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**Between THE Lines**

Transgender Treatment in the Media

Hotter Than July to Sizzle Detroit

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HTJ planning committee at work earlier this month at KICK offices. BTL photo: Crystal A. Proxmire.

# Hotter Than July Organizers Prepare to Sizzle Detroit

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - How many ways can you honor your black gay and transgender heritage? That's what the organizers of Hotter Than July! are trying to find out. With a week's worth of events there is plenty to keep Metro Detroit's LGBT population entertained, engaged, educated and empowered. Events include a family picnic, a speaker series, a film festival, workshops on activism and leadership, a candlelight vigil and plenty of time to be social and have fun.

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, Regional Field Director for the Obama Campaign Lacey Dawson, Congressman Hansen Clark and Dr. Kanzoni Asabibi of the Bureau of Substance Abuse will take part in a forum about leadership and community involvement. "Most of the Prides have been about parties and fun," said Cornelius Wilson, Committee Chair for the Annual Gathering for LGBT Issues. "We wanted to have a focal point where the community is educated and informed, not just on LGBT issues but on other things they may need to know."

He added that Rob Turner of Community Health Awareness Group would be there to discuss healthcare, activists would



HTJ Committee Chair for Annual Gathering of LGBT Issue Cornelius Wilson, hopes gathering to educate and inform on issues from healthcare to voting in 2012. BTL photo: Crystal A. Proxmire.

be explaining KICK's Stand Up and Be Counted voter engagement efforts, Rev. Darlene Franklin would speak about faith, and The National Black Justice Coalition would have someone on hand to talk about LGBT issues.

"This is a pivotal year for people to come together," said Wilson, who has been part of HTJ since it began in 1996. Many KICK volunteers have taken part over the years, though the event has historically been put on by the Black Pride Society.

This year BPS and KICK have officially combined forces, giving this year's event an even stronger organizational team and a melting pot of ideas for events and partnership opportunities. Seven committee chairs each lead a team of volunteers, and Wilson thinks this will be the smoothest-running year yet.

"It's all trial and error, things you learn from year to year," he said. "You can plan it so perfect but there will always be a monkey wrench. We know how to handle those, and that's the important thing. We are always going to make it happen."

Wilson remembered the early years of HTJ. "From our perspective back then when we did special events we didn't realize we were bringing the community together. It started out just for fun. But it's gotten big. And it's made a difference."

Another key feature of HTJ is that it takes place at multiple venues throughout Detroit, giving the community increased visibility. Kickin' It on the River takes cruisers away from land, while the HTJ Film Festival is at the historic Burton Theatre, The Sunday Brunch is at the Detroit Yacht Club, and the Annual Gathering for LGBT Issues is at the Hilton Garden Inn. Of course several events will be at Palmer Park, including the candlelight vigil and the family picnic.

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# Official Hotter Than July! 2012 Schedule of Events

## The 17th Annual Candlelight Vigil

July 24, 6:00 p.m. to Dusk

Place: Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit

Cost: Free

An interfaith candlelight vigil and spiritual awakening; We pay respect to those that have gone on before and rejoice in our lives and freedoms.

## KICKIN' IT ON THE RIVER

July 25, Boarding at 6:30 p.m. and sailing promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$55.00 per person

From Rivard Plaza on Downtown Detroit's Riverwalk. A three hour cruise on the Detroit River.

## Hotter Than July Film Festival

July 26, 5:30 p.m. to 12:20 a.m.

Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit

Cost: \$20.00 per person

At The Movies is the HTJ film festival, an organized presentation of feature and/or short films.

## 17th Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues

(Formally The Genesis Conference)

July 27, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, 351 Gratiot Ave. Detroit

Cost: Free with required registration

The Gathering is a day of education and advocacy with an array of interactive and informative workshops covering issues of importance to women, men, transgender, youth and elders. The Gathering offers an excellent educational balance to all the fun and frolic experienced at Pride.

## Palmer Park Picnic

The 17th Annual Palmer Park Pride Picnic

July 28, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (March begins at 10:30 a.m.)

Palmer Park, Detroit, MI

Cost: Free

The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual pride celebration is like a family reunion and you're invited. Each year the Palmer Park Festival is host to over 20,000 guests taking a moment to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity. The day features music, entertainment, and everyone is encouraged to bring your own picnic basket and maybe even pitch a tent.

## Worship Service

July 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, 351 Gratiot Ave. Detroit

Cost: Free

An interfaith worship service hosted by Detroit's faith community.

## 17th Annual Sunday Brunch

July 29, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Detroit Yacht Club, One Riverbank Rd., Belle Isle, Detroit, MI 48207

Cost: \$75.00 per person, VIP \$100.00 per person

For more information on the schedule above, check out the website at  
>> [www.HotterThanJuly.com](http://www.HotterThanJuly.com)

# Transgender People in the News: Can the Media Get It Right?

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Michigan has had growing reports of violence against transgender individuals and news stories of prostitution arrests that are over-dramatized because the suspects were transgender. The increased coverage has both trans people and journalists questioning what is appropriate and what isn't in the media.

The most recent example was the May 29 arrest of two sex workers at the Motorama Motel in Ferndale. Police identified the suspects as Artel Lavontre Martin, 19, and William Rodney Patterson, 28, both of Detroit and they referred to them as men even though they were living as women.

When Ferndale Police came to Transgender Day of Empowerment in April, Officer Jason Colette explained that suspects are booked according to their name and gender marker on their state-issued ID. Press releases are also based on how a prisoner is classified by the state.

And when the press gets a hold of these stories they are often eager to play up the novelty of a "man dressed in woman's clothing," when in reality, in their day to day life, they are living and interacting with the world as transgender women – or as Michelle Fox-Phillips calls them, women.

"My question is why did she have to mention that we're trans and not just two women?" said Fox-Phillips, who is the founder of Transgender Detroit said.

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, provides guidelines for reporters covering the LGBT community. "GLAAD advises journalists to report about individuals as they themselves identify or identified. It's just not accurate to force an identity on anyone - period," said Seth Adam senior manager of communications at GLAAD in New York.

"Far too often, media misreport a person's gender, using incorrect pronouns and/or an individual's birth name," Adam said. "Sadly, most instances occur when reporters are covering anti-transgender hate violence, usually citing police reports that also mis-describe a person's lived identity. Typically, we find that these sorts of errors are due to a lack of education with regard to transgender terminology (as well as erroneous police reports), and GLAAD works with journalists to not only correct such errors, but also to better inform media about how to more accurately cover the lives of transgender people.

"Recently, The New York Times

published an incredibly

exploitative story about the tragic death of Lorena Escalera, a local transgender woman. GLAAD challenged the NYT, who admitted that the paper should have "shown more care in (its) choice of words." GLAAD worked with several local transgender advocates, such as People.com editor Janet Mock, to honor Lorena's life and highlight the staggering rates of discrimination still facing transgender Americans today."

GLAAD's intervention doesn't end with the national stories. Reporter Cathy Kavanaugh of The Daily Tribune in Royal Oak also got a call after covering the Ferndale prostitution arrests.

Kavanaugh, who has been a reporter since 1987, never had any mention of the LGBT community in her journalism classes. "I actually got it wrong at first," she said in regard to her May 31 coverage of the arrests. "I believe I had 'two men' in the headline and first paragraph of my original posting. Then I heard from reps of a group called GLAAD. They told me the suspects should be identified as transgender women.

"I really appreciated the clarification and our brief conversation helped me sort through the confusion of having mug shots from police of beautiful women with the names of, I believe, Artel and Rodney. The GLAAD reps also said they would have asked me to change all pronouns in the story from he to she. However, that wasn't an issue because I described them as suspects, defendants or "the pair" in my story, in part to write around not knowing what pronoun to use. I will keep that in mind for future stories. I didn't accommodate their third request, which was to call police and find out the female names the suspects use because they are going through the courts under their original names. On that point I did change some wording in my story and attributed their names to police."

Kavanaugh's corrected article not only accurately identifies the suspects as transgender women; it goes a step further



Ferndale Police reminded many at the Transgender Day of Empowerment that suspects are booked according to their name and gender marker on their state issued id. Most media press releases report the same way. BTL File Photo: Crystal Proxmire

to explain what that means. The paragraph reads, "The male-to-female transgender suspects were in the room. Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth."

"I'm not sure why other reporters didn't offer a sentence or two to explain what transgender means," Kavanaugh said. "It's probably a combination of ignorance and time constraints. I think news staffs are so thin nowadays there isn't as much time to spend on one story or round out press releases like we used to do. I was juggling three stories that day with this Ferndale case, a Royal Oak house fire and an Oak Park business winning a national award."

Although there are constraints on time and resources for local media like The Tribune, Kavanaugh took the time to make the corrections. She acknowledged GLAAD as a trusted source for media information on how to cover transgender topics.

"The GLAAD Media Reference Guide answers common questions and pitfalls that arise when covering the LGBT community. I would point reporters to pages 8-11 to learn more about transgender people," she said.

Members of the general public who want to end incorrect or disingenuous transgender coverage in the media can get involved as well. "I leave comments on stories or I email the writers when I see stories that I disagree with," Fox-Phillips said. "We need to speak up or things won't get any better."

Find out more about GLAAD and their suggested guidelines at [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).

## Parting Glances



### Pages Past Tense #16

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I was 23 when I started Wayne University – before it became WSU – as a trial, non-matriculated student.

It took me eight years to earn my degree, at a time when tuition was \$25 a credit hour. I had many incompletes, dropped courses for lack of sustained follow through, switched from a Sociology major to English Teaching in the Community College.

That diploma made all the difference when I finally received it in 1972. (Having tried and dropped Spanish, German, and Italian. Top grades however in French; one course at a time, with no other subjects to distract my memorization focus.)

“Hey! You can’t write a headline Liberace Gives Gay Concert. It may be clever by half, but it’s libelous by full.”

It was Ernie who encouraged me to attend Wayne University. (He was finishing his B.A. in Journalism, a pursuit he resumed when returning to Detroit.) “Keep in mind Al: good looks don’t last. [See photo above.] If you haven’t got a career to sustain you when you hit 30, it’s no go for a gay guy – unless of course you’re rich, or being kept.”

Soon Ernie began writing for the Wayne Collegian (years before it became its present, once-radical incarnation, The South End) as its drama/music/dance critic. He earned two admission tickets plus byline. It was a freebee for me, a Humanities course in itself.

At the Masonic Temple -- one of Detroit’s top entertainment venues – ticket allotment to media reviewers was handled by PR duo James Cornell & Pete Prass. They were a couple, partial to gay reviewers, so naturally Ernie and I got excellent viewing seats.

(Unfortunately, P & J liked to party a bit too much, returned home to their Palmer Park bungalow, fell asleep carelessly smoking in bed, and shockingly died, a year or two short of the proverbial, male-climatic, late-40s.)

While writing for the Wayne Collegian Ernie became friends with faculty advisor Frank Gill, who was also music critic for the Detroit Times. (Detroit had three majors newspapers.) Frank was “gay friendly,” and often boasted about being at a London party with Lord Alfred “Bosie” Douglas, Oscar Wilde’s lover, in attendance.

I recall hearing Frank Gill, tongue in cheek, tell a Collegian copy editor, “Hey! You can’t write a headline Liberace Gives Gay Concert. It may be clever by half, but it’s libelous by full.”

In stature Ernie was short; and I’m sure we stimulate intermission gossip when we attended concerts. Certainly quite a bit more when we took in ballets. “As a seen-everywhere couple in Detroit’s year-around cultural world, Mutt & Jeff Go Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.”

Looking back on my cultural singalong with Ernie I heard many greats: pianists Dame Myra Hess (who stopped playing, turned to the audience and coughed, to silence the many winter coughers in attendance), Rudolph Serkin, Arthur Rubinstein, conductors Paul Paray, Eugene Ormandy, George Szell, Arthur Fidler, soprano Maria Callas - all gone. All immortal on tape.

Once I even got to misbehave while “enjoying” a ballet performance. The young balletomane seated on my left initiated an ever-so-gentle (but rhythmically sustained) game of kneesies. A pas de deux of sorts. Somehow it went well with the music. He left with his girlfriend, looked back, winked, smiled knowingly. (Fifth position, anyone!)

Charles@pridesource.com

# Bash Back! Lansing Protest Fallout Continues

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – A protest by the radical queer organization Bash Back! Lansing in 2008 has resulted in the state passing a new misdemeanor criminal law.

The law passed the legislature on June 25 and was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on June 27. It goes into effect on Sept. 1.

Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) championed the legislation in the Michigan Senate.

“This week we will be celebrating Independence Day, and the freedom to worship is a right that Americans have died to protect,” said Jones. “In Michigan and across America we must stand firm against any group that attempts to disrupt a religious service. I am hopeful that stricter punishment will deter anyone from interrupting a religious service. However, if it does not, I will go back to work and make it a felony.”

Under the law, entering onto private property where religious services are being held or intended to be held and disrupting the service is a high misdemeanor, punishable by up to 93 days in jail, \$1000 fine and no more than 100 hours of community service. Subsequent convictions are punishable by the same jail terms, fines of \$2000 and no more than 200 hours of community service.

The law was introduced in response to an action by the radical queer group Bash Back! Lansing in 2008. Members of the group infiltrated Mount Hope Church in Delta Township, which is located just west of Lansing. Once in place, activists threw leaflets, kissed, unfurled a banner and chanted Jesus

“While Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) says the law would not apply to gay pride events – where protesters regularly disrupt and harass participants in the name of Christianity – he said he opposes any violence against gays.”

was gay.

The church has a long history of supporting anti-gay initiatives including promotion of ex-gay therapies.

Although Michigan law allowed Eaton County to bring low-level misdemeanor charges against the protesters in 2008, no criminal charges were filed. Instead, the church, represented by the conservative legal organization Alliance Defense Fund, sued the organization and members under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, or the FACE Act.

That lawsuit was settled in July of

2011 when the federal court issued an order enjoining members of the group from protesting at private religious worship locations.

Jones says the 2008 protest was an attack on religious freedom.

“In history some nations (Nazi Germany, etc.) have allowed church (synagogue, mosque) invasions and disruption of religious services,” he said. “We must take a strong stand....Never here in Michigan!”

While Jones says the law would not apply to gay pride events – where protesters regularly disrupt and harass participants in the name of Christianity – he said he opposes any violence against gays.

