are coming out younger and younger, and their three pillars of support are their home, their school and often their faith community. We spend a lot of resources talking about what happens at school, but how can we reach the families themselves?”

- Dr. Caitlan Ryan

Ryan.

While groups like PFLAG have pushed for parents to accept their gay children, research was lacking on how strong their influence is, and how behavior-centered tools could impact the child’s life. Another concern for Ryan is how to get the information to all parents, before a crisis comes up.

“Kids start getting the message that gay is bad very early in life. For those that are driven to kill themselves, it’s often because they think their parents will reject them if they find out. Death is a better alternative to them than being rejected. Kids are coming out younger and younger, and their three pillars of support are their home, their school and often their faith community. We spend a lot of resources talking about what happens at school, but how can we reach the families themselves?”

The FAP has raised enough money to have the brochures designed and one outreach video produced. Ryan hopes that others will see the importance of her work and the simple ways it can reduce harm to young gay and transgender children. She hopes to attract enough funding to produce a series of videos and teach this type of outreach to care-providers throughout the country.

To find out more, go to <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu>



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Creep of the Week

National Organization for Marriage

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hey girlfriend, what are you wearing to the race war? Some sexy camouflage chaps, perhaps? A rainbow striped Kevlar vest?

Wait, haven't you heard? The National Organization for Marriage is sponsoring some big gay people vs black people thing. I hear it's going to be all the rage. Like, literally, all of the rage.

How do I know this? Recently uncovered court documents outline, in writing, NOM's national anti-gay marriage strategy to "drive a wedge between gays and blacks."

Now why would they want to do such a thing? Well, because gays and blacks happen to be "two key democratic constituencies." So, you know, it's nothing personal. It's just politics.

The document reads, "We aim to find, equip, energize and connect African American spokespeople for marriage; to develop a media campaign around their objections to gay marriage as a civil right; and to provoke the gay marriage base into responding by denouncing these spokesmen and women as bigots. No politician wants to take up and push an issue that splits the base of the party. Fanning the hostility raised in the wake of Prop 8 is key..."

Oh, how clever. How nice. Especially the "fanning the hostility" part. If there's one thing America needs when it comes to the issue of race, it's a hostility fan.

Some people are, for some reason, upset about this. One of those people is Julian Bond, former chairman of the NAACP. During a recent interview with Anderson Cooper, Bond said, "It's one of the most cynical things I've ever heard of or seen spelled out in this way."

Bond also decried the idea that "these people are just pawns that can be played with, the black people who oppose gay marriage, and the black people who support gay marriage, just can be moved around like pieces on a chessboard."

So if I understand correctly, Bond is saying that black people don't appreciate being pawns and having their beliefs exploited? Huh. You'd think a group like NOM, always so forward thinking and considerate of each person's inherent dignity, would have seen that coming.

NOM is, of course, banking on the argument that some people make against calling the fight for LGBT rights a civil rights movement. When Cooper asked about this Bond said, "It is exactly the same. It's a right that all Americans have, and no reason why gay and lesbian people ought not to have these rights, too. These are universal rights."

Bond is, obviously, proof that not all Black people are anti-gay. In fact, some Black people are actually gay. Which means not all gay people are white. Which makes this whole race war idea pretty convoluted.

But it is worth noting that gay Americans are not immune to racial divisions. A commentator on AmericaBlogGay wrote, "It's all good and well to pretend that these divisions aren't there while the mainstream is watching, but those among us who are black and gay know good and well that they are."

In other words, yeah, it's easy to point fingers at NOM's indisputably racist strategy, but let's not allow NOM's horribleness to keep us from seeing that the fight against racism is no more a thing of the past than the fight against homophobia.

As Bond told the Human Rights Campaign, "NOM's underhanded attempts to divide will not succeed if Black Americans remember their own history of discrimination. Pitting bigotry's victims against other victims is reprehensible; the defenders of justice must stand together."

Of course, NOM would be the first to declare themselves as the victims in this rigmarole. And I'm sure this is all some kind of big misunderstanding. Hey, some of NOM's best friends are black! But definitely not gay.

In other words, yeah, it's easy to point fingers at NOM's indisputably racist strategy, but let's not allow NOM's horribleness keep us from seeing that the fight against racism is no more a thing of the past than the fight against homophobia.

Federal ban on marriage challenged in Mass. court

BY CHUCK COLBERT

BOSTON - When a panel of three judges on a federal appeals court hears arguments against the federal Defense of Marriage Act, three openly gay lawyers will argue the law is unconstitutional. Opposing them, one straight attorney.

Legal gay icon Mary Bonauto will once again make a case for equal marriage, arguing on behalf of seven gay couples and three widowers, all married in Massachusetts after the 2003 Goodridge v. Department of Public Health decision.

While the state affords them all the rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of legal wedlock, the federal government, under DOMA, denies them more than 1,000 federal programs, benefits and legal protections afforded to opposite-sex couples.

Perhaps best known for winning the 2003 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling in Goodridge, Bonauto is Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders' civil rights project director.

Goodridge was the first state Supreme Court victory for advocates of the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples.

Before Goodridge, Bonauto and two other attorneys won an important 1999 decision in Baker v. State of Vermont, a ruling that prompted lawmakers there to adopt what was then the ground-breaking option of civil unions. Civil unions afforded same-sex couples all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage, but not the word marriage. In 2009, Vermont lawmakers made same-sex marriage legal.

A May 2004 New York Times Magazine profile on Bonauto likened her to the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who, before becoming a judge, argued before the high court in the historic case of Brown v. Board of Education, which ended racial segregation in public education.

A native of Newburgh, N.Y., Bonauto is a graduate of Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., and holds a law degree from Northeastern University, located in Boston.

Bonauto and her wife Jennifer Wriggins reside in Portland, Maine, where they are raising twin daughters.

Just as GLAD won a favorable same-sex marriage ruling in the federal district court in Boston in July 2010,

so did and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In a suit brought by the state's attorney general, Maura T. Healy, chief of the Massachusetts attorney general's civil rights division, argued that DOMA infringed on Massachusetts sovereignty, trespassing on the state's ability to determine eligibility for issuing marriage licenses.

During oral arguments, attorney Healey led a full-court press. In strong words, she told the U.S. District Court judge that DOMA "forces Massachusetts to engage in a kind of invidious discrimination."

How? By denying same-sex married couples of the same benefits received by opposite-sex couples - or risk losing federal aid.

Even worse, DOMA is "animus-based national marriage law," said Healey. She contended that the law infringes on Massachusetts sovereign authority and "forces the state to discriminate against its own citizens."

Like Bonauto, Healey is no stranger to high profile gay litigation. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Healey was an attorney at the Boston office of WilmerHale, a prestigious law firm. There, she provided counsel to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in a 2006 case, Cook v. Rumsfeld, that challenged the constitutionality of the armed forces' ban on openly gay service, a federal law and military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Before law school, Healey, a New Hampshire native, played women's basketball for Harvard College. There, as point guard, she captained the school to an Ivy League championship. Afterwards, Healey went on to play professional ball in Europe. She is a 2006 inductee into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. She holds a law degree from Northeastern.

For the April 4 arguments, GLAD's and the attorney general's lawsuits have been consolidated. They are referred to as Gill v. Office of Personnel Management.

When the cases were first heard in U.S. District Court, the Obama Department of Justice was still defending DOMA. But last year, DOJ said it would no longer argue the law is unconstitutional.

This time, the Department of Justice will be arguing against DOMA. And it will do so in the person of openly

gay attorney Stuart Delery, promoted recently to serve as DOJ's Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division.

Like Bonauto and Healey, Delery has experience with high profile gay litigation. While a partner at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C., he was pro bono counsel of record for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's unsuccessful lawsuit in the First Circuit that challenged the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Delery earned a law degree at Yale. He clerked for Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Byron R. White.

Delery and his longtime partner, Richard Gervase, are fathers of two sons, according to the gay newspaper Metro Weekly of Washington, D.C. Both parents are active in Rainbow Families DC, a non-profit organization for LGBT parents and prospective parents in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

DOJ is no longer defending DOMA, but the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) of the U.S. House hired attorney Paul Clement, former Solicitor General for President George W. Bush, to do so.

