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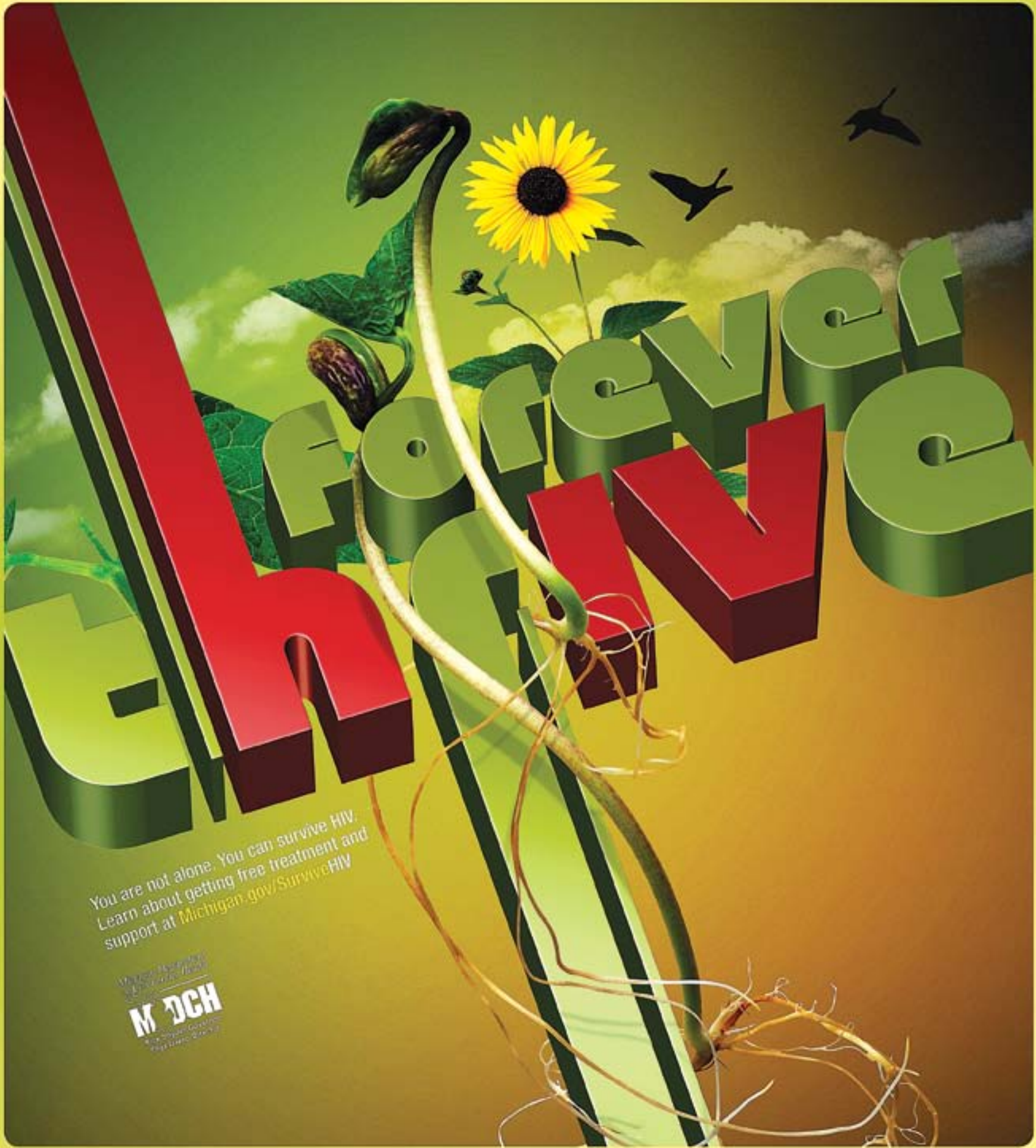
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## Cover story

### 6 | Election 2012: a supreme run for justice

Bridget McCormack would seek reform for state's highest court  
Photo: Andrew Potter

## News

### 7 | No. 19: Mt. Pleasant joins cities with nondiscrimination ordinances

### 7 | Briefs

### 8 | Battle Creek LGBT community sees needed growth

### 9 | Analysis: Where are the gays in AIDS?

### 14 | High-powered lesbians create a PAC of their own

### 14 | Obama Administration takes steps to improve health of older LGBT Americans

## Opinions

### 10 | Heard on Facebook Chevy Ad

### 10 | S/he Said Childhood, Polls and Google

### 12 | Eye on Equality License to Do Harm

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



### 13 | Parting Glances

God bless gay waiters!