### Find more online:

[www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/publicact/pdf/2012-PA-0202.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/publicact/pdf/2012-PA-0202.pdf)

### Stories on the original protest:

[www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=33015](http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=33015)

[www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=32938](http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=32938)

<http://michiganmessenger.com/50811/federal-court-issues-order-against-bash-back-lansing-in-church-protest>

## ‘Step Inside the Box’ Returns

### AIDS Walk Preview Event to Benefit Area HIV/AIDS Agencies

ROYAL OAK – As a preview to this fall’s 21st annual walk, AIDS Walk Detroit is hosting its third annual fundraising event, “Step Inside the Box,” on July 19, from 7 p.m. -10 p.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, located at 316 E. 11 Mile Rd.

Benefitting HIV/AIDS organizations across metro Detroit, “Step Inside the Box” will feature a silent auction of custom-designed “shoe box art” incorporating great gift packages created exclusively for the auction and

donated by local artists, businesses and supporters. Strolling gourmet appetizers will be furnished by the expert chefs at Black Finn, D’Amato’s Restaurant, Holiday Market, Pizzeria Biga, Pronto!, The Rock on 3rd, Ye Old Saloon and more, along with complementary wine, beer and signature cocktails.

This year’s silent auction consists of 50 fantastic packages including a pair of first class, round trip tickets to anywhere in Central America provided by Delta Air Lines; 2 one-night Motor City Casino

luxury packages valued at \$800 each; a MAC Cosmetics gift basket valued at \$250 and many more exciting items to bid on. Tickets are \$50 in advance. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door (21 & over only). Complimentary parking will be offered in the east side lot of the Farmers Market.

To purchase tickets, contact the AIDS Walk Detroit offices at 248-399-9255 or <http://stepinsidethebox.eventbrite.com>.

# Between Ourselves: Bailey Boudreau

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

Bailey Boudreau is a Ferndale-based actor who turned his life around by getting sober and following his dream of performing. Three years into sobriety, and several transformations later, a scene written for a friend's benefit is now being made into a full-length film of his life's story... with help from donors to the project's fundraising site.



## 1 Can you explain a bit about this project?

We are making a film based on my one man show, White Trash Debutante Ball. I wrote it when I got sober almost three years ago and it was a piece specifically written for a benefit a

transgendered friend was having to raise money for a surgery. The response to the scene was so overwhelming I was basically begged to write the rest of this character's story. The character had been based off of me and my life so I had no choice but to write my life, changing only things I had to for purposes of continuity and theatricality.

## 2 How did White Trash Debutante Ball grow over the past three years?

The play was seen originally at Affirmations. The first scene was really its own piece, and I never had any intention of writing more. The response to that piece was overwhelming and people wanted to see the rest of the story. So I wrote it... I wrote it almost three years ago, when I first got sober and this served pretty much as my fourth step in the twelve step program I belong to.

## 3 What is your background in acting?

I've been acting since the age of twelve. I went to a performing arts high school before going to Boston University as part of the school of fine arts. I left there to do a national tour of the Diary of Anne Frank before settling in Chicago and working professionally as an actor there for two years. Some tragic events caused me to return to Michigan where I have been acting, teaching, directing, writing and producing ever since.

## 4 What do you hope others will get out of seeing the final product?

I hope people walk away from the film with a sense of worth, a sense of acceptance not only of themselves but others. My hope is that people walk out of the theatre moved by the story and the truth they can find in it to relate to their own lives, and most importantly, with a desire to productively add GOOD to the world. To look at others they may have once thought odd or awful or despicable and say to themselves "but I don't know their story," and begin to look at them as equals.

## 5 What prompted you to get sober and how has your life changed since you have?

A DUI and court prompted me to get sober. Feeling my life for the first time in years made me decide of my own accord to stay sober. Since making that decision, my life is one of clarity, humility and a constant self-evaluation. I am free of something that kept me from theatre, love, stability; happiness basically. And though there are still crap moments, as there are in life regardless of the circumstances, I find myself today a person who believes in something bigger and better than myself, in the inherent good of humanity, in change, and in possibility. I am doing everything I ever wanted to do with my life and more and sobriety is what made that possible.

To watch the first scene of the project or to donate go to <http://www.indiegogo.com/wtdb>.

# City of Mount Pleasant Passes Ordinance to Protect All Residents

**MT PLEASANT** — The Mt. Pleasant City Commission passed a human rights ordinance July 9. The ordinance includes crucial protections for gay and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations.

"We celebrate this victory, made possible by the hardworking advocates in Mt. Pleasant," said Jon Hoadley, Director of the Unity Michigan Coalition. "This marks the 19th city in Michigan to pass these protections—momentum is growing across the state for fairness and equality."

"This result shows how a community can come together to provide protections and welcome for all of its citizens, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members," said local leader Norma Bailey. "Now no one need fear for their employment, housing or public accommodations based solely on who they are."

Mt. Pleasant is one of 19 cities in Michigan, and more than 100 across the country who have successfully implemented similar ordinances.

“This marks the 19th city in Michigan to pass these protections—momentum is growing across the state for fairness and equality.”

—Jon Hoadley, Director of the Unity Michigan Coalition

## Heard on Facebook

**Mass. Congressman Barney Frank and his longtime partner tied the knot, making Frank the first congressman to've married a same-sex partner.**

Congratulations, Representative Frank. You are a hero to the Americans who don't make millions of dollars per year, which gives them a large influence over policies and laws that benefit the 1% in this country. Please keep speaking the truth and rising above the hateful, homophobic, racist and intolerance of the Republicans.

-Lisa Mason

I've always liked Rep. Frank's politics; his honesty is always refreshing! Congrats to the couple!

-Sharon Jamal

I don't completely understand the gay lifestyle, but that point is moot, because what 2 consenting adults do behind closed doors is absolutely none of my concern. Hating people over this issue is a ridiculous.

-James Mastin

I don't completely understand the straight lifestyle either.

-Cody Herrmann

My point is, just because you don't understand something, it doesn't mean you can't peacefully coexist on the same planet with it. Intolerant people are a disgrace to their race.

-James Mastin

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



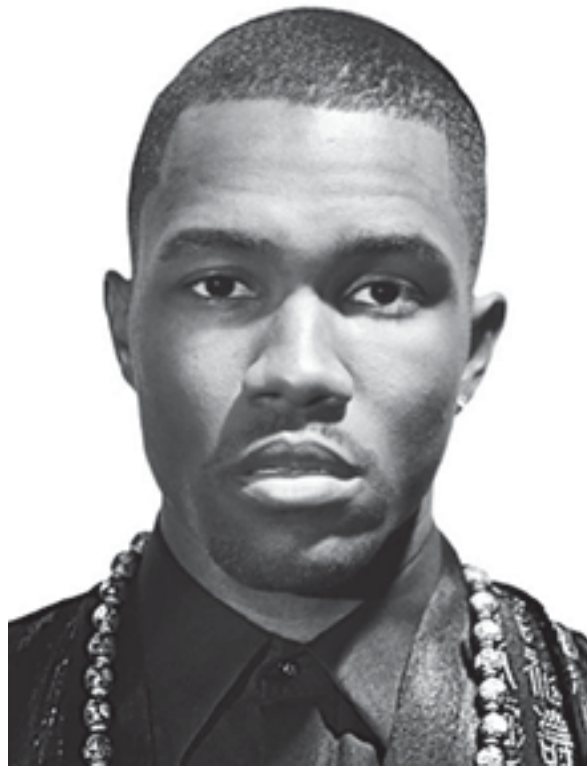
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# S/he Said

## Ocean's Coming Out

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



**Frank Ocean**

*"In the last year or three I've screamed at my creator. Screamed at clouds in the sky. For some explanation. Mercy maybe... Four summers ago, I met somebody, I was 19 years old. He was too. We spent that summer, and the summer after, together. Everyday almost...It was my first love, it changed my life...I feel like a free man. If I listen closely, I can hear the sky falling too."*

-Frank Ocean, the 24-year-old hip-hop, R&B singer/songwriter, via tumblr post coming out as having been in love with a man, [www.frankocean.tumblr.com](http://www.frankocean.tumblr.com).



**DJ Baker**

-DJ Baker, host of the popular gay-themed, hip-hop internet radio show "The Da-Doo Dirty Show," in an opinion column titled "Game Changer: Why Frank Ocean's Coming Out is More Significant than Anderson Cooper's," about the coming out of Frank Ocean, [www.ebony.com](http://www.ebony.com), July 05.



**Darryl Stephens**

*"Ocean is not wealthy and cannot benefit from the privilege afforded to White men - gay or straight. It's not difficult for famous White men to come out of the closet. It's amazing that Anderson Cooper, or Neil Patrick Harris came out. But they came out with secure jobs. Frank Ocean's album has not been released. And he's a Black man. That trumps Anderson Cooper's announcement on so many levels."*

-Darryl Stephens, actor, the lead character in "Noah's Arc," the first television series to focus on Black gay characters, in an opinion column titled "Game Changer: Why Frank Ocean's Coming Out is More Significant than Anderson Cooper's," about the coming out of Frank Ocean, the 24-year-old hip-hop, R&B singer/songwriter, [www.ebony.com](http://www.ebony.com), July 05.



**Eric Anderson**

*"It's hard for me to suggest that gay public figures have a moral obligation to come out. Personally, I wish they would, however. It is a long-standing sociological finding that when liked people come out, it reduces prejudice. I'm not convinced that an openly gay sports star would have much impact on today's youth, but it might make a difference for those who grew up in a more homophobic generation."*

*Whichever gay male athlete comes out first, he will find himself similarly sought by the media for input on all types of LGBT matters. Only after a few professional male athletes come out will the media care less. Future openly gay male athletes will have to rely on athletic talent to earn celebrity status, not their sexuality."*

-Eric Anderson, professor of sport studies, University of Winchester, UK, and author of "In the Game: Gay Athletes and the Cult of Masculinity," in his column titled "For Gay Athletes, a Harsh Spotlight," about the idea of professional athletes coming out, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), July 02.



# Ford GLOBE Drives For Equality

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DEARBORN** - The Director of Occupational Health and Safety at Ford Motor Company is gay. Yup, thousands of auto workers worldwide depend on the decision-making skills of a man who hopes to one day have the right to marry another man. What does this mean for the mammoth multi-national auto manufacturer?

"Not much," Stone says. "It's really not a big deal."

Stone joined Ford Australia in April 1995. When he moved to the United States he brought his family with him, and though he's since gotten divorced and faced his own true passions, he remains close with his former wife and now-grown children.

"I came out around 2000 or 2001. I was really surprised by how accepting people were," Stone said. "While my co-workers knew me initially as a married man with children, there was really minimal reaction at all."

At first Stone simply went about his work, but over time he grew more active in the LGBT movement. He joined Ford GLOBE four years ago and is now one of the company's most vocal diversity advocates.

"Overall GLOBE's mission is to help maintain a corporate culture which provides a safe, inclusive environment where diversity is valued and everyone is empowered to be authentic about themselves in the workplace, without fear of loss of opportunity, thus allowing them full realization of their potential and equal participation in all aspects of corporate life," said Stone.

GLOBE has over 300 members worldwide

and countless others benefit from the work of those who keep diversity, acceptance and equality at the forefront of the culture at Ford.

"We have a great social mixer every month amongst the major local auto companies, banks and other financial institutions - other local employers," Stone said. "The group is actively involved in a number of community volunteer projects. As employees we are also advocates for our vehicles so whenever we are in the community we try to promote our great products."

The biggest community-wide outreach is done through Motor City Pride.

This year UAW-Ford, GM Plus, and Chrysler GALA all joined forces to support the grand event, which took place in Hart Plaza June 2 and 3.

Within the company, Ford GLOBE is working alongside 11 other Ford Motor Company Employee Resource Groups and with the Joint Diversity Office to affirm to all employees that they are in a safe and affirming place.

This may seem like no big deal to employees like Stone, but in Michigan workplace protections are the exception, not the rule.

In Michigan, apart from some local ordinances, discrimination against people because of their sexuality is still legal. Because



A Ford Employee outside GLOBE's booth at Motor City Pride 2012. BTL Photo: Crystal Proxmire

there remains many places where hard-working employees have to hide who they are at work or risk being fired or harassed, the Human Rights Campaign compiles an annual list of the major employers who have met the criteria of being a best employer to work for. Six Michigan-based corporations received a perfect score from HRC: Ford, Chrysler, Dow Chemical, Herman Miller, Kellogg's and Whirlpool.

As long as equality on the job is considered a perk and not a basic right, groups like GLOBE serve as an example for other companies to follow.

To learn more about Ford GLOBE visit their website at <http://fordglobe.org/>.

## Snyder Vetoes Portion of New State Election Laws

**LANSING (AP)** - Republican Gov. Rick Snyder angered members of his own party July 3 by vetoing measures that would have required some voters to show photo identification to get an absentee ballot, forced all voters to reaffirm they were U.S. citizens and mandated extra training for groups running voter registration drives.

Republicans, who have pushed similar rules in other states, said the measures were simply intended to limit voter fraud.

A state audit released in May found instances where votes were cast under the names of prisoners or people who had died, but the office said some voters died after casting absentee ballots and other names were on voter lists because clerks mistakenly crossed off the wrong name.

Snyder said he vetoed the three bills because they could have created confusion among absentee voters and groups conducting voter registration drives.

The vetoes were welcomed by Common Cause Michigan, the League of Women Voters and other groups in the Michigan Election Coalition that had fought the bills.

"Governor Snyder's veto pen should send a strong message to Lansing politicians that it's time to halt these voter suppression efforts once and for all," said Melanie McElroy, Common Cause Michigan executive director.

House Democratic Leader Richard E. Hammel of Genesee County's Mount Morris Township praised the GOP governor for his "brave decision."

"Studies have repeatedly shown that Michigan has no problem with voter fraud."

But a spokesman for Republican House Speaker Jase Bolger said the speaker was deeply disappointed that the GOP governor vetoed "very reasonable" changes to election laws, a sentiment echoed by Republicans who had sponsored the bills.

Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson also said she was disappointed. "The fact remains that the citizenship checkbox has



prevented unqualified voters from casting ballots," she said in a statement that also applauded the bills signed into law.

Snyder has vetoed only six bills during his first 19 months in office, including the three election bills.

Although he has been criticized by unions for signing bills that labor groups oppose, Michigan AFL-CIO President Karla Swift praised the latest vetoes.

## BRIEFS

### SAGINAW

#### Saginaw Valley Students Establish New LGBT Group

Students of Saginaw Valley State University have established a new LGBT Registered Student Organization titled Speaking Out Loud (SOL). The organization intends to supplement the efforts of Tri-City area organizations, and advocate and educate on issues and concerns of the community.