At that time, Clement was a partner at the law firm of King & Spaulding. When the law firm withdrew from the DOMA case, Clement resigned and joined another smaller firm, saying, "Representation should not be abandoned because the client's legal positioning is extremely unpopular in certain quarters."

"Defending unpopular positions is what lawyers do," said Clement, to Washington Post columnist Jonathan Capehart. "The adversary system of justice depends on it, especially in cases where passions run high. Efforts to delegitimize any representation for one side of a legal controversy are a profound threat to the rule of law."

A Wisconsin native, Clement, a graduate of Georgetown University, holds a law degree from Harvard. He clerked for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court.

When Clement arrives in Boston to defend DOMA, he will be fresh off an appearance this past week before the U.S. Supreme Court in landmark litigation seeking to overturn the Affordable Care Act. Clement will also be defending DOMA in other cases.



Wedding expo returns to Livonia Marriott

BTL STAFF

LIVONIA – Pride Source Media Group and Detroit Marriott Livonia will once again co-host “Celebrate the Power of Love: A Wedding Expo for Same-Sex Couples on Sunday, April 29, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This year the Expo welcomes onboard corporate sponsor, Comerica Bank. Pride Source Media Group publishes Between The Lines.

Building on the success of last year’s inaugural event, which over 300 people attended, producers are excited to return once more to the hospitality, great entertainment and food offered by the Detroit Marriott Livonia and all the participating vendors. This year’s Expo will offer 30-minute workshops, film shorts, and a special appearance by the acting troupe from The Ringwald Theatre.

“Michigan may not let same-sex couples legalize their relationships but we will continue to celebrate and honor them,” said BTL co-publisher Jan Stevenson.

Guests will shop with up to 40 vendors, including caterers, jewelers, salons, photographers, officiants, churches, florists, gift registries, clothiers, printers, travel agents and entertainers. So no matter what event you have coming up in the near future, these vendors can help with planning and providing the welcoming services attendees deserve.

“We are very excited about our the amazing array of vendors this year, including Zingerman’s Bakery and The Pastry Palace, Miner’s Den Jewelry, AG Chocolates, Schroeter’s Flowers and Satisfaction Limousine is bringing back the pink Hummer limo,” said Stevenson. “Rawlinson Photography is a new vendor this year, as is Affairs to Remember, Wake’s Travel, Perfect Day Celebrations and The Produce Station Catering. Every aspect

of wedding ceremonies and receptions will be covered at the Expo.”

The hotel initiated the event partnership with Pride Source after it received two inquiries in a month from same-sex couples that had lost confirmed bookings when venue managers discovered their orientation.

“Our reason for initially having this event was because we were surprised to learn that other local vendors would not host a same sex wedding which in this day and age was alarming,” said Danielle Bastianelli, director of sales and marketing, Detroit Marriott Livonia/Crescent Hotels and Resorts. “When we initially discussed our idea of showing support by providing a wedding tradeshow for the LGBT community we knew it was important to reach out to the LGBT community. Working with our partners from Between The Lines was essential in keeping it relevant, purposeful and positive.”

“The average American wedding costs \$20,000,” Stevenson said. “If 1,000 metro Detroit same-sex couples got married this year, they could generate \$20 million in additional sales for the businesses smart enough to market to them. You don’t have to be a gay business owner to take advantage of that buying power. You just have to respect your customers – and that’s good business for anybody.”

“People came to the event last year not only to meet with vendors but also to socialize with other attendees. The atmosphere was fun and social and everyone stayed right until the end,” said Julie Emerson, catering sales manager at the Detroit Marriott Livonia.

This is a locally produced event in Michigan. Admission is \$10 at the door, and discount coupons and a limited number of free passes are available at www.pridesource.com.

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Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit provides resources to religious groups

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network has partnered with Equality Michigan, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, KICK and Inclusive Justice to publish and distribute an Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit to 400 Southeast Michigan religious groups. The toolkit is intended to educate these groups in creating a more welcoming environment and advocating on behalf of LGBTQ people.

MUUSJN is a statewide network of people from 26 Unitarian Universalist congregations and their allies who work in coalitions to promote justice and dignity for all people.

Director and founder of the MUUSJN, Randy A. Block, assembled the Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit with the assistance of many individuals. Block has a bachelor's in journalism and a master's in social work, specializing in community organizing.

The toolkit consists of contacts and information regarding affirming religious groups and congregations; suggested educational tools; and advocacy and civic engagement resources and LGBT community resources such as Affirmations, the Jim Toy Community Center and KICK. In its appendices, the toolkit includes a variety of useful fact sheets and issue briefs for religious groups seeking to better understand LGBT issues.

Block and MUUSJN intend to make their Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit widely available and continue to update it with useful additional information. Organizations are invited to submit additions

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or corrections to MUUSJN for updates to the online version of the toolkit.

This project is a result of a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, a permanent endowment built by donations from thousands of organizations and individuals committed to the future of Southeast Michigan. The foundation supports a wide variety of projects benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs.

Since its inception, CFSM has provided over 482 million dollars and nearly 40,000 grants to nonprofits throughout Southeast Michigan.

For more information on the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, go to www.CFSEM.org. For an online copy of the Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit, go to www.UUjustice.org.



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Alex in "Bully." Photo: The Weinstein Co.

'Bully' director and lesbian teen talk controversial documentary

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Lee Hirsch will never forget the brutality of his middle-school years, when he was the victim of what, in recent years, has become a tragic epidemic – bullying. The punches, taunts and name-calling were all wielded his way. And the bullshit justification for all the above: that it's just part of being a kid.

But, as Hirsch's controversial documentary "Bully" argues, it shouldn't be.

"The driving force behind the film was to give a voice to that experience for myself and for others," says the Long Island-raised writer/director, who sensitively spotlights the national issue in the film. "I made it for all of us ex-bullied and once-bullied – the coalition."

And he did it by putting a face on the ever-growing problem. Five faces, in fact. Harrowing and heartbreaking, the docu follows the teens – one of which is then-16-year-old lesbian Kelby Johnson, living in Tuttle, Okla. – as they're victimized within their own schools, often brushing it off as just a part of growing up.

"I was looking for a way to change something," Kelby says, "and Lee gave me that opportunity, and I was excited to take that and run with it."

To many gay teens, Kelby's story of being ostracized is devastatingly familiar: She's the

reject of her small-town community, which doesn't accept that she's a lesbian – or that she has a girlfriend. Tuttle turns against not only Kelby but also her family.

"Kelby and I didn't bond over a conversation about sexuality," says Hirsch, who didn't want to discuss his own orientation with us. "We bonded over the experience of being bullied, and that was really the same as it was with all the kids. I feel like our relationship began with a real conversation about what I experienced, what I wanted to set out to achieve with this film, why her story mattered and why what was happening wasn't OK."

They met via "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," after Kelby's mom, desperate to help her daughter, reached out to the outspoken talk-show host through a message board because she was afraid her daughter would succumb to the same fate of the many gay teens who've killed themselves in the last few years. Kelby not only didn't, but she's now helping others get through those hard years.