### 14 | Creep of the Week

Jennifer Carroll

## Life

### 17 | Introducing Eva Simons

Rising pop star talks gay influences, doing Pride and her huge hair

### 19 | Art show offers mix of art, people

Annual event celebrates 10th anniversary

### 20 | Hear Me Out

Missy Higgins' triumphant return. Plus: Marina and the Diamonds almost sparkles

### 25 | 'The Lost Episode' is classic burlesque

### 24 | Happenings

Featured: OKK Fashion Design Launch Party

## Rear View

### 26 | Puzzle

### 27 | Horoscopes

### 29 | Classifieds

### 29 | Dear Jody

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# Election 2012: A Supreme Run For Justice

## Bridget McCormack Would Seek Reform for State's Highest Court

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The campaign for Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court is being called the most important race for the people. Three of the seven seats are up for consideration and following the November election Bridget Mary McCormack is eager to fill one of them.

"I'm optimistic and also I believe in myself enough to know that I will be a breath of fresh air and a force for good," said McCormack, the Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of Michigan Law School, who has already received the support of retiring Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly and the endorsement of the Michigan Democratic Party for the non-partisan race.

The Thomas M. Cooley Law Review believes in her too, as they recently awarded McCormack with the Distinguished Brief Award presented annually in recognition of the most scholarly briefs filed before the Michigan Supreme Court.

McCormack was recognized for the brief filed in *People v. Likine*, which argued the Court should reaffirm that involuntary omissions may not be criminalized and that there must be an opportunity for a defendant to present evidence that an act was involuntary.

"It is an honor to be recognized for my work in the Michigan Supreme Court, especially given the important issues it decides that directly affect the citizens of our state, and my overriding interest in ensuring that everyone gets a fair shake in our courts," said McCormack.

This has been McCormack's mission since graduating with highest honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and New York University Law School, where she studied on a scholarship and won the school's top prize for clinical work. She started her career at The Legal Aid Society, where she worked side-by-side with people who needed someone to guide them through a complicated legal system, before taking a teaching fellowship at the Yale Law School.

In 1998, she joined the faculty at University of Michigan Law School where she is responsible for developing the school's practical education curriculum that gives law students "hands-on" experience helping clients in a courtroom as they did in the *Likine* case. Under her leadership,



On a campaign stop July 3, Bridgett McCormack stopped by the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park to tour the facilities with Executive Director Laura Hughes. She was accompanied by her sister, actress Mary McCormack. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

the program has expanded to include clinics dedicated to children's health, low-income taxpayers, the wrongfully accused and business entrepreneurs.

"These experiences have taught me what works in our legal system and what

a mother lend to her ability too. McCormack is married to Steven Croley, who is currently on leave from Michigan law to serve as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Counsel to the President in

“Whether it's family autonomy, how someone is treated in the workplace, in business, or in the housing market - what commitment the state has to equality is often worked out in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gets to be the arbitrator if legislation coming out of Lansing is fair or not. The Supreme Court can be a leader in equality issues.”

-Bridget Mary McCormack, Candidate running for Michigan Supreme Court

doesn't," said McCormack. "In my work, I've been representing different groups of people that otherwise don't have access to lawyers. I have yet to represent a client who has paid me. What they all have in common is a hard time and access to justice. We shine the light on places where the criminal justice system goes wrong and figure out what we can do about it."

Her experience as a wife and

the Office of White House Counsel. Together, they live in Ann Arbor with four children. "Raising a bunch of kids and managing a family is relevant. Being a partner really makes me a more effective lawyer and teacher. The perspective it gives me will also be useful when I'm deciding cases. I remember these are real people who have real experiences," said McCormack.

### Top Priority

It's with that in mind that McCormack has determined and publicly stated that reform is a top priority. "I don't think it's a secret - because there have been a lot of studies by the Center for Public Integrity and the University of Chicago Law School - that our Supreme Court is extremely partisan and that partisanship results in low grades on rubrics that people care about, such as integrity and independence and the extent to which the court is followed and respected by other courts around the country."

McCormack has said she would also like to see a non-partisan nomination process, similar to how judges in lower courts and circuit courts make it onto the ballot. She feels that reforms would result in renewed respect and confidence in Michigan's supreme court. "I think that everyone understands in our other branches of government that people are paid to play, and that's too bad; but in our judiciary I feel that everyone

wants better than that. We want our judiciary to be, if nothing else, about fairness," said McCormack, who said it would be "well worth it" to lose her autonomy, take a pay cut and give up her university tenure and job security if she wins the election.

"I feel good about it and I think if people get to know me a little bit, no matter what their background commitments are, they'll realize I'm a good candidate. I want to make sure people understand who I really am and what my core values are," said McCormack.

### Moving Forward

A good candidate is needed to move the country forward on many LGBT issues such as marriage equality and second-parent adoption.

