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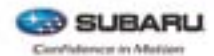
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Cover artist

Heather Hansma is an illustrator and lowbrow gallery artist based out of the Detroit area. She is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies. You can generally find her Puff Bun™ characters participating in some form of pop culture parody. You can see more of her Puff Buns and other work at hansmaillustration.com.

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From bullied youth to national heroine

Michigan's Katy Butler proves one dedicated person can make huge change

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As a victim of bullying, Katy Butler was used to people telling her "It gets better." Her response to them was "It can't get better if you don't make it better." And while she may be three months too young to vote, she's not too young to use her voice to mobilize hundreds of thousands in an effort to create change. The openly lesbian 17-year-old has been called a "hero" and a "teen crusader" for the work she has done as an anti-bullying advocate.

Butler's journey began in November 2011 when she and her friend Carson Borbely started an online petition urging the Michigan legislature to stop the dangerous "license to bully" bill that would have created religious and moral exemptions from bullying. Determined to change the offensive language and improve the wording in the bill, Butler and the Riot Youth kids out of Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor joined Equality Michigan Policy Director Emily Dievendorf in lobbying legislators to add enumeration to the weaker version of the bill.

Within just a few weeks of the campaign launch for a comprehensive anti-bullying bill, more than 50,000 supporters came together on Change.org, the world's fastest growing platform for social change. "The public already knew that advocates and students wanted a strong bill because the Riot Youth had been doing all the hard work. In legislators hands was a downright destructive bill. Suddenly the nation was watching and the weaker version of the bill looked pretty good to legislators compared to the "license to bully" and the less offensive bill passed with bipartisan support," said Dievendorf, adding that Michigan schools are now required to have anti-bullying policies on file by June 6.

"That success came in great part because Katy and her friends were willing to tell their stories on the Capitol lawn in the pouring rain, pull Senators out of the Senate chambers to tell them they weren't fighting hard enough for the students most affected, and argue the value of enumeration to legislators during office visits... even getting kicked out of an office for pointing out the weakness of the unenumerated bill," said Dievendorf. "Katy and her friends showed great courage by telling powerful people their horror stories. Doors were opened by their voices that I can't get into because their stories from their mouths are more powerful than any statistic I can present."

Butler's story has affected many, but she said there is nothing unique about it and students all across Michigan have stories just like hers. She has made it her mission to speak out on their behalf, which is not something she used to do as she struggled alone in Plymouth Canton Middle School.

"Looking back, the climate was different.



Katy Butler and her dog Jack hangout in her rainbow filled bedroom. Katy says, "It can't get better if you don't make it better." She started an online petition at Change.com twice, creating tremendous change in the process. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

I remember things now that my friends would say and they were horrible. We would talk about people getting their ears pierced and my friends would say 'left is right and right is wrong because right is gay.' I never made the connection that that meant gay was wrong until recently. It was little things like that," said Butler, who is isolated from people in her hometown of Plymouth where she lives with her mom, Anne, her dad Michael, her younger sister Kelly, and their family dog Jack, a seven-and-a-half-year-old Cairn Terrier. "I don't talk to anyone here. My experiences in middle school are enough to make me not want to."

"I knew there was stuff going on and that Katy was really miserable and unhappy," said Butler's mom, a pediatrician at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital. "I went to her school at one point and met with her counselor wondering what can I possibly do to help her and to find out what's going on. Her counselor made the issue about Katy and asked me what she can do to make Katy be friends with the person who was

bullying her. The school was unresponsive and actually particularly clueless."

Butler's painful memories are the reason she connected to a trailer from the film "Bully" and started another online petition in February 2012. She read a news story about the Motion Picture Association of America's rating of the film and wanted to change it from "R" to "PG-13" for the kids that really need to see it.

"When we had about 150,000 to 200,000 signatures, people really started to notice that there is something going on," said Butler. "It was crazy." Director Lee Hirsch and The Weinstein Company announced that the documentary would receive the rating change from the MPAA after more than 500,000 people, including 35 members of Congress and several celebrities, joined the campaign on Change.org.

All the while, Butler was creating a following in the local and national press. Her accomplishments and growing popularity took her to places like New York, Los Angeles, and

Washington D.C. where she sat down to talk with Representative Mike Honda, Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

"It was really great and really exciting to have them tell me that I was doing such a great job," said Butler. "Now they have an anti-bullying caucus going on to create a national anti-bullying law that they want me to come and speak about and help them with this summer." According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Honda is currently building membership for a bipartisan Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus to be launched this June. This new caucus is being established to draw attention to the problem of bullying and harassment in our nation's schools.

Butler has been honored by Oscar-winning producer Harvey Weinstein at the GLAAD Media Awards in March where she received a Special Recognition award. In April, the Gay Men's Chorus of LA presented Butler with

► Katy Butler

Continued from p. 8

the “Emerging Voice Award.” She has appeared on CBS This Morning, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Fox and Friends, and CNN.

“I think we just took it in stride,” said Butler’s mom. “I still yell at her for keeping her room sloppy.” And Butler agrees that nothing has changed – she still loves Tegan and Sara, lives to dress shop, writes poetry, plays acoustic guitar and spends time with her significant other, Sarah Prelipp – there’s just more work to do.

Butler is invited to LA Pride in June to be a guest in the parade and to receive the 2012 Outstanding Youth Leader award, which she thinks is “so awesome” and is “so excited” about. Locally, she will appear at this year’s Motor City Pride festival at Detroit’s Hart Plaza.

“I read about Katy and I was very impressed with her. I instantly had a connection with her. She’s a voice for youth and represents herself professionally. She is the type of young person I’m looking for to go on this journey with me,” said award-winning Birmingham filmmaker and lesbian mom Amy Weber. She chose Butler to be a part of her upcoming film, *The Bully Chronicles*, a movement toward change in the form of a narrative feature film shot in an unscripted documentary style. As a youth producer, Butler will be responsible for everything from casting to developing the story along with Weber, and will play a huge role in getting support on a national scale. “It was very easy for me to involve her among other kids who stand out in their communities and really do try to live their lives like Katy, truthfully, with their hearts wide open,” said Weber.

When asked how she keeps up with her school work, Butler said, “I don’t sleep. It’s OK and it’s worth it. I’ve missed a little bit of school, but my teachers are fantastic and they think this is the coolest thing ever.” Butler is a junior and travels 20 minutes to Ann Arbor to attend Greenhills High School in a safe and welcoming environment. She is an alto singer in her school choir and loves her conceptual photography class where she is able to deliver a message through her photos.

“If anyone ever doubts what a young person is capable of doing ‘to make the world a better place’ - the charge to our students in our school’s mission statement - then one need only look at Katy. What’s most impressive about her is that she’s not only an extraordinary LGBT activist, she’s an extraordinary person who serves as a fine model for everyone,” said Greenhills Head of School Peter Fayroian. “While I do believe that our environment was fertile ground in which Katy could explore these issues with our support and her incredible candor and conviction, I also think we’ve learned a lot from her as well. Essentially,

we are now held to an even higher standard and we know it.”

As the only open LGBT person at her school, fellow students come out to Butler all the time. The school’s Gay Straight Alliance consists of Butler and a few teachers. “We’re trying really hard to get a GSA in the middle school. There is resistance from parents who believe their kids are too young or that if they are exposed to gay things, they will turn gay,” she said. “I think it’s better for them to hear about it from someone who is more experienced and knows what they are talking about rather than from their peers.”

Butler recently received some positive Facebook messages from people she went to middle school with. “They think this is really cool and want to help out,” she said.

Butler’s painful memories are the reason she connected to a trailer from the film “Bully” and started another online petition in February 2012. She read a news story about the Motion Picture Association of America’s rating of the film and wanted to change it from “R” to “PG-13” for the kids that really need to see it.

Unfortunately, Butler’s old counselor is less than supportive though.

“Katy very impressively reached out to her a few months ago to encourage her to go see the movie and perhaps discuss what she can do within the middle school system. Katy said she would love to go and talk to her. The response we got was a simple two words...no thanks,” said Butler’s mom.



Katy Butler and her date, Sarah Prelipp, on their way to prom. Photo courtesy of Katy Butler

That won’t stop her from trying to get into those school systems to continue addressing the issue of bullying. It is also Butler’s dream to achieve marriage equality in all 50 states. “I really want to work to make that happen. It would mean so much to me for me to be able to get married to the woman I fall in love with in my home state with all of my family and friends,” she said. But first, Butler will attend college where she wants to study political science with the hope of establishing a career as a political activist.

“Katy told me early on that she wants my job so, just as I did, she will be starting her political career as a summer intern. Lucky for Katy, she chose a movement that has no shortage of battles to take on and lucky for me I snagged a rock star

intern. I have no doubt that her youthful energy and heart will serve invaluable to efforts toward equality in housing, employment, adoption, and access to health for the gay and transgender community,” said Dievendorf. “Katy is modest and real. I never once had Katy text me to let me know she would soon be on Ellen, or with Anderson Cooper. She reaches out when she needs to feel grounded and when progress seems to be on the horizon because she knows I am happy to talk

to her as a friend and that I will share her excitement. If Katy brags to anyone about all the incredible places she has now seen and people she has met, it hasn’t been to me. Katy is not a boaster or an attention hog. She is an impassioned young activist, down for the cause, who knows that this movement is bigger than her. She is just happy to be a part of it.”

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Writer Desiree Cooper

Desiree Cooper is a lawyer, an award-winning columnist and a former public radio personality. She is currently a new media content specialist who helps non-profits communicate the extraordinary impact they have upon the people they serve.



A columnist with the Detroit Free Press for 11 years, Cooper was nominated for a Pulitzer in 2000 and 2001, for her coverage of the trial of Nathaniel Abraham, an 11-year-old in Pontiac who was tried as an adult for murder.

Cooper has been a frequent commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," the BBC's "Americana," and WNET's "Need to Know."

She has also co-hosted and served as senior correspondent for the American Public Media's "Weekend America."

She is also an award-winning fiction writer. Her short story, "Night Coming," is included in Best African American Fiction 2010, guest edited by Nikki Giovanni. Her novella, "New Birth" was included in *Other People's Skin*, (Atria 2007). Cooper's interest in the human condition was shaped by her childhood as an Air Force dependent. Born in Itazuke, Japan, she spent nine of her formative years living on three different Japanese islands. She also has lived in Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Virginia, Maryland and Michigan.

Cooper graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland in 1981 with a double major in journalism and economics, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Alpha. She obtained her law degree from the University of Virginia in 1984. She and her family reside in suburban Detroit.

Cooper has written all the original profiles for the LGBT Leadership of Color Project.

Feature excerpts at a glance

From closeted activist to Detroit dynamo: Kirsten Ussery

Detroiters Kirsten Ussery is not afraid of a challenge. At 32, she has been a public relations specialist for Yazaki North America, Inc., a tier-one, global, automotive supplier. She has been an account executive with a major public relations firm and led communications strategies for Business Leaders for Michigan, a roundtable of Michigan's top business executives. She directed communications for the Downtown Detroit Partnership, an organization of the city's most influential leaders. Today, she is a media specialist for Charles Pugh, president of the Detroit City Council. In her free time, she is a wife and a community activist.

"People are still afraid about their jobs and their families," she said about the issue of coming out. "We need to help people get out of the closet. We need to grow more leaders — there's a lot of potential out there."



<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=49394>

Leaders of Color Visibility Project partnership in focus

BTL and Model D collaborate, enhance reach

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

An exciting media partnership is bringing the stories of young LGBT leaders of color not only to the state's gay press readership, but to mainstream media and the circle of arts, culture and philanthropy as well. It's Between The Lines first such outreach and it's called The LGBT Leaders of Color Visibility Project.

The 18-month undertaking peaks with a panel discussion on June 6 and culminates with a showcase of photography, stories and video in the Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery at Affirmations in October.

The project is the brainchild of Katie Brisson of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's Hope Fund. Brisson wanted to find ways of educating the public about the Racial Education Initiative through the Fund, and to advance the mission of supporting minority youth. She hopes the project will "expose the larger LGBT community to the growing work and leadership in LGBT organizations of color, provide educational networking opportunities that bridge the leaders and organizations of color with a broader network of leaders, inspire LGBT leaders of color to continue in their individual roles, and to serve as mentors to others and inform LGBT communities of color that these organizations are available to support them."

She brought BTL to the table with Model D, an independent online magazine, in order to tell this part of the story about LGBT people who are changing Detroit. "The idea is to recognize leaders in the African American, Latino and Arab communities, and share their stories broadly," said Jan Stevenson, BTL publisher.

BTL found ten LGBT leaders to profile, and enlisted the help and expertise of Desiree Cooper, herself an accomplished writer and African American role model.

"The LGBT community is vibrant and diverse, but just like society at large, it struggles with the same 'isms' — including sexism and racism," said Cooper. "Too often, LGBT leaders of color are overlooked because of these biases. It has been a pleasure to

be able to bring the lives, experiences and contributions of LGBT leaders of color to the foreground," she said. "People disclosed sexual abuse, child abuse, violence, addictions, HIV status, painful coming out experiences — the whole gamut. I was amazed at the honesty and openness that everyone brought to the process. If the tables

The 18-month undertaking peaks with a panel discussion on June 6 and culminates with a showcase of photography, stories and video in the Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery at Affirmations in October.

were turned, I'm not sure that I could have been so trusting and open. But what really struck me is that, despite the strides we've made with LGBT civil rights, people still go through so much trauma in order to simply be who they are. As a baby boomer, I guess I was hoping that the new generation was much freer to express the range of sexual identities. We still have a long way to go."

Stories reported so far include a young woman who is the press secretary for Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, several individuals who are doing AIDS and HIV prevention and support, the founder of a drag show benefit, a young restaurateur, and a Latino woman whose work includes teaching English in Ecuador and Mexico, advocating for interfaith acceptance, and promoting immigrants' rights.

To go along with the articles, Model D is producing videos about each leader. They're also planning the June 6 event, which will be a panel discussion led by Cooper at The Scarab Club (217 Farnsworth, Detroit) with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and the program starting at 6 p.m. Space is limited, and reservations are accepted online

at www.modeldmedia.com/features/inclusivity512.aspx

The discussion will feature Detroit entrepreneurs and community leaders who are not just talking the talk, but walking the walk to create a more welcoming city for all. There will be young leaders featured in the series as well as more seasoned leaders in the community that youth can look up to and learn from.

Light refreshments will be provided by Detroit Vegan Soul, a new meal delivery and catering company specializing in soul food made from whole food. DVS was started by Kirsten Ussery and Erika Boyd. Ussery was featured in the first installment of the series that began last fall.

In October the event at Affirmations will celebrate the entire collection of stories. "October is Gay and Lesbian History Month, so we thought this would be the perfect way to recognize the people who are making history here, today," said Stevenson. Plans are in the works for how to give this day the most impact, including possible speakers. They hope to showcase the Model D videos as well.

Cooper, who will be facilitating both events, looks forward to sharing the leadership series with the public. Her wish is for every young person to view themselves as a leader. "Leadership is something everyone does every day. Leadership by example, action or service is just as powerful as leadership by acclamation or election. What kind of leadership you exhibit is up to you."

"The Community Foundation saw that BTL and Model D could each bring different strengths and networks to this project," Brisson said. "Working with BTL was ideal, given their extensive reach in the LGBT community. We then decided to ask Model D to become a partner as they provide a creative in-road to larger, mainstream audiences. Also, Model D has a younger, Detroit-focused audience, who are critical to reshaping the vision for the region.

"I think it is telling that one of the leader profiles was the most-read article in Model D one week. Quite a lesson for everyone that it would be a top-read story in a mainstream publication," said Brisson.

June 6

Model D Speaker Series: Inclusivity & Revitalization

DETROIT – Model D has teamed up with The HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, Between The Lines and The Huffington Post on June 6 for a conversation about the importance of inclusivity in urban revitalization.

Moderated by Desiree Cooper, author of our ongoing LGBT Leaders of Color series, the discussion will feature Detroit entrepreneurs and community leaders who are not just talking the talk, but walking the walk to create a more welcoming city for all.

Panelists include Adriel Thornton, Allied Media Projects and Wink Detroit; Elliott Broom, Detroit Institute of Arts; Michael Perkins, WDET and Rachel Lutz, owner of The Peacock Room. Opening remarks will be presented by Mariam Noland, president of CFSEM.

Join us June 6 at the beautiful, historic Scarab Club at 217 Farnsworth Street in Midtown Detroit. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the program begins at 6 p.m. Please register in advance.

Light refreshments will be provided by Detroit Vegan Soul, a new meal delivery and catering company specializing in soul food made from whole food. DVS was started by Kirsten Ussery and Erika Boyd, featured in the first installment of the series.

This program is supported by the Racial Equity Initiative of The HOPE Fund. The Model D Speaker Series is presented by MSHDA.

RSVP: www.modeldmedia.com/features/inclusivity512.aspx

Area activist challenges notions of privilege: Rosemary Linares



Rosemary Linares is a bubbly 29-year-old with a master's degree from New York University, a supportive husband and an adorable stepson. From the outside, it looks like she has it all — including what she calls “heterosexual privilege.”

“I can share in my husband's benefits, I can determine his medical treatment if necessary,” she said. “I can be accepted in circles as an ‘ordinary’ wife and mother.”

What is not so obvious is that Linares is a bisexual Latina. “I'm used to straddling identities,” said Linares, president of Cross Movement Social Justice Consulting, L3C in Ann Arbor. “I identify as Latina because I'm half Cuban, but my heritage is not obvious when you see me. I identify as queer and bi-sexual, but I'm in a

heterosexual marriage. I live between identities.”

“The motto for my alma mater Antioch College is ‘Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity,’” she said. “For me, fighting for social change is a lifetime commitment.”

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=52340>

Social activist challenges groups to create safe spaced for all: Adrienne Maree Brown

“I help social justice groups align themselves with their vision,” said the 33-year-old Detroit resident. “So much is wasted on small, petty things, or harboring bitterness, grief and trauma. I try to exorcise those feelings.”

The work of healing progressive movements requires Brown to be everything from an organizational guru, to a facilitator, networker and life coach. Since her early 20s, she has worked on the ground floor of social movements in order to hone her skills. From 2006 to 2010, she was the executive director of The Ruckus Society, a California-based organization that trains activists in non-violent direct action.

Through her work in Detroit, Brown met Invincible, the Detroit rapper who is now her same-sex partner. “My father used to say that he'd always dream I'd fall for someone like him,” said Brown. “Well, I have.”

In 2010, she was a co-host for the U.S. Social Forum that brought thousands of progressive activists to the city.

“The evolutionary goal is to live openly in all spaces without compromise,” said Brown. “Once you can be open about one thing, you can open the gate to other things. That's how new kinds of families, traditions and ideas can emerge. One of the biggest mistakes we make as a society is trying to pull the conversations apart, as if racism isn't related to sexism which isn't related to homophobia.”

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=50776>

To those who have much, activist finding meaning in giving back: Royale Theus

For Detroit native Royale Theus, now 30, life has been a series of curveballs.

At 18, he was eager to get out into the world and experience life. He worked at FOCUS: Hope and then with the Detroit Health Department doing HIV testing and counseling in a mobile unit. By the age of 25, Theus



was the program director at the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

When he was only 20-years-old, Theus discovered he was going to be a father. It wasn't exactly what he had planned for his future. “I had my son with my best friend,” said Theus, who is gay. “Life happens.”

Then, in 2005, his mother was in a head-on collision when she was driving to church. She survived, but she was diagnosed with dementia and a serious brain injury. So in addition to raising a son, he is the sole caretaker of his 62-year-old mother.

A year ago, his father was incarcerated for a violent crime — at 90 years old. Diagnosed with dementia, his father served time in jail and was released into Theus's custody. Now he is also his dad's legal guardian.

It's a crushing responsibility, but Theus, takes his family demands in stride. “This is what I should be doing and I'm blessed to be able to do it. To those who much is given, much is required.”

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=51566>

Leading by example: Tony Johnson

Johnson, 47, is disabled and lives on a fixed income. In 1993, he discovered that he was HIV-positive, but the virus has been undetectable in his blood since 2004. “I've come to terms with it, but I can't believe that there are still new cases being diagnosed,” he said. “If I can save one person from getting it, it's worth it.”

Johnson not only volunteers with KICK three full days a week, but he also serves at the United Sisters of Charity soup kitchen in Highland Park twice a week. He is also one of the founding members of a support group for HIV-positive veterans.

Johnson said he believes his life purpose is to make life better for others. He regularly shares little gifts with his fellow bus riders, or a joke with the people in the soup line. “At the soup kitchen they say that I'm always so happy,” said Tony. “But you have to laugh to keep from crying. If they had to walk one day in my shoes, I don't think they could handle it.”

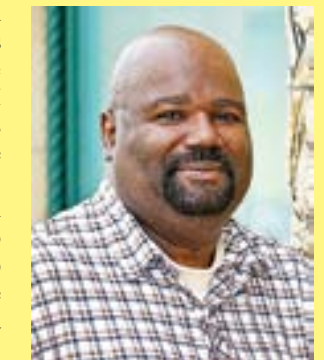
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Trans and triumphant, Local activist leads from the margins: Ryan Oliver

Ryan Oliver, 28, can tell you a thing or two about what it really means to be an African American man. At 28, Oliver's view of manhood has been hard-won. From his youth in a violent Detroit neighborhood, to his isolation as a black college student in a white environment, he has struggled to define himself and his masculinity. It's a challenge that's been even more daunting because Oliver is biologically female.

“I'm committed to there being a more visible trans movement in our society — a more confident movement,” said Oliver, who is now a medical case manager at AIDS Partnership Michigan. “I've grown to learn more about my identity and to be OK with it. I want people to ask me questions and I want people to understand.”

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=49898>



GSA works to change lives in Jackson

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

JACKSON - Some LGBT students at Columbia Central High School in Jackson County have quietly dealt with harassment for most if not all of their high school career. That is starting to change since Dylan Koch, a 16-year-old sophomore, stood up for himself and his fellow LGBT classmates.

Although it took six months to gain approval from administration, Koch started a Gay Straight Alliance in October 2011 with a little help from his mom, Sue Koch, who mailed the school a copy of the Equal Access Act, which protects student groups at federally funded secondary schools from discrimination.