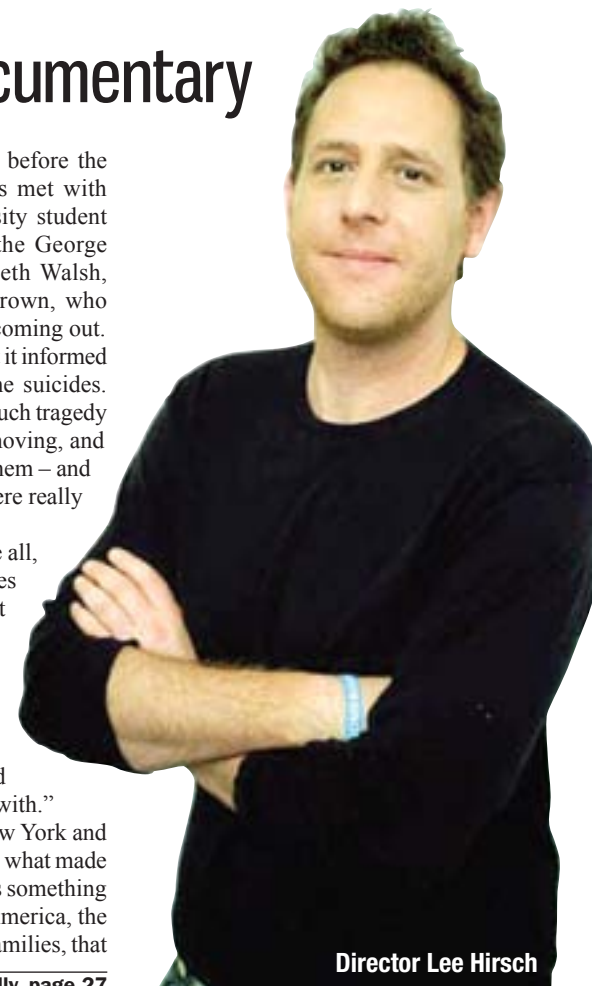
"I know that being gay, you can feel very alone," she says, "and I hope that when they watch the movie, that goes away and they realize there is someone standing with them who has gone through that. The world is going to change and people are going to get more accustomed to (LGBT people), and they should be here to see it."

Hirsch began filming in 2009, before the rush of LGBT-related suicides was met with national attention: Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, who jumped off the George Washington Bridge; 13-year-old Seth Walsh, who hanged himself; and Asher Brown, who shot himself after being bullied for coming out.

"They didn't inspire the film, but it informed the early stages," Hirsch says of the suicides. "You're just overwhelmed by how much tragedy there is. The suicides were deeply moving, and people were writing in response to them – and it seemed that people everywhere were really struggling with this issue."

Youth selected for the film were all, coincidentally, from rural communities and not vast urban cities. "It wasn't intentional. It was the way it fell together, and the stories we found were most compelling there. A lot of it had to do with getting that access in Sioux City (the home of then-12-year-old lead Alex Libby) which kind of landed us in the Midwest to begin with."

Some footage was filmed in New York and Minneapolis, but none as powerful as what made the final cut, Hirsch says. "There was something about the landscape of small-town America, the quiet and incredible heroism of the families, that

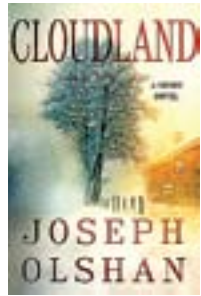


Director Lee Hirsch

See Bully, page 27

Book Marks

BY RICHARD LABONTE



“Cloudland,” by Joseph Olshan. St. Martin’s Minotaur, 304 pages, \$24.99 hardcover.

When an Olshan novel is gay, it’s very, very gay – consider, for example, “Nightswimmer” and “The Conversion.” His ninth novel mostly eschews the gay – except for the expectations around one of the major male characters, and in the case of a lesbian couple – but that’s no reason for queer-interest readers to pass on this compelling fact-based fiction about a New England serial killer. The story’s sort-of sleuth is reclusive Catherine Winslow, a former investigative journalist who has dialed her life down to writing a quirky household-hints column. The world intrudes, however, when she stumbles on the frozen body of a murdered nurse, the sixth such victim. But unraveling the mystery, thrilling as it is, is almost beside the point. Elegant writing, intricate plotting and, most particularly, wholly complex characters are what really drive the narrative. In Winslow – who is grieving the death of the husband she had divorced, is mending her relationship with a lesbian daughter and is ruining her somewhat scandalous

romance with young graduate student Matthew – Olshan has crafted a fascinating female character.

“Outlaw Marriages: The Hidden Histories of Fifteen Extraordinary Same-Sex Couples,” by Rodger Streitmatter. Beacon Press, 224 pages, \$26.95 hardcover.

Even when much has already been written about some of the same-sex couples covered in this exhaustively researched and cogently compact collection of joint histories – Walt Whitman and Peter Doyle, Tennessee Williams and Frank Merlo, for example – cultural historian Streitmatter brings fresh insights to his mini-biographies. His thesis: that the often lesser-known partner provided artistic stimulus or emotional support to his or her companion: 21-year-old Doyle became the muse for Whitman, 45; Merlo “single-handedly stabilized” Williams’ life and thus his career. The same can be said of almost all of the 15 outlaw marriages the author selected: over the 43-year relationship of Mary Rozet Smith and Jane Addams, it was Smith’s wealth that provided the financial backing for Addams’ activism; over the 38 years that James Baldwin was coupled with Lucien Happersberger, the latter’s emotional stability provided Baldwin with the security he needed to write. Many of these unsanctioned marriages endured until a partner’s death; one lasted less than a decade; some included

jealousy and betrayal. But as America’s acceptance of marriage equality expands, Streitmatter’s study stands as proof that there have always been queer pairings.

“The Harder She Comes: Butch/Femme Erotica,” edited by DL King. Cleis Press, 208 pages, \$14.95 paper.

Once upon a time, and that time was 1992, Joan Nestle edited “The Persistent Desire,” a slightly controversial-for-its-time collection of essays, poems and personal accounts celebrating the butch/femme dynamic. For a while, the subject remained mostly scholarly, though Bella Books released Therese Szymanski’s erotic fiction anthology, “Back to Basics,” in 2004; after a lull, two years ago, Cleis published the Tristan Taormina-edited fiction anthology, “Sometimes She Lets Me,” and last year Arsenal Pulp Press published “Persistence,” edited by Ivan E. Coyote and Zena Sharman, paying homage to Nestle’s pioneering book. Which brings us to King’s collection, 18 stories ranging from historic femme/butch role-playing (dark red dress desires well-worn denim, trouser-glad butch is drawn to a femme’s silver-skirted buttocks) to the kind of fantasies that would possibly have riled the butches and femmes of a more binary world – stories in which bois are in sexual play, in which a Daddy dotes on his little girl. The boundaries around gender have blurred, and this quality collection celebrates new dimensions of butch and femme.



“Don’t Let Me Go,” by J.H. Trumble. Kensington Books, 352 pages, \$15 paper.

Small-town Texas high school senior Nate is the narrator of this gritty young adult novel, a story of coming-out anguish, teenage passion, romantic bliss, homophobic hatred, long-distance relationships, searing jealousy, straight friendship, puppy love and the eventual triumph of happy-ever-after. Nate’s beau of eight months is Adam, and after cautious flirtation leads to an intense affair, they’ve been inseparable – until Adam, at Nate’s urging, moves to New York to follow his actor’s heart. At first, the boys fill their days with IM’s and their nights with Skype, but their connection tapers off as Adam is drawn into his acting whirl – and as Nate glimpses one of Adam’s often-nude New York roommates in the background of their video chats. Bereft, Nate starts a gay-and-proud blog with the assistance of a tech-savvy older boy (though why Nate needs help to set up a blog is never explained), and among his followers is a love-struck younger student who only adds to Nate’s emotional conflicts. Trumble’s perceptive take on teen life is a plot-packed triumph.

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

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Jennette Breault and Beth Hussey at One Eyed Betty's in Ferndale. Photo: Crystal A. Proxmire

One-Eyed Betty's does it different

New restaurant offers local beers, interactive mural

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Forget everything you know about 175 W. Troy Street. The old Rosie's is gone. Cantina Diablo's is gone. And with cool gray walls, reclaimed art from the DIA, English pub-style tables, 44 available beers – and a menu touting oysters, sweaty Bettys and bacon with a side of bacon – the newly opened One-Eyed Betty's is nothing like Ferndale has seen before.

The concept has come together in the four weeks since Diablo's closed. Brian Kramer, owner of Rosie O'Grady's and Cantina Diablo's, had grown frustrated with Diablo's since opening another location in downtown Royal Oak, so when general manager Beth Hussey made him an offer, he let her make the place her own. Hussey now shares ownership of One-Eyed Betty's with Kramer, but the concept, menu, beer selection and operations are all her creations.

The first thing Hussey did was get rid of the booths and the fiery décor “to give the place an open feel,” according to the

restaurant manager. The walls are now dark and cool, with the large back wall being a mural in progress. This alone is a feature worthy of its own story.