Many cases that impact LGBT equality have come before the Michigan Supreme Court, such as *Van v. Zahrnik* in 1999, *Mack v. Detroit* in 2002, *National Pride at Work v. Granholm et al* in 2008, *Giancaspro v. Congleton* in 2009, and *Harmon v. Davis* in 2011. The Supreme Court is on hiatus now, but may have its docket full of LGBT-related cases come October, when it goes back into session.

"It's important to educate the community and take back our state. We need a justice who is fair-minded that recognizes the diversity of Michigan residents and families, and who is more favorable toward LGBT issues" said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Legal Project. "There is an out-of-date concept that a family should consist of a married man and woman with two kids. Voters have an opportunity to select a justice who may change the whole majority. There are two incumbents running again who have previously made bad decisions. If elected for another eight-year term, a lot of damage can be done during that time."

Over the past decade, movement on marriage equality has been in two opposing directions, with some states passing laws to allow same-sex marriage and others passing laws to prohibit such unions. In 2003, the Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, overturning sodomy laws across the U.S., and reversing the court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

"Lawrence is the law of the land

See Election 2012, page 7

# No. 19: Mt. Pleasant Joins Cities with Nondiscrimination Ordinances

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Marie Reimers, a sophomore at Central Michigan University was one of dozens of people who came to the Mt. Pleasant City Commission meeting on July 9 to see the passing of the City's inclusive human rights ordinance. The ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and accommodations against people based on many factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Mt. Pleasant is now the 19th in the state to pass such an ordinance.

"It seems like this is just going to protect LGBT individuals and others from housing discrimination and discrimination in restaurants and stores. It is going to do those things," Reimers said. "But it is also going to do so much more than that.

"Last year my best friend — he gave me permission to share the story with you — he attempted suicide because he was gay. And he had a very supportive family, very supportive friends, very supportive community. But it was the outside society that made him do it.

"He said he kept seeing these discrimination ordinances that weren't getting passed. He kept seeing that people who were standing up, running for President, and saying terrible things about who he was. And that's what killed him inside.

"So seeing that the City Council and that this city supports the individuals who are LGBT means so much to my friend, to me, and to other people who feel disenfranchised there's a message that the city of Mt. Pleasant cares about them, that we accept them and want them here."



Marie Reimers, a sophomore at Central Michigan University. Photo from City Council videotape.

The City Commission passed the ordinance unanimously, with one city official stating, "The city has received literally hundreds of comments either in writing or in person over the six months that this concept has been in public discussion."

Equality Michigan is one of several organizations that helped support the efforts of Mt. Pleasant residents in passing their own ordinance. Roland Leggett, director of field operations, said that as more and more Michiganders push for local inclusive ordinances, Equality Michigan has been able to provide resources and support. "If people contact us, we can teach them about the process of getting an ordinance passed in their cities," he said. "We teach them how to have conversations with the right people. We teach

them to think: who else would help? Are any city leaders ready to move this forward?"

He said that looking at what happened in other cities can help guide new ordinance efforts. Leggett said that the best language to model after is the Kalamazoo ordinance, calling it the "best in the country" due to its inclusive language.

Recently, Equality Michigan was also there to support ordinance efforts in Flint and Traverse City. They are part of a state-wide coalition called Unity Michigan to advance LGBT equality with teamwork. Jon Hoadley, director of the Unity Michigan Coalition praised the passing of the Mt. Pleasant ordinance and said, "We celebrate this victory, made possible by the hardworking advocates in Mt. Pleasant. This marks the 19th city in Michigan to pass these protections—momentum is growing across the state for fairness and equality."

According to their research, 65 percent of Michiganders support making Michigan an equal opportunity state. The Don't Change Yourself, Change the Law Campaign has seen growing success. (See [www.dontchangeyourself.com/Quinlan2011.pdf](http://www.dontchangeyourself.com/Quinlan2011.pdf)). The Unity Michigan Coalition includes the ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, KICK, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Ruth Ellis Center. Their goal is to ensure that all Michiganders are treated fairly by advancing non-discrimination policies. For more information about Unity Michigan, go to [www.unitymichigan.org](http://www.unitymichigan.org).

## ► Election 2012

Continued from p. 6

and like any other Supreme Court decision, it is the job of all justices to follow the Supreme Court Authority," said McCormack, adding that California's Proposition 8 could very likely be going to the Supreme Court next year, in addition to Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"You could write a million articles about the importance of these major issues. If the court takes either or both of them, it will resolve some major cases. A lot of people think the court might not take either of them. The court might wait a bit, perhaps when public opinion is more settled in one direction. Either way, they are still incredibly important issues for state courts, and for people and their friends who care about equality," said McCormack. "Whether it's family autonomy, how someone

is treated in the workplace, in business, or in the housing market—what commitment the state has to equality is often worked out in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gets to be the arbitrator if legislation coming out of Lansing is fair or not. The Supreme Court can be a leader in equality issues."