"I never thought the world was so anti-gay. Dylan struggled so much before he told me. This was affecting our family and it was so frustrating to me. Had a GSA been there before, it may have been easier for him. It's really important to have this type of program in our schools," said Koch's mom, vice president of PFLAG Jackson and supervisor for the GSA who provides rides and brings snacks to their weekly meetings. "It doesn't sound very important, but it makes the kids very happy."

The GSA students may be looking for support because they are LGBT. Some just aren't accepted anywhere else. As outsiders, they don't fit in to any particular group. Dylan has created a safe place to talk, access to resources and information that can help them make better decisions, and the support system needed to make a statement to the rest of the school community that LGBT students are valued as much as any other student.

"We have a purpose. With no LGBT-inclusive bullying policy in place, it's our responsibility to make it safe for everybody, not just LGBT people. There are several people who come, but don't want people to know they're there," said Dylan, who was pushed away by people he once called friends or acquaintances when he decided to be honest about being gay.

Dylan's mom attributes that, in part, to the blatantly religious area they live in where people have proven to be close-minded. "The difference that we've made has been kind of nice, but our newspaper won't print articles about the GSA. When I tried to do a local car wash fundraising event, there wasn't much community support. That's pretty much what we face. It would be so much easier to move to a more caring, accepting area, but I hate to run from a problem. We have to face it. Things have gotten better and I try to keep a close eye on it," she said.

"The environment has changed at CCHS. Students have become much more tolerant and seem to feel good about the choices they're making," said Columbia Principal Dave Slusher. "As far as diversity goes, our policy has always been to accept everyone and work for the benefit of all. There are always a few who create issues, however I feel this has diminished over the years. I have come to know Dylan better; he's become



Dylan Koch, a 16-year-old sophomore at Columbia Central High School stood up for himself and his fellow LGBT classmates. It took 6 months for the GSA to gain approval. He is second from left with his mom, Sue Koch in front of him. A fundraising drive allowed members of the GSA to travel to Chicago this spring to see an exhibit on gay history at the Chicago History Museum Photo courtesy of Koch family.

more of a leader and has become accepted by others. Many have joined the GSA because of his leadership."

As one of only two such high school groups in the county, Dylan is focused on educating other schools in the area about the benefits of having a GSA. "We had to do something," he said. That includes meeting once a month with Jackson High School's GSA, which was established in 2000, to discuss issues about sexual orientation and gender identity, work on projects to advocate for social change, and have fun planning social events.

Like the trip the GSA took to Chicago's History Museum in March to see the Out In Chicago exhibition, which explores the stories of a group of Chicagoans who have been there since the city's beginnings but whose lives have often been lived in the shadows. "I think others should be educated and know their rights," said

"Dylan is a great kid and has helped to raise the awareness of everyone."

— Columbia Central Vice
Principal Zach Kanaan

Dylan about the day trip. "It was educational, interactive, and fun. We learned a ton and some of the students said it was one of the best times of their lives."

The exhibit documents more than 150 years of a complex community of LGBT Chicagoans at turns surviving, struggling, and thriving, often on the edge of mainstream awareness.

"Chicago was cool. We got to learn the history of decades and decades of LGBT people and how they were treated. People were actually dragged out of bars and arrested, the lost their jobs and had their names placed in the paper. Some of those laws are still on the books now. The kids really learned a lot," said Sue Koch.

The trip was sponsored by Between The Lines and made possible with additional money raised through fundraising. "Without that money, we wouldn't have been able to go," said Sue Koch. "Some of the kids come from low-income families and have lived with such tragedy. Watching their faces during this trip in a big, beautiful city was amazing. They wouldn't have had the money or the opportunity to do that otherwise."

"It's a great group of kids and it kind of bugged me that Jackson County didn't have more schools that do this," said Julia Josling, a 29-year-old transgender female who met Sue



Koch through PFLAG and is working with the GSA. "Dylan's a great kid. He keeps his head up and this is what he needs to do. He isn't afraid to make sure these changes happen and to have that type of bravery is pretty impressive."

Josling said she would like to see more parental involvement as some students attend GSA meetings and their parents don't know they are there. "Nobody should have to go through that. They should have some sort of support," said Josling, adding that her plan is to help the GSA to influence change one school at a time right now.

"Dylan is a great kid and has helped to raise the awareness of everyone," said Columbia Central Vice Principal Zach Kanaan. "He has done this in a responsible manner and has allowed us to educate people to be understanding instead of just punishing them for their ignorance. He and his mom have both worked with us to make this a very positive experience for all."

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MICHIGAN LEGISLATION STATUS REPORT

RESEARCH SUPPLIED BY EMILY DIEVENDORF, MICHIGAN EQUALITY POLICY DIRECTOR

A LOOK AT RECENT LGBT HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS

COMPILED BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE
ILLUSTRATED BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

WHAT'S BEEN DONE

HB 4163

Status: Passed and signed by Governor
Requires school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies.

HB 4770

Status: Passed and signed by Governor
Eliminates health care coverage for domestic partners of municipal public employees.

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS

HB 5039

Status: Introduced
Prohibits municipalities from adopting nondiscrimination ordinances that include gay and transgender residents.

HB 4889

Status: Introduced
Prohibits medically necessary sex reassignment surgery for some recipients of public health care services.

SB 518 / HB 5040

Status: Approved by the House Education Committee
Requires university counseling, psychology and social work programs to violate national ethics standards by allowing students to refuse service to certain clients.

SB 745

Status: Passed by the Senate, Introduced in the House
Requires I.D. for in-person registration applicants and registration/training of third-party voter registration organizations.

BILLS WE LIKE

HB 4249 / SB 167

Status: Introduced
Allows unmarried couples to adopt children.

HB 1063: ELLIOT LARSEN

Status: Introduced
Would prohibit employers, landlords, and others in Michigan from discriminating based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression

WHAT WE CAN DO

- There are many ways to make a difference in Michigan's LGBT politics:
- Donate time and money to groups like Equality Michigan and ACLU.
 - Join "Don't Change Yourself: Change The Law," at DontChangeYourself.com
 - Stay informed and follow political news. Set up Google news alerts for "LGBT Michigan."
 - Sign up to receive the BTL Voter Guide this October.
 - Contact your representative and tell them the issues that are important to you.





STAY INFORMED

BTL is organizing a huge petition campaign, collecting as many names and addresses as possible at all the pride celebrations around the state. We're working in collaboration with Unity Michigan partners, local community centers and other groups to identify LGBT positive voters and we are asking each of them to sign a Pledge to educate themselves on the issues and candidates that are most supportive of our issues. We ask everyone to SIGN THE PLEDGE, pay attention to the BTL Voter Guide coming out this fall and to VOTE on Nov. 6.

AND VOTE!

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issues important to the LGBT community,
and to vote accordingly this November.*

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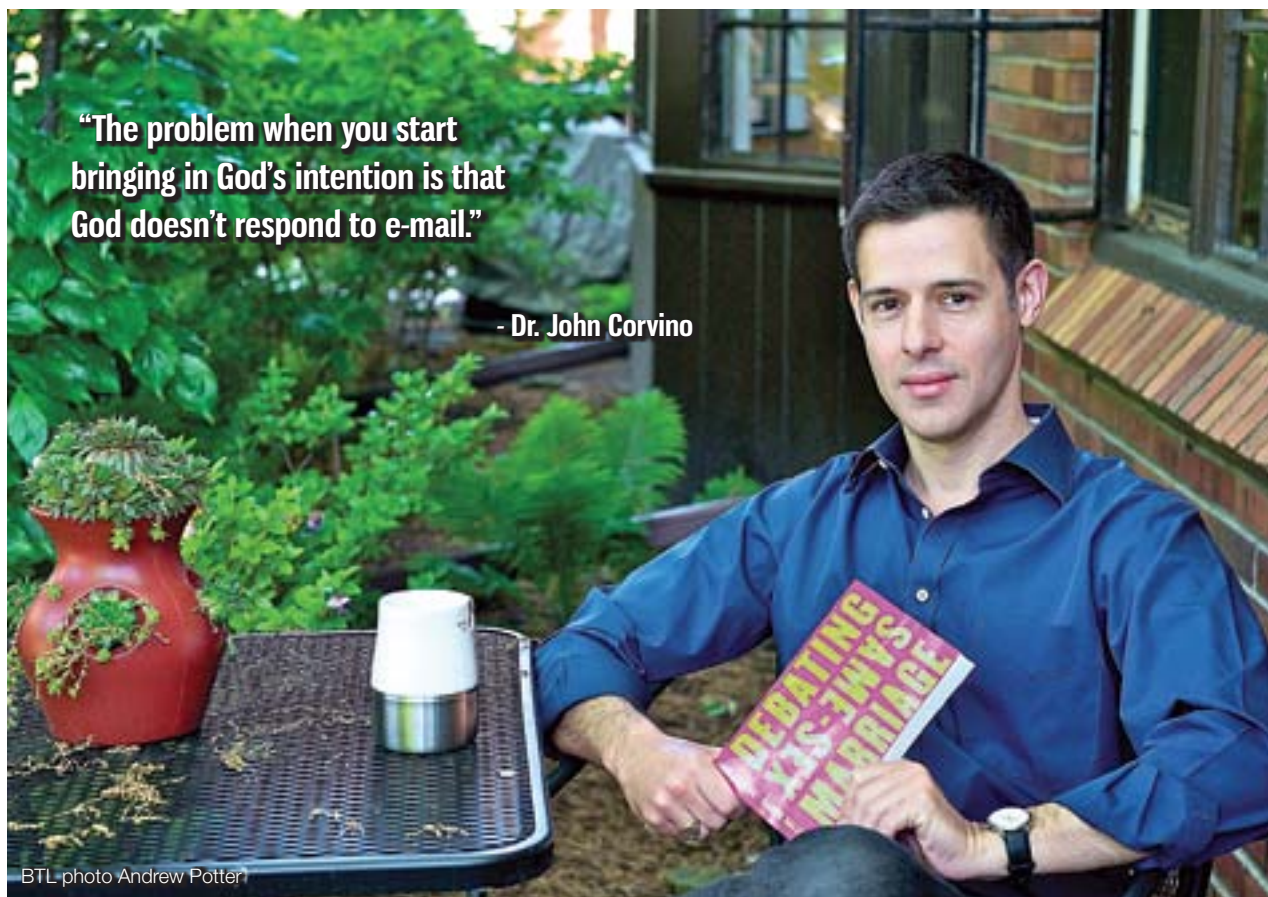
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"The problem when you start bringing in God's intention is that God doesn't respond to e-mail."

- Dr. John Corvino

BTL photo Andrew Potter

The great debate of 2012: Corvino and Gallagher discuss same-sex marriage

New book sheds light on both sides of marriage equality

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

DETROIT – In the often bitter debate over marriage equality, it can be difficult for the two sides to find common ground – or even speak civilly to one another.

The book "Debating Same-Sex Marriage" is an attempt by gay scholar and columnist Dr. John Corvino and the co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage Maggie Gallagher to model just such behavior and "to promote dialogue in the face of a sometimes ugly division," as they say in the introduction. They write both to convince others of their views and to make the "effort to 'achieve disagreement' – that is, to uncover exactly where they differ and why."

The result is the newly released Oxford University Press book that meticulously lays out the case both for and against same-sex marriages. Each author offers a rebuttal

to the case laid out by the other.

"One thing I would encourage people to do is to look at the book and see that it is possible to be civil while still being spirited and rigorous," Corvino said. "I don't think Maggie and I were shy about criticizing each other's arguments where they merited criticism. We didn't play nice for the sake of playing nice – we went after each other

with passion and vigor."

This passion and vigor has earned praise for the book from such widely diverse readers as former GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum and the founder of the "It Gets Better" initiative Dan Savage. Both endorse the book, though for widely different reasons.

Corvino has already come under fire from some colleagues in the LGBT community who argue that co-publishing a book with Gallagher lends greater legitimacy to her platform and those who argue against marriage equality. His response is that Gallagher already has a platform – one that nearly half of Americans agree with.

"So the question for our side is how are we going to respond to that platform?" Corvino asked. "I don't think that ignoring

Meet the author at Motor City Pride

Author John Corvino will be at Motor City Pride in Hart Plaza, on Sat. and Sun. from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. to sign copies of his just released book. Stop by the Information Booth at the main entrance which BTL will be staffing during the festival and you can meet him and purchase your own autographed copy.

Lisa Lampanelli

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Book Excerpt

Two big ideas about marriage must necessarily change if same-sex couples are to be considered in law and by society as just as married as anyone else.

The first is the idea that marriage has something centrally to do with regulating “responsible procreation.” If two men are a marriage, marriage is obviously not about getting mothers and fathers for children. Period. The law itself repudiates that as a core feature of marriage.

Moreover, same-sex marriage also necessarily calls into question related marital norms: Why sex? Why fidelity? Why permanence? Why not sisters? Why only two?

In the marriage system we have inherited, the answer to these questions are quite clear: They rest in two great principles the society endorses: marriage is oriented toward protecting children by giving them a mother and father—and every child is equally worthy of protection.

- Maggie Gallagher

According to Gallagher, the central function of marriage is to signal the ideal



that children need a mother and father. She thinks it's clear that same-sex marriage would repudiate this function: “If two men are a marriage, marriage is obviously not about getting mothers and fathers for children. Period”.

Where Gallagher throws down a “Period,” I see room for discussion. Marriage is indeed about getting mothers and fathers for children, but it is not only about that, and the other functions can be sufficient in themselves. The elderly-couple example proves this. Their marriage is not about getting mothers and fathers for children, and yet we still recognize it as worthwhile, because of another important marital theme: No one should have to face life alone. Gallagher imposes a double standard here: when infertile heterosexuals marry, they're just a harmless exception to the general rule, whereas when gays marry, they somehow repudiate the institution's core purpose.

- John Corvino

Reprinted from *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* by John Corvino and Maggie Gallagher with permission from Oxford University Press USA Copyright © 2012 by John Corvino and Maggie Gallagher.

► Corvino

Continued from p. 16

them is a good option. Doing a book with Gallagher enabled me to do two things I couldn't do with a book of my own: (1) reach some of the people on her side who wouldn't buy a book written just by me, and (2) force her to tease out her arguments in a sustained way, and then have her respond to a direct critique of those arguments.”

The book has been several years in the making. Corvino recruited Gallagher to write the counter-case. The two of them had corresponded and debated many times when Corvino was approached a few years ago by an editor at Oxford University Press to write a point-counterpoint book on same-sex marriage.

“I agreed and I got Maggie Gallagher to agree as well,” Corvino explained. “I had considered proposing another academic...but the academics who argue against same-sex marriage these days tend to do so from a narrow natural-law framework, and I thought that would limit the usefulness and appeal of the book. Gallagher does a good job, I think, of presenting a more thoughtful and articulate version of the arguments that are occurring on the ground.”

The book focuses on the moral and political arguments for and against same-sex marriage, while purposely staying away from some approaches. The introduction explains, “This book is a debate about marriage as a legal and social institution: should it include same-sex couples? It is not about whether there is a constitutional right to such marriage, or about whether particular religious denominations

should bless same-sex unions, although some of its content will be relevant to those debates.”

Instead, the focus is on whether legalizing same-sex marriages is good for society or bad for society – with two vastly different answers. While Corvino acknowledges that it is difficult to engage in the debate without addressing the theological aspects that are a large part of the opposition, but he said that religious belief has very little place in determining our civil law.

“The problem when you start bringing in God's intention is that God doesn't respond to e-mail,” Corvino said. “It is hard to get God to weigh in directly on this. Different people have different senses of what God reveals, and they're all trying to get divine backing for their particular positions. It made sense for the purpose of what we're trying to achieve here.”

Instead, Corvino focuses on the three-fold argument that relationships are good for people, marriages are good for relationships and some people are gay. He talks about how everyone – straight and LGBT – benefit from living in a just society that treats everyone equally under the law.

Gallagher, meanwhile, argues that our social structure depends on our giving special importance to relationships that create new life.

“These three ideas – sex makes babies, society needs babies, children need mothers and fathers – do help explain the most peculiar thing about marriage at all. Why is the law involved? Why does civil marriage exist?” she writes.

From these basic premises, they build their arguments and rebuttals in the 296-page book. The prolonged and thoughtful debate explains why people on both sides are quick to praise the work.



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A month of support: REC partners with local businesses

DETROIT - Pride month conjures up images of parades, festivals and celebrations of all that is LGBT in the world, but it can also be a reminder that there are LGBTQ people who are vulnerable and depend on the community for support. Homeless and runaway youth turn to the Ruth Ellis Center for housing, counseling, education, peer support and adult mentorship. And the Ruth Ellis Center turns to people in the community to chip in what they can.

"The majority of Ruth Ellis Center's funding comes from small donations and fundraisers," said Ruth Ellis Center Board Vice President Peter VanDyke. "As a non-profit, fundraising is always a priority. It is the only way the Ruth Ellis Center can continue to provide safe space for the more than 4,000 youth we serve annually."

That's why all through June local businesses will be providing support through a calendar-full of partnerships and opportunities. Check for the applicable days to see when to buy clothes at The Peacock Room in Detroit, take a class at True Body Fitness, enjoy some Buffalo Wild Wings in Ferndale, get your car washed by the Motor City Bears and get you dog watched at Canine to Five. All these and more, done on the right days in June, will send money right into the Ruth Ellis coffers.

"The type of fundraising we are conducting in conjunction with Pride Month is particularly important because the money raised helps fund our general operations, which includes staffing, utilities and facility maintenance. We are fortunate to receive grants that are restricted to funding the center's support services and programs such as counseling, testing and professional development. But, the Ruth Ellis Center needs to maintain funding streams that can support our general operations, so we can continue to deliver critical services," VanDyke said.

Businesses who would like to be added to the list can contact Kenneth Jay Wilson at Ruth Ellis Center at 313-252-1950 or by emailing kenneth.wilson@ruthelliscenter.org.

For more information on Ruth Ellis Center, including the most recent list of supportive events, check out <http://www.ruthelliscenter.org/>.

Art Competition to exhibit same-sex marriage artwork

BERRIEN SPRINGS - Ara Lucia, a bisexual, has had two photographs selected for inclusion in the Michiana Annual Art Competition 2012. The pieces include "Lil' Red Revised" and "Almost," the latter inspired by the fight against California's Prop 8 anti-marriage ballot initiative. The Box Factory in St. Joseph will host the multi-artist show with a reception June 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The awards ceremony begins at 6:00. The exhibit runs through July 28th.

The MAAC offers over \$10,000 in total prizes.

Ara Lucia is a director and a visual artist who makes photographs: photographs of invented worlds that tell a story. She utilizes her background in performance, choreography, visual books and psychology to explore the private worlds of myth-making, most recently using photography. Her recent investigations into her own bisexual identity, and its relevance to the culture at large, have taken her into more public and sometimes politically-charged areas.

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Snyder appoints REC's Hughes to statewide commission

LANSING - On May 29, Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Laura Hughes to the Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity.



Laura Hughes

Established in 1981, the commission seeks to mitigate the causes and effects of poverty as well as promote self-sufficiency and economic opportunity.

"Helping the economically disadvantaged to overcome those challenges is important to reinventing Michigan," said Snyder. "Laura's years of experience and expertise will be of great benefit and I thank her for her willingness to serve."

Hughes is executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, the LGBT homeless, runaway and throwaway safety net provider. Previously, Hughes worked with the Wayne County Department of Public Health as an HIV/STD manager, served as grants manager for the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and was a program coordinator for the Detroit Medical Center Sinai Grace Hospital HIV/AIDS program. Hughes holds a bachelor's degree in sociocultural anthropology from Brown University in Rhode Island, a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan and attended the University of California at Los Angeles Anderson School of Management - Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive program.

Hughes will represent Community Action Agencies for a three-year term that expires June 21, 2014, and her appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

LGBT Midwest Job Expo planned for June 21

FERNDALE - Save the date for the first ever Midwest LGBT Job Expo to be held at Affirmations Community Center June 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 20 companies throughout the midwest region will be represented.

"We hope to provide job seekers an open and safe environment to pursue employment without fear of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity", said Mark McMillan, events and sponsorship manager. "Looking for work is already an overwhelming task and knowing there are currently no legal protections in Michigan for the LGBT population regarding discrimination in the workplace, makes it especially daunting. We hope to help alleviate some of that stress by featuring LGBT friendly businesses and organizations looking for new employees."

Participating companies include, but are not limited to, Metlife, Merrill Lynch, General Motors, Chrysler, Comerica Bank, Deloitte and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. In addition, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a national non-profit based in San Francisco, committed to ending employment discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees, will also have a presence at the Expo.

Affirmations has also partnered with the Ferndale MiWorks office to offer employment workshops the week before the event. Workshops currently planned are, "Current Resume and Employment Trends" and "Interviewing Skills." The workshops will be held at Affirmations and they are free to those attending the LGBT Midwest Job Expo.

For more information contact Mark McMillan at 248-398-7105 or email MMcMillan@GoAffirmations.org.

UPDATE: Arson against honeymooning lesbians' home: How you can help

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

NOVI - In the early morning hours of May 14, while Stacy Barker and Tawana Williams were celebrating their honeymoon in Las Vegas, someone broke into their house, allegedly scrawled anti-gay slurs on the walls, and set their home on fire. They lost most of their belongings and are living in a hotel with their ten-year-old daughter until the insurance company figures out their claim. Police are investigating the arson, and are considering it a potential hate crime, according to Equality Michigan.

BTL is working on piecing together this tragic story, but in the meantime those who want to help the couple are encouraged to send gifts in the form of grocery and department store gift cards from places like Meijer where they can purchase things they need for their home.

Please send gift cards and letters or cards of support to Equality Michigan Victim Services, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219.



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A changing of the board at Affirmations

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - With four members departing and a new president at the helm, the Affirmations Board of Directors is poised to support the growth and evolution of the LGBTQ community center that Executive Director Dave Garcia and his energetic staff, volunteers and the public seem ready for.

After five years on the Board, and through amazing ups and downs, Mary Rose McMillan is ready to step aside as president. From the movement to the new building to the challenging period when finances are stretched thin, to the hiring and oversight of a cost-cutting interim executive director, and finally to choosing Garcia and moving forward with the center's re-blossoming, Affirmations has had quite the journey under her leadership.

With her term on the board expiring, McMillan helped welcome the new president at the center's annual meeting on May 28. Long-time board treasurer Mark Blanke was elected as the president.