From floor to ceiling, the 17-by-12 foot paint-by-numbers-style mural will be put together piece-by-piece by patrons of the pub, using multi-colored bottle caps. The mural, and much of the beer bar's interior, is the creation of Hazel Park-based sculptor and architectural fabrication specialist Richard Gage and local artist Clinton Snider.

Gage pulled together many of One-Eyed Betty's features, including the sturdy black tables and booths, the upside down pinball machine, the large chalkboards, the unique signage and, of course, the mural. Snider is the artist behind the box-themed art found installed throughout the rugged yet cozy space. There are 18 pieces in total, which were all part of a large exhibit, called Relics, that was installed at the DIA in 2001. The boxed art is made up of relics from around the city of Detroit. Hanging on the walls of One-Eyed Betty's, they add to

the character of the establishment.

And speaking of character, some might wonder if Hussey is the inspiration for the beer bar's name and quirky-looking mascot. “Not really,” Hussey says. “Her name is Betty and mine is Beth, so I suppose it's kind of close. I came up with the idea to make it named after this character so people can kind of make up their own stories about who she is.”

The logo was designed by Ferndale-based graphic designer Christopher Gorski of Detroit GT, and Hussey said she's partnering with 8 Degrees Plato as well to make sure the new craft beer store will have the same fine beers that can be had at One-Eyed Betty's. “It's important that we work with other local businesses,” Hussey says. She's taken care to make sure that 22 of the 44 beers available are Michigan-brewed. The bread is also made nearby, by Avalon Bakery.

Then there are the oysters: brought in fresh every day, served several different ways and competitively priced, Hussey

See One-Eyed Betty's, page 25



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► **One-Eyed Betty's**

Continued from p. 22

says they are the perfect accompaniment to beer. There are also other spicy and sweet selections to complement the beer, including bacon with a side of bacon and a blend of sausages and peppers called the Sweaty Betty.

“We’ve got a lot of food that traditionally goes well with beer, or food that is made with beer,” she says. “Oysters really help bring out the taste of the beer, and they are fun to eat. People can sit around, sipping their beer and slurping oysters, and it’s a good time for everyone.”

The beer is Hussey’s favorite part, and the focal point of One-Eyed Betty’s. Hussey grew up in Clarkston where her family owned a restaurant. She also has managed restaurants most of her life. After working in Grand Rapids for a craft beer establishment, she is convinced of the importance of a good craft beer selection. “Craft beer is huge on the west side of the state,” she said. “Michigan is fifth in consumption of craft beer, but Oakland County is really lacking in places that cater to it. I hope people will come here and gain an appreciation.”

All the unique features combine to make One-Eyed Betty’s more than just another bar. “We wanted to create things that get people talking,” says Gage. “There really is no story behind One-Eyed Betty’s,



just all these little details that hint that a story may be there. What kind of person is One-Eyed Betty?”

Hussey herself is a pure Ferndale fit. She’s lived in Ferndale for the past 18 years, and for the past 15 she’s been joined with her partner Jennette Breault, who also works in the restaurant business. Though Breault has been “the first lady” of the restoration of the building and one of the tasters of new menu items, Breault will soon be back, busy helping Kramer open

a rooftop restaurant in Royal Oak, leaving Hussey and her staff to keep the Ferndale customers happy.

“She was running a restaurant in Detroit and I was a server there – that’s how we met,” Breault says. “More than anything I am so proud of her. She’s got something special.”

For more information, visit www.oneeyedbettys.com.

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Kelby in "Bully." Photo: The Weinstein Co.

'Bully': an important movie with a message

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Call-to-action documentary "Bully" opens with what has become, sadly, a pretty common occurrence: a kid reaches his breaking-point after relentless persecution at school, his father trying to keep it together for the camera as he retells his son's suicide story.

The controversially R-rated film – unreasonably set by the out-of-touch MPAA for its six uses of the "f" word before The Weinstein Co. decided last-minute on an "unrated" release – is an upsetting, often disturbing, look at the harsh realities of being a kid.

One snippet early on is especially unshakeable: an administrator asks a young boy, no older than 6 or 7, how he feels when a bully calls him a "faggot." Holding back tears, he meekly responds: "It breaks my heart."

The film will, too.

A poignantly told work from The Weinstein Co., the frank eye-opener – directed by Lee Hirsch, whose resume includes the 2002 docu-film "Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony," about the role of music in the South African struggle against apartheid, and directing Black Eyed Peas and John Legend videos – is essentially an expertly done PSA that tugs hard at the heartstrings with its unsettling glimpses into five victimized teens and their families during a single school year.

Twelve-year-old Alex Libby is the film's glue, framing the other vignettes – Kelby Johnson, 16, who's a lesbian living in the Bible Belt; Ja'Meya Jackson, 14, who fights back by bringing a gun to school – with the brutal story of his own bullying encounters: sat on, stabbed and slurred at, the Iowa boy's first year

I felt almost physically sick from watching these innocent kids face senseless abuse – while reliving my own hellish years through theirs – for being different.

in middle school is utter torture. He's a loner and outcast (born 14 weeks premature, he's called "fish face" for the way he looks), and he's also become tragically desensitized to the abuse. And yet, somehow, he still maintains an optimistic disposition.

Kelby isn't so dismissive about the adversity she faces and, as an out lesbian in small-town Oklahoma, plans – with her supportive parents on her side – to change minds. But the bullying just won't let up: taunts force her out of school athletics and she's hit by a minivan.

When the bullying gets to be too much for Ja'Meya, a Mississippi student, she takes action into her own hands one morning, scaring off her tormentors by bringing a loaded gun on the school bus. Charged with multiple felony counts, the incident lands her in juve. Her lash-out is hard to condone, but her sympathetic mother is still very supportive, and it's still easy to empathize with the girl.

And as someone who was on the receiving end of the torment throughout middle school, I felt almost physically sick from watching these innocent kids face senseless abuse – while reliving my own hellish years through theirs –

for being different.

We, of all people, know bullying exists – in fact, the issue only really surfaced after a string of gay kid suicides were initially reported in 2010 (the film was shot the same year). But "Bully" does more than track its obvious existence: It exposes the failings of the school system to protect children and, sad as it is, the helplessness of parents in the matter. Alex's story is infuriating as the asinine, in-denial school administration throws out empty promises and tired kids-will-be-kids excuses, blaming the wrong people and completely disregarding complaints.

Hirsch commendably compiles expansive, real-life footage from a student's life: the rowdy bus ride to school, the lonely lunch room scene, home discussions with the family, town meetings on bullying issues and even some beautiful purely aesthetic clips of the kids outside school, free from the adversity. It's a bittersweet juxtaposition.

Small oversight: "Bully" is missing just that – none of the bullies are profiled as extensively as the *bullied*. If getting down to the problems linked to bullying is part of the film's agenda, shouldn't it be examining the biggest one: the bully itself?

But Hirsch characterizes his subjects well, and he does a wonderfully sensitive, in-depth job of putting a face on the innocent. However bullying has affected you – whether you've been bullied, your kids or friends have, or you were the bully – the film will move you, definitely emotionally but also, hopefully, into action, as it's profoundly effective as a motivational awareness-raiser. It has a simple message we can all stand behind: enough is enough.

"There was something about the landscape of small-town America, the quiet and incredible heroism of the families, that I was really drawn to. There are so few outlets there; in big cities, there's more for kids who don't fit in or are different, so I think bullying in a small town can be more acute. It can be a harder world."

► Bully

Continued from p. 19

I was really drawn to. There are so few outlets there; in big cities, there's more for kids who don't fit in or are different, so I think bullying in a small town can be more acute. It can be a harder world."

Once he had his subjects, shooting was another challenge. Kelby's school, unlike that of Alex, denied them access to film inside the premises. And the scenes involving bird's-eye-views of bus rides and principal office sit-downs were "incredibly difficult" to capture.