The organization hopes to be an agent of change towards a more inclusive environment on its campus. Events and activities will include discussions, speakers and awareness campaigns. For more information contact Andrew at [ajnorthr@svsu.edu](mailto:ajnorthr@svsu.edu).

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Congressman Barney Frank Marries Partner

Out representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts's 4th congressional district married his longtime partner, Jim Ready, at the Boston Marriott hotel, on Saturday, July 7.

Last November, Frank announced at a news conference that he would not seek re-election as his districts representative, in part due to the state's recent redistricting; however, Frank felt the timing of his wedding was optimal.

"I did want to get married while I was still in office," he explained to New York magazine. "I think it's important that my colleagues interact with a married gay man."

### FLORIDA

#### Democratic mayor receives endorsement from anti-gay organization

After receiving an endorsement from the Christian Family Coalition for her campaign to be elected as Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Miami Gardens Mayor and registered Democrat Shirley Gibson announced that, if elected, she would "review" the county's human right ordinances protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

Miami New Times has called the CFC "a fringe organization most notable for opposing the 'homosexual agenda' at every stop and trying to resurrect anti-gay laws from Miami Dade's homophobic past."

### LONDON

#### Google Launches "Legalize Love" Campaign

On July 7, Multinational Internet corporation Google launched its "Legalize Love" campaign, a global effort to protect LGBT workers from discrimination.

The campaign launched in Poland and Singapore with intentions to expand to every country where Google has an office. "At Google, we encourage people to bring their whole selves to work," reads a public statement from Google. "In all our 60 offices around the world, we are committed to cultivating a work environment where Googlers can be themselves and thrive. We also want our employees to have the same inclusive experience outside of the office, as they do at work."

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

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# Thinking Out Loud



## A Lesson in Fairness

BY ABBY DEES

Last week I had the privilege of interviewing Mitch and Devynn Stein, father and daughter, on L.A.'s IMRU radio. Devynn is 15 years old and has a new baby sister, Tuolomne, who Mitch and his partner, Hugo, adopted this year. They are the very reason why same-sex marriage and equal rights matter.

Several months ago, Mitch was fired from his position as assistant water polo coach at Charter Oak High School in Covina, California, for being gay. The principal would disagree with that assertion - she'd say that he was fired for inappropriate conduct for a teacher. It just so happens that the only thing notable about the conduct in question is that it looks kinda gay. Not kinky, not obscene, merely gay.

By all accounts, even the principal's (who fired him), Mitch is a great coach. He raised more money for the school than anyone. He led the junior varsity boys team in an undefeated season. He got the pool deck renovated through volunteer support and in-kind donations. He says that it was all to give back to the same team that taught him to believe in himself as a teen and never give up. Despite his firing, he still raises money for the water polo boosters. Devynn is even on the girls' team.

In a state that guarantees equal rights to LGBT people in the workplace, you might wonder how

flamboyantly, outrageously gay must Mitch have been to get himself fired.

He posted a picture of himself on Facebook, dressed but wearing a bit of eyeliner, with a group of lovely drag queens. Oh, and there was also a picture of him eating a hot dog on a stick. The press said it was a corn dog, but Mitch was quick to defend himself: "I don't eat carbs."

Charter Oak has no policy on teachers' use of social media, and the pictures were actually posted several years ago. They came to light when a disgruntled parent, likely upset about disciplinary action taken against his son, delivered them anonymously. Mitch was fired almost immediately, after no investigation. He was told that coaches are held to a higher standard of behavior, and that was reason enough. It was about the kids; it had nothing to do with sexual orientation.

Mitch sees it differently. "The only thing that these pictures truly show is that I'm gay," he told me, a point he expressed repeatedly to the principal and school board. But their conversations went nowhere, and the school has restated its position since: the pictures were inappropriate and Mitch wasn't fired for being

gay. A court will soon determine who is right, but I'm betting on Mitch, who'd rather have his low-paying job back than a fat check.

There's a lot more to this story, of course, most of it pointing to the school's blatant double standard for gay teachers. But what really caught my attention was how much homophobes use the excuse of protecting the family and children to justify behavior that is actually harmful

to families and children. At the moment Mitch was fired, all he could think about was his daughter, Devynn, who was two days away from starting 9th grade at Charter Oak: "I just needed to get out of there and get to my daughter." He considered only the repercussions this could have on her and was prepared to walk away from the whole thing and send her to a new school. But Devynn insisted that they both stay and fight. She stands by her choice today, as their fight has become publicized, and even after she endured bullying from some kids - though not the girls' water polo team, who have been totally supportive, she says.

Mitch is standing up for the kids, as he has always done, and Mitch, Hugo, Devynn and Tuolomne all demonstrate that equality and respect are core family values. Meanwhile, Charter Oak is teaching that hypocrisy and fear are OK, and that parents can get their way through bullying too. So who's looking out for the kids again? (For more on Mitch check out "Bring Back Coach Stein" on Facebook.)

used years before. We watched as Matt's story along with other students we've lost, became powerful messages of hope through theater and dance performances across America.

We found ourselves counseling other parents who had lost children and watched them become advocates in their own right. And finally, after many years, we helped pass a law to help protect our children at school. By starting the conversation on bullying and allowing students and adults to honestly confront the issue, we've empowered them to speak out against it. We know for a fact that talking about this issue has saved lives.

We are eternally grateful to all those who have mentored and supported us along the way. You will always hold a special place in our hearts. We will continue to advocate and strive to be better people. Yes things do change; it's just takes far too long.

Over the course of those 3,653 days we grew, we changed, and we survived. Thanks for being along for the ride. "Be the Change You Wish to See in the World".

Peace,

Kevin & Tammy Epling

# Viewpoint

## 3,653 days

BY KEVIN AND TAMMY EPLING

3,653 days or ten years; of those, 20 days stand out amongst the rest. Each February 10, we remember our joy as he came into the world and on July 16 the unimaginable sorrow as he left us. The days/months in-between have been at times flash frames and random sounds and then crystal clear moments and profound highlights.

Our idyllic world literally crumbled on July 16, 2002. We had a choice; "allow our grief to take us or to take our grief with us," we could live among the ruins or rebuild our lives. We knew our lives would never be the same without Matt, but we had the responsibility to our daughter, our families and to ourselves to create a new "normal." We felt something good

must come from this tragedy. Looking back, we chose the right path; little did we know our journey would be played out in the public eye.

The first time we spoke about what happened to Matt and what we wanted to do was in January 2003. It was terrifying, exposing everything to strangers but we had to let others know from a parent's perspective, there was something wrong happening in our schools and community. We pushed forward because of our love for Matt and all of the other children and parents we came to know. To safeguard the children, we needed to change the adult's attitudes.

The last ten years has been a rollercoaster of emotions and we savored the changes that have occurred. We have seen the positive change: students standing up for one another, law enforcement officers becoming leaders in the change process, classes offered at the collegiate level and finally administrators asking "How soon can you be here?" We've traveled to schools and conferences to engage students and even stood in the White House as our president spoke on this issue, using the same words we

# New Optimism about Stemming Spread of AIDS Virus on the Eve of International Conference

BY LAURAN NEERGAAR

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - An AIDS-free generation: It seems an audacious goal, considering how the HIV epidemic still is raging around the world.

Yet more than 20,000 international HIV researchers and activists will gather in the U.S. capital later this month with a sense of optimism not seen in many years - hope that it finally may be possible to dramatically stem the spread of the AIDS virus.

"We want to make sure we don't overpromise," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious disease chief, told The Associated Press. But, he said, "I think we are at a turning point."

The big new focus is on trying to get more people with HIV treated early, when they're first infected, instead of waiting until they're weakened or sick, as the world largely has done until now. Staying healthier also makes them less likely to infect others.

That's a tall order. But studies over the past two years have shown what Fauci calls "striking, sometimes breathtaking results," in preventing people at high risk of HIV from getting it in some of the hardest-hit countries, using this treatment-as-prevention and some other protections.

Now, as the International AIDS Conference returns to the U.S. for the first time in 22 years, the question is whether the world will come up with the money and the know-how to put the best combinations of protections into practice, for AIDS-ravaged poor countries and hot spots in developed nations as well.

"We have the tools to make it happen," said Dr. Elly Katabira, president of the International AIDS Society, which organizes the world's largest HIV conference, set for July 22-27. He points to strides already in Botswana and Rwanda in increasing access to AIDS drugs.

But Fauci cautioned that moving those tools into everyday life is "a daunting challenge," given the cost of medications and the difficulty in getting people to take them for years despite poverty and other competing health and social problems.

In the U.S., part of that challenge is complacency. Despite 50,000 new HIV infections here every year, an AP-GfK poll finds that very few people in the United States worry about getting the virus.

Also, HIV increasingly is an epidemic of the poor, minorities and urban areas such as the District of Columbia, where the rate of infection rivals some developing countries. The conference will spotlight this city's aggressive steps to fight back: A massive effort to find the undiagnosed, with routine testing in some hospitals, testing vans that roam the streets, even free tests at a Department of Motor Vehicles office, and then rapidly getting those patients into care.

"These are the true champions," Dr. Mohammed

Akhter, director of the city's health department, said of patients who faithfully take their medication. "They're also protecting their community."

## Infection rates

About 34 million people worldwide have HIV, including almost 1.2 million Americans. It's a very different epidemic from the last time the International AIDS Conference came to the United States, in 1990. Life-saving drugs emerged a few years later, turning HIV from a death sentence into a manageable chronic disease for people and countries that can afford the medications.

Yet for all the improvements in HIV treatment, the rate of new infections in the U.S. has held steady for about a decade. About 1 in 5 Americans with HIV don't know they have it, more than 200,000 people who unwittingly can spread the virus.

Government figures show most new U.S. infections are among gay and bisexual men, followed by heterosexual black women. Of particular concern, African-Americans account for about 14 percent of the population but 44 percent of new HIV infections.

Your ZIP code plays a role in your risk, too. Twelve cities account for more than 40 percent of the nation's AIDS cases: New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, Houston, San Francisco, Baltimore, Dallas and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Many are concentrated in specific parts of those cities.

"Maps tell the story," said Brown University assistant professor Amy Nunn, who is beginning a campaign that will bring a testing van door-to-door in the hardest-hit Philadelphia ZIP code.

"It's not just what you do, it's also where you live. There's just a higher chance that you will come into contact with the virus," she explained.

## Strategies

Prospects for a vaccine are so far elusive and health disparities are widening, so why the optimism as expressed by the Obama administration's goal of getting to an AIDS-free generation?

Consider the potential strategies, to add to tried-and-true steps such as condom use and

treating HIV-infected pregnant women to protect their unborn babies:

- Studies found treatment-as-prevention could lower an HIV patient's chance of spreading the virus to an uninfected sexual partner by a stunning 96 percent. In the U.S., new guidelines recommend starting treatment early rather than waiting until the immune system has weakened. Abroad, the United Nations hopes to more than double the number of patients being treated in poor countries to 15 million by 2015.

- Other studies show a longtime AIDS medication named Truvada can prevent infection, too, if taken daily by healthy people who are at risk from their infected sexual partners. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to decide by fall whether to formally approve sale of Truvada as an HIV preventive.

- A study from South Africa found a vaginal gel containing anti-AIDS medication helped protect women when their infected partners wouldn't use a condom, generating more interest in developing women-controlled protection.

- Globally, experts also stress male circumcision, to lower men's risk of heterosexually acquired HIV.

## Testing

Testing is a key step in improving prevention.

“If they're on drugs, I take them to the drug program. If they need help going on Medicaid, I go with them to Medicaid ... Any problem they have, I'm going to try to fix it and get them back into care.”

The AP-GfK poll found 57 percent of adults say they've been tested at some point, a bit higher than federal estimates, but not enough. The government recommends at least one test for adults, and that populations at higher risk get tested at least once a year.

Following those recommendations depends in part on people's concern about AIDS. The poll found just over half of Americans consider HIV as much or more of a problem now than two decades ago. But less than 20 percent are worried about getting it themselves, and even populations at higher risk don't consider HIV a big threat. Some 16 percent of black respondents said they're very worried about HIV, compared with 4 percent of whites.

"We've become complacent about HIV in America, and it's a real tragedy because hundreds of thousands of people in our own country aren't getting the care they need," said Chris Collins of amFAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

The drugs can cost up to \$15,000 a year in the U.S., and overall treatment costs are rising as people with HIV live longer. In developing countries, those drugs can cost less than \$400 a year.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted June 14-18 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,007 adults nationwide. Results for the full sample have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

In the U.S., the government is targeting the hardest-hit communities as part of a plan to reduce HIV infections by 25 percent by 2015, said Assistant Secretary of Health Howard Koh. Work is under way to learn the best steps to get people treated early.

## FDA approves first over-the-counter home use HIV test kit

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced July 3 it has approved the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, the first over-the-counter, self-administered HIV test kit to detect the presence of antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) and type 2 (HIV-2).

The test is designed to allow individuals to collect an oral fluid sample by swabbing the upper and lower gums inside of their mouths, then place that sample into a developer vial, and obtain test results within 20 to 40 minutes. A positive result with this test does not mean that an individual is definitely infected with HIV, but rather that additional testing should be done in a medical setting to confirm the test result.

There are about 50,000 new HIV infections every year. "The availability of a home-use HIV test kit provides another option for individuals to get tested so that they can seek medical care, if appropriate."

You can learn more by visiting [www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/HIVHomeTestKits/ucm126460.htm](http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/HIVHomeTestKits/ucm126460.htm)

# Creep of the Week Lou Engle

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

The zombie apocalypse is coming. Or, more specifically, the ex-gay zombie apocalypse. In Lou Engle's dreams at least. Literally.

Speaking recently to a group of teen and young adult anti-gay Christians, Engle, founder of TheCall, a ministry for young people, shared his fever-dream/psychotic fantasy. I should mention that Engle has the perfect voice to be a World Wrestling Entertainment's Smack Down announcer, which makes his anti-gay rants sound all the more over the top.



Lou Engle

"[Bob Jones] had a vision in 1989 of a fist wave of homosexuals coming to Christ. 100,000 would be just the first wave, and it would come suddenly. I dreamed of this before," he told the enthusiastic audience.

Now, we all know who Bob Jones is, right? Of Bob Jones University fame? Where you can basically get a diploma in gay bashing?

So to be clear, Jones had a vision and then Engle had a dream of this vision. Far out, man.