A code of ethics prohibits candidates for justice from participating in political activity or making statements to the press about their position regarding cases that may reach the Supreme Court. But McCormack said she believes in "equal justice for everybody," much like her younger sister, Mary, an actress best known for her role as Federal Marshal Mary Shannon in the USA Network's "In Plain Sight." As a member of the Screen Actors Guild, which officially stands opposed to Prop 8, McCormack's sister has done some significant fundraising and donated money to defeat the ballot initiative.

McCormack's husband, Steve, co-directed a documentary "Everyday People," about Saugatuck and Douglas, two communities where

LGBT people have been welcomed and embraced in what is seen as a largely conservative, heavily Christian region. The film investigates how gays and straights are closely integrated—politically, economically, socially and religiously.

During her campaign, McCormack looks forward to doing the job she may be elected to do and honoring the oath she takes to do it. "The beautiful thing about the proper role of the court is that you have the law, and your job is to apply the law. It's not supposed to matter what your politics are. The Supreme Court should be apolitical and straightforward. I think it's the way the job has to be done. Get politics out of the court," said McCormack. "As a law teacher, I teach how the Supreme Court is different from other branches of government where being right is more important than being powerful or popular. David is supposed to have a shot against Goliath in the court."

McCormack has good relationships and friendships with current justices in the Supreme Court. "I would have the respect of people on both sides. If I'm wrong, I'll eat my words."

## BRIEFS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

### Episcopal Church Approves New Rites for Same-Sex Unions, Expands Policies

(AP) — The Episcopal Church approved a new liturgy for blessing same-sex unions, two proposals adding gender identity and expression to the Church's nondiscrimination canons for ordained ministry and in the "life, worship, and governance of the Church," and a resolution supporting legislation for equal immigration rights for same-sex couples. The votes took place at the denomination's General Convention, July 11.

Since the 1960s, many clergy have provided private blessings to gay and lesbian couples, but the Church had no official practice. Following the 2009 General Convention, the Church said bishops may provide "generous pastoral response" to gay couples, especially in states that allow civil unions or gay marriages. The Church has been relatively silent on issues of transgender clergy until last weekend.

DALLAS

### Gay Mom Asks to be Reinstated as Boy Scout Den Leader, Delivers 300,000 Signatures

Jennifer Tyrrell, a gay mom who was removed as a den leader by the Boy Scouts of America, delivered 300,000 petition signatures to the Boy Scouts of America's national headquarters July 18, calling on the Scouts to reinstate her and end their policy prohibiting gay scouts and scout leaders.

Tyrrell's campaign recently convinced another Boy Scout board member, Ernst & Young Chairman and CEO James Turley, to publicly oppose the organization's ban on gay scouts and leaders. Turley announced last month that he intends to "work from within the Boy Scouts of America Board to actively encourage dialogue and sustainable progress" on ending the ban on gay scouts and gay scout leaders. "All I'm asking for is the opportunity to resume my post as den leader of my son's Cub Scout Pack, a post that was taken from me as a result of a discriminatory policy that's unpopular with Boy Scouts and leaders across the country," said Tyrrell. Live signature totals from Jennifer Tyrrell's campaigns: [www.change.org/scouts](http://www.change.org/scouts) and <http://www.change.org/att>

ATLANTA

### Three men get five years in prison videotaped beating of gay man

(AP) — Three young men have been sentenced to five years in prison for the videotaped beating of Brandon White, a 20-year-old gay man, on an Atlanta street corner that was captured in a widely viewed video.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that Dorian Moragne, Dareal Demare Williams and Christopher Cain were also given five years of probation on Friday. The fourth suspect, Javaris Bradford, is still at large.

Defense Attorney Jay Abt, who represents Moragne, says probation will include intensive community service and sensitivity education following their prison term.

Extended briefs are available online at:

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

# Battle Creek LGBT Community Sees Needed Growth



Larry Dillon, founder of BC Pride. Photo: BC Pride

## INFO

### Battle Creek Pride

Events in Willard Beach, Partners and Memorial Park, Battle Creek. July 20-22. Free entry to the first 100 guests.

» Facebook: Battle Creek Pride (Public Page)

## BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

Four years ago, there was one place in Battle Creek that gay people could get together, the local gay bar. And while Partners has long been a strong supporter of the community, folks like 67-year-old Larry Dillon knew that in order for LGBT people to thrive in the town of 52,000 people there needed to be more.

“People around here had nowhere to turn, unless they went to Kalamazoo. But not everyone can do that, or should. We needed our own resources here, especially for the young people,” Dillon said.