One scene, on the bus, involves coarse language that the MPAA deemed too obscene for anything less than a hard R rating. Disappointed that the film's message wouldn't reach those it intended to, the studio fought the decision – with Ann Arbor teen Katy Butler leading a movement that rallied nearly a half-million supporters, including – no kidding – Meryl Streep and Johnny Depp. Just days before its release date, Weinstein Co. decided to go the unrated route, snubbing the MPAA and leaving the decision to screen the film up to individual theaters.

"We were just shocked," Hirsch says of the MPAA's decision. "I guess I wasn't as shocked at the initial R, because technically we knew that might happen, but the appeal was really devastating because we had such a strong, compelling argument and other films had been overturned and had much worse profanity. We really thought they'd understand and recognize the value and the merit and the hope that this film offers to so many."

One of them being Kelby, who's now 19, just got her GED and is living in Oklahoma City – somewhat less close-minded, she mentions – with her girlfriend. Her plan now involves becoming a gay activist and working with LGBT groups, like Do Something, to continue blasting the bullying issue.

"There's always going to be something, but (the bullying) has calmed down a little bit for me after the film," she says, "and there are a lot of things I can brush off now. The film has helped me grow stronger and be more aware of others around me. It's definitely been a positive experience, and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life."



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'Dead and Buried' but not forgotten

BY JOHN QUINN

Metaphorically speaking, we all go through life wearing different hats. I, for instance, am better known as a habitual barfly than I am as a critical gadfly. It's always a pleasure when going to the theater to find artists competent in many different disciplines. So consider one Harry Wetzel, who, early in his career, was the "go-to" actor for comedy in this burg. Lately, we've enjoyed his talents as scenic artist and production manager at the Detroit Repertory Theatre, where this season he knocked out a simple and functional set for "Engagement Rules," followed by an "order out of chaos" approach for "Burying the Bones." Oh, he also directs. The world premiere of James McLindon's "Dead and Buried" is the Rep's current offering, and it has Wetzel's fingerprints all over it. That's a good thing.

"Dead and Buried" is a quirky play, and not just because it's set in a cemetery. Part comedy, part drama, part mystery, it features three fresh, engaging characters but a rather thin plot. "Predictable" is the wrong word, but a savvy audience can stay one step ahead of the playwright. There are a lot of insightful passages on the nature of death and dying, but it takes interesting actors to play them properly. Fortunately, director and cast have richly filled out the characters.

Bid is the manager of an old cemetery

REVIEW

Dead and Buried

Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through May 20; no performances April 8. 115 minutes. \$17-20. 313-868-1347.
www.detroitreptheatre.com

somewhere in New England. She has a unique past; an ex-leatherneck, she served in a Mortuary Affairs Unit, searching the war zone for the shredded remains of combat troopers. Her horrific experiences, trying to prepare remains for proper burial, have given Bid an unusual sensitivity to the needs of those left behind. She hires 18-year-old Perdue, a woman with a hidden agenda. For Robbie, Bid's other employee, an introduction to Perdue is lust at first sight. A common theme of loss unites the characters, but the parallels between Bid and Perdue are quite strong. Each seeks closure; each tries a different route. One woman is successful; one woman will find the courage to continue.

Another multiple hat-wearer, Charlotte Leisinger takes the role of crusty Bid. She is back on the stage after directing the beautifully rendered "Looking for the Pony" for the Rep last season. Another "Pony" alum, Lulu Dahl, plays Perdue. Their performances are solid and their chemistry



Charlotte Leisinger, Benjamin Williams and Lulu Dahl in "Dead and Buried" at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Photo: Bruce Millan

is spot-on. But it's Benjamin J. Williams job to portray what might be the playwright's favorite character, Robbie. He has the bulk of the funny lines and takes the edge off the "grave" plot. Williams doesn't miss a beat.

There is one problem – opening night had a very sizeable audience. That may have changed the acoustics in the theater from what was experienced in rehearsal, because a few words and lines were inaudible.

When (not if) you see "Dead and Buried," pay attention to the incidental music. There's an impish ear at work in these choices, whether it belongs to sound designer Burr Huntington, director Harry Wetzel or a happy collaboration (two ears are better than one!). Edvard Grieg seems a natural choice, but I don't know how long it's been since I've heard P.D.Q. Bach!

Plowing ahead, speedily, at The Ringwald

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

There's a Starbucks cup on Bobby Gould's desk, which seems appropriate given that "Speed-the-Plow" is set in Hollywood, a place that's all about stars and bucks. At least it's that way in the Hollywood David Mamet satirizes in this dark comedy from 1988.

Rife with Mamet's characteristic ping-pong dialogue ("Or..." "Yeah..." "Or..." "Yeah..."), "Speed-the-Plow" takes its name from an old phrase suggesting the need to work rapidly, and time is certainly of the essence here. Director Joe Bailey never loses sight of that in an intense and swiftly-moving intermission-free production at the Ringwald Theatre.

As the play begins Gould is still getting used to being named head of production at a movie studio when friend and associate Charlie Fox rushes in with a big announcement: Doug Brown, who is either the Meryl Streep or James Cameron of Mamet's imagined world (he never identifies Brown as either actor or director), is eager to film a script Gould and Fox have.

But there's a catch. Brown (never seen onstage) has given them just 24 hours to get the studio head's OK and the studio head won't be back until tomorrow. And the script, though a surefire moneymaker, is a cliché-ridden prison movie.

And there's a complication: Gould's new young secretary, Karen. To put the moves

REVIEW

Speed-the-Plow

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through April 23. 90 minutes. \$10-20. 248-545-5545.
www.TheRingwald.com

on Karen and make her feel important, Gould gives her another script to evaluate, an arty, poetic thing about the end of the world.

Here's where the gang at the Ringwald Theatre make things even more interesting. In Joe Bailey's production, Bobby and Charlie are women. Ringwald veteran Jamie Warrow plays Bobby, the role originated on Broadway by Joe Mantegna; all-over veteran Leah Smith plays Charlie, the role originated by Ron Silver. Karen remains female, played by relative newcomer Kelly Rossi in the role Madonna originated.

The question you ask yourself – all right, I ask myself – about choices like these isn't why do it, but why not? Why not be adventurous, try something different and discover new things about an established play. (Don't try this with "Waiting for Godot." The Beckett estate will be on you like a cop at a speed trap and shut you down in rehearsal.)

Having Bobby and Charlie as women adds layers to their relationship, complicates how they relate to Karen and gets an audience thinking about what such



Kelly Rossi, Jamie Warrow and Leah Smith in David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow" at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre. Photo by Colleen Scribner.

women have had to do to get this far in a predominantly male world.

With the excitement of the perennial minor leaguer finally getting a shot at the big show, Smith is a bundle of random energy, wired but not quite haywire as she bounces around the office. Warrow, beneath her calm executive-like exterior, betrays the unease of the newly elevated. Rossi plays her character's dewy-eyed faux naivete and underlying ambition with equal conviction.

The production slows down only for scene changes. They would be less of a speed bump if the vases and knickknacks were glued or otherwise anchored to the surfaces.

For an added element, occasionally check out each woman's feet. Bailey doesn't just direct actors from the waist up. This is one of the benefits of seeing live theater. In the movies they'd just zoom in on the faces.

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Editor's Picks

Outings



President Elect of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, Dr. Henry Ng, presents a lecture titled "Caring for LGBT Communities – Lessons Learned" April 6 at Michigan State University.

Dr. Henry Ng is an MSU alum who has gone on to become a leading national expert on health disparities. Dr. Ng's passion is to improve access and provide culturally effective primary care to special needs populations. He helped develop and currently serves as the Clinical Director of the PRIDE Clinic, Ohio's only medical home for LGBT patients.

Dr. Ng will share how his life and experiences at MSU have propelled his career. The session is open to all and exceptionally helpful to anyone interested in human services professions such as social work, child development and advocacy, psychology, public policy, law, medicine and nursing.

This lecture begins at 1:30 p.m. April 6 in Room 134 of Brody Hall at Michigan State University in East Lansing. For more information, search the MSU website for "Caring for LGBT Communities – Lessons Learned" or e-mail Linleybr@msu.edu.

Theater

The Bonstelle Theatre concludes its 61st season with the musical "Hairspray," opening Friday, April 13.