"With President Barack Obama in support of gay marriage, we have come full circle in our lifetime," McMillan said as she addressed the board and the thirty-some people who came out for the meeting. "It's a very profound time." She also added that it was exciting to see so many people come out for the annual meeting, which generally has just a handful of participants.

Nancy Squires, Torii Hamilton, and Bill Korsak also chose not to renew their terms. Three individuals have recently come onto the board; Arlene Kish, Jeff Grim and Kirk Roy are among the energetic people coming on to help usher in the next era of growth.

With a one-million dollar, break-even budget, 2012 will be overall the same as 2011, except that in 2012 visitors are able to enjoy much more of the center and its services. Affirmations experienced a big change when long-time executive director Leslie Thompson retired. While leaving a legacy of amazing growth, having guided Affirmations into its newest home, the center had a \$1.4 million budget and was struggling to gain revenue in the face of a harsh economy. On top of it, a large mortgage loomed over the heads of those who were torn between program and service growth, and paying their biggest bill.

Blanke, in his final meeting as treasurer, reported that the mortgage has been paid down and refinanced, going from \$250,000 to \$175,000. The Campaign for the Future helped with the mortgage pay-down, and the center was able to retire a line of credit. An unexpected electric credit, caused by over-billing, means that the center won't have an electric bill for about five years. Garcia said he's still working with DTE to turn the credit into cash. "It's our money," he said. "While it's great not having to worry about the electric bill, that is our money and we should be able to use it." Whether it becomes a refund or remains a credit, the money remains a benefit to the center, and reduced bills in the future have helped bring the budget down.



Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia introduces long-time board treasurer Mark Blanke, center, who was elected as the president of the board of directors at the agency's annual meeting on May 28. BTL photo: Crystal A. Proxmire

Blanke also said that while many of the programs are funded through grants and foundations, getting money for the general operating fund is more of a challenge. Their newest campaign, called One in One Hundred Campaign, is an effort to attract new donors. "We continue to ask the same people over and over again and that starts to atrophy," Blanke said. With the One in One Hundred Campaign, team leaders commit to raising \$1,000 each, plus recruiting ten people under them who will each raise \$500 a year. The tiered approach means that people who don't normally fundraise will be asking their friends, family and other connections who may not have been tapped before.

The 2011 financial report is not yet complete, but it will be available within 60 days, Blanke said.

Other exciting news included the changes that have happened over the past year, plus the plans in place for future growth. The center is now open 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., six days a week with special programming on Sundays. Several smaller organizations are now calling Affirmations home, including Al Gamea, Detroit Latin@s, SPICE and Transgender Detroit. Expansions are in the works for the counseling program, and groups have organized for older adult needs and those that want to reach the faith community.

A strategic planning committee has been meeting monthly, and input has come from a survey of over 500 center users, and several focus groups. With "significant public input," the board and staff will hold a retreat this summer to discuss the needs of the community and to put a plan in place for how Affirmations will continue to grow into a busy, vibrant center for LGBT life.

"Our Executive director, David Garcia is diligent, charismatic, and very dedicated to leading this organization forward," said new board member Arlene Kish.

The heterosexual woman, who happens to be a post-op transsexual, has been very involved with transgender initiatives through the center, and stepping up to serve on the board seemed a logical next step.

"I began getting more involved, working on the Transgender Day of Remembrance & Transgender Day of Empowerment events. I began speaking on a panel twice a year to Oakland University psychology students who were working on their Masters. I've also spoken on panels that addressed Wayne County Community College students. I became active in the PFLAG Detroit-Downriver group and became their vice president. Last summer, we hosted the PFLAG statewide conference, where I spoke and put together a panel of diverse

transgender people," Kish said. "I was invited to be part of the executive search committee, along with several of the board members. From my work on that committee, I was asked if I would like to serve on the Affirmations board of directors."

Hamilton, who is among those departing, has been with Affirmations since it was housed in the tiny apartment building across the street. "Through it all, my best memories are of serving with so many wonderful staff and board members, all of whom are the most dedicated and hard-working people I have ever had the pleasure to collaborate with. There are not many things you can do where your work may improve or enhance the lives of others, or in the case of our helpline, perhaps literally save them. I am very proud to have done my small part to help in the vital work of Affirmations. I will certainly continue to support them in the future as well."

Garcia is also excited about the change. "We appreciate the service and dedication of the departing board members and are greatly looking forward to this new wave of excitement and talent."

Learn more about Affirmations at www.goaffirmations.org.



Top: Emily Dievendorf, left, and Roland Leggett train activists from across the state on how to talk with lawmakers about amending Michigan's Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Below: Sen. Rebekkah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) addresses community lobbyists from the steps of the Capitol Thursday afternoon. Warren is the lead sponsor of legislation in the Michigan Senate to amend the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Michigan. BTL photos; Todd Heywood.

Activists push legislators to pass rights bill

LANSING - Equality Michigan hosted an Equality Action Day May 24. Nearly 80 activists from all over the state gathered for training, lobbying and to voice support for State Sen. Rebekah Warren's (D-Ann Arbor) bill to amend Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976. The proposed amendment would include protections for the state's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.

"Equality Action Day was the first in what will be a series of advocacy events that Equality Michigan will be developing throughout the year. As many in our community know, Michigan lags behind the nation in terms of the protections that it offers to gay and transgender residents," said Roland Leggett, Equality Michigan's field director.

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NATIONAL GAY
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Nothing average about it.

BTL Editorial

You can make it better! Sign, educate and vote

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

It was 40 years ago this month I participated in my first gay pride march. We were a rag-tag bunch of mostly young, disenfranchised gays and lesbians marching up Sixth Ave. in New York City. I was frightened by the many people jeering at us from the sidewalks who threw garbage and yelled profanities. We were the unwanted and we knew it and felt it, but we marched out and proud in spite of it. We were building a visible community for the very first time, in cities across the country, which have led to profound change beyond (r)evolution for me.

That jittery 19-year-old could not have imagined that 40 years later, she would be invited to the White House to meet a sitting President of the United States, a president that wants her and others to join him in celebrating Gay Pride Month. A president who now publicly supports my right to marry my beloved partner. A president that values me as a contributing member of American society. Jan and I are going to The White House for an LGBT Pride Reception with President Barack Obama on June 15. Unbelievable!

It has been an exhilarating, frustrating, joyous and heartbreaking journey, and the past few months here in Michigan have been reflective of my last 40 years. The same month Obama acknowledged our right to marry, our main political organization, Equality Michigan, suffered a near collapse right on the threshold of an important political season. Right wing pundits with significant political clout jabber on with their inane arguments against what is abundantly obvious – that gay and transgendered Americans should have the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else.

As a community we have sometimes struggled with each other instead of focusing our collective energies to advance our united cause. And yet despite the frustrations, people continue to rise above my highest expectations. What has often felt like pushing a large boulder up a huge hill, now feels like a sudden burst of progress and real, revolutionary change. In this historic pride season, it makes me appreciate what Katy Butler said so well in this issue, "It can't get better if you don't make it better."

Young people featured in this Special Pride Edition of BTL, like Katy and Dylan Koch and the wonderful, emerging leaders profiled in the LGBT Leaders of Color Project, are making it

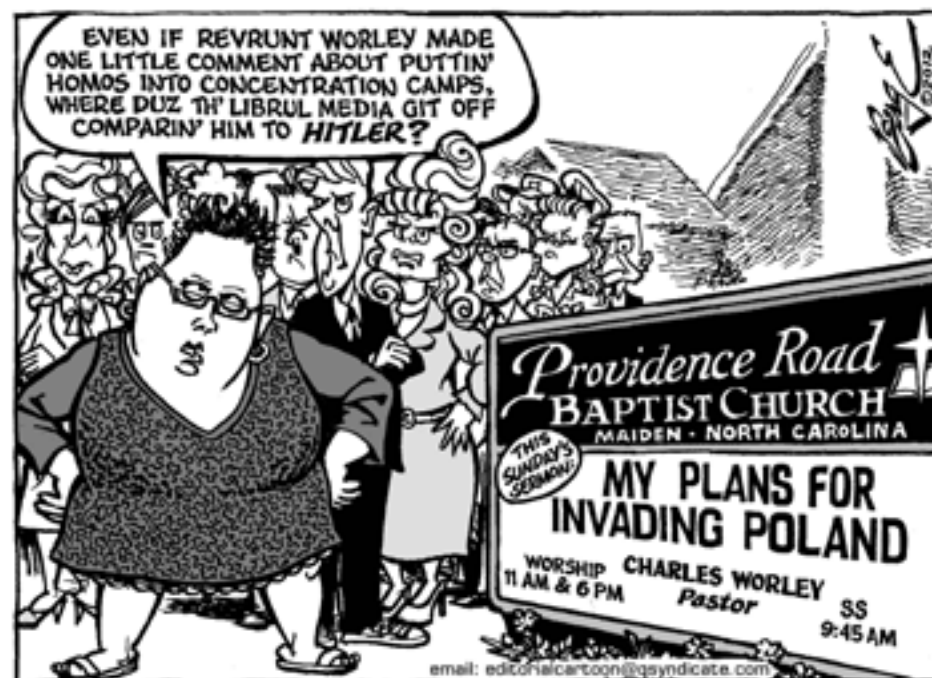
When I was marching in 1972, I couldn't see how far we would come, nor could I imagine the struggles our community would face over the next 40 years. The young people who are putting themselves on the line today will see even more incredible change...Each one is contributing, and it is exciting to witness their effective impatience.

better every single day. They are pushing our LGBT leaders, political leaders and are often working against painful social constraints and they are turning the trickle of change I experienced in the 70s and 80s into a deluge. They are inspiring me, and their energy and refusal to be ignored is changing the world as we know it. Each one is contributing,

and it is exciting to witness their effective impatience.

It's up to the rest of us to join them in the new march for equality. Unlike 40 years ago when we were pummeled with garbage, we can now create change in the political sphere, and with that goal firmly in our sights, BTL is organizing a huge petition campaign, collecting as many names and addresses as possible at all the pride celebrations around the state. We're working in collaboration with Unity Michigan partners, local community centers and other groups to identify LGBT positive voters and we are asking each of them to sign a Pledge to educate themselves on the issues and candidates that are most supportive of our issues. We ask everyone to SIGN THE PLEDGE, pay attention to the BTL Voter Guide coming out this fall and to VOTE on Nov. 6.

When I was marching in 1972, I couldn't see how far we would come, nor could I imagine the struggles our community would face over the next 40 years. The young people who are putting themselves on the line today will see more incredible change. We can create more political muscle and the first step is for everyone to sign the pledge. Together, we can make it better.



Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

Since every time I see Tony Perkins's face on TV. Perkins, the president of the vehemently anti-gay Family Research Council, often has a microphone shoved in his face whenever there's a marriage equality story. It's as if newsrooms across the country feel compelled to "balance" these stories by calling Perkins to argue against any and all humanity afforded to homos.

Invariably Perkins spews misinformation. Sadly, his statements often go unchallenged. Ideally you shouldn't be able to go on TV and make claims that have absolutely no support without bullshit being called. But that's not the world we live in, which is why people like Perkins are interviewed at all.

So bravo to CNN's Brooke Baldwin for not allowing her on-air time with Perkins to be monopolized by his baseless rhetoric. On May 24, Baldwin interviewed Perkins regarding President Obama and Colin Powell declaring that they were cool with marriage equality.

Perkins is, unsurprisingly, not happy about two prominent black men saying such things. After all, the largely white evangelical right wing that Perkins speaks for tries very hard to bond with black religious leaders through a mutual dislike of homosexuals. In fact, the first thing Perkins mentions to Baldwin is that he's in D.C. with a bunch of pissed-off black pastors. He says, "A lot of these African American pastors are saying look, 'Marriage is very clearly described in the Bible.' The president has basically drawn a line in the sand and said, 'Hey, are you gonna cross it?' And these pastors are gonna cross it."

Perkins goes on to say it doesn't matter what Obama said because Americans are squarely against him on this issue "based on the polling data."

Baldwin then points out that, actually, the most recent polling data puts support for marriage equality at 53%. "Most people in the country don't agree with you," she says. Perkins dismisses it all outright. The only number that really matters, he says, is 30: the number of states that have passed anti-gay marriage amendments.

Except that isn't the only number that matters. The lesbian and gay civil rights movement is moving so rapidly that the number of people who support equality rises daily. Were we to "do over" many of the statewide votes that resulted in anti-gay "victories" we wouldn't win them all, mind you, but the number of people voting against equality would be much lower. So when Perkins points to the number 30 he's staking his claim on a moving target.

I'm no Nate Silver, but it's important to look at who votes in many of these elections. Marriage equality brings out people with strong feelings. Especially on the anti-gay side. The voice that isn't counted, however, belongs to the "don't-give-a-shits," sometimes referred to in classier circles as the "moveable middle." I strongly suspect that folks who don't feel like they have any skin in this game (literally) would be much more inclined to tell a pollster that marriage equality should be legal than rush out on their lunch break to their polling place to fill out a ballot.

The most telling part of the Baldwin/Perkins exchange is when she asks him if he's ever been in the home of a married gay couple. He says no. She then asks what he would say to such a couple re: his views that their marriage harms society. Perkins dodges the question, basically saying that this issue is about public policy, not people. If this sounds strange, it should. After all, without people you wouldn't be able to make, nor would you need to make, public policy. It's just that Perkins doesn't count lesbians and gays as people.



Tony Perkins

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Heard on Facebook

As we gear up for Pride month, BTL wants to know: What does Pride mean to you?

Pride means not being afraid to hold my partner's hand as we walk with our daughter through Hart Plaza.

—Julie McKeeman

Pride is a good chance of seeing people like you without wonder.

—Frank Vaca

Celebrating who we are proud to be in a world filled with people who think we shouldn't be here.

—Laura Sawgle

Celebrating the awesome people of the LGBT community.

—Transgender Education Collaboration

Being proud of yourself and the LGBT community. To be able to step out and say, "Here I am."

—Michelle Fox-Phillips

Pride is the assurance that I am created as a person of worth. Pride is not arrogance; my worth is no greater than anyone else's.

—Bob Bond

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

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S/he Said

Revolution and changing demographics

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Linda Hirshman

"Each of the movements before the gay movement was seeking citizenship in the liberal state. Women and racial minorities did not necessarily ask the dominant society to love them or approve of them. They sought to be secure against violence, to be tolerated as they exercised their human liberty, and to have equal access to political and economic life. But both of them fell short of achieving all the elements of a full human life: they got little or no economic assistance or cultural validation, and, when the inevitable backlash came, they stalled or lost ground. It would take a newer new movement to make the next moves: it would take the gay revolution. The gay revolution achieved more because it faced different challenges. The path to liberal equality almost always involves mimicking as much as possible the behaviors and beliefs of the straight white men in power. The racial civil rights and feminist movements both made substantial detours into defending difference. They failed to establish that their divergent cultures were as worthy as the dominant one and all they did was to split their movements. At the end of the day, both these modern movements got most of their traction from maximizing their similarity to dominant political and social hierarchies."

—Linda Hirshman, lawyer and political writer, in an excerpt from her book titled "Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution," printed in short excerpt titled "Victory, unprecedented," www.salon.com, May 27.



Warren J. Blumenfeld

"I am extremely encouraged by the leaders from the highest levels and from the grassroots showing courage in the face of resistance and backlash. Secretary Hillary Clinton committed herself to and spoke for people of good will everywhere when she said: 'Wherever you live and whatever your circumstances... please know that you are not alone.' As the truism advises, 'Think globally, and act locally,' my hope is that we can join together to create the world as be a place where everyone will celebrate their Pride safely and with integrity in ways that express their truest joys while showing their full humanity, freedom, and liberty. During this Pride season and throughout the year, let us join to make this a reality."

—Warren J. Blumenfeld, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Iowa State University, in his column titled "LGBTQ Pride: Reflect, Rejoice, & Respond Globally," May 27.



Jan van Lohuizen

"Support for same sex marriage has been growing and in the last few years support has grown at an accelerated rate with no sign of slowing down. Starting in 2010 the change in the level of support accelerated to 5% a year. The most recent public polling shows supporters of gay marriage outnumber opponents by a margin of roughly 10%. The increase in support is taking place among all partisan groups. While more Democrats support gay marriage than Republicans, support levels among Republicans are increasing over time. Polling conducted among Republicans show that majorities of Republicans and Republican leaning voters support extending basic legal protections to gays and lesbians."

—Jan van Lohuizen, former President George W. Bush's pollster for his anti-gay 2004 re-election campaign, in an article titled "Bush '04 pollster: Change in attitudes on gay marriage across the board," www.politico.com, May 11.



Clarence Page

"Black voters have in the past been more conservative about same-sex marriage than national averages. A new ABC/Washington Post poll found a new high of 59 percent of African-Americans say gay marriage should be legal. That's up from an average of 41 percent in polls leading up to Obama's recent announcement that his position had "evolved" into support for the right of gays and lesbians to legally marry. That surge among black voters helped push support among Americans overall to 53 percent, a dramatic increase from six years ago when only 36 percent supported same-sex marriage."

—Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune editorial board member, in his column titled "Obama's effect on gay 'rites'" www.chicagotribune.com, May 27.

Parting Glances



Pages past tense #12

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

During my out-and-about first gay summer I learned from 'Gee Gee' (Gorgeous George) that Harper Hospital was training recent high school graduates to become operating room technicians.

"You'd look great in scrub greens. You might even meet an intern or two," said Gee Gee, who had been scrubbing in Harper's 13 ORs (numbered 1 through 14) for two years. "It's fascinating work passing instruments, if you can get over slicing and suturing without upchucking."

(In the mid-'50s there was still a shortage of OR scrub nurses in metropolitan hospitals. A lesson learned during World War II was that lay persons with intelligence and common sense could be trained to perform many professional RN scrub nurse duties - and for much less pay).

For six weeks I learned how to identify and wrist-snap-pass hemostats, clamps, scalpels, needled sutures; how to use the autoclave; how to hand scrub with a brush and antibacterial soap; how to gown, glove, enter an OR without breaking sterile scrub; how to keep medical terminology correct records; how to do sponge counts (square shaped cotton units for absorbing blood). How to pass out gracefully.

Many older Harper OR techs were Quakers or Conscientious Objectors earlier assigned to fulfill wartime service obligations. We new techs were rotated to a different surgery specialty: ENT, abdominal, OB-GYN, urology, etc.

I scrubbed for Caesarian sections, tonsillectomies, dozens of

I was born at Harper Hospital and found myself scrubbing for Dr. Leonard Heath who brought me into the world,

Ob-Gyn D&Cs ("dusting and cleaning"), and circulated (set up, paperwork) in the OR, witnessing a craniotomy (brain exploratory), and an unexpected cardiac arrest of an older patient, whose last kidding request overheard was an ironic, "Just put me under neatly, doc."

His chest was opened; his heart massaged to save his life. Gee Gee and I tagged his right thumb, big toe, wheeled him down to the freezer. My first death encounter; Gee Gee just winked and gave me an understanding look of support.

I was born at Harper Hospital and found myself scrubbing for Dr. Leonard Heath who brought me into the world, 7:19 a.m., on Tuesday, May 12th. (My tiny Taurean feet pointed inward, so for six months I wore foot casts.) "I feel just a tad older today," quipped Dr. Heath.

I didn't meet a gay intern as Gee Gee said, but I met a Harper resident one night in a bar. Dr. David said he had just moved in with an Argentinean lover named Michael. "Being gay is all quite new to me," he confessed. (Thirty years later they were still together.)

We fledgling OR Techs were told by head OR nurse Miss Cokely not to socialize with doctors. We were not to accept "persistent" invitations to go sailing with the anesthesiology chief. (I learned what that offer was about from Gee Gee, who quite often "persisted.") One Harper staff urologist regularly visited the downtown Detroit gay streets, ignoring me.

My stay at Harper lasted a year. Like most guys my age I wanted to earn more money. My mistake. Looking back, my job was probably the most rewarding of my many careers. (Gee Gee sailed off into the Florida sunset long ago.

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BY ERIC W. RADER

As we move into the month of June, our community once again prepares to celebrate LGBT Pride. While much of the focus during Pride celebrations is on letting ourselves enjoy each other's company, it's also good for us to take stock of how far we've come and what the road ahead looks like. The struggle

for LGBT equality has certainly moved very quickly in a short amount of time. In 2009, President Obama signed an LGBT-inclusive hate-crimes law and directed the State Department to remove the ban on immigration into the United States by HIV-positive foreigners. At the end of 2010, Congress and the president repealed the "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy on military service by gays and lesbians. Last year, mainstream public opinion surveys showed for the first time that slight majorities of Americans supported equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians, and New York became the largest state to allow same-sex marriage. Just this past month, President Obama announced that he supports the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry. Last week, a federal judge in California issued a ruling striking down the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA).

What can we do to advance equality in our own time? The most obvious answer is to elect more people to public office who believe in equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Despite all the recent progress for the LGBT community in America, there remain significant public policy challenges. The same week President Obama came out in favor of equal marriage rights, voters in North Carolina overwhelmingly approved an anti-gay marriage amendment to their state constitution. Congress has shown no willingness to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. Here in Michigan, Governor Snyder signed legislation late last year that denies any domestic partner benefits to state and educational employees.

It's clear that a majority of Americans support legal equality for gays and lesbians. However, there is a divide between younger and older adults in this country, with the youngest Americans being the ones most likely to support marriage equality and other rights for LGBTs. This is a hopeful sign for the future of gay rights in the United States. In the meantime, what can we do to

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TOGETHER, WE'VE FIGHTED for equal rights for LGBT Americans and members of their families. Thank you for your support of the progress we've achieved since President Obama took office. Your voice is the greatest force for change in our world.

2009

- 1 JUNE 27: President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which included provisions to extend benefits to active-duty partners of military members.
- 1 JUNE 29: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 AUGUST 12: President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act, which makes it a federal crime to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

2010

- 1 JANUARY 4: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 JANUARY 4: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 MARCH 22: President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes provisions to extend benefits to active-duty partners of military members.
- 1 JUNE 22: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 JUNE 22: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 22: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 22: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 DECEMBER 21: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.