Recognizing the need for resources, the Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion was created with funding help from the Arcus Foundation and Planned Parenthood. The purpose is to give young people support in the coming out process. Known as 3Ci, the program started in 2008 in response to youth in Calhoun County who were at greater and greater risk for substance abuse, homelessness, and even teen suicides as a result of not having support systems in their lives while questioning their own value and sexual orientation.

Being a leader in the community school

system, Dillon was asked to sit on the board of the new project. At that time no one knew that he was gay, though he had no problem stepping up as a straight ally at the time.

Over the past four years, with the help of many involved citizens like Dillon, 3Ci has grown to be a strong support for youth program and it’s birthed many other initiatives and events.

“We started out to help young people aged 13 to 24 with the process of coming out, but what we found was that there were not a lot of adult mentors for these youth. We thought that maybe there ought to be an organization in the area for gay adults. That way we would have a place we could pull volunteers from and have a good support system in place for everyone. Plus not everyone likes the bar scene,” Dillon said.

“So I met with my gay friends, 26 of them, at dinner one night and said ‘We should start an organization.’ The idea got a lot of support and we talked about what we wanted to do. We all agreed that our purpose would be to provide support to youth, some activities for the adults and to provide a Pride event, not just for ourselves but to be visible in the community.”

## BC Pride

And so BC Pride was born, with Dillon as its president.

Like many of the youth who are struggling with their identities, Dillon also faced moments of uncertainty since he started coming out two years ago. But he is happy now being able to be himself in retirement.

“We started out to help young people aged 13 to 24 with the process of coming out, but what we found was that there were not a lot of adult mentors for these youth. We thought that maybe there ought to be an organization in the area for gay adults. That way we would have a place we could pull volunteers from and have a good support system in place for everyone.”

“I was married 30 years,” he said. “When my wife passed away I could really address the feelings I had. I also really enjoyed my work, and it’s difficult to be a gay man in education in a small town.”

“I’ve only been out two years myself, and there are still many people who don’t know, but I guess they will figure it out when they see all my pictures online,” he said with a slightly nervous chuckle. “I was a little worried when they (BC Pride) said ‘we need a President’ and I thought how long before I was in the newspaper or maybe TV.”

The organizing began three years ago, and small events and fundraisers were held. They hold a Peace Prom for the youth where they can go and dance and have whomever they want for a date without any evil-eyed looks or nasty comments. There is a Break the Silence program, and events for adults held mainly at Partners to raise money and awareness for the adult community.

And finally, last year, BC Pride held their first Pride celebration. BC Pride had several events including a night of music and history, a White Party, and a family picnic that attracted over 100 people.

This year BC Pride is growing with a White Party held at Partners on Friday July 20. On Saturday July 21 there will be a Pride Picnic at the beach, followed by a Pride

Bash also at Partners. On Sunday in Memorial Park there will be a candlelight vigil recognizing those who were lost in the fight for LGBT rights, and the youth who have taken their own lives because of the pain, shame and torment they experienced while grappling with their sexuality.

“We’re having the vigil around the statue of Sojourner Truth who stood up for equality,” Dillon said.

Pre-Pride parties and fundraisers have already begun, and a pageant held in June determined the first-ever Miss BC Pride – a beautiful transgender woman named Sydney Chalbis. There was also a Totally Rad 80s party on Saturday.

The Battle Creek City Commission declared June to be Pride Month in Battle Creek and the overall community has been surprisingly supportive, Dillon said. “People always want to know why our Pride is in July, and the reason is that people around here like going to the other Prides. Kalamazoo Pride is very popular, but some people go all the way to Chicago or Lansing. BC Pride is nowhere near as big as those other ones, and we want to have our events when people are in town and can come.”

Ambitions are high for next year as well. Dillon explained that this year Battle Creek’s downtown is in the midst of some upgrades, and that construction projects prevent them from having a Pride Parade. But there will be one for next year as the event continues to expand. They are also in the process of setting up a scholarship fund

The group has an email list of over 300 people, and as they move forward with their work, the impact is noticeable.

“We have been very well-received so far. More and more people are coming out of the woodwork, and they aren’t ashamed of it.”

## Recall of Mayor Daniels on Nov. 6 Ballot in Troy

The Oakland County Director of Elections announced Monday that the Recall Janice Daniels effort successfully collected 8,877 valid signatures and certified the recall question for the Nov. 6 ballot.

Members of Recall Janice Daniels submitted 9,370 signatures to the elections division in June — close to 1,400 more than necessary for the recall question to be placed on the ballot. Of those, the elections division determined 8,877 were valid signatures, almost 900 more than required.

Mayor Janice Daniels had challenged the validity of 1,055 signatures just 10 minutes

before the deadline July 12, but the threshold for the number of valid signatures was met.