Winner of eight Tony Awards, "Hairspray" follows pleasantly plump teen Tracy Turnblad, who has only one desire – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show" – and she does! Triumphant Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star,

but she must use her newfound power to vanquish the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin and racially integrate a TV network – all without denting her 'do. The story focuses on being a teenager, being yourself and what happens when old traditions come up against new ideas.

This musical celebration of dance and diversity plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. for two weekends only, through April 22. Tickets are \$20-\$25 and are available by calling the Bonstelle Theatre Box Office at 313-577-2960. The Bonstelle Theatre is located at 3424 Woodward Avenue, Detroit.



OUTINGS

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. Umd.Umich.edu

Electronic Thursdays with DJ Lena 10 p.m. Gay night at Shelby's, a neighborhood bar with a history of being a Disco Bar in the 70s and 80s. Join DJ Lena and "invoke the spirits of boogie and down!" No cover. Shelby's, 15301 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn. July 26. 313-846-9388. Djsirlena.com/edm

GLBT Professionals Network Happy Hour 6 p.m. Socialize and beverages with other GLBT & 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. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

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

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

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Women only euchre at Affirmations. Please arrive early to register. No need to bring a partner to play. Meet new friends while having fun. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Lsbndanii@aol.com GoAffirmations.org

The D-Funk Allstars vs. The Grand Prix Madonnas 7 p.m. See Detroit Derby Girls home teams The D-Funk Allstars and the Grand Prix Madonnas face off. Tickets: \$15, up to two children under 12 admitted free with each adult admission. The Detroit Derby Girls, 500

Temple St., Detroit. 313-832-7100. Events@detroitderbygirls.com Brownpapertickets.com/event/221146

Trashy LGBT Romance Novels Discussion 11 p.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. Vacaafank@gmail.com Facebook.com/TheClosetLgbtBookClub

Sunday, April 8

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

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

Tuesday, April 10

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

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

Wednesday, April 11

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, April 12

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

Meet 'n' Greet 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 290 West Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Det20somethings@gmail.com The20somethings.org

Friday, April 13

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

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

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

SingAlong Game Night 8 p.m. Little Shop of Horrors, board games and entertainment. Dessert and other nonalcoholic refreshments served. Bring a dessert to share. Volunteer Leadership Committee, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Jffryoliver@yahoo.com GoAffirmations.org

Saturday, April 14

Living Recovery in an Addictive World 7:30 a.m. Speakers: Terrence Shulman will present on understanding our relationship to money and things. Helen Lombardo will be presenting on communication and conflict resolutions skills. Steven Fischer will present on nutrition and meditation as essential aspects of recovery. Registration: \$15. The Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft, Spending and Hoarding, 540 W. Lewiston, Ferndale. 248-358-8508. TerrenceShulman@theshulmancenter.com TheShulmancenter.com

Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. E-mail info@sistrum.org for tickets. A fundraiser for the LGBT Lansing Women's Chorus. Sistrum, 5330 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing. Info@sistrum.org sistrum.org

Crossroads 6 p.m. Southeast Michigan's oldest and largest transgender support/social group will hold its monthly gathering. Guest speaker, Dr. Sandra Samons, is a counselor and author of When the Opposite Sex Isn't. Her topic for the night will be based on her book and on, "Building Your Own Prison." \$5 meeting fee. Crossroads, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-738-4660. CrossroadsMi.com

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

Sunday, April 15

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

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2 p.m. PFLAG offers support, education and advocacy for equality.

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

PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, Saginaw. 989-941-1458. Pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

Sabotaging Democracy: Roadblocks to Political Engagement in Communities of Color 2 p.m. ACLU of Michigan Racial Justice Project Staff Attorney Mark Fancher and Legislative Director Shelli Weisberg discuss how poll taxes and literacy tests have given way to more modern voter suppression tactics packaged as voter ID laws. ACLU of Michigan Oakland Branch, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 313-578-6800. Aclumich.org

Conversation Station 6 p.m. LGBTQI and allies, 25 and over. Join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. This week's topic: If you could go back in time and talk to yourself at age 16, what would you say? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

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

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Piano Man: The Music of Billy Joel" Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. April 14. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. Lansingsymphony.org

Olympia Entertainment Charlie Wilson, Grammy nominated and Soul Train Award icon, will return to Detroit's historic Fox Theatre to celebrate an "Easter Spectacular" with special guests Kelly Price and Kindred the Family Soul. Tickets: \$70-100. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. April 8. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Rodrigo Y. Gabriela and C.U.B.A." Rodrigo y Gabriela, also known as "El Rodri y La Gabi", are a Mexican musical duo who specialize in playing fast, rhythmic acoustic guitars. The duo's members are Rodrigo Sanchez, lead guitar, and Gabriela Quintero, rhythm guitar and percussion. Tickets: \$35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. April 14. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

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 Ark "Galant, tu perds ton temps" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 12. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

The Palace Bruce Springsteen, performing with the E Street Band. Tickets: \$35-95. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. April 12. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

University Musical Society "St. Lawrence String Quartet" Haydn returns to the program for this appearance, which is bookended with the composer's quartets. In between, the ensemble performs a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, the Argentinean composer who has worked with the SLSQ since the early 1990s. Tickets: \$22-46. Rackham Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 5. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Brighton Beach Memoirs \$22+. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 6-21. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

The Cotton Patch Gospel \$15-22. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. April 6-15. 517-264-SHOW. Crosswell.org

The Late Christopher Bean Free; donations accepted. Center Stage Jackson at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 Fourth St., Jackson. 2 p.m. April 7. 517-788-2320. centerstagejackson.org

Titanic-The Musical \$30. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. April 13-May 6. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

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

Guys and Dolls \$9-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre, 103 Quirk, Ypsilanti. April 13-21. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

Hairspray \$12-15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 13-22. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

Hairspray \$5-20. Western Michigan University Department of Theatre at Shaw Theatre, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. April 12-21. 269-387-3227. wmutheatre.com

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

Tony n Tina's Wedding \$45. The University Theatre at Cityscape, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, #102, Kalamazoo. Through April 15. 269-387-6222. wmutheater.com

PROFESSIONAL

Dead and Buried \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through 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

Disney's Beauty and the Beast \$32+. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 10-22. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

Divas Nation...Where Music, Laughter and Girlfriends Reign \$42-52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. April 14. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

Fiction \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through April 15. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

God of Carnage \$23-27. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 13-29. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

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

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl \$10. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. April 10-11. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

M-5 \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through April 14. 313-365-

4948. planetant.com

Major Barbara \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 6-May 5. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

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

Red Green \$45.50. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 7 p.m. April 13. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

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

Romeo and Juliet \$10-15. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave., Grand Rapids. April 12-22. DogStoryTheater.com

Speed-the-Plow \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 23. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

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

Spring Awakening \$15. The AKT Theatre Project at The Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut Road, Wyandotte. April 13-April 28. 734-258-8370. AKTtheatre.com

The Official Blues Brothers Revue \$19+. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. April 12. 810-237-8689. TheWhiting.com

The Pearl Fishers \$29-121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. April 14-22. 313-237-SING. MichiganOpera.org

The Usual: A Musical Love Story \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through April 22. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

White Buffalo \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through June 2. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "the PRINT" The Ann Arbor Art Center's annual exhibition the Print invites artists to showcase experimental print techniques encompassing those of contemporary standards as well as those of time honored tradition. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 1-June 10. 734-995-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

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

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 "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. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 10-April 29. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

NorthStar Center "Heywood's Photographs of Hate" The Northstar Center in East Lansing will feature the photographs of Michigan journalist and frequent Between The Lines contributor Todd A. Heywood. Heywood's photo were taken over the course of the last decade and document a variety of hate groups and hate ideologies: including Neo-Nazis in Jackson, the Koran burning Florida pastor Terry Jones, and anti-gay activists. NorthStar Center, 106 Lathrop St., East Lansing. April 2-April 30. 517-371-2001. Northstarcenter.net