2011

- 1 MARCH 10: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 FEBRUARY 22: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 DECEMBER 21: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 MARCH 31: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 MAY 27: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 JULY 18: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 SEPTEMBER 12: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 AUGUST 12: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 AUGUST 12: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 SEPTEMBER 20: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 SEPTEMBER 20: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 17: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 17: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 26: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 26: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 31: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 OCTOBER 31: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 NOVEMBER 17: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 NOVEMBER 17: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.

2012

- 1 JANUARY 26: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 DECEMBER 8: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 DECEMBER 8: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 FEBRUARY 9: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 FEBRUARY 9: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 FEBRUARY 9: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
- 1 MARCH 16: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows employees to sue for pay discrimination.
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► **Obama Pride**

Continued from p. 28

advance equality in our own time? The most obvious answer is to elect more people to public office who believe in equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The two major political parties have very different views when it comes to LGBT rights. On the same day President Obama announced his support for equal marriage rights, his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, reiterated his opposition to any legal recognition of gay relationships, even domestic partnerships. Indeed, all of the Republican candidates for president this year were openly hostile to gay rights and most wore their homophobia as a badge of honor. We should remember that whoever is elected president in November will quite possibly appoint several justices to the

Supreme Court. The nation's highest court will likely decide the constitutionality of DOMA and other anti-gay legislation in the next few years. Almost every Republican serving in Congress is hostile to LGBT equality, something we should remember as we vote in House and Senate elections this fall.

The only way equal rights progress will happen in this country is if LGBT Americans get involved in the political process. A person doesn't have to march in a rally or donate money to an

The only way equal rights progress will happen in this country is if LGBT Americans get involved in the political process.

equality organization in order to have a political impact. People who care about LGBT equality should come out to their friends and families—a person is less likely to be prejudiced against us if they know who we are. It's important to stay informed about what's going on in the world, too. The single most critical action we can take for equality, though, is to cast a ballot on Election Day. One of the reasons anti-gay forces in North Carolina put the marriage amendment on the ballot for the May Primary was because they knew that voter turnout would be extremely low for the election. If younger people had voted at the same rate as older voters, the results would likely have been much different. Please don't let others decide our rights. Every one of us has a responsibility to participate in some way in the political process. If we get involved in this year's elections, then we can really have something to celebrate next year.



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Victory Fund endorses two candidates in state

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The Victory Fund is providing support and endorsement for two county-level races in Michigan for the 2012 election: Kevin Howley for Oakland County Executive and Craig Covey in his bid for re-election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. The Victory Fund endorses qualified, committed openly LGBT candidates who can win at the ballot box, and gives candidates a vehicle through which to raise money online.

Kevin Howley

Howley is one of the Victory Fund's Focus races this year, meaning that it is one of about 20 that are positioned to get national attention. He faces Republican L. Brooks Patterson, who has held the position for the past 20 years. "Oakland County, Michigan, is the state's second largest county (1.2 million people) and blossomed in the 1950s, 60s and 70s thanks to the amazing growth of the auto industry. Lack of planning and an undiversified economic base have left



Oakland County stuck in neutral after having lost 175,000 jobs from 2000 to 2010," says the Victory Fund website.

With a fresh perspective and a background in business and in helping struggling nonprofits recover, Howley hopes to bring new leadership to Oakland County. He has served as Interim Executive Director of Affirmations, Ruth Ellis Center and Friends Schools of Detroit when those organizations needed transitional leadership. But he's also a seasoned private sector business administrator who, among other successes, was the second-in-command of the largest envelope producer in the world.

Howley lives Huntington Woods with his partner Jason and their two children, Langston (13) and Lily (6). There are only a handful of openly gay candidates running for office this year, and none with as much of an impact as being the Executive of Michigan's second-largest county. "The burden seems to be turning my way if the gay community is going to be left with any bully pulpit whatsoever," Howley said. "I've got to find a way to rally folks around every corner of the state. Honestly, it feels like the LGBT community is becoming a bit invisible."

Craig Covey

Craig Covey is running for Oakland County



Board, Covey has been pitted against fellow Democrat Helaine Zack of Huntington Woods for an August 7th primary.

"I have enjoyed the strong support of the LGBT community and other civil rights groups every time I have run for office, beginning in 1995. Support from them has been critical to my success as a Councilman, Mayor, and County Commissioner. Particularly I receive contributions, energy, and volunteers from the local and state LGBT organizations as well," Covey said. "I am getting support from folks in the labor unions, the environmental groups, and women's organizations as well as elected officials in Hazel Park and Ferndale. These folks have always been my 'base', along with seniors and the younger millennial voters."

Endorsements from groups like the Victory

Commissioner for the newly-created 18th District, representing Hazel Park, Ferndale, Royal Oak Township, part of Oak Park and Huntington Woods. Thanks to a series of laws that turned power of redistricting over to the Republican majority on the Oakland County

Fund help remind people of the work Covey has done in the LGBT community – from the birth of the gay rights movement in Detroit, to founding an AIDS Activism organization, to fighting for a human rights ordinance for his community, to creating Ferndale Pride and being the first openly gay mayor elected in Michigan. "This race is without a doubt the most difficult race for me since I first began to run for public office," Covey said. "Because of the Republican power grab and their redrawing the district lines, I am in competition with another popular Democrat and a friend. While this could end my 13 year career in local politics, I will work as hard as I can to stay in office and finish the work we started."

For the record, Howley is remaining neutral in the County Commission primary races.

Online

For more on Kevin Howley, check out his website at <http://howleyforexecutive.com/>. His page on the Victory Fund website is www.victoryfund.org/endorsed_candidates/profile/candidate:647.

For more on Craig Covey, check out his website at <http://www.coveyforoakland.com/>. His page on the Victory Fund website is www.victoryfund.org/endorsed_candidates/profile/candidate:600.

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Documentary director Macky Alston speaks with attendees on May 14 in Lansing. Alston led discussions about his experience with directing *Love Free or Die*, a film which followed Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay man consecrated by the Episcopal Church in 2003/ BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

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Reaching the movable middle with inclusive justice

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

LANSING—How can we help people we love who are voting against us because they feel torn between acceptance and their faith?

That was the question addressed by the Inclusive Justice in Lansing on May 14. The event brought documentary director and media specialist Macky Alston to speak on making the connection between God and the saving grace of the gay community—the ultimate rule of love.

The day-long conference included workshops, lessons, dinner-time discussions and a screening of Alston's film *Love Free or Die*, which followed Bishop Gene Robinson, who was the first openly gay man consecrated by the Episcopal Church. Robinson was elected Bishop in 2003, but not without controversy. The film capped off a day of education on reaching the 'movable middle.'

"My daddy was a Presbyterian minister," said Alston in quick-spoken Southern drawl. Having been born in Alabama and raised in North Carolina, Alston has seen plenty of 'Conflicted Christians,' his father among them.

The work required to figure out his

father's fears, and the barrier that countless other Christians face, has taken him around the world doing studies, documentaries and trainings. Recently through his work at Goodwin Simon Research and Auburn Media in New York, he embarked on a study in Michigan, to help teach Michiganders

while average people had the gay marriage discussion. "It was horrible," Alston said. "But we learned a lot about what people think."

Auburn Media also did a media survey, looking at news postings to judge for fairness and public comments to judge

Macky Alston noted that in North Carolina, where people recently voted to deny marriage to gays and lesbians, the issue was framed as secular versus religious, with few voices addressing both.

how to increase acceptance in this state. Their findings were among the highlights of his presentations.


"We did an audit of how the conversation was happening in Michigan," he said. "We asked people 'what do you think of gay marriage?' and it takes about this long (snaps fingers) before it turns into a moral, or religious, discussion."

The researchers used focus groups provided by a marketing company with a 'general population' sampling. They watched from behind a two-way mirror

how people are framing conversations. They also held roundtable discussions with church leaders who were Catholic or Protestant.

The conclusion is that love is the answer.

"If you set up a debate between moral and secular reasons, and people are torn, people will default to their moral choice," Alston said. "Don't frame it as a choice. Show them how acceptance fits with their belief about God."



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"What the Bible Really Says about Gay Christians (May Surprise You)" meets every Sunday from May 20 to July 1 at St. John's UCC Grand Rapids

Bible study could change Grand Rapids perceptions

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

GRAND RAPIDS – A Grand Rapids pastor is changing the way people are reading the Bible, with a seven-week Bible study class for the entire community.

Over 20 people came out to the first workshop, with ages from 20 to 80 and multiple races and faiths represented, to talk about the Bible and what it means in today's society. It's not about what the Bible says so much as understanding that no one has exclusive insight into what it says.

"When we read the Bible we are interpreting it," said Reverend Bill Lyons of St. John's United Church of Christ. "No person simply reads the Bible. Even if you know Hebrew and Greek and are reading the original text, you're still interpreting it. The Bible was written in a specific time and place. And it was written by people, who each had their own contexts and filters."

Long story short is there is wiggle

room in what the Bible may or may not really mean.

Even as an expert - with 26 years as a pastor, a BA in Bible, two masters degrees and an American Bible Society Award for Biblical scholarship - Lyons contends that he is not here to tell others what to think, only to open their minds to looking at the Bible for values, guidance and inspiration, not absolutes.

The "What the Bible Really Says about Gay Christians (May Surprise You)" class meets every Sunday from May 20 to July 1, from 5pm to 6:30pm. St. John's UCC Grand Rapids is one of over 30 west Michigan Churches that are listed on the GIFT (Gays In Faith Together) website as being open and affirming to LGBT worshippers. The workshop is in partnership with GIFT, a group that made headlines recently for their controversial Gay Christian Yes billboard on US 131.

The first class focused on how to read the Bible, and the many ways that the Bible has been interpreted and

used. Subsequent classes will focus first on relationships and sexuality in general, and then on parts of the Bible most often used as 'evidence' that God is against Gays.

"Some people call them 'Clobber Passages,' but I don't use that term," Rev. Lyons said. "Properly understood, they aren't clobber passages, that's just how they're used. Understood in their context, these seven passages are trying to teach all of us God's values and boundaries for healthy sexual relationships - gay and straight.

"The Bible says nothing about gay Christians. Today's understanding of what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender was outside of the worldview of the contributors to the body of literature we know as the Bible. Christians today try to apply what the Bible says to same gender relationships, often failing to understand the people who produced the Biblical corpus in their context.

Another term Lyons avoids is that

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of 'gay marriage' when talking about the Bible. "The Bible speaks of our relationships regardless of who are relationships are with. The Bible does two things; it prescribes things and it describes things. Descriptions are formed with ancient world views, and they describe situations that were observed at the time the text was written. Prescriptions are laws from God, like the commandments. Nowhere in the Bible does it prescribe, or command marriage, or that marriage can only be between one man and one woman," he said. "When we talk about relationships, we talk about all relationships. When we talk about marriage, we talk about all marriage.

"The Bible says the same things to gay Christians that the Bible says to all Christians, for being a Christian is possible by grace through faith, sexual orientation and gender identity notwithstanding."

St. John's welcomes people of all backgrounds. "We are not a 'gay' church, rather we recognize the importance of articulating our welcome, by name, to marginalized people who attend our services." There is also a rainbow flag hanging in the sanctuary as a sign of support.

Rev. Lyons is a gay man who has been in a committed relationship for eleven years. He has adult children with his former wife, whom he still considers a good friend, and he is very close to his children. He was ordained in the Independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in 1985, but in 2000 "grew beyond" his calling there and found a denomination more in line with his progressive values.

"I did everything that the fundamentalist evangelical teaching told me to do regarding my awareness of my sexual orientation. All the prayers I said asking to change my orientation, God said no to."

Find out more about St. John UCC Grand Rapids at <http://www.stjohnsuccgr.org/>. Learn more about GIFT at <http://gaysinfaithtgether.org/>.

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Continued from p. 34

“There is an untapped opportunity to rise up to supportive religious frames: God is welcoming, love thy neighbor, thou shall not judge.”

Secular arguments, such as deductive reasoning, appeals to fairness, discussions of what equality means, and legal-based arguments just don’t hold enough weight to convince a Christian to potentially cross God.

“Secular arguments are insufficient and are experienced as dismissive of their faith,” Alston said. According to Alston’s research, when most people argue in support of gay marriage, they tend to use secular arguments, or mix secular and religious, or even anti-religious in general. He noted that in North Carolina, where people recently voted to deny marriage to gays and lesbians, the issue was framed as secular versus religious, with few voices addressing both.

One barrier to be crossed is showing that gay couples are just as loving and committed as heterosexual couples can be. “Conflicted Christians tend to believe heterosexual relationships are about love and commitment and that same-sex relationships are only about sex. When ‘sex’ is embedded into the way we frame ourselves, we reinforce the image of ‘the sexual other’.”

Instead of being defensive or argumentative, Alston recommends “Find things you have in common: your children, your values. Don’t push your agenda. Be part of their ‘in group.’ ... Use a clear moral framework based on Christian values... Remind Christians that God is love.”

downloaded at www.ujustice.org.

One resource is a series of short videos that shows individual stories of conflicted Christians opening their hearts. Tom Nelson, PFLAG activist and author of *An Ordinary Catholic*, was among those featured in the series. Nelson was a conservative Catholic who used to be judgmental, but opened his heart to love after his gay son attempted suicide.

When conflicted Christians hear such stories, it can help them see the harm caused by judgment and the blessings that come from a heart full of love and acceptance for all God’s creations.

“I know that God does not make mistakes,” Nelson said. “What God taught me through my gay son has changed my life, and I am so blessed to feel God’s love and wisdom.”

One of the biggest lessons shared was how to tell personal stories in church and in the media to help spread the message of inclusion. “There is a long tradition of storytelling from the pulpit. Stories put your audience in the empathetic frame where they are most likely to accept new ideas. Facts alone make it more likely that the audience will raise objections,” Alston said.

“What made the Treyvon Martin story so powerful?” he asked in reference to the recent shooting of a teenager on his way home from a convenience store. “It’s the Skittles and the iced tea. It’s that detail that makes it seem more real. Any of us could be buying Skittles or iced tea.” Details, he said, help people remember and relate to the story.

He also explained the importance of keeping the message positive and staying on point. “When you defend the dominant message, you give strength to that,” he said. “When others try to frame this as a religious issue, remind them that religion and acceptance go together.” As he said earlier “God is welcoming. Love thy neighbor. Thou shall not judge.”

When Alston’s father came around to a place of support, he told his son “I didn’t change my mind, my mind was changed by God.”

Inclusive Justice is a state-wide, faith-based coalition, inclusive of all traditions that advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons’ acceptance within religious and spiritual communities, and for the equitable treatment of all in local, state, and federal public policy.

Find out more at <http://inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org>.

Toolkit available

The seminar also included an Interfaith LGBTQ Toolkit, which was published by the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network with a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. It gives resources to empower faith groups to strengthen their welcoming, advocacy and service on behalf of LGBTQ people, including websites that address many religious groups, resources within the LGBT community, and links to movies and short videos that help facilitate dialogue, and even change people’s minds. The kit can be

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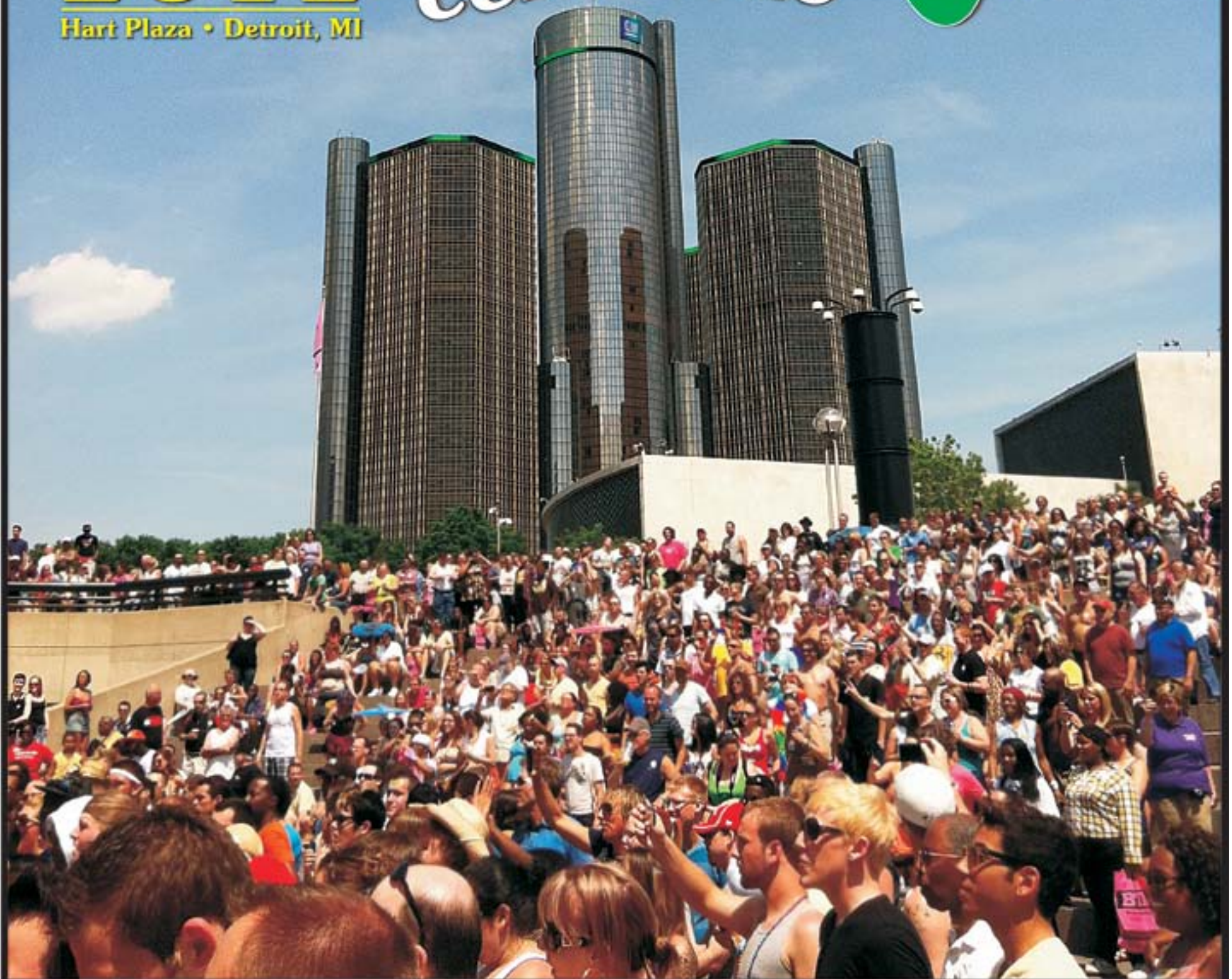
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Food

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- Bean bag/ring toss • Relay racing
- Beading • Family photo station

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Family Area

Saturday, June 2, 2012

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 3, 2012

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Lincoln Garden, Hart Plaza

- Face Painting • Arts and Crafts
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Friday, June 1

- 9:00 p.m. Pride Kick-off Party at Necto
With Special Guests:
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Saturday, June 2

- 12:00 noon Family Picnic, Coordinated by Affirmations
2:00 p.m. Festival Opens
2:00 p.m. Commitment Ceremony,
Coordinated by Affirmations & MCC Detroit
2:00 p.m. Four Stages of Entertainment

Refer to the entertainment schedule for list of the acts performing

- 9:30 p.m. Last Call for Beverage Sales
10:00 p.m. Festival Closes

Sunday, June 3

- 9:30 a.m. Parade Line-up (Fort and Griswold)
11:00 a.m. Parade Step-off (Griswold from Fort to Jefferson,
looping by Cobo Hall to Hart Plaza.
Noon Festival Opens
Noon Four Stages of Entertainment

Refer to the entertainment schedule for list of the acts performing

- 6:30 p.m. Last Call for Beverage Sales
8:00 p.m. Festival Closes

Saturday, June 9, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Women's Golf Outing

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Pride Stage Sponsored by Fifth Third Bank

- Saturday**
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Service
2:00 p.m. Commitment Ceremony
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Barbara Payton and the Instigators
Detroit Latin@z
Kelsey B
Julissa Veloz
Dani Rice and Josey Greenwell
Dave Aude' and Jessica Sutta
- Sunday**
11:00 a.m. DJ Tom T/Detroit
Noon **Equality Rally**
Equality Band of Michigan
Sing Out Detroit Chorus
Equality Michigan
J'Sette Dance Finals
Killer Flamingos
Nervous but Excited
Kimberly Cole
Kerli with DJ Jace
Nina Sky
Hyper Crush

- 1:00 p.m. J'Sette Dance Competition
2:00 p.m. J'Sette Dance Competition
3:00 p.m. Duane the teenage weirdo
4:00 p.m. Mike Trombley & Gay Marvina - Disco Drama
5:00 p.m. John Collins
5:30 p.m. Miz Corona

Festival Stage, Sponsored by Motor City Casino

- Saturday**
2:00 p.m. Belly Dancers
3:00 p.m. J'Sette Dance Competition
4:00 p.m. J'Sette Dance Competition
5:00 p.m. Duane the teenage weirdo
5:30 p.m. Mike Trombley & Gay Marvina - Disco Drama
7:00 p.m. John Collins
8:00 p.m. Miz Corona
- Sunday**
12:00 noon Country Line dance
1:00 p.m. Country Line dance
2:00 p.m. J'jjon
3:00 p.m. Gin & Tronic
4:00 p.m. Gin & Tronic
5:00 p.m. Big Freedia dance tutorial

Underground Dance Area, Sponsored by The Necto

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | Sunday |
| 2:00 p.m. DJ Nikolai | Noon DJ John Cruz |
| 3:00 p.m. DJ Chico | 12:45 p.m. DJ Hardy |
| 4:00 p.m. DJ Maestro | 1:15 p.m. DJ Jason Michael |
| 5:00 p.m. Doug Roberts | 1:45 p.m. SoundKode |
| 7:00 p.m. DJ Capt'n 20 | 2:30 p.m. Yos |
| 8:00 p.m. DJ Lena | 4:30 p.m. Kenneth Thomas |
| 9:00 p.m. DJ Jinx | |