In this vision/dream/fantasy, Engle sees this army of gays and lesbians, converted by God to be "normal," like, you know, him, and that these people would "begin to be the preachers of righteousness in their own communities with radical salvations and healings of AIDS."

The young audience likes this idea very much. They cheer. Because we all know how much conservatives love outsourcing.

Engle continues, "This is the issue of your day. You know it. Something goes off in your heart when you touch this one. Because this is the heart of God."

Really? Of all the issues facing young people in this country, "fixing" gay people is really priority #1? I mean, if you ask yourself "What would Jesus do," I don't think Jesus would be all, "Screw the poor, let's straighten out some queers."

"Would you raise your voices and begin to pray?" Engle urges, "God give us 100,000

gay and lesbian men and women to be radically transformed! Begin to pray it in your youth groups. Begin to pray it in your schools, pray it in your devotions. We're asking God! Loose a movement - a divine breakthrough! 100,000 gay and lesbian men and women! Loose a sound that D.C. can't contend with! Loose a sound that the media can't contend with! Overflow the media with the sound of revival."

Unfortunately, I don't think Engle has thought this one through. It's a very impractical plan. First of all, there's the whole ex-gay thing and how that doesn't actually work. Even the "ex-gay" group Exodus International disavows the concept saying, basically, that you can't scrub or pray the gay away, but you can be celibate. Which is not the same thing. Hence the zombie reference.

And if all it took was a bunch of anti-gay Christians to pray their hardest to make homos un-homo, then this bastion of "cured" zombies would already be roaming the streets curing AIDS and stuff.

The crowd listening to Engle's message is a big one, and enthusiastic to boot. They literally rock back and forth, trembling with enthusiasm. It's, well, kind of weird. As a commenter on YouTube put it, "Why are the people in the audience and background bobbing and weaving like that, do.

# Gay Rights Leader Lets Ark. Roots Take the Reins

BY JEANNIE NUSS

**ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (AP)** — Chad Griffin could have spent his first official day heading the country's largest and most influential gay rights group anywhere: in Washington, where he cut his teeth working for President Bill Clinton, or California, where he spearheaded a legal challenge to the state's same-sex marriage ban.

Instead, he came back to the Arkansas community where he spent his Sundays in a Baptist church and heard kids call him gay slurs in school, to show that he stands with young gay people in small towns across the country, not just on the coasts.

"One's state's borders should not determine one's rights," said Griffin, the new president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Arkansas helped shape Griffin into the leader he is today: a man uniquely qualified to fight a civil rights battle that will be difficult, even after President Barack Obama came out in support of same-sex marriage this year. As the first Southerner to head the Washington-based group, Griffin has a knack for translating the fight for gay rights into language familiar to people in the Bible Belt. He sometimes borrows phrases from the pulpit — brothers and sisters, God's children — to advocate equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"This is nothing more than the golden rule," Griffin told community leaders during his visit last month. "Treat others as you wish to be treated."

It's a lesson that echoed throughout his childhood, which was steeped in Arkansas' cultural history of discrimination against African-Americans fighting for the same rights afforded to whites. In 1957, the state's governor and hundreds of protesters famously tried to stop nine black students - the Little Rock Nine - from entering Central High School.

"If you remember those famous photos from the '60s and the civil rights movement, you didn't only see African-Americans marching down the street," Griffin said. "You saw them marching arm in arm with their

white brothers and sisters."

So, too, does Griffin want the fight for gay rights to extend beyond the usual suspects.

Griffin has shown he's up to that challenge by "building bridges to communities that we never expected to support us ..." said screenwriter and gay rights activist Dustin Lance Black, who spent part of his childhood in Texas. "And now (he's) going after people from our neck of the woods."

Griffin was born in Hope, as were Clinton and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, and grew up about

Griffin has shown he's up to that challenge by "building bridges to communities that we never expected to support us ..." said screenwriter and gay rights activist Dustin Lance Black, who spent part of his childhood in Texas. "And now (he's) going after people from our neck of the woods."

45 miles northeast in Arkadelphia. As a teen, he worked part-time at a local Walmart and did well in his classes, even as some of his peers called him nasty gay slurs.

"I wasn't even out to myself at the time, so I guess those people knew before I did," Griffin said.

Looking back, Griffin said he didn't know that he knew a gay person when he was growing up in Arkansas. Not that he lacked for role models, finding them in his family, community and in the state Capitol.

Griffin said he was inspired that "someone like President Clinton could come from a small town and rise and do ultimately what he did." So, Griffin went the political route, first as a page in Clinton's state Capitol, later as part of his presidential campaign and ultimately following him to the White House as part of the communications team.

There among Washington's movers and shakers, Griffin found his next challenge when actor-director Rob

Reiner convinced him to move to California and run a charitable foundation.

Griffin, now 38, came out in his late 20s. And when he flew home to surprise his mom for her retirement ceremony as a school principal, he told her what she already knew: He's gay.

His mother looked at him and asked, "Did you think I would love you any less?"

Several years later, Griffin became the brains behind the historic legal challenge to California's same-sex marriage ban, known as Proposition 8, which voters approved in 2008. Without ever going to law school, he assembled an unlikely legal team - high-profile lawyers who represented both George Bush and Al Gore in the disputed 2000 presidential election - and found two same-sex couples willing to share their stories.

That case took another step toward the U.S. Supreme Court last month and David Blankenhorn, the chief witness who testified in favor of the ban, recently came out in favor of gay and lesbian unions.

Meanwhile, among advertisements for bingo games and lemonade pie in an Arkadelphia restaurant, Griffin began his next chapter as a gay rights leader, listening intently as community leaders shared small signs of progress. He received a warm welcome home: Dozens showed up for breakfast, and about 200 people turned out for his chat in Little Rock with Arkansas' lone openly gay lawmaker, state Rep. Kathy Webb.

But Griffin's message isn't widely accepted here, where in 2004 under Huckabee, about three-quarters of voters backed an amendment to the state's constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

"That can only be changed with another constitutional amendment," Gov. Mike Beebe told a group of high school students recently. "I don't see it happening in the foreseeable future."

Although Beebe and other top Arkansas Democrats oppose same-sex marriage, Griffin said he doesn't

See Next Page



In this June 11, 2012 photo, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin, left, speaks at a news conference in Little Rock, Ark. Rep. Kathy Webb, D-Little Rock, is at right. The Human Rights Campaign says Griffin is the first Southerner to head the Washington-based group. (AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

write anyone off.

“I think so, too, will Mike Huckabee support full equality for LGBT people soon,” he said.

After all, the state’s Supreme Court last year rejected a law that effectively banned gay and lesbian couples from adopting or fostering children.

Someday, Griffin said, he’d like to marry and have a family of his own. He is seeing a man from Massachusetts, but is quick to point out that he’s not fighting for gay rights just for himself.

“My motivation really is the young people,” Griffin said.

He met with some of them in Little Rock, including a 19-year-old college student, who is the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher. She started questioning her sexuality several years ago, and when her parents found out, she was sent to a camp to “pray the gay away.”

When she came back, she lied and told them she was straight.

The student, who spoke on condition of anonymity because her parents don’t know she is gay, said she has come out to some of her friends, but doesn’t want to lose her parents.

She said Griffin inspired her to do more for gay rights, and her voice shook as she asked Griffin how she could get her foot in the door.

“Kick that door down,” Griffin said.

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# LEATHER & GRACE

## IML Winner Woody Woodruff Gives Back to Detroit, Talks Victory

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

By most accounts, the leather fetish community is solely characterized by boots, harnesses, chaps and flogs. But if International Mr. Leather 2012 winner “Woody” Woodruff has his way, we will soon be adding charity and communal responsibility to that list of characterizations.

“A lot of people see the leather community as a bunch of guys running around doing kinky things and that’s all they are,” Woodruff says. “That is a part of our community; it is *not* the make-up of our community.”

“The general feeling behind our community is exactly that word: ‘community.’ It’s a brotherhood. It’s a sisterhood. It’s a family.”

Woodruff, a relative newcomer to the leather competition scene, began his journey to capturing the IML 2012 title in April 2011. Although a fan of leather in his personal time, it wasn’t until he ran into former Mr. Detroit Eagle, James Finley, that he realized the opportunities holding a title offered.

“He was just an upstanding guy; he explained to me quite a bit about the leather community and what it stood for,” Woodruff says. “(He)

explained to me the realities of the community versus the misconceptions of the community. As a result, my interest was definitely piqued. I saw the title as an opportunity or a platform – if you will – to do more for my community.”

In his very first competition at Liberty Bar in Pontiac, the Farmington Hills resident won the inaugural title of Mr. Liberty Leather 2011. During his reign, he hosted several events, which helped to raise money for the Mr. Friendly Campaign. Their mission, according to their Facebook fan page, is to “reduce the stigma of HIV one conversation at a time.”

The Mr. Friendly Campaign has remained the primary benefactor of Woodruff’s continued philanthropic endeavors.

His win at Liberty Bar made him an automatic competitor for the title of Mr. Michigan Leather 2012, which he also won. As the winner of Mr. Michigan Leather 2012, Woodruff was sponsored to compete in IML 2012, held in Chicago in May.

As a longtime observer of IML, Woodruff was understandably buzzing with excitement as he competed for the title.

“There were so many feelings; it was difficult to identify exactly which was which at some

points,” he says. “I was excited, I was nervous, I was extremely proud... I never figured I’d be standing on the stage at that point.”

The IML title capped off what was a remarkably successful first year of professional leather competition. This swift rise might cause some to have an inflated ego. Woodruff, however, doesn’t seem to be letting it go to his head.

“I’m proud of my accomplishments” was all he had to say on the subject.

Although Woodruff’s motives for competing are mostly altruistic, there is a bit of excitement behind his gruff-yet-caring exterior.

“I think leather’s hot,” he says with a laugh. “I like how it makes me feel.”

It also doesn’t hurt that several premier leather gear vendors and distributors have been exceedingly generous toward him.

“Gear is expensive. I have been very fortunate.”

Besides helping to expand his gear collection, competition has also helped to further his charitable goals.

“It’s notable when you are walking down the street. It’s something that causes people to stand up and take notice. I think that’s important,” he says, referencing the leathersman gear.

“I ran for a title so I could make a difference. If I am presenting myself in a manner that makes people stand up and take notice, then those things that I want to achieve and bring notice to are brought to the forefront.”

With his latest title, Woodruff hopes to continue to make his community better.

“With (the title) I am presented with an opportunity and a platform to do a lot of the things that I’ve been doing now, on a much larger scale,” he says. “I’m going to use those opportunities to get out in the community and make people find – what I like to call – their ‘sound.’”

For Woodruff, “finding your sound” is a personal motto that comes from his love of singing and music.

“I’m a vocalist. Everyone that has ever had any exposure to me knows that I am an avid singer and musician. I guess my calling-card phrase has become, ‘find your sound and make it,’” he says.

“I don’t really care what your passion is in life. I can’t stand here and tell you what to be passionate about, because ultimately you’re going to fight and work hard for those things that mean the most to you. My desire is to help you find what that is and do something about it.”

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## Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

# '21 Jump Street,' 'Sister Act'



### 21 Jump Street

His clothes stay on, but Channing Tatum – aka “Magic Mike” in his recent stripper flick – is still a

sight to behold in a comedy that reboots an old TV show and amazingly doesn't screw it up. Tatum plays Greg Jenko, a moronic officer-in-training who pairs with former classmate Morgan Schmidt – who he bullied back in high school – to be badassess of the law. The twist, of course? They suck at their jobs. As the 20-somethings go undercover – totally out of their element among the revolutionized student body (they two-strap their bags!) – the cop romp becomes a riotous mix of drug gags, pro-gay hilarity, whip-smart dialogue and scenes of dry-humping that could only be better if Tatum, who should really do more comedy, got completely naked. **EXTRAS:** The best gags are in the movie, but more of the stupid duo goofing off in a blooper reel ain't a bad thing. And don't miss the many deleted scenes to catch Tatum engaging in some under-covers self-lovin'.



### The Sarah Silverman Program: The Complete Series

The crass absurdity of Sarah Silverman's prematurely offed Comedy Central series – one day she's licking her dog's butt to understand what he finds so appealing about it; the next, she's an AIDS activist because she just might have HIV – is what made its genius three seasons a racy rollick. Joined by her “gay-bors” and sister (her real-life sibling), slacker Silverman finds herself in crazy, exaggerated and politically incorrect predicaments that teach her the wrong life lessons. Remember when she *tried* to be a lesbian? Or got suckered into an anti-abortion group? Thirty-two episodes of this type of ridiculousness aren't enough, but they'll have to do. **EXTRAS:** Lots! Commentaries from the crew (including



Silverman), behind-the-scenes footage, audition videos, animated shorts and a fun Q&A from Comic-Con.

### Sister Act / Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit

“Sister Act” doesn't just gimme the giggles because one of my best – and gayest – memories is linked to it: my 12-year-old self draped in a white sheet with a black pillow case wrapped over my head, reenacting “I Will Follow Him” with my girl cousins, hitting those high notes while biology was still on my side. No. Marc Shaiman's nuns-on-the-run revelation, now 20 years old (holy cow!), was so much fun – period – it made me wonder why the Catholic church couldn't *always* have a Whoopi, some dancing and a bunch of musical numbers. Basically,

God's house needed to be as gay as this movie, which gets a fab Blu-ray transfer. Also included is the sequel, with a very young Jennifer Love Hewitt and an awful plot – a sin, for sure. **EXTRAS:** Almost none, but who cares as long as Lady Soul's music video for “If My Sister's In Trouble” is included? And it is. God bless them.