Late last fall the Troy Mayor was criticized for a Facebook posting using the word “queers” as well as telling a group of high school students that “the homosexual lifestyle is dangerous.” The story garnered national attention after efforts by the Troy High School GSA brought the anti-gay remarks to light.

Daniels was also criticized for her December vote to reject \$8.4 million in federal grant money for construction of a transit center. The City Council later approved a scaled-down version of the project over her opposition.

For more information on Mayor Daniels’ record with LGBT issues, search for Troy Mayor at:

» [www.Pridesource.com](http://www.Pridesource.com)





THE TIME IS HERE



# HOTTER THAN JULY

THE MIDWEST'S OLDEST BLACK SAME-GENDER-LOVING PRIDE CELEBRATION

# STAND UP & BE COUNTED

July 24-29, 2012

**The Candlelight Vigil**  
Tuesday, July 24  
6:00 pm to dusk  
Palmer Park, Detroit, MI  
Admittance: Free.

**KICKIN' IT ON THE RIVER**  
Wednesday, July 25  
Location at Rivard Plaza  
Boarding at 6:30 pm and sailing promptly at 7:00 pm.  
Admittance: \$55 per person.

**The Hotter Than July Film Festival**  
Thursday, July 26  
5:30 pm - 12:20 am  
Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave, Detroit MI 48201  
Admittance: \$20 per person.

**The Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues**  
(formally The Genesis Conference)  
Friday, July 27  
8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn, 351 Gratiot Ave, Detroit MI 48226  
Admittance: Free with required registration.

**The Palmer Park Picnic**  
Saturday, July 28  
10:00 am to 7:00 pm  
(March begins at 10:30 am)  
Palmer Park, Detroit, MI  
The Hotter Than July March begins at The Palmer Park Tennis Courts at 10:30 am.  
Admittance: Free.

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, July 29  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn, 351 Gratiot Ave, Detroit MI 48226  
Admittance: Free.

**The Sunday Brunch**  
Sunday, July 29  
Detroit Yacht Club, One Riverbank Rd, Belle Isle, Detroit MI 48207  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Hosted by The Billionaire Boys Club.  
Admittance: \$75 per person/ VIP \$100 person.



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## Heard on Facebook Does GM's Chevy Volt ad, viewed 11 million times throughout social media, signal a return to advertising toward gay and lesbian buyers?

Straight men have had car ads aimed at them for decades. Is it really so wrong for some ads to be aimed at people who aren't straight?

-Johnathan Ammons

The American Family Association (mentioned urging individuals to boycott Chevy) has also urged its constituents to boycott Home Depot and Target as well for their gay friendly customer support. The AFA is today's version of the Nazi thugs who in 1934 stood outside of Jewish businesses holding signs, "Don't Buy from Jews." AFA version: "Don't Buy from Companies Who Support Gays."

-Charles Alexander

A good idea on GM's part. 5 percent of the potential buyers is a large market and it takes minimal changes to the material so it's very cost effective.

-Mike Bauer

They probably shot themselves in the foot with that. The other 95 percent won't buy it now.

-Rick Carra

Exactly, Rick! Just like how the other 95 percent won't shop at Target or Home Depot and won't buy Oreos!

-Johnathan Ammons

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

# S/he Said

## Childhood, Polls and Google

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



### Jason Cianciotto

*"The anti-LGBT crusaders at Focus on the Family, the \$120 million per year organization supporting America's culture wars, helped perfect the 'what about the children?' message of fear used to prevent policies that would address bullying and enable kids to learn age-appropriate information about LGBT people in their school's library and curricula. ... We need to stand our ground when extremist groups like Focus on the Family rant about 'homosexuals recruiting school children.' This ridiculous scare tactic, used to prevent anti-bullying laws or ban books is actually their Achilles Heel. Support for protecting all youth, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is not just empirical, it's moral. Anyone who stands in the way, regardless of the 'family values' they claim to represent, is at least enabling if not contributing to the physical and mental abuse of children in schools across the country. 'What about the children?' is not their winning argument. It is ours."*

-Jason Cianciotto, co-author of the new book "LGBT Youth in America's Schools," in his column titled "Yes, 'What About The Children?'," [www.ontopmag.com](http://www.ontopmag.com), July 1.



### Lauren Foster

*"I feel this is our message. To parents and anyone growing up with a transgender child: love and support is all they need. I was constantly aware that I was somehow different. Like all children with gender identity issues, there were times when I felt alone, isolated and awkward. I was determined to have my inner person revealed. I would always wear t-shirts tied in a knot under my breasts. Never showing my chest. ... One day, it all made sense. I remember meeting a window dresser at a ladies department store who had transitioned and I immediately identified with her. The pain vanished that day. From that moment forward, I was determined. With the love and support of my wonderful parents I had sexual reassignment surgery at age 18."*

-Lauren Foster, former international magazine and runway model, in a conversation with Alex Davis, singer-songwriter, titled "Lauren Foster, Transgender Model, and Alex Davis, Transgender Musician, Discuss Trans Issues," about how being transgender affected their childhoods, [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), July 12.