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

The Scarab Club "Myth, Controversy, and Modern Art: Reconsidering the 1913 Armory Show" Kimberly Orcutt, Curator of American Art at the New-York Historical Society as discusses the 1913 Armory Show. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6 p.m. April 11. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.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 "Haroon Mirza" In his work Mirza explores and attempts to restore the relationships humans have with sound that occur through objects, actions, and forces, relationships largely screened behind the black boxes of electronic keyboards, digital music players, TV monitors, and the bits of information they play. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. March 4-July 22. 734-647-0524. Umma.umich.edu


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



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www.coop-tax.com

8252 E. Twelve Mile Rd.
Warren, MI 48093
Phone: (586) 573-7250
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Between THE Lines™

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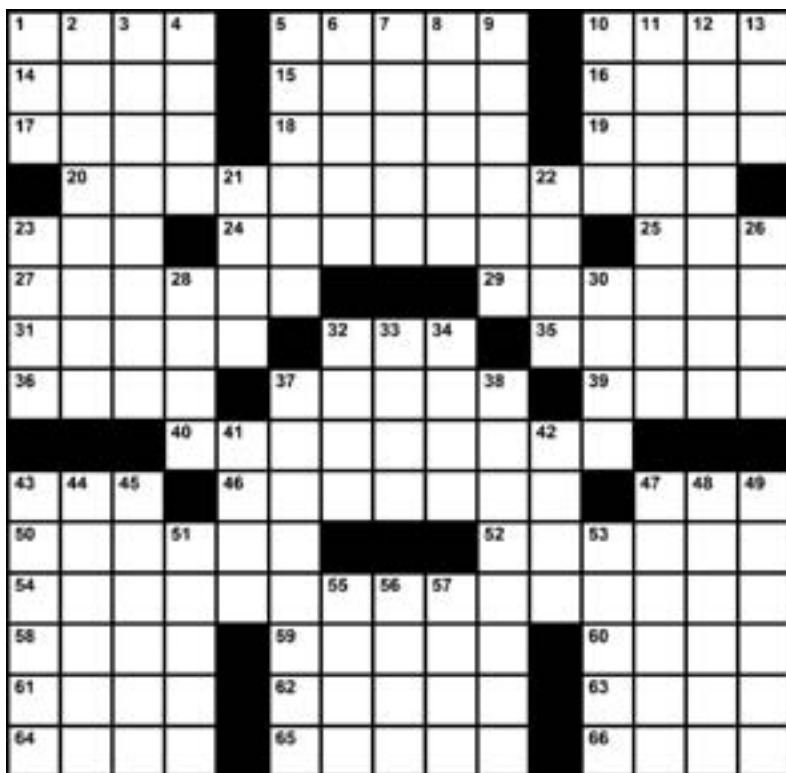
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Not Quite Urbane



Across

- 1 Lesbos, e.g.
- 5 Places for tools
- 10 Todd Oldham designs
- 14 Broadway light
- 15 Lily Tomlin, for one
- 16 Sitcom radio station
- 17 Good at evasion
- 18 Shelley Duvall role in "Popeye"
- 19 "Now ___ me down to sleep ..."
- 20 LGBT group at 40-Across
- 23 "His Master's Voice" label
- 24 Adventure without a Trojan?
- 25 Show-off on the stage
- 27 Women who don't sleep with men wear them
- 29 Frida Kahlo's woman
- 31 Give a piece of one's mind
- 32 Kiss of life
- 35 Edna and others
- 36 Tickle pink
- 37 Gay guy, in slang
- 39 Nannies' cries
- 40 Where Urban Meyers coaches football
- 43 Sonny, to Chaz
- 46 Broadway Annie, and others
- 47 Scandalous suffix

- 50 Gertrude Stein, e.g.
- 52 Get closer to
- 54 Punishment used by Meyers which he changed because of LGBT protest
- 58 Dangerous sprayers
- 59 Poseidon's place
- 60 Where a cobbler puts the tongue
- 61 Result of getting rear-ended
- 62 1814 treaty site
- 63 San Francisco's Nob ___
- 64 Slight advantage
- 65 Loafer bottoms
- 66 JFK predictions

Down

- 1 Disney's "Monsters, ___"
- 2 Edward Albee Pulitzer Prize work
- 3 Republican erection?
- 4 "Lord of the Rings" singer
- 5 Dresses down
- 6 Like old socks, maybe
- 7 What a guy does nocturnally
- 8 Temperamental types
- 9 Public outbursts
- 10 Tiny stick
- 11 Word sung with a long O?
- 12 Uncertain subject

- 13 Undercover agent
- 21 Dull routine
- 22 Imitated Eminem
- 23 Greek P's
- 26 Worship service, for Malcolm Boyd
- 28 Prefix with China
- 30 Dick, for one
- 32 Jockey's prod
- 33 Door instruction
- 34 First name among lesbian writers
- 37 Dalmatians, often
- 38 Guys at South Beach?
- 41 One to blow on
- 42 Old head
- 43 Trick
- 44 Blown away
- 45 Greg Louganis specialty
- 47 Kind of wonder
- 48 Chicago university
- 49 Photog Adams and namesakes
- 51 Beau chaser
- 53 Question about a cross-dresser, perhaps
- 55 Canyon comeback
- 56 Stagger from a Cukor film?
- 57 Social activist Addams

Solution on page 34



Say hello to Helen!

A face that launched a thousand ships! This lovely 5-year-old shorthaired cat has a calico tiger coat with white whiskers and a peach-colored nose. At 11 pounds, she's just the right size to snuggle with on those warm summer nights! Come meet this friendly and affectionate gal today! The adoption fee includes microchipping, sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more!



For more information, please visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 708557. Photo courtesy Michigan Humane Society.



Pet of the Week made possible by
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital
 3800 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-832-7282
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Horoscopes

Take initiative, Sagittarius!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus entering Gemini boosts charm and facilitates communications, but hard aspects to Sun, Neptune and Mars can make her too eager, egotistical and assertive. Real help and empathy require slowing down and paying attention! Fix existing messes before forging ahead.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Slow down and breathe. Worry and trying too hard only help mishaps pile into catastrophes. Take it easy and double check everything. Ask those who rush you, “Do you want it done fast or done right?”

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Feeling fun and flirty is great, but don't let that exuberance eat a hole in your wallet! Dream about being rich and stay mindful of the economies needed to get you there.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): With your ruler Mercury turning direct, start cleaning up the problems you've been tripping over. Don't be distracted by fun, frolic and other good f-words. Focus! You need to get work back on track. Fun times will come soon enough.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): The real world is getting strenuous and the comforts of home beckon. Recharging your batteries is essential, but don't make that an excuse for hiding from responsibilities. Knowing the difference will just spoil it for you.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Charity and support should be offered for their own sake. If your ego is involved people will notice that more than any kindness. Sloppy, romantic idealism can interfere with your logic, but broaden your appreciation for the arts.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22): Start cleaning up problems in relationships. List all the mistakes, misunderstandings and miscommunications of the last three weeks and make whatever corrections and apologies you can. Don't sign any contracts or make commitments yet. Get everything in order first.

LIBRA (September 23–October 22): Your mind is hungry for new ideas the way a kid is hungry for junk food. Go ahead: indulge in cheap sentiment, nostalgia and sodden clichés. That could open

your sympathies to others. Real intellectual stimulation can wait.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your frustration with co-workers is likely to boil over. Compensating by being too nice, trying to be popular rather than effective, will backfire horribly. A frank exchange of ideas may be rough, but helpful. Let someone else take charge of that.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): In a strong position to change your key relationships, you can be a healer in your home and/or community. Empathy is the key. It's necessary, but not enough to listen and let others do the talking. Take initiative and work!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Even if some moms are psycho bitches from hell, yours probably only punished you to help you be a better person. Those hard childhood lessons can prove helpful now at work even if by negative example. Or maybe the real work is forgiving your parents.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Who are your real friends? What relationships are you nurturing? Be careful not to spend too much time just having fun with people who won't be there when the chips are down. Times are tough. You need a posse you can count on.

PISCES (February 19–March 19): Mercury turning direct helps you to clean up recent snafus, but don't get too cocky! Not everyone shares your priorities, and your eagerness to fix things can create more problems than it will solve. Slow down and listen!