### Mirror Mirror

Who's the fairest of them all? Certainly not this take on the Snow White classic. Julia Roberts camps up the Evil Queen role with sassiness ... and a smile that's reminiscent of, well, Julia

See Screen Queen, page 18





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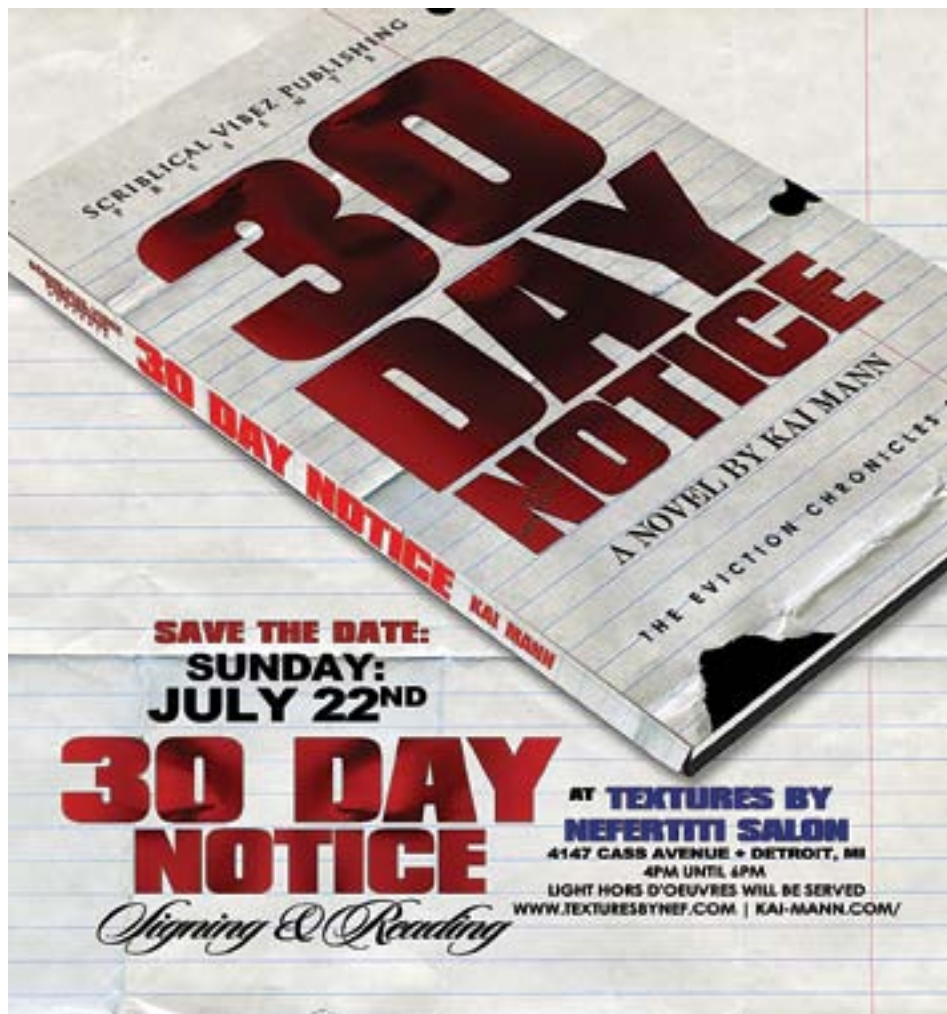
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## ► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 16

Roberts (her sidekick is Nathan Lane, having a ball). No wonder Snow, played by a fantastic Lily Collins, doesn't seem so threatened as she gets in girl-power mode, demonstrating that chicks don't need a prince to save the day. But even so, you can't blame her for keeping Armie Hammer (star of "J. Edgar") around. Along with the fantastical visuals and costumes, he's the eye-candy that helps make "Mirror Mirror" – a pretty silly, for-kids fairy-tale retelling - almost worth biting into. **EXTRAS:** Meh. Just a few extra scenes and cast interviews. Oh, and you can learn how to dance like a princess.

## Evita

Don't cry for her, Argentina – this is still Madonna's best film role, despite some major misses in her big-screen career. That doesn't mean the 1996 movie did Eva Peron, or her deeply inspiring and tragic story, justice. Besides avoiding political insight, the flawed musical-drama, also starring Antonio Banderas, felt like the longest music video ever – over two hours of lip-syncing is just too much. The Andrew Lloyd Webber-written music itself, however, ranks high in Madonna's catalog, with Oscar winner "You Must Love Me" easily



being one of her best ballads. And the Blu-ray remaster looks like a virgin: fresh and new. **EXTRAS:** A long and thorough look into the making of "Evita," including Madonna being as narcissistic as ever.

*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).*

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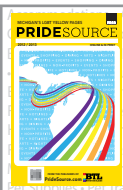
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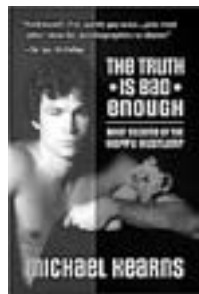
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# Book Marks

BY RICHARD LABONTE



**"The Truth is Bad Enough: What Became of the Happy Hustler?,"** by Michael Kearns. CreateSpace, 294 pages, \$15.95 paper.

First he was a precocious boy, acting in and directing plays – and reveling in sex with older men – before he finished high school. Then he was a serious actor, a serious drunk, a serial sexaholic, and, in the mid-1970s, a celebrated hoaxster, doing the talk show circuit as "Grant Tracy Saxon," alleged author of a fake memoir, "The Happy Hustler," all the while selling his body to eager johns (and appearing in a couple of episodes of "The Waltons"). Next came hard-won sobriety, AIDS activism, HIV infection, a series of searing one-man performances and of shimmering collaborations with his professional colleague, the late James Carroll Pickett. And now, still acting and directing (and surviving), Kearns is reveling in his finest role – father to an African-American child he adopted more than 15 years ago. Kearns is unsparing in recounting his addictive days, candid about how his queer and AIDS activism impacted his Hollywood career and – in the final chapters – luminous in imparting the love he shares with his daughter, who now aspires to be an actor, just like dad. This multi-textured memoir shimmers.

**"Being Emily,"** by Rachel Gold. Bella Books, 210 pages, \$15.95 paper.

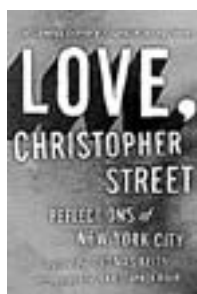
Big hands, broad shoulders, solid biceps, hard chest, lanky swim team-honed body – teenager Christopher is all boy. But there's a girl within, and her name is Emily. Around other lads, "Chris" slips into manly mode to avoid being the prey of high school bullies, but sets an alarm clock to 4 a.m. in order, behind a securely locked door, to don soft clothes and imagine a more feminine world. Chris's goth girlfriend, Claire, is repelled when Chris tells her, heart racing, that "I'm a girl!" – though she soon becomes a makeup-applying conspirator; Chris's parents are

## FEATURED EXCERPT

*"I just want to live long enough to be a grandfather – that's my goal," I tell her. "You'll live to be eighty-five," Tia proclaims, not joking but introducing a certain gravitas. "Honey, what about my poor feet? I don't think I can live twenty-five more years with this pain." "They'll be able to make you new feet by then." I laugh. "It's true, I suppose. I'll be the grandpa with fake feet!" As our years together have unfolded, it does seem that Tia may take the world by storm before I take my permanent leave. For so many years, my overriding fear was that I'd die before she was the age of emancipation. But it now feels like I'll be chirping plaintively in an empty nest.*

– from "The Truth is Bad Enough"

both condescending and confrontational when they learn of Emily; even Chris's first therapist insists that being an Emily is perverted. Salvation comes through a trans support group, a more supportive therapist and – a nice touch – fumbling but loving acknowledgement and semi-acceptance by Chris's father. Gold's young adult novel about the emotional and physical transition from boy to girl – despite repeated cloying, too-coy references to "boy parts"; what's so awful about calling a penis a penis? – is a graceful novel about transitions.



**"Love, Christopher Street: Reflections of New York City,"** edited by Thomas Keith. Vantage Point Books, 406 pages, \$18.95 paper.

Back when Alyson Books was a going concern, then-editor Joseph Pittman published "Love, Bourbon Street," celebrating New Orleans; "Love, Castro Street," celebrating San Francisco; and "Love, West Hollywood," celebrating Los Angeles. Missing? New York, of course. So, after a years-long hiatus, the queer-city series returns, at last, from a new press and to

the city of Stonewall. Gay comic Bob Smith opens with a profoundly personal essay blending a brief history of LGBT comics, a memory-lane remembrance of early New York days, and a no-self-pity-here account of the progression of his Lou Gehrig's disease ("I don't even like baseball!"). Gay comic Eddie Sarfaty nicely bookends the collection with a closing essay about welcoming his sophisticated Manhattan friends to his mother's very suburban home for an irreligious Passover feast. In between, mystery author Val McDermid recalls her first wide-eyed visit to Greenwich Village, publicist Michele Karlsberg reveals queer Staten Island, and more than 20 other writers (Thomas Glave's is a most astoundingly literary reflection) tell how Manhattan and the boroughs shaped their queer lives.

**"Why is the Penis Shaped Like That? And Other Reflections on Being Human,"** by Jesse Bering. FSG/Scientific American, 288 pages, \$16 paper.

Most of the 30-plus columns here first appeared on ScientificAmerican.com; some are from the online magazine Slate. Research psychologist Bering writes about sex, life and the human condition – a handful of the pieces examine cannibalism, suicide, free will and religious belief – with such easy-going prose and ready wit that's it not always apparent which outlet, the scientifically specialist or the lower-brow populist, spawned which essay. From the function of the scrotum to the purpose of pubic hair to the fact that humans masturbate far more frequently than other primates to assessments of assorted fetishes (podophilia, anyone?), Bering is often saucy and occasionally salacious but always factual – his prose is irresistibly irreverent, but he's a writer who reveres scientific rigor. He's also quite openly queer. Overall, his "reflections on being human" are unabashedly filtered through a personal, personable gay voice, and one section of the collection "The Gayer Science: There's Something Queer Here," addresses such LGBT issues as "homophobia as repressed desire" and "is your child pre-homosexual?"

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

## Footnotes

LOVE AND MARRIAGE (IN)EQUALITY: The politics and passions behind the American push for traditional marriage and the pushback against same-sex marriage are the focus of Melanie Heath's "One Marriage Under God: The Campaign to Promote Marriage in America," now available from New York University Press (\$24 paper) ... BATTLES OVER GAY marriage are the focus of Sasha Issenberg's "The Engagement," an account of the unprecedented political, social

and legal transformations over a quarter century that have moved marriage equality from the margins of American life to the mainstream and seen it endorsed by President Obama and supported by a majority of American adults; the narrative history is a 2013 title from Crown Books ... IN A LIGHTER VEIN, Manhattan playwright ("The Boys Upstairs") and Soho House event planner Jason Mitchell has sold "Getting Groomed" – a mostly serious (fine food, festive flowers) and sometimes facetious ("where to seat the homophobic uncle") guide

for gay grooms on how to negotiate the ins and outs of fabulous nuptials – to Chronicle Books, heading to the publication altar next year ... AND IN KEN O'NEILL'S farcical first novel, "The Marrying Kind," wedding planner Adam More and his not-yet-wedded hubby Steven Worth launch a boycott of the wedding industry, causing florists, cater-waiters, hairdressers, organists and other wedding-connected queers to withdraw their services to protest marriage inequality; the romantic call to arms is now available from Bold Strokes Books (\$16.95 paper).



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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, July 12

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

**Public Hearing on Discrimination** 6:30 p.m. There will be a public hearing, sponsored by the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, to hear testimony on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. MDCR is conducting research to examine the impact of Michigan's laws and policies on the LGBT community. The department is specifically concerned with Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 301 E. Huron St., **Ann Arbor**. AAHumanRightsCommission@gmail.com

**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

**Meet 'N' Greet** 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20 Somethings, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Det20somethings@gmail.com Facebook.com/LGBT20Somethings

### Friday, July 13

**Great Lakes Regional Rodeo** 10 a.m. Part of the Intl. Gay Rodeo Association, an amateur rodeo with real roughstock, roping, horse and entertainment events like goat dressing, wild drag race and steer decorating. Featuring country music, beer tent, vendors, entertainers and lots of boots, jeans and western hats. Raising money for charities like The Ruth Ellis Center, The Trevor Project and the fight against Ovarian Cancer. Michigan Intl. Gay Rodeo Association & Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association, 18071 Quirk Road, **Belleville**. 616-735-4521. dirwmireg@michiganrodeo.org Michiganrodeo.org

**Lavender Festival** 12 p.m. Macomb County's only domestic violence and sexual abuse shelter, announces its inclusion in this year's 10th annual Lavender Festival. Festival celebrates all things Lavender, with themes of wellness playing into Turning Point's mission to stabilize broken homes and ensure the well being of children. Turning Point, 17985 Armada Center Road, **Armada**. DianeMartinenterprises.com

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

### Saturday, July 14

**Garden Party** 6 p.m. Lisik Gardens offers hundreds of types of hostas and daylilies, plus unique flowers and plants. The event is a fundraiser for local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally organizations: Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities. Appetizers and beverages will be served. Donations will be accepted. Perceptions, 1445 N. Iva Road, **Hemlock**. 989-941-1458. Info@PerceptionsSV.org

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

**Totally Rad 80s Pride Prom** 10 p.m. Battle Creek Pride. Hosted by Ace Deville and Karma Vuitton with DJ Charlie. Music, Games, Nostalgia, Prizes for the Best Dressed. Partners Bar, 910 North Ave., **Battle Creek**. 269-420-8170. BattleCreekPride@yahoo.com

### Sunday, July 15

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

**PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting** 2 p.m. PFLAG offers support, education and advocacy for equality. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmetter Rd., **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. Pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

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

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Topic: What would your Ideal Day look like? What would you do and who would be in it? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

### Monday, July 16

**Mysterious, Marvelous Monday** 6 p.m. Mysterious, Marvelous Monday is the metamorphosis of Wild Wednesday. Youth group for ages 13-18. Fostering a kind and supportive environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, L3C, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-657-1792. Gailwolkoff@gmail.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

**Third District Congressional Debate** 6 p.m. In a very important primary race, Trevor Thomas and Steve Pestka, Democratic candidates will debate. LGBT voters are encouraged to attend and find out about these two candidates. Of interest is the fact that Mr. Thomas is a gay man. Depending on who wins the primary, he will run in the November election against Republican incumbent Justin Amash. The Battle Creek Enquirer and WMUK Public Radio sponsor the debate. The Kendal Center, 50 W. Jackson St., **Battle Creek**. 269-420-8170. BattleCreekPride@yahoo.com

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Tuesday, July 17

**PFLAG Kalamazoo** 6 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October from 6 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Resource Center. PFLAG, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

**PFLAG Family Reunion Meeting** 6:30 p.m. Third Tuesday of every month at the Fellowship Chapel. All LGBT and parents of LGBT invited to attend and share support. PFLAG Family Reunion, 7707 W. Outer Dr., **Detroit**. 313-286-8572.