### Buster Wilson

*"I said that I did not want to support any efforts like this, in fact, we are a part of boycotting efforts similar to this with other businesses. This is going to be hard for a lot of us. A lot of us are so integrated into Google and Google products, this is going to be a tough one. It's more than just a search engine - many of us have Android phones the Android system is a Google product. Many of us use Google calendar and Google task, and Gmail, and all those kinds of things. YouTube and all the other things - it's not just the search engine. So this is going to be tough."*

-Buster Wilson, American Family Association's radio network, in a radio broadcast, suggesting conservatives boycott Google because of its campaign to decriminalize homosexuality around the world, [thenewcivilrights\\_movement.com](http://thenewcivilrights_movement.com), July 10.



### Crosby Burns

*"Recent polls reveal that the president's position on the issue (of same-sex marriage) now falls squarely in line with the increasing majority of Americans who support the freedom to marry. These polls show increased support among nearly every single demographic group, including men, African Americans, Latinos, political independents, and generations young and old. In short, marriage equality is now a mainstream American value."*

-Crosby Burns, Research Associate and Ben Harris, intern, at the Center for American Progress's LGBT Progress project, co-authors of their column titled "Marriage Equality Now a Mainstream Value," examining the data of four national polls released over the past two months, July 10.



Cornelius Baker speaking at the National Black Men's Advocacy Coalition. Photo: Bob Roehr

# Analysis: Where are the Gays in AIDS?

BY BOB ROEHR

Imagine two senior HIV/AIDS administrators delivering prepared speeches on the PEPFAR program that assists countries hardest hit by the epidemic and not uttering the word "gay," or even the more clinical term "men who have sex with men" (MSM). It would be disappointing but not surprising taking place during the George W. Bush administration. It is disheartening when it occurs during the Obama administration in 2012.

The speakers were Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, and Nils Daulaire, director of the Office of Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The venue was the July 10 unveiling in Washington, D.C., of the 278-page thick issue of the journal *Health Affairs*. It focuses on evaluations of PEPFAR, perhaps the only shining legacy of the George W. Bush presidency.

Neither the speeches the two men gave, nor the papers they contributed to the journal, mentioned the group hardest hit by HIV on most continents.

It can't be out of ignorance. Goosby did his medical training at UCSF and has spent his career alternating between Washington and San Francisco dealing with HIV. He knows better.

Instead of a balanced discussion that included all of the major groups affected by the HIV epidemic, Goosby focused on advances made in prevention and treating women and children.

In the bad old days, say 25 years ago, they were the "innocent victims" of the disease while to many, gay men were not so innocent, and they had brought the infection on themselves. What progress we've made - from being demonized to being ignored - despite the fact that gay men were and remain disproportionately affected by HIV

in nearly every country in the world.

Even while that six hour briefing continued to roll on, a mile away at the National Press Club a handful of AIDS advocates tried to draw attention to the still-festering domestic AIDS situation before the International AIDS Conference sucked up all the news coverage.

The Obama administration wants to believe that health reform, in the shape of the surviving Affordable Care Act (ACA), will take care of everything.

AIDS advocates hope it will help address many of their concerns, but major provisions won't take effect until 2014 and evaluating their effectiveness will take even longer. One still has to get from here to there, and even with expanded Medicaid coverage, there will still be a need for HIV-specific support programs.

HIV in the U.S. remains "an epidemic of the marginalized...of discrimination and neglect," said Cornelius Baker with the National Black Men's Advocacy Coalition. "It is still largely a disease of white, black and Latino gay men who comprise more than a majority of the cases despite being only 2 percent of the American population."

The perception is that science has solved the problems, he said. "There is a low perception of risk," despite the fact that 50,000 new infections a year occur in the U.S. And while the problem continues to grow, funding for AIDS education continues to shrink. "We have a population that is becoming increasingly ignorant about the epidemic."

Julie Scofield, executive director of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, said the goals of the national AIDS strategy unveiled two years ago "cannot be achieved without significant increases in funding for critical HIV/AIDS discretionary programs."

At least \$190 million is needed for the

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). Only 4 percent of total HIV domestic spending goes toward prevention, a number that would have to double "to make a big difference in the epidemic in the U.S.," Johns Hopkins University HIV researcher David Holtgrave told a congressional hearing in 2009.