Pyramid Stage

- Saturday**
2:00 p.m. Romeo Cole, Raven Divine Cassadine
3:00 p.m. Country Music
6:00 p.m. Prevention Ball, Presented by Affirmations
8:00 p.m. Victoria Sanchez, Tre Masters
- Sunday, Presented by the Stiletto's Family**
Noon Joye, Diamonique Marcus, Will Ryder, JP Hunter, Simon Blaque, DJ, Lady Luck, Teddy Michael
1:45 p.m. Montrell Blue, Jarage Rashad, Gage Gatelyn, Mari Jane
2:30 p.m. Christopher Michaels, Rockstar, Raven Divine Cassadine, Tre, Sir Wait, Teddy, Michael Christian, Gage Gatelyn, Kid, Roberta Cleveland, Michael Cole
4:30 p.m. Jacqueline Frost, Teddy, Michael Christian, Tre, Kid, Gage Gatelyn, Michael Cole





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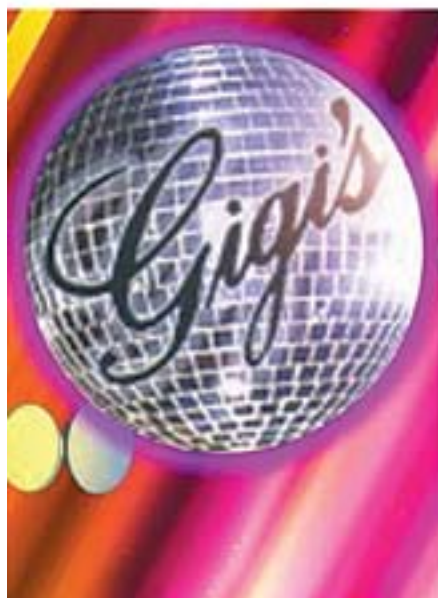
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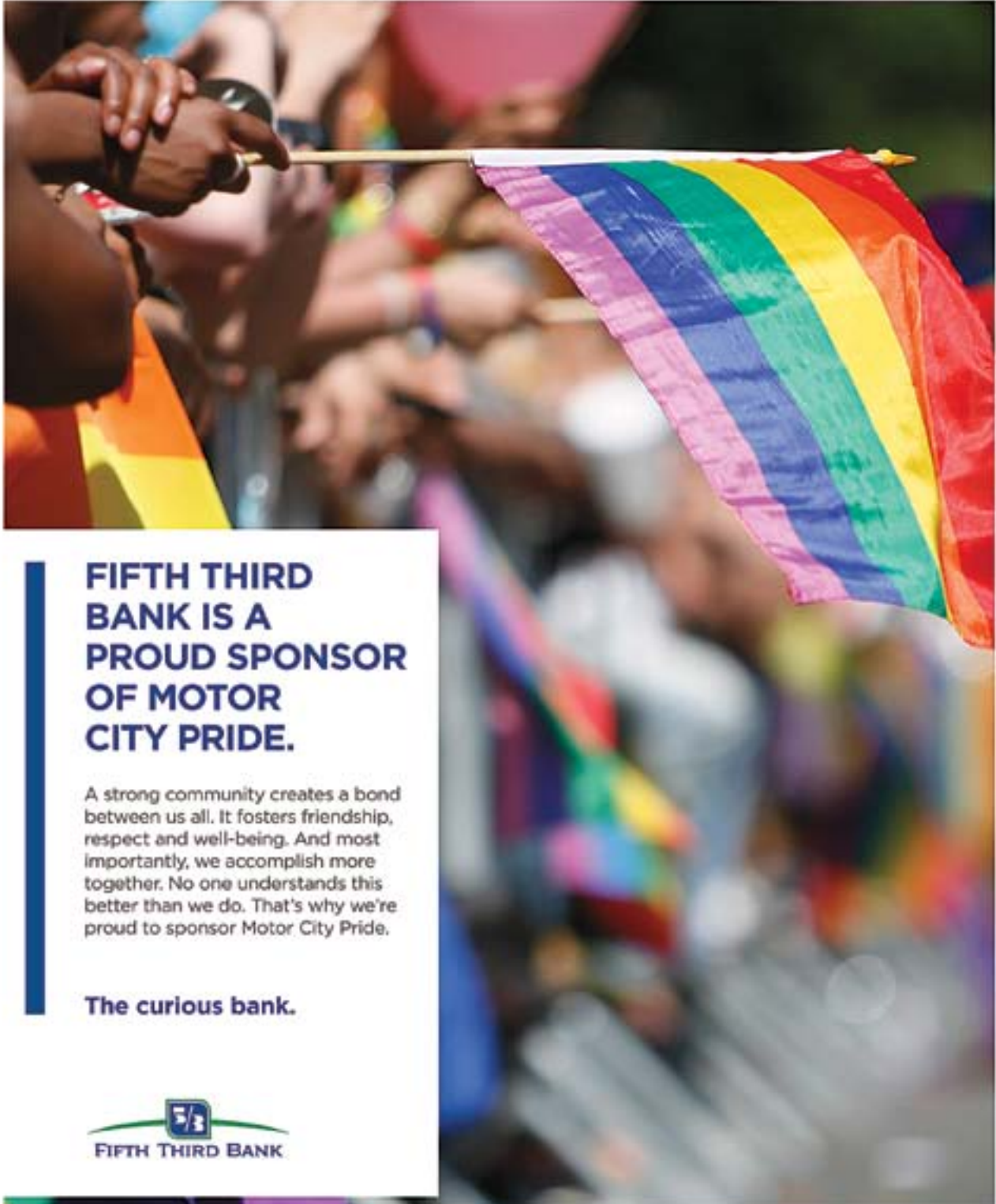
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Commitment Ceremony

**Saturday
June 2, 2012**

**2 p.m.
on the Main Stage**

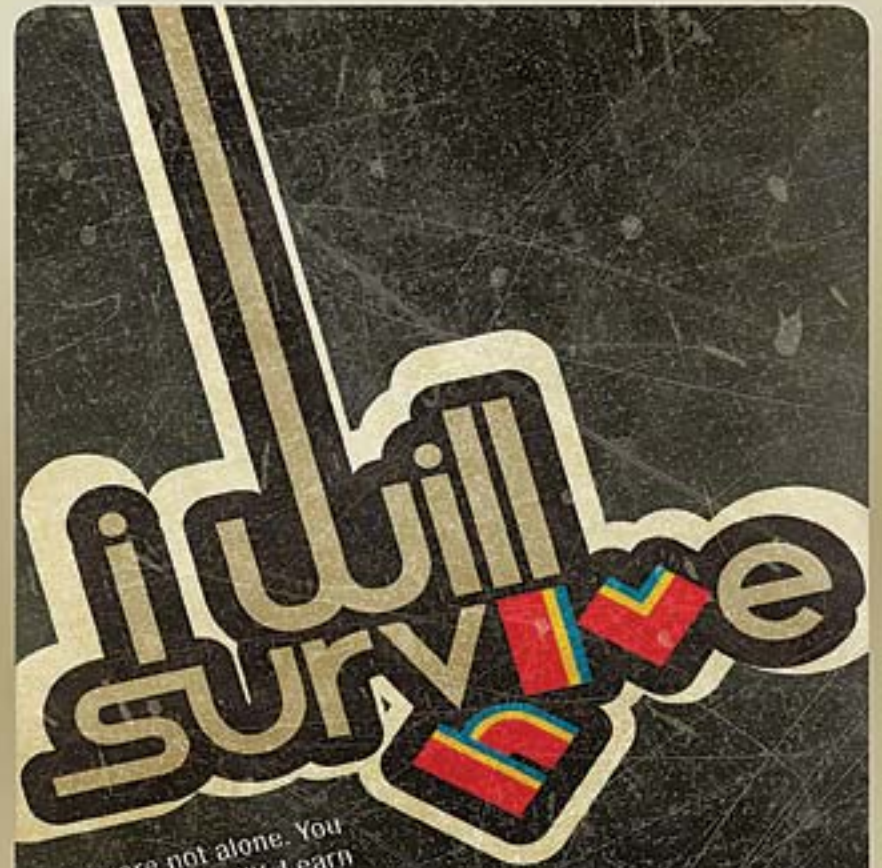
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at the main stage

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LOWER LEVEL



UPPER LEVEL

FESTIVAL HOURS:

Saturday, June 2, 2012
 Family Picnic: Noon to 2:00 p.m.
 Festival: 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 3, 2012
 Parade: 11:00 am to Noon
 Festival: Noon to 7:30 p.m.



Pride Calendar

JUNE 1

Motor City Pride Kick-Off Party

Presenting Organization: NECTO

Location: 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor

Contact: MotorCityPride.org

With special guest performances from Josey Greenwell and Jessica Sutta

Motor City Pride Boat Ride

Presenting Organization: LOCS Network

Time: 10 p.m.

Location: 201 Civic Center Drive, Detroit.

Contact: 853-313-LOCS, LOCSNetwork@gmail.com

A boat ride fundraiser for Motor City Pride featuring the first Mr. and Mrs. Motor City King and Queen (non-gender specific).

Pride Art Hop Reception

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Metro Nightclub, 411 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo

Contact: KGLRC.org/Pride

Enjoy Metro's Art Hop reception and fundraiser for Kalamazoo Pride. Art from the community will be on display and available for purchase to kick off Pride week. Suggested Donation: \$5.

Start Your Engines for Motor City Pride

Presenting Organization: Imagine Entertainment

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: 2739 Russell St., Detroit

Performances from Marie Vonteese and MeChella Shannon of Battle of the Dragons, Lula La Rose, Xerxes, DJ Maestro, Mae James and B ez. Tickets: \$15.

JUNE 2

Kalamzoo Invades Oval Beach

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: 820 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo to Oval Beach, Saugatuck

Contact: KGLRC.com/Pride

A caravan will depart to Saugatuck to spread the word of Kalamazoo Pride and enjoy Oval Beach.

Motor City Pride

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

Location: Hart Plaza, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit

Contact: 313-537-7000, MotorCityPride.org

Commitment Ceremony, 2-3 p.m. Affirmations and Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit partner for a domestic partnership registry pride ceremony on the main stage.

Pride Stage: entertainment includes Barbara Payton, Kelsy B and Julissa Veloz, Dani Rice and Josey Greenwell, and Dave Aude and the Motor City Pride Drag Show.

Festival Stage: entertainment includes belly dancers, J'Sett's Dance Competition, Duane the teenage weirdo, Mike Trombley and Gay Marvine, John Collins, and Miz Corona.

Underground Dance Area, DJs include Nikolai, Chico,

Maestro, Doug Roberts, Capt'n, Lena, Jinx and Goth.

JUNE 3

Alpha

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

Time: 5-10 p.m.

Location: The Union Cabaret & Grille, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo

Contact: KGLRC.com/Pride

Kicking off Kalamazoo Pride with the 2nd annual Alpha event. Performances from All American Funk Parade and Alexis, silent auction items and signature cocktails. Admission: \$10.

Motor City Pride (continued)

Motor City Pride Parade, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Celebrating the first Pride March held in Detroit. Parade will line up along Fort and Griswold and step off at 11 a.m.

Pride Stage: entertainment includes J'Sett Dance Finals, Killer Flamingos, Nervous But Excited, Kerli and Kimberly Cole, Nini Sky and Hyper Crush.

Festival Stage: entertainment includes Jojjon, Gin & Tonic and Big Freedia's dance tutorial.

Underground Dance Area, DJs include John Cruz, Jace, Hardy, Rod Carrillo, Yos and Kenneth Thomas.

Continued on page 50

JUNE 7

RuPaul's Drag Race's Willam Performs

Presenting Organization: Menjo's
 Location: 928 W. McNichols, Detroit
 Contact: www.MenjosBar.com
 RuPaul's Drag Race star and performer Willam comes to Menjo's bar during Pride month. VIP booths available.

JUNE 8

LGBT Network at Grand Rapids' Relay for Life 2012

Presenting Organization: The LGBT Network of West Michigan
 Time: 1 p.m.
 Location: Ah Nab Awen Park, Grand Rapids
 Contact: Grlgbt.org
 The LGBT Network has formed a team for the Grand Rapids Relay for Life and invites all to join their team and donate to the cause.

'Shall We Dance?'

Presenting Organization: LanSINGOut Gay Men's Chorus
 Time: 8 p.m.
 Location: Molly Grove Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing



Contact: LanSINGOut.org
 LanSINGOut Gay Men's Chorus was founded in December 1988. Performances interpreted into American Sign Language.

JUNE 9

Crossroads Annual Picnic

Presenting Organization: Crossroads
 Time: 6 p.m.
 Location: Affirmations Community Center, Room 201, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Contact: CrossroadsMI.com
 Join Crossroads for a picnic on the sun deck at Affirmations. Hotdogs and chips provided. Gathering cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Annual Women's Golf OUTing

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan
 Location: 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth
 Contact: EqualityMI.org/Golf
 Join Equality Michigan for their annual women's golf outing in Plymouth. Join more than a hundred golfers competing for terrific prizes. Supports both Ruth Ellis Center and Equality Michigan. Tickets available online.

'It Gets Better'

Presenting Organization: Sing Out Detroit Chorus
 Time: 7 p.m.
 Location: Lamphere High School, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights
 Contact: SingOutDetroit.org
 Sing Out Detroit's 4th Annual Spring Concert dedicated to youth with the powerful message that it does get better. Includes songs by artists such as Christina Aguilera, John Mayer, Natasha Bedingfield and Coldplay. Tickets available online.

Kalamazoo Pride

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center
 Time: 2-11 p.m.
 Location: 145 E. Water St., Kalamazoo
 Contact: KGLRC.org/Pride
 Kalamazoo's 5th annual Pride festival. Suggested Donation: \$5 to benefit KGLRC. Performances from Funktion, DJ Matt House, Neon Tetras, Pandora Boxx, and Kimi Hayes.

JUNE 10

Run as One

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride
 Time: 10 a.m.
 Location: Richmond Park, Grand Rapids

Continued on page 52

THE Hottest NIGHT IN JULY
 JULY 06, 2012 | 9:30 pm - 1 am

EXCLUSIVE VIP BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR: KIELY, JENINE & EBONY | 8 - 9:30P
 VIP INCLUDES: PREFERRED SEATING / HORS D'OEUVRES (PREPARED BY THE ROOSTERTAIL) LIGHT DESSERT / CASH BAR / LIVE JAZZ BY.

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DJ CENT SPINNING 9:30P - 11
DJ AL ESTER SPINNING 11 - 12:30
 LEGENDS OF HOUSE SIDEBUS OF SPIN OFF: 12:30 - 1A

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PRIDE

SATURDAY,
June 9th

2:00-11:00 PM

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Kalamazoo Pride facebook page
for updates and full details.

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Follow us!
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Contact: WestMIPride.org
 West Michigan Pride teams up with Gazelle Sports for a 5K fun run/walk to celebrate unity. T-Shirts for participants while supplies last. Followed by food and refreshments. Registration: \$10, all proceeds of which go to West Michigan Pride Festival.

JUNE 15

Cruise for a FUNdraiser

Presenting Organization: The Forum Foundation
 Time: 8 p.m.
 Location: Diamond Jack's River Tours, Detroit
 Contact: TheForumFoundation.org

Join the Forum Foundation for the annual river cruise to support their LGBT scholarship mission. Tickets are \$40 each and include hor d'oeuvres, a cash bar, a 50/50 raffle and dance music by DoublePlay DJ Services. Tickets available at Just 4 Us and Five15.

Light the Night Against Hate

Presenting Organization: Ferndale Pride
 Time: 8:30 p.m.
 Location: Downtown Ferndale

Re-designed for 2012 as a self-directed walking tour through downtown Ferndale and its adjoining neighborhoods. Walkers will visit welcome stations along the way where they can learn more about historical and contemporary issues surrounding hate in our schools and communities, including hateful speech in



social media and online bullying. Walkers may also participate in a candle lighting ceremony and carry colorful glow sticks to visibly unite against hate.

Motor City Bears Charity Dinner

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears
 Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Zion Lutheran, 143 Albany St., Ferndale
 Contact: 248-470-4449, MotorCityBears.com

Motor City Bears' 6th Annual Fundraiser for Affirmations and Ruth Ellis Center. Menu includes roasted pork loin and chicken pasta

primavera. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$7.50 children. Accompanied by a silent auction of gift cards and donated arts and services.

Pride at Eve

Presenting Organization: Eve at The B.O.B.
 Time: 8 p.m.
 Location: 20 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids
 Contact: WestMIPride.org

Presented by West Michigan Pride and The Matthew Agency, hosted by The Princess of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 4. Progressive drink specials, masks capes and tights encouraged for the sexiest superhero costume contest. Cover: \$10.

Continued on page 54



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June 21
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FERNDALE PRIDE

JUNE 14-17

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Thursday, June 14th

'Beyond the Bar' Opening Reception
Detroit's LGBT design showcase @ Affirmations 7-10pm

Dino's Back Alley
Pre-Pride Celebration
In the alley-way behind Dino's Lounge - 8pm-2am

Friday, June 15th - 8:30-10pm

Light The Night Against Hate
Rally & March starting @ Schiffer Park (W. 9 Mile Rd. @ Planavon)

Saturday, June 16th - 2pm-step-off

3rd Annual S.E. Michigan Dyke March
Starts Behind RustBelt Market - Rally Begins @ 2:30pm - Geary Park
semidykemarch.org / www.facebook.com/semidm

Sunday, June 17th

Rainbow Run - 5k Walk/Run
Register @ www.rainbow-run.com
9:30am Registration / 10:30am Start

Street Festival - Noon-7pm
Beer Garden ● Vendor Booths ● Food Trucks ● Live Entertainment

Website



www.FerndalePride.com

www.facebook.com/FerndalePride

Facebook
















Proceeds supporting Our Community



Pride Premiere Movie Night

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: The Wealthy Theater, 1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids

Contact: WestMIPride.org

World Premiere of the upcoming LGBT movie "Jamie and Jessie are Not Together," to be preceded by refreshments and a reception.

Tupperware Party with Dixie Longate

Presenting Organization: Equality for A Cause, Inc. and Five15

Time: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Location: Above Five15, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak

Contact: Five15.net/Dixie

Join America's No. 1 tupperware lady, Dixie Longate, for a limited engagement. All proceeds will benefit Affirmations. VIP Tickets: \$100. General Admission: \$25.

White Party

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Location: Festival Tent, Esquire, Grand Cafe and Spiral Dance Bar

Contact: Michiganpride.org

One ticket for four venues throughout the Lansing area. Michigan's largest white attire event.

JUNE 16

Bears in Speedos Car Wash

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale

Contact: 248-470-4449, MotorCityBears.com

Motor City Bears' popular speedo car wash. Fundraiser for the Affirmations community center and Ruth Ellis Center. Suggested Donation: \$5.

Commitment Ceremony

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Capitol steps, Lansing

Contact: Michiganpride.org

Annual commitment ceremony at the steps of Lansing's capitol building.

Michigan Pride

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Burchard Park, Old Town, Lansing

Contact: MichiganPride.org

Vendors and performances from God-des & She and Chris Willis.

SlutWalk Detroit 2012

Presenting Organization: SlutWalk Detroit

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Grand Circus Park, Detroit

Contact: SlutWalkDetroit.org

The first SlutWalk took place in Toronto in early 2011, after a police officer there stated that women should "stop dressing like sluts" to avoid being raped. The purpose of SlutWalk is to take a stand and say "enough is enough."

State Pride March

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing to State Capitol

Contact: MichiganPride.org

Staging at 10 a.m. and kickoff at 11 a.m.



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KATY BUTLER

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11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
southeast area park 1351 ELLSWORTH ANN ARBOR, MI

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Third Annual Southeast Michigan Dyke March

Presenting Organization: Southeast Michigan Dyke March

Time: 2 p.m.

Contact: SEMIDykeMarch.org

Location: Withington Lot Alley and marching along Nine Mile Road

Marching to promote visibility, inclusion and equality for lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. Rally at Geary Park at 2:30 p.m.

Tupperware Party with Dixie Longate

Presenting Organization: Equality for A Cause, Inc. and Five15

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Above Five15, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak

Contact: Five15.net/Dixie

Join America's No. 1 tupperware lady, Dixie Longate, for a limited engagement. All proceeds will benefit Affirmations. VIP Tickets: \$100. General Admission: \$25.

West Michigan Pride Festival

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

Time: 1-9 p.m.

Location: Riverside Park, Grand Rapids

Contact: WestMIPride.org

Vendors, food, refreshments, games and entertainment.

XXX Cabaret

Presenting Organization: Detroit Together Men's Chorus

Time: 7:30 p.m.



Location: Lamphere High School, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights

Contact: 248-544-3872

30th annual Spring Concert featuring songs celebrating the chorus' 30 years of bringing music to metro Detroit along with some special guests. Tickets sold at Just 4 Us and Five15 Royal Oak.

JUNE 17

Ferndale Pride

Presenting Organization: Ferndale Pride

Time: 12-7 p.m.

Location: Along W. Troy St., Ferndale

Booths and entertainment. Ferndale Pride strives to recognize and promote pride for the LGBT and ally communities, working with residents, businesses, community groups, and all segments of the community to welcome and promote the celebration of diversity.

The Rainbow Run 5K

Presenting Organization: Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Along W. Troy St., Ferndale

The Rainbow Run is a 5K run/walk for acceptance and diversity. Spearheaded by the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce and presented by Comerica Bank, the run will weave through the streets of downtown Ferndale the morning of the Ferndale Pride Market Days as one of the many events taking place throughout the Ferndale Pride weekend.

Tupperware Party with Dixie Longate

Presenting Organization: Equality for A Cause, Inc. and Five 15

Time: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Location: Above Five15, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak

Contact: Five15.net/Dixie

Join America's No. 1 tupperware lady, Dixie Longate, for a limited engagement. All proceeds will benefit Affirmations. VIP Tickets: \$100. General Admission: \$25.

JUNE 21

26th Annual Pride Banquet & Awards Ceremony

Time: 6:30

Location: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road, Warren

Contact: GoAffirmations.org

On its 26th anniversary, the banquet will honor people who have made outstanding contributions of time and talent to the LGBT community. Nominations are solicited from all over Michigan, but only a select few will be chosen to receive awards.

Continued on page 58

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Funded by MDCH. AIDS Partnership provides FREE HIV testing at Affirmations in Ferndale. Thurs., 5:30-8pm. Sat., 1-2:30pm, 2nd & 4th Fridays, Youth Only, 5:30-8pm.