**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

**Transgender Life Support** 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Facilitated by Arlene Kish, Lorraine Brown, Jessica Manko, Tracy Hoover, Helena Blakemore, Marty Howland and Colt Stacer. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

**A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster)** 7:45 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Jimytoycenter.org

### Wednesday, July 18

**LGBT Older Adult Coalition** 9:30 a.m. Collaboration of people and organizations in Southeastern Michigan who are working to establish effective programs and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults, hosted by the ACLU of Michigan and is supported by a grant from the HOPE Fund. Meets third Wednesday of every month. ACLU of Michigan, 2966 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-578-6812. jkaplan@aclumich.org

**Ladies Who Lunch** 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., **Kalamazoo**. Angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kglrc.org

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Road Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-573-9932. GoAffirmations.org

**LGBTQI Affirming Bible Study** 6 p.m. Carefully considering Bible passages which are taken out of context and then used to discriminate based on sexual orientation. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., **Lansing**. 517-484-7434. Mike@pilgrimucc.com PilgrimUCC.com

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

### Thursday, July 19

**3rd Annual Step Inside the Box** 7 p.m. Step Inside the Box is an auction gala where our silent auction items consist of shoe boxes that contain unique products donated by local artists, business people, and supporters. Patrons will be able to bid on these great silent auction packages throughout the night. Tickets: \$50. AIDS Walk Detroit, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. AIDSWalkDetroit.org

### Friday, July 20

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

Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

### Sunday, July 22

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

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Topic: What would you do differently if you knew you would not be judged? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

### Tuesday, July 24

**Candlelight Vigil** 6 p.m. An interfaith candlelight vigil and spiritual awakening; pay respect to those that have gone on before and rejoice in our lives and freedoms. Hosted by Detroit's faith community. KICK, Hotter Than July, Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, **Detroit**. Hotterthanjuly.com. See our ad on page 23.

## MUSIC & MORE

### CONCERTS

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "DSO at Ford House" The Detroit Symphony Orchestra returns for two spectacular concerts at the Ford House. Celebrate summer with a magical evening of music on the lakeside of the enchanting estate. Tickets: \$20+ Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. 7:30 p.m. July 13, 7:30 p.m. July 14. DSO.org

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Vesna Inaugural Memorial Chamber Concert" Ensembles of DSO musicians present an evening of chamber music in memory of Vesna Dublic. The program includes Mozart's tender Clarinet Quintet with DSO Principal Clarinet Ted Oien; Barber's Quartet for Strings; and Hanson's lush Serenade for Flute, Harp, and Strings, showcasing DSO Principal Harp Patricia Masri-Fletcher and Flute Jeffery Zook as soloists. First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 7:30 p.m. July 19. DSO.org

**Farmington Hills Department Cultural Arts** "Shout!" "Michigan's Premier Beatles Tribute Band!" a fantastic trip through a great time in the history of music, including all the "fab" music from the early years to the later Beatles. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. July 12. FHGov.com



Step Inside the Box at ROFM

**Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue** "Yale Storm" Strom is considered a trailblazer in the resurgence of Klezmer, a 1,000 year-old musical tradition that was almost lost after the Holocaust.

Klezmer has its cultural origins in Eastern Europe as music for Jewish celebrations, especially weddings. Tickets available online. Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Historic Capital Park, Detroit. 4 p.m. July 15. 313-891-2514. Klezmerconcert.eventbrite.com/

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Louis Nagel" After a memorable residency featuring the music of Schubert last summer, celebrated pianist Louis Nagel returns to Kerrytown Concert House to present his new concert and lecture series Bach and More, which will focus on the music of Bach and Liszt. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 12, 8 p.m. July 15. 734-769-2999. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

**MSU College of Music** "Muelder Summer Carillon Series" Anna Kasprzycka of Gdansk, Poland performs for the university's 16th annual Muelder Summer Carillon series. This event is free and open to the public. Beaumont Tower, West Circle Drive, East Lansing. 6 p.m. July 4, 6 p.m. July 18. 517-353-9958. MSU.edu

**Olympia Entertainment** "Nicki Minaj" Fresh off her first ever-international tour, Grammy nominated artist Nicki Minaj will bring her "Pink Friday Tour." Tickets: \$40-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 17. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Van Halen" Van Halen's 2012 North American Tour for the album "A Different Kind of Truth," Halen's first original studio album with singer David Lee Roth since the album "1984." Tickets: \$30-150. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. July 19. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com



Under the Streetlamp

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Under the Streetlamp" These four magnetic vocalists bring their unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves to your favorite Doo-Wop, Motown, and old time Rock 'n' Roll hits from The Drifters, The Beach Boys, The Beatles, The Four Seasons, and more. Tickets: \$30-40. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. July 12. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**The Ark** "Good Lovelies" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 14. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 13. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**University Musical Society** "Summer Singes: Durufle Requiem" All singers are invited to these popular choral reading sessions on Monday nights in July and August. Just come as you are to these no-audition, no-performance evenings of memorable music making. As many as 300 singers from Southeast Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Canada have joined each session in singing through great choral repertoire with some of the nations most respected choral conductors and outstanding soloists. Tickets: \$5. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. July 16. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

Continued on page 24



## Editor's Pick

Singer-songwriter and female rap trailblazer Nicki Minaj takes on Detroit at the Fox Theatre, July 17.

Trinidadian-born, Minaj moved to Queens in New York City when she was only six. By 2009, Nicki had released three mix tapes and was discovered by fellow rapper Lil Wayne, who secured her a record deal with Young Money Entertainment. Since then, Nicki has become one of the biggest names in rap,

becoming the first female solo artist to have seven singles on the Billboard Hot 100 at the same time. "Super Bass," Minaj's seventh single, has sold more than four million digital copies, making it one of the best-selling singles in the U.S.

For her Pink Friday Tour, Nicki is playing over 55 shows in Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Minaj will perform 8 p.m. July 17 at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., in Detroit. Tickets are \$40-\$70. For more information, visit OlympiaEntertainment.com.

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## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

### FESTIVALS

**Concert of Colors** "Concert of Colors" Four-day festival celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity of metro Detroit through free live music. Various Venues, Various Venues, Detroit. July 12 - July 15. [ConcertofColors.com](http://ConcertofColors.com)

**Olympia Entertainment** "2012 Fresh Music Festival" Featuring the artists that symbolized the music scene in the 80s and 90s to include award winning R&B singer Keith Sweat, trailblazing R&B girl group Sisters With Voices, R&B duo K-Ci & Jojo and Guy on Friday. Tickets: \$48-78. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 20. 313-471-6611. [Olympiaentertainment.com](http://Olympiaentertainment.com)

**Farmington Downtown Development Authority** "Downtown Farmington Founders Festival" Play in the Streets for a weekend of music, food, and fun activities geared for all ages. Stroll through the Crafters Marketplace and Farmers Market.

248-541-6430. [www.Stagecrafters.org](http://www.Stagecrafters.org)

**Medea** \$18. Heritage Theatre Group, Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids. July 12 - 21. 616-951-4842. [www.heritagetheatregr.org](http://www.heritagetheatregr.org)

**The Last Five Years** \$15. KW Productions and Ann Arbor Musical Theater Works at Jackson Symphony Orchestra, 215 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. July 12 - 15.

### PROFESSIONAL

**1964...The Tribute** \$20 pavilion, \$10 lawn. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 8 p.m. July 20. 1-800-745-3000. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Dewitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. July 13 - Aug. 11. 616-395-7890. [Hope.edu/HRST](http://Hope.edu/HRST)

**8** \$10 suggested donation. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. July 20. 248-545-5545. [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com)

**Avenue Q** \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck.

**In the Next Room or the vibrator play** \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 15. 734-663-0681. [www.PerformanceNetwork.org](http://www.PerformanceNetwork.org)

**Junie B. Jones in jungle Bells Batman Smells!** \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at The Studio Theatre in the DeWitt Cultural Center, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. July 9 - Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Kolobok** \$10 adult, \$5. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through July 28. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**Legally Blonde - The Musical** \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through July 15. 269-731-4121. [www.barntheatre.com](http://www.barntheatre.com)

**Love's Labour's Lost** \$32-\$39. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. July 13 - Aug. 11. 517-998-3673. [www.michiganshakespearefestival.com](http://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com)

**The Deal-Breaker** \$15. Big Girl Ideas, Inc. at The Lighthouse Theater, 8801 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. July 14. 313-727-1011. [www.TheDealbreaker.eventbrite.com](http://www.TheDealbreaker.eventbrite.com)

**The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode** \$10-\$15. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 14 - Aug. 13. 248-556-8581. [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com)

**The Frog Prince** \$7, which includes popcorn. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre at Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 14. 517-278-6029. [www.tibbits.org](http://www.tibbits.org)

**The Great American Sex Farce** \$15-\$18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. July 20 - Aug. 18. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**The Ugly Duckling** \$5-8. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. July 19 - Aug. 7. 313-577-2972. [www.hilberry.com](http://www.hilberry.com)

**The Wedding Singer** \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. July 17 - 28. 269-731-4121. [www.barntheatre.com](http://www.barntheatre.com)

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**To Save A City: A Tale of Two Emergency Managers** \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through July 21. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

## ART'N'AROUND

**Box Factory for the Arts** "Michigan 10th Annual Art Competition" Two of bisexual artist Ara Lucia's photographs have been selected in the MAAC. The pieces are "Lil' Red Revised," and "Almost," the latter of which was inspired by the fight against Prop 8. Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph. June 15 - July 28. 269-983-3688. [BoxFactoryfortheArts.org](http://BoxFactoryfortheArts.org)

**Canvas Studios** "Open Creativity Time" Open creativity is an opportunity for individuals and groups to gather in a loving and supportive environment for creative and artistic activities. Admission \$12. Canvas Studios, 306 1/2 S. Main St., Royal Oak. March 11 - Aug. 12. 248-759-4633. [Thecanvasstudios.com](http://Thecanvasstudios.com)

**Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History** "The Chris Webber Collection" Chris Webber, Detroit native, National Basketball Association All-Star player (retired) and NBA announcer, collects rare artifacts that illuminate the lives and legacies of African American greats such as Phillis Wheatley, the first African American author; Rosa Parks, mother of the modern civil rights movement; civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and many others. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1 - Sep. 30. 313-494-5853. [TheWright.org](http://TheWright.org)

**College for Creative Studies** "Maureen Bennett Chronicles: One Model, Infinite Expressions" This past May, students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered in a studio for a four-hour session to draw or paint a live model. This eclectic group produced interpretations of one model, Maureen Bennett. This year's exhibit, for the first time, will also include work by Board of Trustees Member Molly Valade, '02 Fine Arts. A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit. July 1 - July 21. 313-664-7403. [CollegeforCreativeStudies.edu](http://CollegeforCreativeStudies.edu) **See our ad on page 13.**

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "George Nelson: Architect / Writer/ Designer / Teacher" The first comprehensive retrospective of Nelson's work. It has been touring in Europe and most recently in the United States at the

Bellevue Art Museum in Seattle. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 16 - Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. [CranbrookArtMuseum.org](http://CranbrookArtMuseum.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Abstract Expressionism" Abstract expressionism was the first specifically American art movement to achieve international influence and put New York City as the new center of the western art world. Drawing on works from the FIA's permanent collection, along with important loans from regional museums, the exhibition surveys the art movement from its origins in the post World War II period to the latest developments in the 21st century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "The Golden Age of Painting, 1600-1800 from the Speed Art Museum" The treasures on loan from the permanent collection of the Speed Art Museum of Louisville, Kentucky, include works by artists from The Netherlands, Flanders, France, Spain, Italy, Germany and England. Highlighted in the show are paintings that illustrate the popular subjects of that age, such as: landscapes, portraits, still lifes, religious paintings, interpretations of classical antiquity and scenes from every day life. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Cities in Transition" This suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs explores the many ways art, design, and history shapes our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use brings both challenges and opportunities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 1 - Aug. 26. 616-831-2904. [Artmuseumgr.org](http://Artmuseumgr.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Elliot Erwitt: Dog Dogs" This exhibition leaves little question about Erwitt's love of man's best friend. Erwitt proves that our close relationship with dogs is due to mutual resemblance and emotion. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. July 7 - Sep. 23. 269-349-7775. [Klarts.org](http://Klarts.org)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Summer Invitational" This annual exhibition features the newest work by the local artists LGS most like and admire. The gallery will showcase over 50 works in two and three-dimensional media, as well as a new collection of work by member artists. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. July 4 - July 27. 248-544-0394. [Lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://Lawrencestreetgallery.com)



Elliot Erwitt's Dog Dogs

**Michigan State University Museum** "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" The MSU Museum revisits the publication of the landmark book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, credited with launching the modern environmental movement.

Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1 - Nov. 30. [Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/527](http://Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/527)

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Ruth Ellis Center Photography Exhibition" Following a month-long collaboration with MOCAD's Department of Education and Public Engagement, Ruth Ellis youth will exhibit the fruits of their photography workshop focusing on identity construction and portraiture on view. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 1 - July 28. 313-832-6622. [MOCADetroit.org](http://MOCADetroit.org)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Patti Smith: Camera Solo" This is the first American museum exhibition to focus on the photography of artist, poet, and performer Patti Smith. Smith's photographs are infused with personal meaning and highlight the rich relationships between art, architecture, poetry and the everyday. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 1 - Sep. 2. 313-833-7900. [DIA.org](http://DIA.org)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Picasso and Matisse" Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and Henri Matisse (1869-1954) were groundbreaking visionaries who constantly experimented with techniques and materials. This exhibition features almost all of the works by Picasso and Matisse in the museum's prints and drawings collections. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11 - Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. [DIA.org](http://DIA.org)

**The Gallery Project** "Nature As Spirit" A multimedia exhibit in which 30 local, regional, and national artists explore Nature as a source of spirituality in contemporary life. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 7 - July 15. 734-997-7012. [TheGalleryProject.com](http://TheGalleryProject.com)

**The Scarab Club** "Mixed Up" The Scarab Club will host Mixed Up, an unthemed, mixed media exhibition judged by Jack O. Summers. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - July 27. 313-831-1250. [ScarabClub.org](http://ScarabClub.org)

**The University of Michigan** "Man Up! No Balls About It" The Michigan Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art presents "Man Up!", a national multi-media exhibition that visualizes the essence of power and the notion of "besting" oneself, other artists or men in general. This exhibit features work of women artists including celebrity artist/juror and native Detroiter Suzy Lake. Gallery in the Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd, Ann Arbor. July 12 - Aug. 9. 734-763-0606. [Umich.edu](http://Umich.edu)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Judith Turner: The Flatness of Ambiguity" Judith Turner is a noted American photographer whose subject matter is mostly architecture. Turner's training as a designer allows her to

## Editor's Pick

"1964...The Tribute," the number one Beatles tribute show in the world, will perform at Meadow Brook Music Festival 8 p.m. Friday, July 20.