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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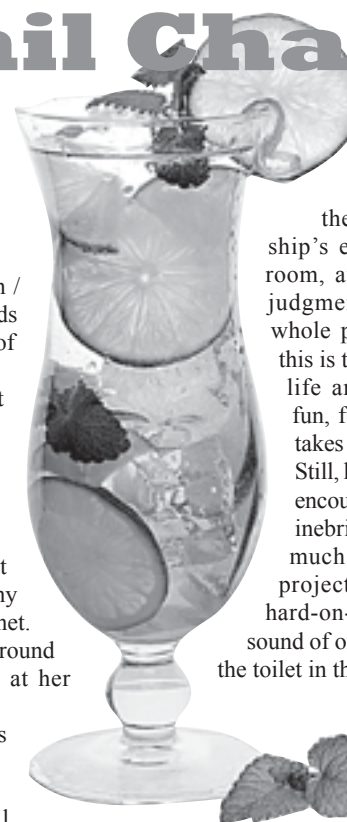
BY ED SIKOV

"We're in the port of Old San Juan / We have a boat we can sleep on / Hundreds of drag queens in full bloom / Hundreds of fat men in steam room!"

My singing drives Dan nuts. I don't know why. Just because I can't hit the notes.... But for once I got a laugh. The *Neue Weimar*, the VSOP Caribbean cruise ship we'd taken as our belated honeymoon, had a spa, and we found that the "spa" area was – how shall I put it? – heavily populated. There were many men, a lot of them shaped like our planet. They could no more wrap a bath towel around their waists than could Kirstie Alley at her greatest tonnage.

Spending a week with 2,000 men is an anthropological experience: the size of a flaccid dick varies greatly among the general population and crosses all boundaries of race, ethnicity, age, girth and intelligence. We required a lot of thermal therapy; the hot tub became our second home aboard the *Neue Weimar*. At one point, a strapping young stud appeared at the hot tub's entrance; all eyes turned as he strode to the towel rack and whipped off his towel. There were murmurs of appreciation at his godlike ass but an audible groan of disappointment at the sight of his Midget League meat. Moments later, a stooped old man tottered in and nobody gave him a second look until he was halfway down the steps into the tub, at which point the crowd suddenly gasped at his absolutely mammoth shlong – proof that one should never judge a cock by its cover.

Even I was amazed by the alcohol consumption on the cruise. Every hour was happy hour, except that all the drinks were full price. The *Neue Weimar* had at least 15 bars, and most were busy all day. We were waking up over our granola at 8 a.m. when Dan's jaw dropped at the sight of something over my shoulder; I turned around and saw a Bloody Mary cart being wheeled toward us. Some guys were tanked by noon, passed out by 2, back at it at 5, flying high through dinner,



still drinking at 10, 11, and 12, and staggering around the open top deck, the ship's equivalent of a back room, at 3. I'm not passing judgment, believe me. The whole point of a cruise like this is to ditch your everyday life and have nothing but fun, fun, fun till your bank takes your credit card away. Still, having had my share of encounters with the severely inebriated, I must warn: too much alcohol thwarts the project. And nothing is as hard-on-dampening than the sound of one's trick heaving into the toilet in the next room.

Which is not the proper way to launch into this week's recipe, but a slap in the

face is an effective rhetorical device. Our cocktail this week is Caribbean: the mojito. A Cuban drink, the mojito is made of rum, mint, a bit of lime juice and simple syrup – rather like a mint julep, only with rum instead of bourbon. But I've adapted it. Like mint juleps, traditional mojitos are easy to make if you have slaves to make them for you. This one's easy for everyone.

El Nuevo Mojito

Put fresh, washed mint leaves into a shaker with ice, and add a few drops of simple syrup and a few drops of lime juice. Pour in as much rum as you like; any type will do, since the mint and lime will overpower the rum's subtleties. Shake hard and serve over ice. (Notes: 1) Most recipes call for muddling the mint with a muddler or a fork. I say phooey. It's a waste of energy, and the result is that you'll end up with bits of mint stuck to your teeth. 2) If you use the repulsive Captain Gorgon's spiced rum – the "spice" is obviously arsenic – I've got a voodoo doll with your name on it.)

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Solution to puzzle from page 32

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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.

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

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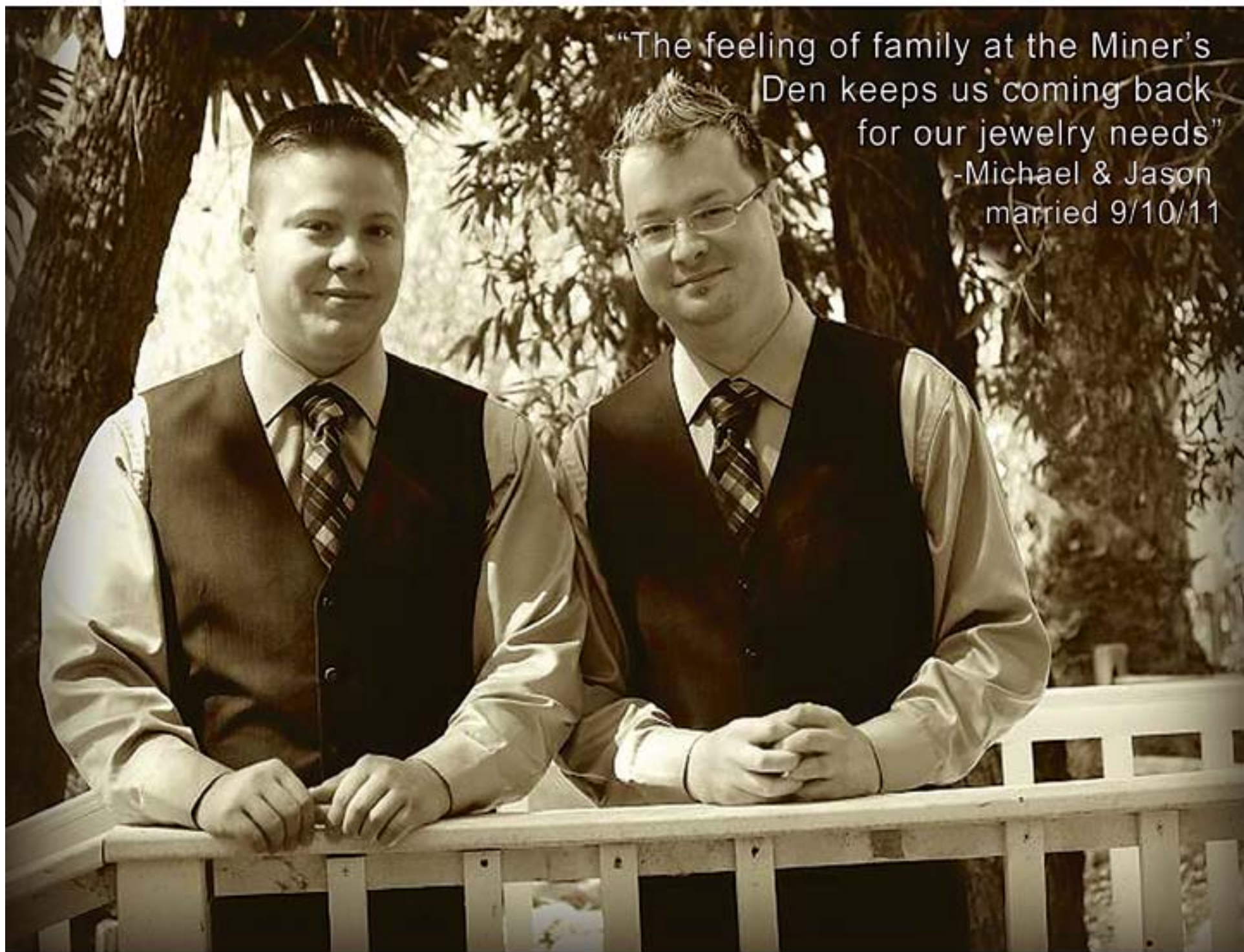
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