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An American Salute
June 22, 2012, 8:00 pm, at Kensington Metropark, and
June 30, 2012, 7:30 pm, at Kellogg Park, Plymouth

Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Commemoration of War of 1812
September 7, 2012, 7:30 pm, at Lake St. Clair Metropark

Isbin Plays Rodrigo - Sharon Isbin, guitar
October 5, 2012, 7:30 pm, at The Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills
October 6, 2012, 7:30 pm, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

The Jazz Effect - Dennis Carter, flute
October 26, 2012, 7:30 pm, at the Italian American Club, Livonia, and
October 27, 2012, 7:30 pm, at the Arts League, Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, Detroit

Dance Mix - Zach Shemon, saxophone
November 18, 2012, 2:00 pm, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Home for the Holidays
December 13, 2012, at the Penn Theatre, Plymouth
December 14, 2012, at The Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills

West Michigan Pride Festival



June 16th, 2012
Riverside Park
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
1pm-9pm




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LGBT Midwest Job Expo

Presenting Organization: Affirmations Community Center
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Contactin: 248-398-7105, GoAffirmations.org
The first of its kind in Michigan, Affirmations will host over 20 companies from all over the Midwest region. Affirmations hopes to provide a welcoming, open environment for job seekers to feel safe in expressing themselves while pursuing employment.

Monsters, Madmen & The Whimsically Twisted

Presenting Organization: \aut\ Bar
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor
Contact: AutBar.com
Hear Jay Kaplan, Jeffrey Willets, Soprano Carla Margolis and accompanist Elisabeth Wagner as they serenade you down the musical path of the Monstrous, Mad and Whimsically Twisted Broadway characters through song.

JUNE 23

2nd Annual Washtenaw Pride Picnic

Presenting Organization: Jim Toy Community Center
Time: 11 a.m. -5 p.m.
Location: Southeast Area Park, 1351 Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor
Contact: JimToyCenter.org
Music provided by DJ Scott Bradley and performances by Tracy Mack, Out Loud Chorus and the House of Chanel featuring Maxi Chanel and Jennifer Holiday Chanel. Special appearance by Katy Butley. Lawn games, face painting, relay races and more. Picnic is bring your own beverage (City parks do not allow hard liquor on Park Grounds).

5th Annual Detroit River Cruise

Presenting Organization: AIDS Walk Detroit and Motown Invitational Classic
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Location: Diamond Jack's River Tours, Detroit
Contact: 248-399-9255, AIDSWalkDetroit.org

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Presenting Location: Wellness AIDS Services and Flint Gay Pride Society
Location: UM-Flint Riverfront Pavilion, 1 Riverfront Center West, Flint
Contact: DJackson@WellnessAIDS.org

Wellness AIDS Services has teamed up with University of Michigan - Flint, Our Safe Space and ID Lube for a river front picnic. Vendors and live entertainment including drag performers and R&B artist Carl Furillostar. Evening candle vigil.

Tri-City LGBT Pride

Presenting Organization: Divine Light Interfaith Ministry
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Ojibway Island, Saginaw
Contact: Tricitylgbtpride.com
Drag show hosted by Alicia Moore, Missy MiCock, Ace DeVille, Asio Aviance and Sandy Beach. Musical performances from Tana Michaels, Drag King Rebellion, The Fundamentalists, James Taylor Jr. and The Banana Convention. Guest speakers: Alicia Skillman, Saginaw Mayor Greg Branch and Democratic Candidate for Congress Dan Kildee. Food, vendors, games and entertainment.

JUNE 25

JTCC Pride Dinner

Presenting Organization: Jim Toy Community Center
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor
Contact: JimToyCenter.org
Keynote speaker LZ Granderson, writer of a weekly column for CNN.com and named journalist of the year by the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Also honoring the career of sexologist and transgender advocate Sandra Cole. Admission: \$85 per person, \$150 for two.

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Motor City Pride emcee talks music, modeling and taking his clothes off

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Josey Greenwell is a male specimen of the highest rank: dreamy eyes, Southern boy charm and the body of a Greek god. And he's the Motor City Pride host, which means you'll be seeing a lot of him (maybe even literally) during the June 1-3 festivities, launching with a kick-off party on Friday at Necto in Ann Arbor and then continuing through Sunday at Hart Plaza in Detroit.

We chatted with the 23-year-old about his careers in music and modeling, being ditched by a country label for being gay and what his mom thinks of his half-naked pics.

What's been your experience performing at previous Prides?

It's a lot different than just an actual show. There's so much more going on; it almost makes it even better. And everyone is already excited to be there, so it almost just adds to the whole environment.

It's pretty gay, too.

(Laughs) I mean, it's gay, but it's cool because the support is so incredible, and just me being

Josey Greenwell

Host / Performance @ 6 p.m. June 2
Motor City Pride
Hart Plaza, Detroit
Pride Stage
www.MotorCityPride.org

an artist who happens to also be gay, it's really cool for people to see that.

What was your first Pride?

My first Pride was in Atlanta in 2007. That was the Pride I went to where one of my interns from the (country) label saw me and I wasn't out, but I was after!

So what happened?

I was with a country label at the time in Nashville and I went down to the Pride in Atlanta and one of the interns was down there and they didn't know I was gay at the label – and so they came back up and were like, "Sooo?" Then a bunch

of legal stuff went on. They couldn't have a gay artist. I was dropped because I was gay. It was bittersweet. Now, looking back at it, it was probably one of the best things that could've happened, because I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now. The initial moment of it was shock.

The way I write isn't really country to begin with. I always thought my writing was pretty pop in general; it was just being produced country. But now I feel like I can be more myself.

Why did you go into country in the first place?

Because people in Nashville loved my writing and how fresh it sounded and really wanted to mold me into a country artist. That's where I started the whole singing thing in general – at the Colgate Country Showdown (in 2006), a country talent competition. I actually won. It was awesome.

When I moved to Nashville, all I could do was sing. I ran into a music executive in town and he was like, "If you're going to be here, you're going to need to learn how to play guitar." I thought, "Yeah, that's a good idea." I'd find some songs I liked and looked up the chords and just sat in front of the computer for

hours trying to figure it out.

Tell me your coming out story.

I lucked out. You hear all these horror stories about coming out and you think that would be the case with me, being in Kentucky – that's where I'm from. But it was honestly one of the easiest things ever. They've always been so supportive.

I told my mom first – there were questionable pictures on Facebook – and she was like, "What is this?" I was like, "Ooh, nothing." Then I ended up telling her. I have two sisters and I told one of them and the other one got mad that I didn't tell her first. I should've just sent a mass text message. (Laughs)

Is Josey your stage name?

My first legal name is Joseph. I have the same name as my dad, so to avoid confusion they nicknamed me Josey from "The Outlaw Josey Wales." So since I was born, that's what everyone always called me. And it's funny, because everyone thinks I chose it just because of the music industry.

See Josey Greenwell, page 66

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JESSICA SUTTA

The
Empathetic Ally



Former Pussycat Doll on solo career, bullying and girl crushes

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As a former member of the Pussycat Dolls, the most successful female dance music group of all time, Jessica Sutta is well aware of her gay following. That hasn't changed since she went solo.

"Being in front of a gay audience is so much more fun," says Sutta, a Miami native who relocated to Los Angeles nine years ago where she said everybody goes to be who they want to be. "There are some really beautiful men and women there," she says, adding that she has a girl crush on Angelina Jolie and Megan Fox, but has a boyfriend who came in from Australia recently to help her celebrate her 30th birthday.

LGBT rights are her platform and Sutta plans to be the voice for millions of LGBT people that need to be heard for equality. "Everyone should be proud of who they are. Life's too short. All my friends are gay, pretty much. We joke that I may come back in my next life as a gay man," says Sutta. To show her love for the Michigan LGBT community, Sutta is coming to Motor City Pride at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit on June 2.

"I always have a great time in Detroit," she says. "It's really cool that I have the ability to do what I do. I think these festivals are a lot of fun and it's always amazing to be a part of."

While at the festival, Sutta will perform her Hollywood Records debut single "Show Me," written and produced by busbee and mixed by Grammy-nominated Veronica Ferraro. "I will show my alter ego, the theme for my upcoming album 'Sutta Pop,' and plan to get really lost in the fantasy. I love

Jessica Sutta

7 p.m. June 2
Motor City Pride
Hart Plaza, Detroit
Pride Stage
www.MotorCityPride.org

dance music. That's all I listen to, really. Being from Miami, there is a heavy base of dance music there. It's very sexy."

Her catchy club-inspired song is in heavy rotation at many clubs and was selected to be a bonus track on "Now That's What I Call Music! Vol. 39." This is Sutta's first solo No. 1 single and she is the first Pussycat Doll to ever top the Billboard Club chart as a solo artist. The video was shot inside the American Legion in Hollywood, a venue with classic art deco architecture mixed with a historic military motif. "The war memorabilia was really trippy. It was a cool vision," says Sutta. "The song is about walking the walk and showing me that you love me."

That's important to Sutta considering she wants to get married one day and hopes that same-sex couples will soon be able to do the same. "We're in 2012 and I feel like we're in a time when racism existed. I get really heated when I talk about this topic. Who are we to judge who people marry or how they choose their life to be? Because I have a lot of gay monogamous friends, I saw a different side to it. There are so many heterosexual people that shouldn't be married. It's time to wake up."

The anti-gay attitude, especially

bullying, is something Sutta never understood, even as a young girl. "I was bullied as a kid," she says. "Girls were horrible to me. They used to call me Jessica 'Slutta' because it rhymes with my last name. I was really sensitive to it, but grew a really thick skin. There should be more punishment for bullying in schools."

Her advice to any kid getting bullied is to "stay strong," "kill them with kindness" and "don't take it personal." Sutta has some friendly advice for adults, too: "We need to be able to grow through our generation so we can help our kids. We can really hurt a child by not growing and by not teaching."

Getting beat up gave Sutta the ammunition to do what she loves and to surround herself with good people. "I had the best time of my life in that group," she says when asked about moving on from the Pussycat Dolls. "I love having that as a part of my life. I'm very proud." Now inspired by singer and songwriters like Sia, Sutta continues to develop herself as an artist. "When I'm on stage, I come alive. I'm really falling in love more and more with performing."

Off stage, Sutta describes herself as a "really normal chick." "I'm a hippy who loves to love. I'm goofy. I've become more humble throughout the years. I've grown up," she says. The more mature Sutta plans to travel the world with her music to reach her fans everywhere. "When you're on the floor, you feel the dance music in your feet, in your heart. It does put you in a trance in some ways, and I hope my music will do that."

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DANI RICE

Local Music Maker

Musician on getting wet and wild at Pride

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

The road to pop stardom is a rocky one. If you're going to make it, you need five things: a YouTube page, great hair, abs, drama and, of course, a little sass. Luckily for Westland musician Dani Rice, he's got all three.

It doesn't hurt that he's also brimming with actual talent. All of those pop star qualities will be on display when he takes the stage at Motor City Pride at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 2.

Rice, now 23, took his first steps toward becoming the hip-haired pop singer he is today at 19 when he picked up his first guitar. Inspired by the neo pop-punk sounds of bands like Flyleaf and Paramore, Rice began playing to express himself.

"I wanted to be able to sing and play what I wanted," Rice says. "I didn't want to depend on anyone else."

He was also a big fan of Paramore lead singer Hayley Williams' funky orange and yellow hair. "I actually bought a headband that was almost the same color, so I could be just like her."

Rice's first try at being a professional musician was in a band. Unfortunately, as tends to be the case in many bands, drama quickly ensued.

"I got into a band and we started to play acoustic indie music, started doing shows," Rice says. "It was really fun. Then we had a little fallout."

After his band crumbled, he continued to create new music. He even recorded four songs with the help of one of his former band mates.

"I have recorded about four songs," he says. "Me and my ex-band member still kind of collaborate on music but not like we used to. We wrote about six songs together, like a little EP."

Although he's had a bit of experience with performing live at three paid events and numerous open mics—viewable on his YouTube channel—his upcoming performance at Motor City Pride will be his largest crowd yet. Although it's a big step up, the rookie is showing some veteran-like confidence.

"(It) will be the biggest crowd I've played in front of," he says. "I'm not really nervous because I'm a natural at doing what I like doing; I'm sure people will enjoy it too."

He's playing it cool, but he does admit that he's worried about making sure his performance

Dani Rice

6 p.m. June 2
Motor City Pride
Hart Plaza, Detroit
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is as flawless as possible.

"A lot of people will be listening, so you kind of have to make it pretty perfect," he says. "But I like playing, so I'll just have fun."

He may not be nervous about his performance but he is excited about attending his first Pride event. With his expectations for the event as high as they are, excited is probably a bit of an understatement.

"I'm expecting to see people in underwear, naked and drunk," he says.

Pride events being the party that they are, Rice is guessing that he won't have to do much to help keep the party rolling.

"I'm just going to show up because the party don't start 'til I walk in," he said. "I'm a party animal, don't get it twisted."

He's planning to do more than just show up when he's on stage. For his performance at Pride, he plans to do several covers of popular songs from Paramore, Sia, Lady Gaga and Flyleaf. While he's not planning to outdo Lady Gaga's "Born This Way Ball," he's prepared to tease the crowd by getting a little wet and wild to keep things exciting.

"I could pour some of my water bottle on me," he teases.

He's also considering taking it a bit further and going shirtless to show off his requisite pop star abs. Although, he hopes his voice will be enough to satiate the sweaty, half-naked and probably slightly drunk crowd.

"I'm planning on my voice but I guess you got to look pretty while you perform," he says, pausing for a moment. "I don't know, should I take my shirt off on stage? I do have abs."

Rice's performance at Pride promises excitement, for both the crowd and himself. And if he walks away with a few groupies, even better.

"No sexual favors yet," he says. "But I'm always up for that."

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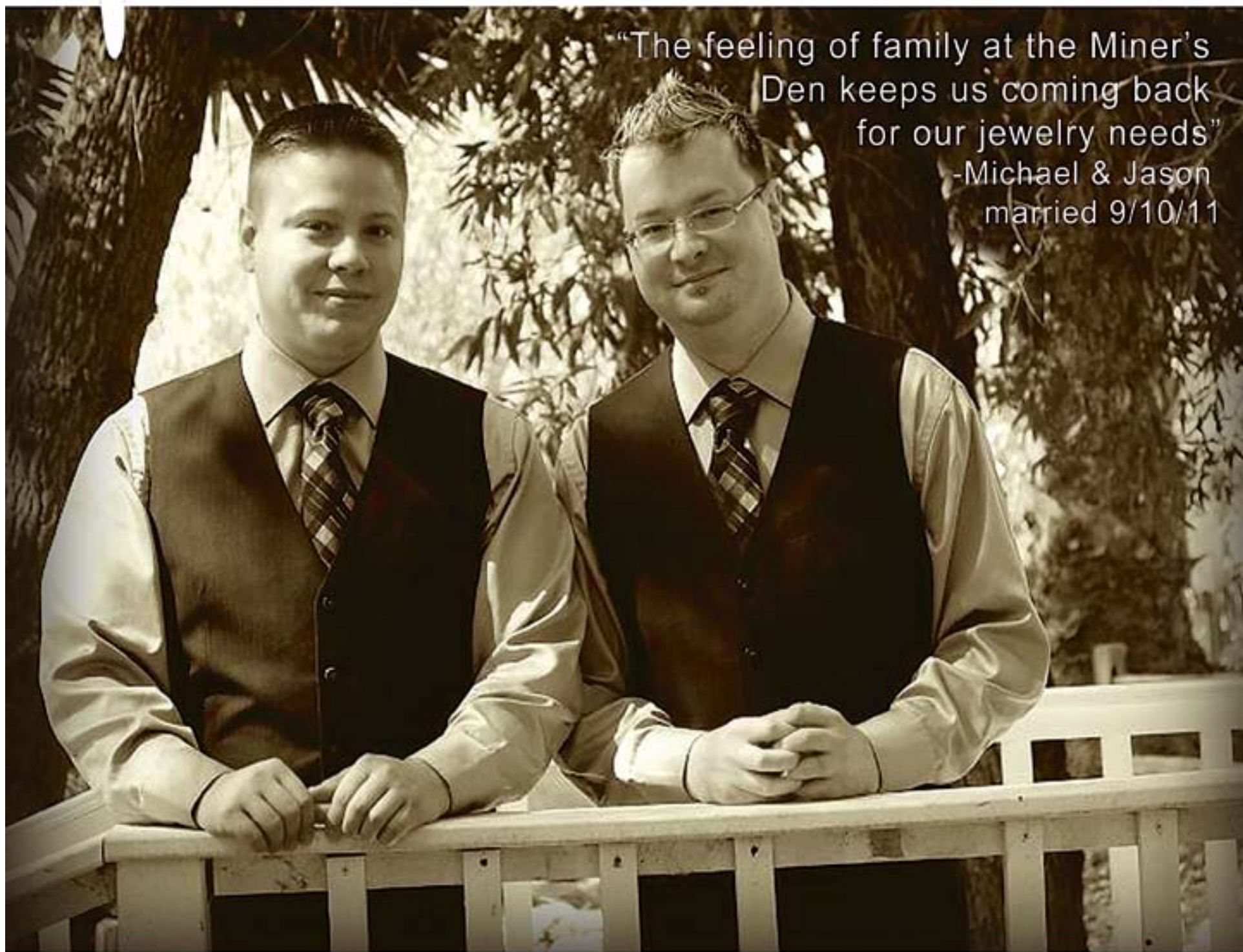
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► Josey Greenwell

Continued from p. 60

How did the modeling start?

It was a spin-off from the music. I started once I had an independent album finished. I really wanted to promote it as much as I could, so I started reaching out to magazines and newspapers and blogs. A couple of the magazines wanted to do a shoot so then I had this whole modeling portfolio. I just started really trying to progress in that arena and then it just kind of took off, too. I really try to keep involved in both music and modeling.

What does your mom think?

She actually likes all of my modeling ones. She really appreciates the fitness aspect and she's like, "Wow, you've worked so hard." And I'm like, "Thanks, Mom. It's so weird you're saying that." (Laughs)

What about your body drives you nuts?

I always look at certain parts of my body and think, "OK, I want to make this part better. I want my arms just a little bigger. I want to build my chest more." I'm always changing to make sure I'm always progressing.

What's currently your work-in-progress?

I lost a lot of weight when I was in Europe promoting this single ("Stuck in My Head"); I lost like 20 pounds, so I'm trying to bulk back up. I'm almost there.

Are you working on a pop album?

Yeah. I did a lot of it when I was in Paris, and then I did the first half in Miami. We're wrapping it up now and seeing which singles we want to do and then we'll pitch it around. I'm excited. We've had some offers, but me being a songwriter, I'm not one to want to give credit where it's not due. I'm really looking for a label that will work with us.

What's the vibe of the album?

It's really cool because I'm taking my very autobiographical style of writing and adding a lot of pop and urban to it. It's very different because it's coming from a guy's perspective.

A lot of people describe my writing style along the lines of a more mature, male Taylor Swift. I don't see that, but of course I'm going with it because she can write a hell of a song.

Do you get hit on a lot?

Not really. People are obviously friendly, but I don't know. Maybe they do and I don't even notice. (Laughs)

What can we expect from you when you host Pride?

I've just been looking at different options to fill my spot and introduce some new stuff to the audience, as well as stuff they already know. That'll be really fun. I love doing stuff like that, but I'm also going to perform.

Shirt on or off?

Both! Off if I lose audience members.



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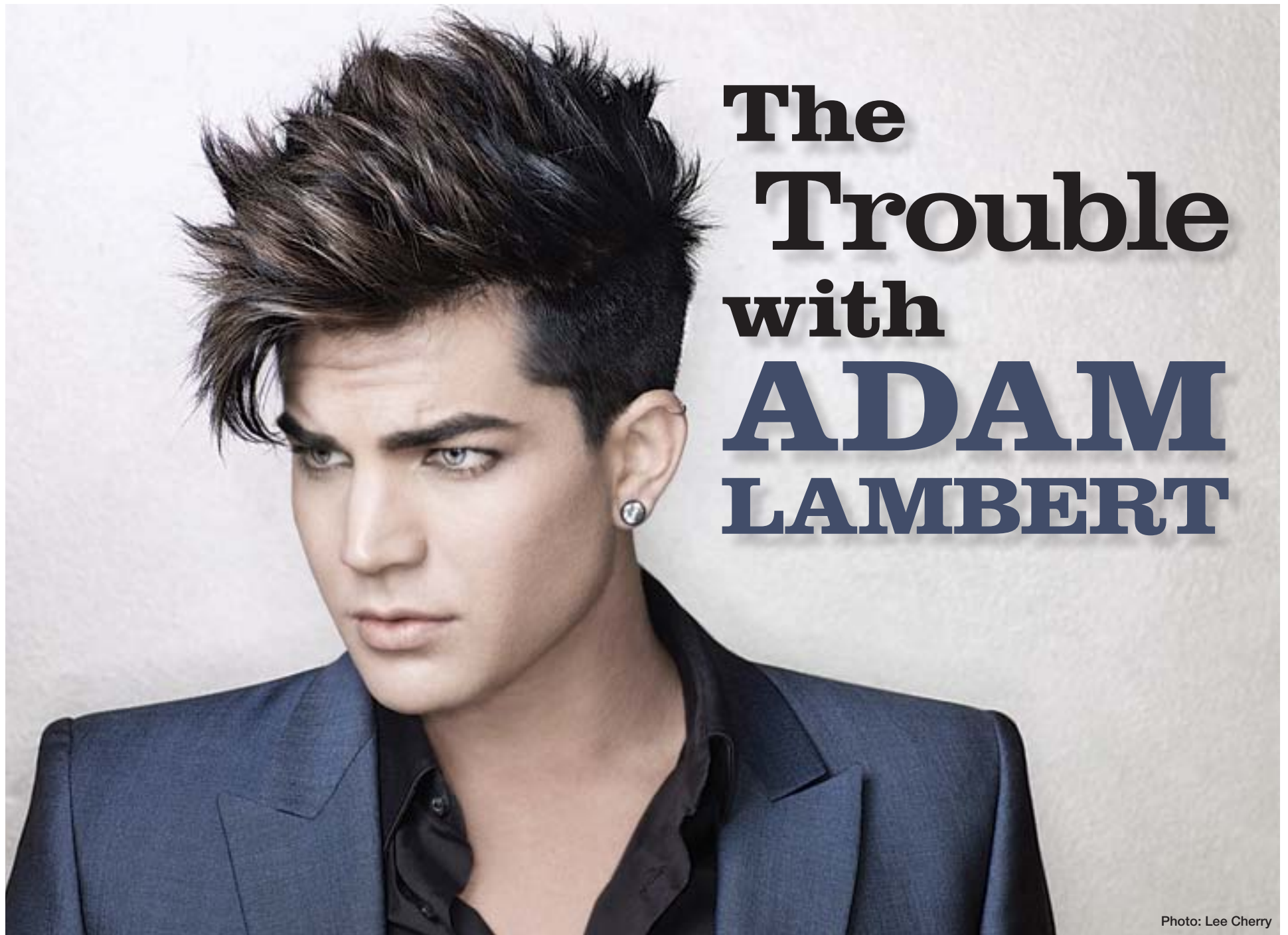


Photo: Lee Cherry

The Trouble with ADAM LAMBERT

Pop star talks 'novelty' of his homosexuality, being an unfit role model and his peculiar sex toy

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Remember the fuss Adam Lambert caused when he tongued his keyboardist in front of the world? Of course you do. The controversial kiss drew both homophobic outbursts and so-what shrugs, and it's an American Music Awards moment that won't soon be forgotten. Especially by Lambert himself.