"1964...The Tribute" will take the audience on a musical journey to an era in rock history that will live in all of our hearts forever. Masters of their crafts, "1964...The Tribute" spent years researching The Beatles. Choosing songs from the pre-Sgt. Pepper era, "1964" astonishingly recreates an early 1960s live Beatles concert, with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and onstage banter. Alistair Taylor, former President of Apple Records for The Beatles, called the resemblance "uncanny."

"1964...The Tribute" is Mark Benson (John), Graham Alexander (Paul), Tom Work (George) and Bobby Potter (Ringo). Tickets at \$20 pavilion and \$10 lawn are available by calling 1-800-745-3000.



Visit the main stage for music and cheer on a parade, make crafts. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. July 19 - July 21. 248-473-7276. [FoundersFestival.com](http://FoundersFestival.com)

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Global Dance Festival Detroit" With Above and Beyond, Wolfgang Gartner and Mord Fustang. Tickets: \$35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. July 18. 248-399-2980. [RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com](http://RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com)

### OTHER

**Zumba Fitness with Chandra Floyd** "Zumba Fitness in Midtown Detroit" De-stress and party yourself into shape with this calorie scorching, exhilarating, and easy to follow workout with Latin and international music. Admission: \$8 per class. International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 25 - Sep. 26. 313-587-6203. [Facebook.com/ZumbaWithChandraMI](http://Facebook.com/ZumbaWithChandraMI)

**The Scarab Club** "Musing" Poetry and music gathering hosted by Ann Holdreith. Hosted at the Scarab Club the third Sunday of every month. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. March 18 - Aug. 19. 313-831-1250. [Scarabclub.org](http://Scarabclub.org)

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Bye Bye Birdie** A youth theater production. \$10 adult, \$6 youth. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. July 19 - 22.

Through July 15. 269-857-2399. [www.masonstreetwarehouse.org](http://www.masonstreetwarehouse.org)

**Beyond the Stage - Revenge is Sweet** \$10 adult, \$5 students (22 and under). The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 3 p.m. July 21. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com)

**Chicago** \$10-\$27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 12 - 21. 517-278-6029. [www.Tibbits.org](http://www.Tibbits.org)

**DIA Moment: PuppetSlam Detroit!** Admission is free. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 13. 313-833-7900. [www.DIA.org](http://www.DIA.org)

**Ernie** \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 12. 1-800-745-3000. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

**Fiddler on the Roof** \$26-32. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. July 12 - Aug. 12. 734-268-6200. [www.TheEncoreTheatre.org](http://www.TheEncoreTheatre.org)

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Hot Dog Mondays** \$5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Aug. 27. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change** \$27-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. July 20 - Aug. 12. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**On Golden Pond** \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Sep. 1. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org) **See our ad on page 17.**

**Pride and Prejudice** \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Dewitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through July 28. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsrt](http://www.hope.edu/hsrt)

**Puss in Boots** \$10-49. Etico Productions at Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 19. 1-800-745-3000. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**Pygmalion** \$32-\$39. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. July 19 - Aug. 10. 517-998-3673. [www.michiganshakespearefestival.com](http://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com)

**Red, White and Tuna** Previews July 12-15 & 19 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. July 12 - Aug. 19. 517-655-7469. [www.WilliamstonTheatre.org](http://www.WilliamstonTheatre.org)

Richard III \$32-\$39. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. July 12 - Aug. 12. 517-998-3673. [www.michiganshakespearefestival.com](http://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com)

**Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class** \$15. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 12 - 15. 248-377-3300. [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com)



# Hot Comedy in Cool Hamtramck

BY JOHN QUINN

Prowling the cutting edge of professional theater one finds the improvisationalists and sketch comedians. They are wily, intelligent beasts, who hunt in packs because there is strength in numbers. It is no job for the faint of heart or woundable ego. Yet when they are running full speed with a juicy premise, it's hard for even the most ruthless theater critic to pick them off.

Consider "To Save a City: A Tale of Two Emergency Managers," Planet Ant Theatre's final installment of the 2012 Late Night Series. This one-act comedy is written and performed by the Winter Colony Fest Winners, "The Unknowns," a quintet of demented brains and sharp noses for comedy. "The Unknowns" are unknown no longer; they are Chris Petersen, Andrew Seiler, Erik Heilner, Genevieve Jona and Paul Jonna. The play benefits from an unusually tight, absurdist script and thoroughly original characters.

Our scene is Oakarbingtonforest Woodsvillage, a Detroit suburb in financial trouble. Lansing sends two emergency managers, a seasoned pro on the verge of retirement (Chris Petersen), and his earnest trainee (Erik Heilner). Hot on their trail is an ambitious TV reporter, Thompson James (Andrew Seiler), who will let nothing stand in the way of a good story – not even the truth. The trio learn their arrival fulfills a prophesy – the town will be destroyed by a hurricane. The residents are strangely complaisant about their impending doom. But frankly, they're all certifiable nut jobs.

"To Save a City" mines current events and pop culture references for a mother lode of comedy. The playwrights take the hackneyed relationship between veteran and rookie that has been used in 'way too many



"To Save a City: A Tale of Two Emergency Managers" is Planet Ant Theatre's final installment of the 2012 Late Night Series. Photo: Planet Ant

## REVIEW

### To Save a City: A Tale of Two Emergency Managers

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Friday-Saturday through July 21. 43 minutes. \$10. 313-365-4948.

>> [www.PlanetAnt.com](http://www.PlanetAnt.com)

cop flicks and redeems it. The play is a multi-media work, with grainy videos – allegedly training tapes – made by the town's founder, Henry Ford. Yeah, THAT Henry Ford. The result is a twisted echo of "Lost's" Dharma Project instructional tapes.

We find the other "Unknowns," Genevieve Jona and Paul Jonna, solely in the videos, first as Thompson's bitterly partisan NYC anchors, then again as residents Margo and Jerome, interviewed for that touch of local color. Through the years the Ant has enjoyed great success with multi-media; this is one of the best

integrations with live action in memory.

I sense that Mikey Brown, director of all this madness, gave his cast their head and only lightly reined them in when they threatened to stampede. The result is some choice characters, well developed in the little time they have on stage.

Too often in sketch comedy, when a few actors play multiple parts, it's easy to forget exactly who's who. This cast nicely defines character, which is especially taxing when the visual impact is limited to minimal costume changes. Body language and voice ably fill the bill. Another pitfall in comedy, though, is a tendency to rush the lines and that appears here from time to time. The material is too good to miss guys; give it to us slower!

While the summer has been a scorcher, it's like February compared to the hot air generated in Lansing and Detroit. Before the hurricane blows us all into Lake Erie, a little comedy can go a long way to put things in perspective.

# 'Facts of Life' Returns to Ringwald

**FERNDALE** – By popular demand, The Ringwald will hold a "rerun" of the hilarious Jamie Morris parody, "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode." Opening Saturday, July 14, "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode" will play Saturday-Mondays for an exclusive five week run at The Ringwald Theatre in Downtown Ferndale.

After a sold-out run in the summer of 2008 (and still the most requested show by audience members), the wildly popular "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode" returns to the Detroit area! Written by the creator of the LA Weekly Theatre Award-winning comedy "Mommie Queerest," "Facts" features an all-male cast as the girls from Eastland.

The lost episode in question is titled "The Best Little Whorehouse in Peekskill." Budget cuts are threatening to force Mrs. Garrett (Joe Bailey) to leave Eastland. But like the theme song states, "You take the good, You take the bad," and Blair (Richard Payton), Tootie (Jerry Haines), Natalie (Joe Plambeck) and Jo (Jamie Richards) are willing to do anything to raise enough money for her to stay. Anything.

"The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode" features the same talented cast from the 2008 production: Joe Bailey, Richard Payton, Joe Plambeck, Jerry Haines and Jamie Richards. Joe Bailey will also direct.

"The Facts of Life: The Lost

Episode" opens Saturday, July 14 and plays through Monday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. on Saturday and Monday nights, with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees.

Ticket prices are \$20 for Saturday performances, \$15 for Sunday shows, and Monday nights are only \$10 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased at [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com) or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or Visa/Mastercard.

The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Ave. in the Times Square of Ferndale.

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## Dating Diet

### Under The Sheets



BY ANTHONY PAULL

I'm not sure what to do with my girl Jackie. Her boyfriend recently taught her what it's like to do anal, and now she's convinced that she should have been born a gay man. "I get why the majority of you bottom," she tells me. "That's powerful stuff, the best thing to happen to my life since the morning-after pill. I feel reborn."

To celebrate, she wants to talk about it every time we meet. I'm usually up for it, but it tends to become awkward when we're sitting by school kids at Starbucks.

I flash Jackie a warning with my eyes.

"Please. Like they haven't tried it," she scoffs. "So tell me, what do the gays do to prepare for such an event?" Excited, she wiggles in her seat. "I mean, organically."

Now, Jackie's never been one to be PC or beat around the bush, but this type of questioning seems out of place, even for a young lady who forgets to wear panties to the office just to give her pervert manager a reason to go home and bang his wife. (She considers it philanthropy.)

"Seriously. Can we talk about this another time?" I ask.

"Why?" She seems miffed.

"Because." I pause for a breath. "You can't bring up anal like it's the weather."

"Why not? I thought that's what gays live for."

I choke down my latte, eyeing our audience of teen and elderly coffee lovers. "Yes, but it's not an everyday thing. Think of it like... a holiday or a special occasion."

"Like the sun coming up? Who are you kidding? You take it every chance you get. Now, what's the secret to a fast, clean ride?"

I refuse to answer, finding a reason to exit the conversation, only to receive a phone call later in the week. This time, Jackie is more subdued, able to convey what this nonsense is all about. "I know. It's weird. But it brought a spark back to my sex life with Ben," she explains. She states that since the new technique, the two have engaged in sex at least four times per week in the last month. Compared to the once-a-week rhythm the couple had settled into, the sudden burst of activity has been a nice change. That is, until two days ago, when the interest suddenly died. "It's like he's over it," she confesses. "I can't be loose in one month. Can I?"

"I don't think that's the issue."

"Well, what else could it be?" she questions. "Look, can you do kegel exercises with your ass?"

The next time we have coffee, she sits awkwardly, half-off her chair, like she's in pain. Her face turns an odd shade of red.

"What are you doing?" I question.

"Clenching," she says, breathing like she's taking a Lamaze class. "I read about it online. It's easy. Just like blotting your lips. Ooh, ha, ha. Ooh, ha, ha."

I wonder if she's about to birth a turd. "That's not sexy," I advise.

"It's not supposed to be. It's just prep work: squeeze and release, squeeze and release." Her hand falls across her face, covering her eyes, as if she knows just how desperate she appears. "Don't laugh. I'm out of ideas, and I'm trying to save my relationship."

I hold my tongue, fearing I'll allow something to slip that isn't supportive. It's clear Jackie needs for me to remain positive, so I allow a moment to pass, then plant an idea in her head, wondering aloud if there's something she can do outside of the bedroom to bring her closer to

her boyfriend. "What connects the two of you besides sex?"

Jackie ponders the thought, arriving to the conclusion that she hasn't actually tried to learn much about Ben other than the rate at which he can ejaculate. It's been their safety blanket, learning about one another under the sheets instead of covering the ordinary bases: play dates and excursions out of

“To shed some light, Jackie promises to find time during waking hours to take him out. She wonders if they'll click without dick in the equation. Can she clench his heart with more than body parts? Would he mind learning about her mind?”

town. The two met in a pub and had sex in the men's bathroom before last call. Following the Big Bang, busy careers have allotted them few hours of leisure, leading them straight to the bedroom when they meet up. Jackie admits she had to take a pic of Ben sleeping to prove he exists to certain family members and friends. "Sometimes, I don't think he's real either," she reveals. "He's like a ghost, only able to appear in the dark."

To shed some light, Jackie promises to find time during waking hours to take him out. She wonders if they'll click without dick in the equation. Can she clench his heart with more than body parts? Would he mind learning about her mind?

A week later we meet for coffee and she takes a seat, normally, chatting about her first official date with Ben. They had gone canoeing and bicycling. She's still sore from the events, but this time there's no huffing or puffing when she speaks. In fact, she only loses her breath once, when Ben surprises her with a call, asking if he could join us. Minutes later, he takes a seat at her side, meeting me for the first time.

# Horoscopes

## Think ahead, Virgo!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Mercury in Leo sextile to Venus in Gemini means well offering bold promises, but he's turning retrograde, so don't count on delivery. Passionate flirtations are just that; no more.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** As your energy and confidence pick up, it's easy to go overboard. Take time to meditate, exercise, to share your plans and ambitions. You need sensible counsel to keep you on the track to success, and off the road to disaster.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Putting money into your home looks like a good investment, but it's not. Your sense of community values may put you into a very small minority. Your basic values are good, but what you've built on them may need re-hashing.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Venus offers you extra charm, but with your ruler Mercury turning retrograde you could charm your way into situations you'd regret. Count on your friends and listen to them. That wild new passion in your life is just a passing fancy.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** A clash between spiritual values and material goals may leave you questioning how you keep body and soul together. Making revolutionary changes requires subtle efforts and personal choices while working subversively within the system.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Your discomfort with the world is your own problem. Don't take it out on others. You need fearlessly honest friends to confront you with disturbing truths. The courage to listen won't come easily, but you can handle it.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Your ability to keep confidences is important to your ambitions. Letting on that you know a secret is the first step to giving it up. Wanting to enjoy attention among your friends can cost you at home. Think ahead!

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Mars just into your sign cranks up your energy, but don't be an energetic crank! While changes at home are necessary, listen attentively to your partner and family. To start change yourself you have to start by changing yourself.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Taking responsibility is not the same as taking blame. Staying quiet and avoiding arguments doesn't make the others right, but could make you more effective in the long run. You will regret speaking up. Be observant and shrewd working behind the scenes.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Asserting your sexual desires can be good for you, but stressful on your relationship. Real love requires compromises – on both sides. A serious discussion can reach a satisfactory conclusion. Single? Unsure? A hot new fling is just that. Enjoy. Don't make plans.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Too much confidence at work can quickly get you into trouble, especially at home. Rallying your people to support you can be a hard sell. They have needs, too! Respect and support them. One way or another they'll pay you back.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** You're all about changing the world, but can you change yourself? New ideas will soon challenge your deepest values and commitments. The world needs to evolve and change, and you must do so first if you really want to lead the way.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** The seducer can get even more lost in seduction than the seduced. Worry less about what you need from others and think about what you can offer others of yourself. Even then think ahead and consider your own limits.