"That was an interesting night," he says, snickering in his charmingly guy-next-door way about that seminal smooch. "That AMAs performance was trespassing, in a way." And, on his latest album, he's not done crossing the line: "Trespassing," which positioned him as the first openly gay artist with a No. 1 album on the Billboard charts, is the defiant second to the "American Idol" spawn's 2009 debut.

In this candid interview with Lambert, the pop star opened up about the "redundant" press questions regarding his sexuality, becoming more confident as an out celebrity, and breaking the rules — and going to jail for it.

What does the album title, "Trespassing," mean to you?

Being who I am in this music environment is trespassing, and that's why Pharrell (Williams) and I wrote it about that. We had a big conversation about the music industry and the business and being an artist, and then on top of it, being somebody that's different, being a gay man and being in an industry where it's not very common, not very present. Kind of feeling like I'm gonna own this, march forward and ignore any kind of sign or person telling me no. I'm gonna do what

I wanna do and not feel sorry for myself.

Is anything you do for shock value premeditated?

No; I don't think, "OK, I want to piss people off now" or "I want to shock people." I kind of, especially after the (AMAs), go with what I want to do musically. That's been more in the forefront for me in my decision-making. I think just kind of being, and being unapologetic for being, is a risk in and of itself in today's music industry.

Was the AMAs kiss good for you?

I don't even know. I was in such autopilot. It was one of those weird moments that just kind of happened. Some of the choreography earlier in the number was planned, but that whole moment with him was just, "Oh my god, now we're kissing!"

You've spoken with gay publications and mainstream publications. How is it different talking to each?

I try not to make it any different. That's been one of my big goals, especially with this album. This time around I'm trying to just adopt a post-gay mentality about it, because I'm so proud of who I am and I'm 100 percent positive about it and I celebrate it — but I also think it's a bit dated to harp on it and to lean on it and to constantly be defined by your sexuality. I think that gay men and women who live their lives as gay men and women understand that and understand that it's just another part of who they are. Unfortunately, with some mainstream publications, it's such a novelty for them to be able to talk about it. It's such a hot-button issue that it becomes the focus of a lot of discussion.

See Adam Lambert, page 70

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► Adam Lambert

Continued from p. 69

Does that bother you?

(Hesitates) It gets a bit redundant. Gets a little old. It's something I've made peace with; I'm trying to just look at it from the other point of view and realize that a lot of the questions are legitimate for someone who doesn't understand. I think the way to progress and confront ignorance is information. You start talking about things and we get past them. So yeah, it gets a bit redundant, but I feel like at this point, it just comes with the territory that I'm trespassing on.

What challenges have you run into as not just an artist but a gay artist?

Well, there's a huge double standard. Straight artists are constantly toying with images of sexuality and double entendre lyrics; when a gay male artist does, it raises a lot more eyebrows. I'm trying to find the balance, and I think this album has found a balance. It's not shying away from it at all – my sexuality or who I am or my identity – but it's also universal. All of these ideas are universal: how I feel, wanting to go get laid, to go have a couple drinks with my friends and get a little nasty. Hopefully, for an open-minded individual, no matter what their sexual preference is, they'll relate. Everybody feels that way. Everybody wants to have a good time, let go and feel free, no matter who you are. What's cool about the album is that it does specifically address my lifestyle and my experience in nightlife and in relationships, but I think it can reach anybody.

Does being a gay celebrity put pressure on you to spearhead the gay movement? To have to be more political?

I don't feel pressure to be political, but I do feel pressure to raise social awareness and to help be a confident voice for perhaps a young gay teenager who doesn't really have a lot to look up to. I also find it dangerous, because I don't always consider myself the best role model in the world. (Laughs)

Why do you say that?

Because I'm not here to teach anybody how to be gay and I'm not here to teach anybody how to be the best person. I'm not always the best example. I make mistakes and I do things that are out-there sometimes, but what I hope to inspire is the sense that people can be who they want to be. I always say, "Don't do what I do; do what you want to do." I hope that I can inspire people to take control and charge of their own reality.

What can we expect from this album?

One of the best parts about the album, as well as it being about an out and proud gay man, is that the first half of the album is very upbeat and electro-funk-dance-pop, and a lot of the things expressed in the first half of that album are rebelliousness and liberation and these kind of anthemic calls to arms. It explores, as gay men and people in

general, that when we go out into the world we have to put on our game face. You want to go out and feel fierce, and that fierce thing that we all put on is sometimes like an outfit: We dress it up and we project fierceness, but what lies underneath is sometimes weakness and vulnerability and pain and darkness. The album transitions into that place midway through – it's very dark and quite sad and it's dealing with heartache and insecurity. It shows a lot about what lies underneath the surface of me, but I think we all can relate to that. We all want to be our fiercest self, and it takes a certain amount of posturing and peacocking to be that. I hope people can find themselves in this music.

Tell me about the song "Outlaws of Love."

That song actually is about everything – it's about gay marriage, it's about every challenge that we face as a community, including gay marriage, but it's more about that emotion of what it feels like when you're being persecuted or outlawed or shunned because of whom you choose to love.

You've been reluctant to talk about politics in the past. But something seems to have changed in you; you've been more open to discussing politics and equal rights. What changed?

You know what I think? It's so fast. All of a sudden everyone's talking about me and I'm on the cover of a magazine. No matter how well-adjusted you are, that's a weird thing to get used to. Over the past several years, with the first album and the first tour, I've got more comfortable in the public eye and I've gotten to know my fans more and I've sussed out who I want to be as an artist.

But not just as an artist. As a gay man in the public eye too, right?

Yeah, as a person. Totally. I've kept a lot of my close friends close and my family is still close to me, but of course this type of experience and this flip in your lifestyle causes you to adjust – and that includes as a gay man. I've had to adjust and reassess things and evolve a little bit, and that's because of age, too. When I started I was 27, and I just turned 30 – those three years are a big three years. My perspective is just



Photo: Lee Cherry

different – it's different because of celebrity, but also just because of life.

What's one piece of advice from "American Idol" that you've held onto?

I had a lot of support from my circle of friends who were like, "Just do what you've always done. It doesn't matter that you're on TV now; just do what you've always known." The hardest thing about the show is all of a sudden, there's all this pressure and all these factors that you aren't used to as a performer, and you have to tune it out and just trust your own gut and try to maintain that sense of integrity. And it's not easy. Then, transitioning into the music industry is the same challenge. You're like, "OK, well, I gotta play the game but I also want to do what I want to do, so how do I do that?"

You were in the slammer for a few hours for fighting with your boyfriend, Sauli Koskinen, outside a gay bar in Finland. Did it fulfill any fantasies of yours?

(Laughs) Uh, no. Actually, it was horrifying. I was by myself; there wasn't anybody else in there. It was a private cell. It was a very embarrassing moment and not something that I'm proud of. I have plenty of friends who have had crazy nights and things have happened, and these things do happen to regular people; I am a regular person, but I just happen to have a higher profile. I've tried to walk away from the experience and learn a lesson from it and make some adjustments and try not to let it ever happen again. It definitely wasn't as dramatic as the media made it out to be, but it also wasn't something to laugh about.

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► Adam Lambert

Continued from p. 70

guys in jail?

Not from my experience!

What's different about maintaining a relationship in the public eye versus out of it?

People wanting to know what's up and asking questions. But I don't know. To be honest with you, I only maintained one relationship out of the public eye, so I'm kind of inexperienced either way. (Laughs) I was a bachelor for a long time! I definitely played the field. So I think just being in a relationship that's become quite domestic actually feels really good; it's something I hadn't really experienced much before, and I'm really enjoying it. It actually fits in quite well with my new lifestyle because it's more private, it's more at-home, and that's nice.

Do you want to be married and raise a family?

Yeah, someday. I definitely want that for myself at some point. I don't know when that's going to be. In fact, I don't know if it's anytime soon. I'm really excited that our society is progressing. Everybody has the divine right to marry whoever the fuck they want. The funny thing about being a gay celebrity is all of a sudden it's like, "Oh, are you going to get married since that's the new big struggle and that's the thing everyone is fighting for?" And I'm like, "I can fight for it without getting married myself." I don't need to get married for my people. That's silly.

What does it take to be a Glambert?

Reckless abandon. (Laughs) I think that any sort of diehard fandom is a crazy, surreal mentality. That's part of the fun for the Glamberts; they've given themselves permission within that community to be kind of insane. And it's gorgeous and it's fun and it's an escape. It's not real life – it's something else. Everybody wants that in some form or another. We all have our different versions of it. For people who are diehard fans, that's their way, that's their obsession and that's their outlet.

Tell me your best crazed-fan story.

Well, I've gotten a lot of very interesting gifts. I don't know what they're called specifically, but I remember opening up this small box and it was this metal sex toy and I think you stick it in the tip of your dick – a urethra rod or something. I don't know what the fuck it is. (Laughs)

Did you use it?

I definitely did not use that. That is not my style. I looked at it and said, "What the hell is that?" And somebody had to answer that for me and then I went, "OK, I'm gonna pass."

Did you at least re-gift it?

As a joke, I did. I think I gave it to Raja (season-three winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race"). He actually was my makeup artist on my tour that same year. I think I gave it to him. I doubt that he kept it, but I know he laughed quite hard.

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Landmark gay rights case courtroom drama explored in new book

BY ARNOLD FLEISCHMANN

Dale Carpenter's new book, *Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas*, examines the history of the June 2003 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled state sodomy laws unconstitutional.

It's easy to romanticize important court cases like this. But the lawsuit would not have happened without a lying call to a police dispatcher, what seems like police misconduct, great legal strategy by Lambda Legal Defense, frequent ineptitude by the lawyers representing Texas, some sympathetic officials, and just plain luck.

Carpenter, a law professor at the University of Minnesota, provides important background in chapters on the history of sodomy laws, Houston, the defendants, the arrest, analysis of what probably really happened on the night of the "crime," and other topics. The majority of the book, though, follows the case through the courts. It is based on media accounts, the legal record, and his years of extensive interviews with participants and observers associated with the case and LGBT politics. The 345 pages include almost 60 pages of endnotes, bibliography, and a thorough index.

John Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested in September 1998 when a third gay man made a false report to police about an armed man. The cops entered Lawrence's Houston apartment, where he voiced strong hostility to their presence. He and Garner were then arrested for allegedly violating Texas's "homosexual conduct law." That law had been revised in 1973 to include both anal and oral sex - and to apply only to same-sex couples, which became a key issue.

The case was not "staged" to challenge the Texas law. Indeed, Lawrence and Garner were angry, not political. Convicted of this misdemeanor carried only a small fine.

A gay clerk for a judge passed along the arrest record to an acquaintance, an activist who spoke with both men and eventually met Lawrence in a parking lot late at night to discuss the case. Local leaders and attorneys then sought help from Lambda Legal. They got Lawrence and Garner to commit to challenging the law, starting with a "no contest" plea, which meant that there was never an actual trial. From that point on, everything was done on appeal, where there are no witnesses or evidence, just written (briefs) and oral legal arguments to judges about the underlying issues.

The basic claim was that the Texas law violated the "equal protection" guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, because of the way it singled out homosexuals, and basic

liberty rights. They also argued that the law violated the "right to privacy," which isn't explicit in the Constitution, but has evolved through court decisions.

The legal team worked through the Texas courts and then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Winning meant getting the U.S. Supreme Court to agree to hear the case and then overturn its ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the notorious 1986 case in which a 5-4 majority upheld Georgia's sodomy law.

Each hurdle included important strategic decisions. The legal team shielded Lawrence and Garner from the media, avoided discussing the details of the arrest, emphasized previous cases on contraception rather than abortion, and tried to make the Supreme Court think narrowly about sodomy laws rather than other issues. They even orchestrated supportive "friend of the court" briefs filed by other organizations, including the American Bar Association and the Episcopal Church.

The other side was overmatched. The state attorney general (John Cornyn) was running for the U.S. Senate, and his office refused to defend the law. That left it to the district attorney's office back in Houston, which tried defending the law based on "public morality." They had limited appellate experience and made a dismal oral argument before the Supreme Court.

Lawrence and Garner won on every level in a 6-3 decision. In reading the court's ruling, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, "Bowers was not correct when it was decided and it is not correct today." As many expected, Justice Antonin Scalia responded by reading from a vehement dissent (joined by Rehnquist and Thomas) with scare tactics and the claim that the Court had "largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda."

The book is an excellent account of one of the landmark rulings for LGBT rights. Carpenter is not neutral about the case, but his interviews and analysis are balanced. For those who don't remember their college American government course, he provides careful explanations of legal procedures and terms.

Carpenter even recounts some humorous episodes. The attorneys for Garner and Lawrence asked the original

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judge who convicted them to raise their fine above \$100 - otherwise they couldn't appeal. Luckily, the lesbian representing the DA's office agreed. Then there is Justice Breyer growing frustrated with the Houston DA's presentation to the Supreme Court. He finally asks the poor fellow for a "straight answer" to a question." Breyer didn't understand the laughter that erupted until Clarence Thomas leaned over and explained the joke.

Carpenter takes the time to examine how sodomy laws served to discriminate against individuals and also were used to threaten groups, such as public officials refusing to recognize gay or gay-friendly student organizations because they would "encourage" law-breaking. The only minor gap is a discussion of the backlash in 2004-2006 in which more than 20 states adopted constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. The Lawrence case was less important for that conservative crusade, however, than the ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court a few months later to recognize same-sex marriage in that state.

John Lawrence and Tyron Garner are now dead. The important case the bears their name, however, will live on for a long, long time.

Arnold Fleischmann is a professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University.
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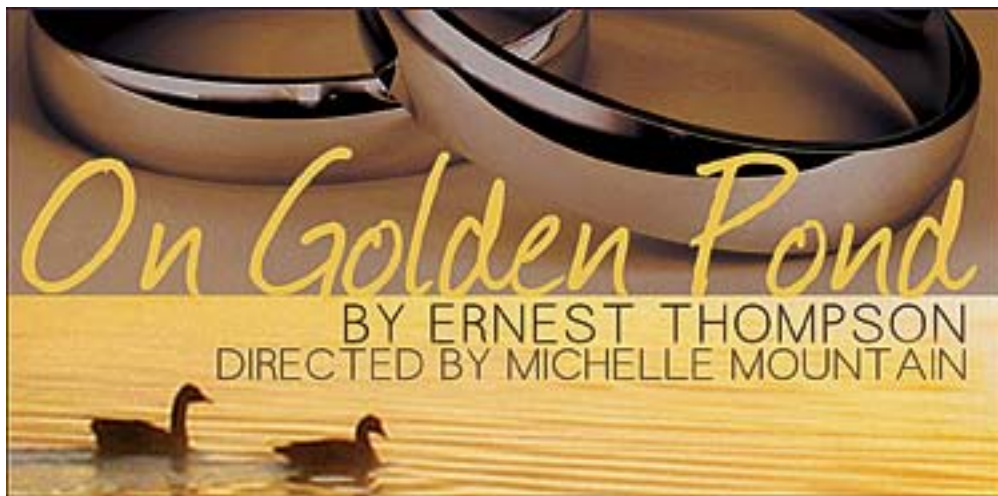
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“Xanadu”: a place you should totally dare to go

BY JENN MCKEE

In the interest of full disclosure, I feel compelled to reveal, before critiquing Meadow Brook Theatre's new production of “Xanadu,” that in 1980, a certain 9-year-old girl – ahem - fell wildly, stupidly in love with the much-maligned movie flop of the same name.

I had the movie poster in my room; clipped and saved articles about Olivia Newton-John; wrote “Xanadu” all over my textbook covers; and listened to the soundtrack until the cassette died.

So when the stage musical version of “Xanadu” opened on Broadway in 2007, I dragged my trusting friends to a performance during a trip to New York. And though none of my gal pals shared my knowledge and love of the original movie, we all had a blast.

Why? Because whether you earnestly loved the original movie or loved how awful it was, or never saw it at all, the stage musical is built with the sole purpose of entertaining you – and so it does. With an affectionate and sharply witty book by Douglas Carter Beane (of “The Little Dog Laughed” and “As Bees in Honey Drown” fame), “Xanadu” miraculously made what seemed like a sure-to-fail premise a goofy, irresistible good time. If you loved the movie, it doesn't make you feel stupid for loving it, but rather gently mocks the things that are ludicrous about “Xanadu” while fully, ebulliently celebrating the things that are still great – namely, the music.

With music and lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar, the soundtrack is packed with not only the movie's string of ELO and Olivia Newton-John hits – “Magic,” “Suddenly,” “Xanadu,” “I'm Alive,” “All Over the World” – but also a couple of additional songs from these artists' catalog (“Evil Woman” and “Strange Magic” from ELO, “Have You Never Been Mellow” from ONJ). Though the songs are undeniably of their era, they nonetheless still have the seductive allure of pop music ear candy.

Plus, in Meadow Brook's production, David Havasi (Sonny) and Allison Hunt (Clio/Kira), along with the rest of the cast, get to comically exaggerate the vocal tics and pretensions of the original performers, which adds an extra layer of fun to the proceedings.

The story, such as it is, focuses on a struggling artist (Sonny) in Venice Beach in 1981, and the Greek muse (Clio/Kira) that inspires him to, um, open a roller disco. With Kira's help, Sonny quickly finds the right venue, but the building's rich landlord, Danny Maguire (Paul Hopper), is more intrigued by Kira's uncanny resemblance to his own



David Havasi and Allison Hunt in “Xanadu” at Meadow Brook Theatre. Photo: Rick Smith

REVIEW

Xanadu

Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Wednesday-Sunday through June 17. \$30-\$39. 248-377-3300.
www.mbtheatre.com

muse of long ago than he is in Sonny's proposition. Meanwhile, Kira's jealous oldest sister, Melpomene (Jennifer George), hatches a scheme with her sidekick sister Calliope (Lisa Lauren Smith) to make Kira fall in love with Sonny, against father Zeus' rules.

Sound weird? It is – particularly if you have no previous experience with the movie. But “weird” can be good; and in this case, it is.

Travis Walter directs Meadow Brook's production with a whimsical sense of love for this loopy material, as well as for the original Broadway production; for Kristen Gribbin's scenic design – with six on-stage, curved benches for audience members, bisected by a ramp and a set of steps, and an oval, checker-board floor – hews fairly closely to the look of the original, with music director Daniel Feyer's solid four-piece band at stage right.

Costume designer Liz Moore gets to be a bit more adventurous, offering eye-catching outfits for the Sirens; brightly colored, drape-sleeved, flowy outfits for the muses; and some famous

figures from Greek mythology. Only Moore's dresses for a harmonizing female trio featured in “Dancin” gave me pause. Reid G. Johnson's lighting design creates the perfect mood and atmosphere, and Marcus R. White's choreography, while initially predictable, seemed more exuberantly expressive as the show progressed.

Part of the issue is that not all cast members are created equal, in terms of dancing abilities, so some of the performers' movements looked a bit tentative on opening night. To some degree, this will likely improve throughout the run (as will a few nervous moments on rollerskates in the final number). And some of the show's more subtle jokes didn't land on opening night, indicating that cast members may need to emphasize them a bit more.

But the vocals are by and large terrific, as is much of the acting. Hunt and Hopper have great appeal and skill (and they seem to be having a ball, too); Eric Gutman (Terpsicore) provides a couple of hilarious moments; and Smith and George revel in their characters' villainy while serving up some killer vocals.

But perhaps the most winning, captivating performance on opening night came from Havasi, whose Sonny is earnest and ditzzy, but genuinely likable nonetheless.

In fact, “Xanadu” itself is a lot like Sonny: hilarious, charming, and guaranteed to leave you smiling.

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For all Pride month related events, see the *Pride Calendar* on p. 49.

Thursday, May 31

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

KGLRC Youth Group 7 p.m. The Resource Center Youth Group helps young people, ages 13 to 18, who are trying to come to terms with their sexuality in a sometimes-unaccepting society. Meets every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at a confidential location. To attend, call or e-mail the resource center. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Friday, June 1

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

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

Sunday, June 3

New Volunteer Orientation 1 a.m.