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


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**Solution to puzzle from page 28**


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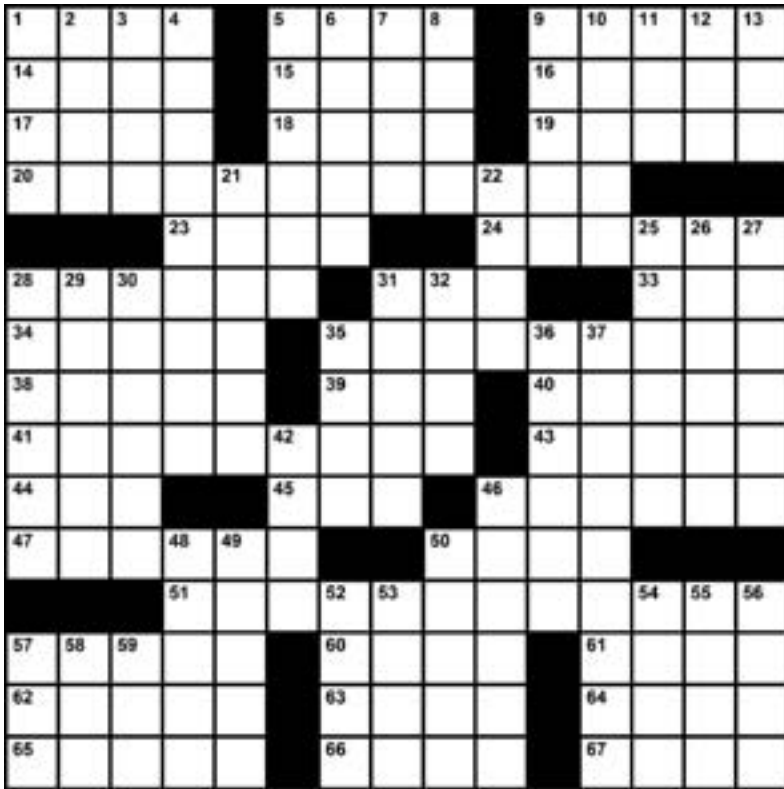
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# Angel Among the Angels



## Across

- 1 Charles of "Threesome"
- 5 Fey feline film felon
- 9 Kidman's award for "The Hours"
- 14 Pro foe
- 15 Folded fast food
- 16 Be intense like a queen
- 17 Sexual partners, to the insensitive
- 18 Coffee containers
- 19 Office aides
- 20 Film in which 51-Across played a tiny circus performer
- 23 Former netman Nastase
- 24 Like a virgin's maidenhead
- 28 Polished one's cockring
- 31 Florist's wheels, often
- 33 Warhol China piece?
- 34 Ars \_\_\_\_, vita brevis
- 35 With 41-Across, film in which 51-Across played a fortune teller
- 38 Billy Bean boo-boo
- 39 Fraternal Order member
- 40 Reed in an old sitcom
- 41 See 35-Across
- 43 Beckett no-show
- 44 Overthrower of Bhutto
- 45 Leave open-mouthed
- 46 Peter Pan opponent

- 47 Agnes Moorehead role
- 50 Ready for surgery
- 51 She played Solly in "Angel"
- 57 "M\*A\*S\*H" company clerk
- 60 Bird in a crazy simile
- 61 Something to think about
- 62 Greek edition of Oprah's magazine?
- 63 Chickenhawk's feathers
- 64 Greek Stoic
- 65 Carpenter's rod
- 66 Shakespeare's Hathaway
- 67 Drops the curtain on

- 21 Fabled cow owner
- 22 Bear, with "at"
- 25 Bearse of "Married ... with Children"
- 26 Lacks the wherewithal
- 27 Until now
- 28 Tabloid fodder
- 29 Meddle
- 30 Gradual encroachment
- 31 Hold dear
- 32 Tries to get information
- 35 Sneaky Pie cry
- 36 More like Cho's comedy
- 37 Award for the best costume, perhaps
- 42 "Serpico" author Peter
- 46 Hester of the A-list?
- 48 Kind of orange
- 49 Like Gomer's Mayberry
- 50 Popular resort, for short
- 52 Alan of "The West Wing"
- 53 Climax time in a Gary Cooper film
- 54 James Dean's "East of \_\_\_\_"
- 55 Extend credit
- 56 Mekong River country
- 57 Fisherman's tool
- 58 Latin I word
- 59 Wetness on the grass

## Down

- 1 Door piece
- 2 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_\_ Love"
- 3 Without a date
- 4 Trying to pick up, as at a bar
- 5 Part of KISS
- 6 Caesar's "seize"
- 7 Problem for skin
- 8 Name repeated in a Stein quote
- 9 When to have sex
- 10 Cold shower
- 11 Helmet add-on for TV
- 12 Blaster for Etheridge
- 13 Hi-\_\_\_\_ graphics

Solution on pg 27



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# Classifieds

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

### Ann Arbor-Friday

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

### Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

### Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

### Farmington Hills-Monday

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

### Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

### Ferndale-Wednesday

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

### Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

### Livonia-Friday

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

### Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

### Warren-Monday

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

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## 109 ANNOUNCEMENTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Tom Zarafa hosts his 10th Annual Chicken Bar BQ / Potluck

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## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE



Amber Heard. Photo: Peter Mountain

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Amber Heard in talks for 'Paranoia'

Recession still got you down? Ever thought of branching out and going into the corporate spying business? Well, according to Joseph Finder's best-selling novel "Paranoia," this is something you might consider. And both lesbian actress Amber Heard and "Hunger Games" star Liam Hemsworth are considering taking roles in the film version, to be directed by gay filmmaker Robert Luketic ("Legally Blonde"). The story involves a blue-collar worker who becomes a corporate spy and gets himself into hot water as a result. And a hot supporting cast of A-listers like Gary Oldman and Harrison Ford are already on board, which means that the source material – the kind of pulpy thriller you see left on airplanes after a cross-country flight – might be getting the kind of first-class treatment every author dreams of when selling a book to Hollywood. One request, respectfully submitted: If Heard winds up moving beyond the discussion phase, could she please play someone who has something to do instead of just the passive wife or girlfriend? Everyone's ready for that by this point, right?

### Magic Mike and the Spice Girls coming to the stage

Not ones to let the bachelorette party wind down so soon, Steven Soderbergh and Channing Tatum are about to extend stripper drama "Magic Mike"'s life to Broadway as a musical. Working with "Magic" screenwriter Reid Carolin, the producing pair hopes to have a working, functioning show up on stage by the summer of 2013 starring hard-bodied guys who can not only bump and grind but sing their hearts out, as well. Just don't call it "The Full Monty 2." Now, if "Mamma Mia! 2" is the first thing that comes to mind when you learn about "Viva Forever!," who could blame you? The long-gestating Spice Girls jukebox musical, written by "Absolutely Fabulous" co-creator Jennifer Saunders, opens on London's West End in December of this year and is "not" a rehash of the supergroup's fantasy biopic "Spice World." Instead, like "Mamma Mia!," it'll focus on a group of women whose lives are reflected in Spice Girls songs. Makes sense because, you know, girl power and all. And if nothing else, it's a reason to hope that the Mayans were wrong about 2012. Because you know you want to see this one.

### 'The Sound of Music' climbs every delivery platform

It began its life as a stage musical and became an award-winning box office smash movie that found enduring life as a perennial TV favorite and then new popularity as a "Rocky Horror Picture Show"-style sing-along event, complete with audience members dressed as nuns. So what's left for "The Sound of Music"? What about if NBC capitalized on "Smash"'s cult hit status and brought the stage version back to TV as a one-night-only event? Enter gay producing team Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, whose plans involve broadcasting the whole thing live. Sound crazy? It's not; in fact, they used to do it all the time in the 1950s, when families would sit around the TV together for that kind of thing. Casting is underway and airdate will be announced soon. And the more you watch the more likely it'll be more than a one-off experiment.

### 'Boom,' here's Ron Perlman playing transgender

"Frankie Go Boom" is coming. You ready? It's a sweet-natured romantic comedy from writer/director Jordan Roberts and it stars "Sons of Anarchy" regular Charlie Hunnam (he was also part of the original U.K. "Queer as Folk" cast), Chris O' Dowd (that cute cop from "Bridesmaids"), Chris Noth, Lizzy Caplan ("Two Broke Girls") and Ron Perlman. Perlman plays a transgendered woman and the character is based on Roberts' sister, who used to be his brother, which just goes to show that real life doesn't have to turn into weird reality television – sometimes it can inform oddball fiction instead. What's it about? Two brothers whose love-hate relationship goes viral when one of them pranks the other with an Internet-leaked sex tape. Enter Perlman (looking like, well, a female Ron Perlman) to help. How she helps isn't known at this point unless you jump the gun and read reviews prior to the indie comedy's October opening. But you can wait, right? Sure you can. This one sounds like it rewards the patient.

Romeo San Vicente goes boom every hour on the hour. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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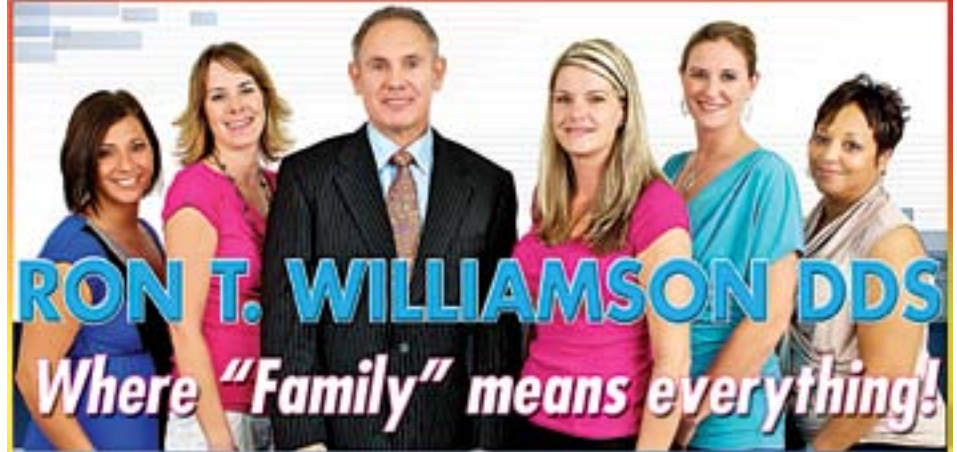
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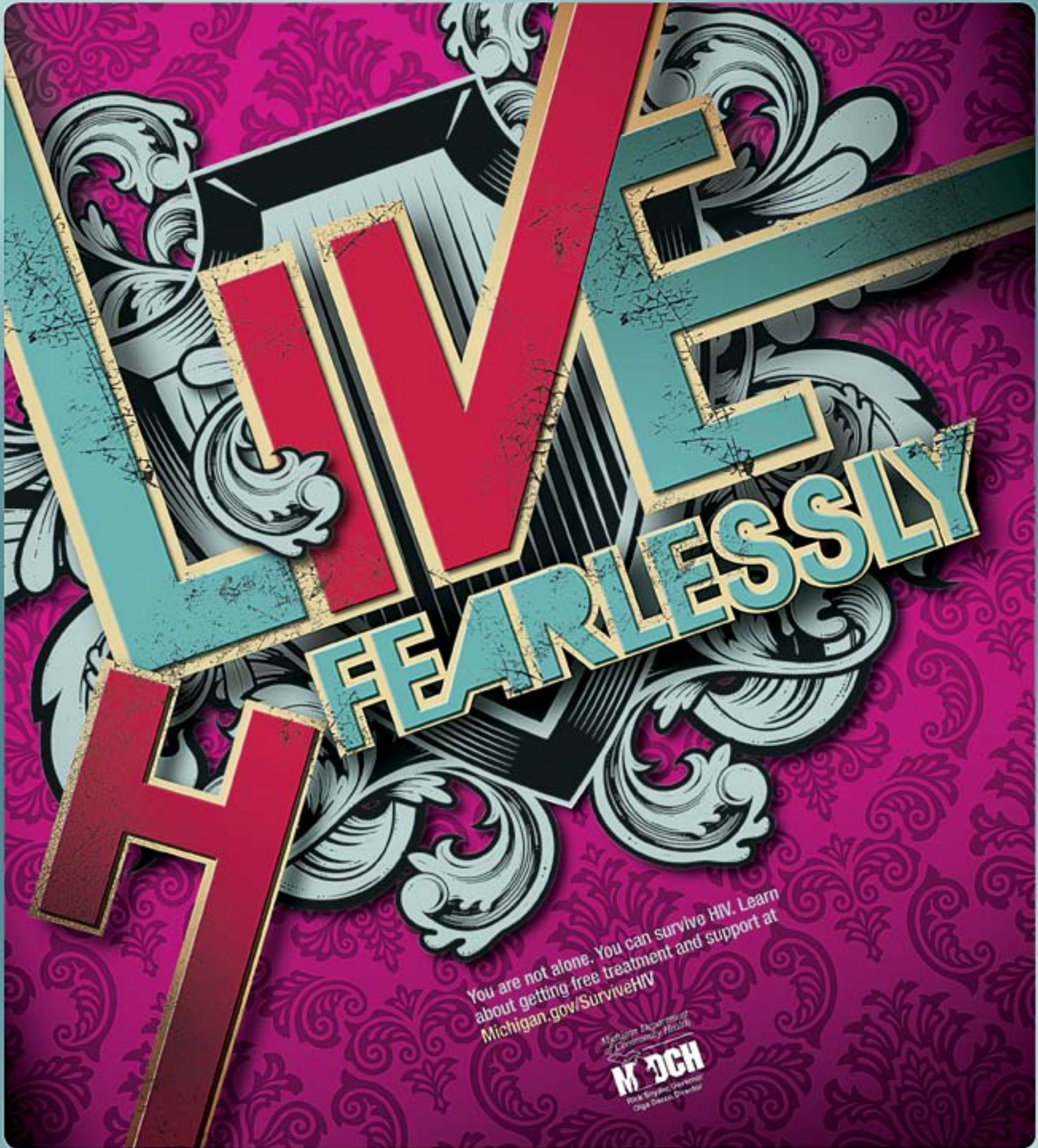


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