Become a volunteer for the country's oldest all-volunteer crisis intervention center. Volunteers are an awesome LGBT-friendly community. Calls include mental health crisis, sexual identity crisis, fear of coming out, suicide, and sexual assault. The Listening Ear Crisis Hotline, 2504 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-337-1717. Ear.recruiting@gmail.com Theear.org

GOAL Book Club 4 p.m. Get Out and Live's LGBT Book Club. Meets the first Sunday of every month at Five15 in Royal Oak. Get Out And Live! 515 S Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. GetOutAndLive.me

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 ask any one-person three questions and be guaranteed honest responses, whom would you ask and what would you ask? GOAL, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Transgender Lansing Group Meeting 6 p.m. Lansing chapter of Transgender Michigan meets the first Sunday of every month from 6-9 p.m. Transgender Lansing, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. Facebook.com/groups/56386266994/

Monday, June 4

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People's Experience in Counseling 7 p.m. Affirmations is looking for people who have ever been in therapy and would like to contribute their opinion to regarding the dos and don'ts of counseling lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients' perspective. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

PFLAG Richland 7 p.m. Meets the first Monday of every month, except Labor Day. PFLAG, 9400 East D Ave., Richland. 269-377-9401. RichlandPFLAG@gmail.com

Tuesday, June 5

Gay-Straight Alliance in Faith 7 p.m. A group of LGBTQ and allied young adults ages 14-23 welcoming those of all faith backgrounds or no faith background, honoring and respecting each person's faith and spirituality. Alternate between topical discussions and guest speakers on relevant topics for LGBTQ youth. Meets the first and third Tuesday of ever month. G-SAIF, 207 E. Fulton St.,

Grand Rapids. GaysinFaithTogether.org

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

Wednesday, June 6

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. Grlgibt.org

Thursday, June 7

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Olympia Entertainment "Steve Harvey Comedy Tour" Entertainer, television host of Family Feud, top radio personality, actor, comedian and best-selling author Steve Harvey will bring his final comedy tour, "Steve Harvey Live: The Grand Finale" Tickets: \$48-66. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 9. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University Jerry Seinfeld. Due to popular demand,

America's premier comedian is hitting the road in a return to his first love - stand-up comedy. Tickets available online. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7 p.m. May 31. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. Whartoncenter.com

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "A Night at the Cotton Club" Smoky, Sultry, Swingin'. Your table is reserved, right near the band, at The Cotton Club. It's a salute to the "Hi De Ho" swing of Cab Calloway...the elegant "Satin Doll" sheen of Duke Ellington...and the blistering blast of Satchmo. Tickets: \$19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 1 - June 3. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival In a season titled White Nights: A

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum \$22. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. June 1 - 16. 888-71TICKETS. stdunstantheatre.com

Follies \$18-20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. May 31 - June 10. 517-482-5700. Riverwalktheatre.com

Masks \$5. Royal Oak Missionary Church, 411 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. June 1 - 3. 248-541-6606. MasksThePlay.org

Sweeney Todd \$12-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor.

Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through June 3. 877-636-3320. detroitensembletheatre.org

Christopher Carter \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 8. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Ernie \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through July 29. 1-800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Italian American Reconciliation \$10-15. Epicenter Theatre Group at Varner Hall Studio Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester. May 31 - June 10. 586-246-7546. EpicenterTheatreGroup.org

Motor City Improv \$3. Motor City Improv at The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave.,

Editor's Pick

The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival returns this year with "White Nights," an impressive repertoire of Russian masters, traveling to several venues across Southeast Michigan with 18 performances June 9-23.

The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival was born in 1994 of a remarkable relationship between religious and cultural institutions. A secular event, the Festival is sponsored by three religious institutions (representing Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faiths) and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, a prominent musical ensemble that also provides administration for the Festival. This year, the festival brings the music of Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and other Russian greats to venues like the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Kerrytown Concert House and the Seligman Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$35-40 with discounts for multiple concerts. A full schedule and list of venues for the festival is available online at GreatLakesChamberMusic.org. For more information, call 248-559-2097.



Editor's Pick

After a successful Kickstarter campaign with GrooveBox Studios, Go Comedy! Improv Theater is set to welcome back one of its most successful shows, "Robocop! The Musical," on May 31 with a new, professionally recorded score, original cast album and more.

"We are very excited to bring 'Robocop' back to our stage. Last year's production was a huge success. For this year's show, we've added new songs, tightened up the script and are recording new backing tracks with Groovebox Studios to make it an even better experience," said Go Comedy! Producer Pj Jakoces.

"Robocop! The Musical" is a live, original musical parody of the iconic film "RoboCop" – a fun, hilarious, reimagining of the tale of a robotic police officer who protects a futuristic Detroit from crime.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday nights May 31-Aug. 3. For complete information, call 248-327-0575. Go Comedy! is located at 261 E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.



musical journey through Russia, the 2012 Festival will present music by Russia's greatest composers including Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich, among others. Tickets and a complete schedule available online. Venues throughout metro Detroit, Various Venues, Detroit. June 9 - June 24. 248-559-2097. GreatLakesChamberMusic.org

Olympia Entertainment One Direction; Pop sensation One Direction will be hitting the road for their first-ever headlining North American tour and returning to Detroit's historic Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$30-60. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. June 1. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Queen Extravaganza; Behind the show is Queen's iconic drummer Roger Taylor, whose idea was to create the ultimate Queen concert experience in an electrifying road show that celebrates the band's music and legacy performed by some of the best new music talent working today. Taylor personally takes the role of producer and music director. Tickets: \$15-30. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 31. 248-433-1515. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Red Hot Chili Peppers are touring in support of their current album I'm With You, which has received a Grammy nomination for "Rock Album of the Year." In addition, the band will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April. Tickets: \$42.50-62.50. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 8 p.m. June 1. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark Suzanne Westenhoefer; Tickets: \$26. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

June 7 - 10. 734-971-2228. A2CT.org

The Bad Seed \$16-18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. June 1 - 17. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. June 1 - 9. fancypants theatre.webs.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

The 39 Steps \$7-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre, Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, 103 Quirk, Ypsilanti. June 1 - June 9. 734-487-2282. emutix.com



Suzanne Westenhoefer

PROFESSIONAL

Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Through June 28. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Beyond Therapy \$18. The Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors

Detroit. 8 p.m. May 31. parkbardetroit.com

Nonsense \$18. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through June 10. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Opera at The Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 2. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Red \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 3. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Sleeping Beauty \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. June 2 - 30. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Smoke on the Mountain \$25. Center Stage Entertainment at The Box Theatre, 51 N. Walnut St., Mt. Clemens. June 1 - 10. 586-329-6570. CenterStageMacomb.com

Sylvia \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. June 9 - July 1. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

Taking Care of Mimi \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. May 31 - June 24. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

The Cemetery Club \$26-30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 17. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

The Divine Sister \$10-15. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 4. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

The Do Over \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. June 1 - June 16. 313-365-4948. PlanetAnt.com

The Fox on the Fairway \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. June 5 - June 17. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

The Great Big Bar Show \$20. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. May 29 - June 3. 269-731-4121. BarnTheatre.com

The Light in the Pizza \$25-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 8 - July 1. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

The Understudy \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through June 17. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org



The Understudy

Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through June 17. 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

Xanadu \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 17. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

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. 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - June 10. 734-995-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Berkley Chamber of Commerce "Berkley Art Bash" Art and music lovers looking to add a little color to their weekend will find a diverse assortment of photographs, garden art, jewelry, pottery, wearables, paintings, edibles, live music and more. 3117 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. 10 a.m. June 9. 248-414-7222. Berkleyartbash.com

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "Moving to His Own Beat - Fela" Created in partnership with Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts to prelude the arrival of the Broadway smash musical, Fela!, to Music Hall in February, 2012. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1 - June 17. 313-494-5853. TheWright.org

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Art on the Grand" A juried fine arts fair, Art on the Grand will showcase over 100 fine artists and crafts persons from across the country. Other activities will include hands-on activities for children, wine and delectable food, live music, and much, much more. New in 2012: Chalk and Chocolate. Public art chalk with College of Creative Studies, chocolate wine tasting, empty canvas performing live and taste Michigan chocolates. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 1 - June 3. 248-473-7276. Downtownfarmington.org/Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Art-on-the-Grand

Flint Institute of Arts "Abstract Expressionism" The first specifically American art movement to achieve international influence and put New York City as the new center of the western art world. 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

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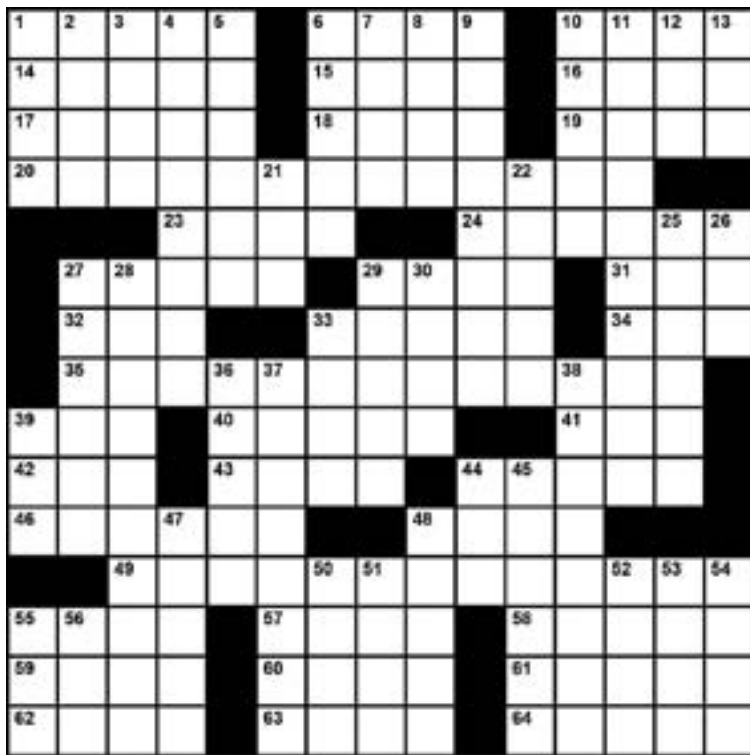
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Friends of Dorothy



Across

- 1 Strap-on for a diver
- 6 Give relief to a thief
- 10 Digital-rectal, for example
- 14 Sports
- 15 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
- 16 Painter Magritte
- 17 He often screws actors
- 18 "Sodomy" musical
- 19 Tight-assed
- 20 With 35- and 49-Across, "If all the girls who attended the Yale prom ____"
- 23 Refused to submit, with "out"
- 24 Specimen for the lab
- 27 Like sourballs
- 29 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
- 31 Mao's successor
- 32 "Can you ____ little faster?"
- 33 Part of a religious title
- 34 Kid of jazz
- 35 See 20-Across
- 39 TLC specialists
- 40 Full of good cheer
- 41 Lubricant
- 42 "Much ____ About Nothing"
- 43 "Three Tall Women," for one
- 44 Fine mist

- 46 1973 Number one hit of Elton John
- 48 Just right
- 49 See 20-Across
- 55 Exclusion of gays from the military, and more
- 57 Creole veggie
- 58 "De-Lovely" star Kevin
- 59 Do a critic's job
- 60 Turntable spinner
- 61 The British Museum's ____ Marbles
- 62 Grp. or org.
- 63 Singer Anita
- 64 Ready for action

Down

- 1 Clarinetist Artie
- 2 "La ____ aux Folles"
- 3 Friendly opening
- 4 Nitwit, or the tip of his erection?
- 5 Half a rack
- 6 One that sucks some sap
- 7 Necklace bauble
- 8 Buffalo's lake
- 9 Edna of "Hairspray"
- 10 Muse for Millay
- 11 Fear of people on Uranus
- 12 Latina writer Castillo

- 13 Rev. White of Souforce
- 21 Vestment for Mychal Judge
- 22 Knocked off
- 25 "____ you jest!"
- 26 Cheer word
- 27 Plan of action
- 28 What's left after a vowel movement?
- 29 Show host Povich
- 30 Cousin of Jethro and Jethrine
- 33 Explorer of Nickelodeon
- 36 Philip Johnson contemporary
- 37 Having loads
- 38 Nacho base
- 39 Way cool
- 44 Pacifier
- 45 Dorothy, source of this puzzle's quip
- 47 "Hedda Gabler" playwright Henrik
- 48 Madonna flick, with Dick
- 50 Lose control on the road
- 51 Bear that may be a minor
- 52 Express love manually, perhaps
- 53 City near Tulsa
- 54 Claim innocence of
- 55 Cover for headlights
- 56 Some sex-toy batteries

Solution on pg 84



Adopt Izzie - 5 year old tiger cat

Izzie is a five year old, short-haired, brown tiger cat that has been waiting for a home for over 5 months. This cat couldn't be more of a lap cat. She's also very playful and loves toys! She isn't a huge fan of dogs, though and is going to need to find a home without canines. Izzie's ready for her forever home today!



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bitter girl



Horoscopes

Be you, Leo!

BY JACK FERTIG

The Sun and Mercury in Gemini both quincunx to Pluto in Capricorn aggravate grievances with power and bureaucracy. Resist the urge to argue. Pressing your point will not help. Be sly and subversive. Know your opponent and work your way inside.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Your mouth is determined to get you into trouble. Showing off your brilliant wit will backfire, annoying your partner, upsetting your boss and exposing personal details. Stay home and write, but have your partner look over anything before you let anyone else read it.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Reconciling your ideals with practical needs can be a challenge. The discrepancies there could make anyone pessimistic. The good news is that shows you have a grasp of the larger issues and are taking steps to improve the world.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Being too eager to fix problems can make a cure that's worse than the disease. Collect facts and figures, listen to everyone involved, but real resolution will be subtler and more empathetic than logical; more in deeds than words.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Applying your personal insights to help others is an awkward fit, but that awareness combined with broader ideas can prove useful. Efforts to solve problems at home just dig you in deeper. For now just listen and cooperate.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Yes, darling, everyone already knows you're fabulous. Pushing the point will only irritate those around you. Just relax and be you. Your hard work will be noticed, but is that a good thing? Have a friend double-check it first.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Charm and good manners will help you get ahead. Creative playfulness can push you over lines you don't want to cross. Be sensitive to others, but not presumptuous. Remember that your priorities aren't necessarily theirs.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Realizing your mistakes is an important part of learning. It may be hard not

to feel stupid and resentful. Think of it as intellectual housecleaning that will help you to advance. New approaches to health and exercise are worthwhile, but should be approached thoughtfully.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Sexual tensions and other anxieties need release. Lascivious humor can reveal deeper truths – or it can get you into big trouble. Remembering when and where is just simple common sense. Resist rationalizations and impulses.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Connections that feel karmic can offer insight into old family problems. A little more attention to hygiene and housecleaning can help solve spats with your partner. There are deeper problems, but a little clean up couldn't hurt.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Screw-ups at work are nearly inevitable. Trying too hard only complicates the project while promoting stress and over-exertion that could cause physical harm. Advice (real or imagined) from a favorite uncle or aunt can help.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): What looks like fun carries hidden risks. Your mouth is especially dangerous now and getting too aggressive will only expose secrets, leaving you vulnerable. In the right time and place, that can be therapeutic. Elsewhere it's a bloody disaster.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Feeling a bit more than usually disconnected, resist the temptation is to look for comfort in family and home. Better to focus on your career and to build your reputation, not by seeking attention, but by sharpening clarity on your purpose and direction.

Jack Fertig, can be reached through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.



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Movement takes over Hart Plaza

One of the longest-running and most respected festivals of electronic dance music, Movement Electronic Music Festival, took place over Memorial Day weekend in Detroit's Hart Plaza. The annual festival featured five technological-rich outdoor stages with more than 100 artists. Pictured are performing DJs Mark Farina (1) Gay Marvinne (2), along with attendees Christina VonDion and Elliot VonDion (3). Photos by Andrew Potter.



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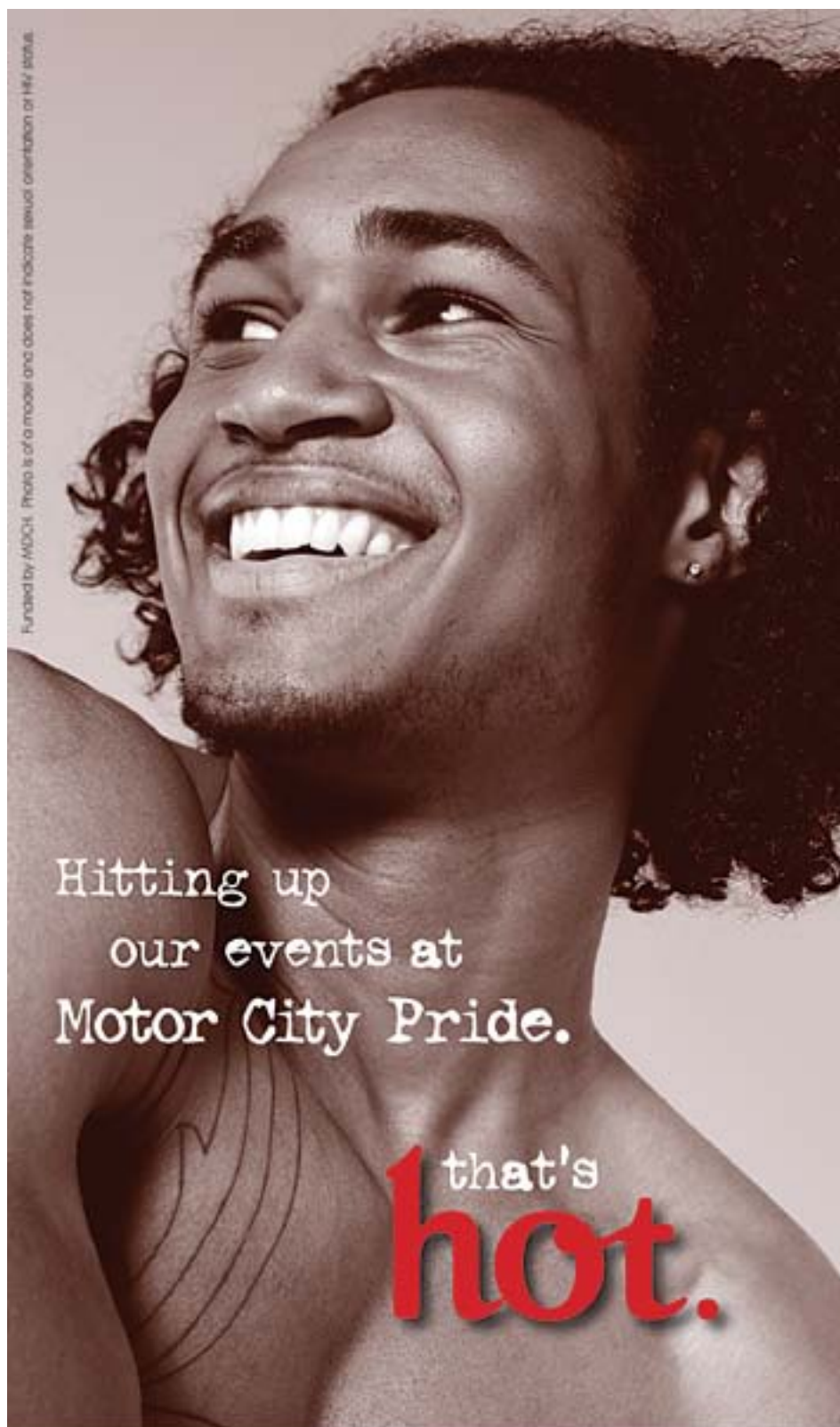


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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE



Colin Firth. Photo: The Weinstein Company

Colin Firth is a coward. Noel, that is.

Academy Award winner Colin Firth is going back to his roots by playing yet another gay man. A pioneer in the “who cares, it’s only acting” school of thought when it comes to portraying non-hetero characters – he did it when nobody else was, in the 1980s, with “Apartment Zero” and then several more times in films like “A Single Man,” “Mamma Mia!” and “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy” – Firth will soon step into the shoes of the late great playwright and composer Noel Coward. The project is called “Mad Dogs and Englishmen” and will focus on the true story of Coward’s two week cabaret stint at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas back in 1955. Much like the recent “My Week With Marilyn,” the concentrated time frame of the story will examine Coward’s relationships with his agent and his piano teacher. And we trust that those were “fascinating” friendships, otherwise there’d be no movie about it. Right? In pre-production now, it’ll be heavily marketed to a highly specific subset of moviegoer sometime in on or before 2014. Musicians are difficult to pin down.

Triple threat rhymes with Rupert Everett. Sort of.

Rupert Everett is currently wisecracking his way across arthouse theater screens as the Victorian-era inventor of the vibrator in the Hugh Dancy/Maggie Gyllenhaal comedy “Hysteria.” And if it seems like period pieces suit the actor these days then that’s because they do, with his upcoming project, “The Happy Prince,” promising to keep him in old-fashioned costumes for just a little bit longer. Everett will write, direct and star in the film as Oscar Wilde (during which phase of the controversial, quotable playwright’s life is somewhat uncertain, since fellow gay Brit actor Stephen Fry already portrayed him in the ’90s biopic “Wilde”). And the triple-threat has already lined up an impressive cast of co-stars: Emily Watson, Tom Wilkinson and, reteaming with his ’80s cast-mate from “Another Country,” Colin Firth, who’ll portray Wilde’s friend Reginald Turner. Call this one pre-pre-pre-production for the moment: There won’t be a single camera pointed at a single waistcoat until summer of 2013.

Elizabeth Banks reaches for her revolver

She’s a franchise baby for now, with “The Hunger Games” giving Elizabeth Banks her highest profile role to date as Effie Trinket. But in between installments of that blockbuster series, the “30 Rock” regular plans to keep you laughing – even as you cringe – in a comedy about... killing your co-workers. Alan Ball, Oscar-winning creator of “American Beauty,” “Six Feet Under” and “True Blood,” has cast Banks in his latest movie, “What’s the Matter With Margie?” The dark, darker, darkest comedy, slated for a 2013 start date, will focus on an abused office worker who’s been dumped on for the last time by her co-workers and resorts to planning their murders. Think “Office Space” meets “Heathers” meets “Psycho” (or “Horrible Bosses,” come to think of it). Just don’t think about taking any impressionable cubicle-mates on opening weekend.

Harold & Kumar meet the Cartoon Network

The minute John Cho and Kal Penn became claymation figures in “A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas” it’s almost certain that light bulbs went off in the heads of the weird people in charge over at Cartoon Network’s “Adult Swim” programming branch. “Of course!” the collective mind must have exclaimed, “What better delivery system for stoner delight is there than cartoons? And who’d make a better cartoon than America’s favorite stoners?” Which is how Harold and Kumar became the latest upcoming series you’ll have to stay up very late to watch (or just DVR) on basic cable. The green light’s on for a batch of episodes (coming, who knows, soonish probably); Cho and Penn will voice their White Castle-loving characters and it’s pretty much a lock that a certain gay actor who’s very good at playing a drug-addled womanizer who only pretends to be gay to get closer to the ladies will join in the mayhem from time to time. That would be Neil Patrick Harris, by the way. Keep up.

Romeo San Vicente has pretended to be a lot of things to get what he wants. And he always gets what he wants. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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