Scofield called on Congress "to meet and exceed the president's budget" for HIV programs, but she fears the sequestration process of an automatic slashing of appropriations to non-defense spending. This will take effect in January if Congress does not agree to specific substantial cuts toward balancing the budget.

Ronald Johnson with AIDS United, called on all political and private actors "to end the acrimonious battles over healthcare reform and move toward full implementation" of the ACA.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation continues to act independently of most other advocacy groups. It held a Washington news conference on July 9 chastising President Obama for being "MIA - missing in action," for not having yet committed to speak at the International AIDS Conference set to open here on July 22.

The group has criticized the administration for lagging on AIDS education, needle exchange and other programs, as well as not devoting adequate resources to the epidemic. AHF spokesman Tom Myers said, "It may be better if the President not attend the conference if he is coming without any concrete proposals to fix these problems."

Earlier in the month White House staff met with a number of AIDS advocates about what Obama might say in a speech to the conference. A participant, who does not want to be identified, said the staff seemed to be more concerned with spin than with offering anything new.



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**Editor in Chief**

Susan Horowitz  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

**Entertainment Editor**

Chris Azzopardi  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

**Associate Editor**

Benjamin Jenkins  
bj@pridesource.com

**Arts & Theater Editor**

Donald V. Calamia,  
curtaincalls@pridesource.com

**CREATIVE**

**Art Director**

David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

**Webmaster & MIS Director**

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

**Production Assistant**

Benjamin Jenkins, bj@pridesource.com

**Contributing Writers**

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,  
Dana Casadei, Abby Dees, Jack Fertig,  
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Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

**Contributing Photographers**

Andrew Potter

**ADVERTISING & SALES**

**Director of Sales**

Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

**Sales Representatives**

Ed Bohach, ed@pridesource.com  
Ann Cox, anncox@pridesource.com

**National Advertising Representative**

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

**Business Office**

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com  
Nancy Blankenship

**Circulation & Distribution**

Diane Smith

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Livonia, Michigan 48150  
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# Eye on Equality



## License to Do Harm

BY EMILY DIEVENDORF

Last month, extremists in the Michigan Legislature made passage of House Bill 5040, or what I like to call the “First Do Harm” bill, a major priority before breaking for the summer. The bill would grant counseling students license to refuse treatment to a patient based on the patient’s sexual orientation or gender identity, if the discrimination is motivated by a “sincerely held religious belief.”

Proponents of the bill insist they are merely trying to protect our constitutional right to freedom of religion. Let me call their bluff here. The Constitution of The United States is, perhaps, the most powerful document in the history of our country. It is a document so indomitable, that when ways to wrong each other had been written into the original document, decades were needed to reverse the humiliating mistakes. While its content may change, necessarily, over time it is hard to argue with the resilience of the document.

I harbor an intense love of our constitutional rights and am grateful that our country’s dignity and honor rests on a declaration of national values so solid that we never need to write protections for our constitution into legislation. Legislation that contradicts the United States Constitution tends to crumble under the Constitution – in great part because offenses to constitutional rights can be challenged, as was so brilliantly planned, directly through the United States judicial system.

We don’t need to defend the Constitution so why are we entertaining this offensive legislation? Sadly, taxpayer dollars are being used to move along legislation so broad and punishing as to allow discrimination against anybody, for any reason to be justified at a person’s very moment of crisis.

People opt for professional guidance when they are at their breaking points or see that point on the horizon. Crisis is not the time to turn somebody away because something about them doesn’t fit your personal ideals. Professional counseling, social work, and psychological standards for practice recognize the need for counselors to be trained to offer relief to everybody. Discrimination based on various categories, including age, culture, disability, ethnicity, race, religion/spirituality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, language preference, and socioeconomic status is prohibited by national counseling standards.

To ask a university counseling program to permit a counselor in training to reject national standards for practice in the field they are being trained for threatens the accreditation of that counseling program. To turn away

a client based on their fitting any of the aforementioned categories does potentially irreversible damage to the client in need’s self-worth, stability, trust in the profession, and ultimately to their intrinsic ability to address personal challenges and heal. The strength of one’s convictions alone is not justification in

and of itself for any action - it is a despicable excuse for damaging another human being.

Essentially, what the Michigan House leadership worked to do was to create a gap in law large enough to empower our state’s counseling, social work, and psychology students to do HARM to clients if their own personal beliefs inspire them to do so. We are telling students going into these important fields that they will be entitled to power that we demand other health and wellness providers abandon expressly because of their responsibility to our most vulnerable – the power to DO harm. House Bill 5040 threatens clients seeking counseling with rejection based on their race, relationship status, and faith, or, yes, because of their sexual

orientation, or perhaps because they are straight, or because they are white, or male – as long as the discrimination and harm is based on a strong belief that some characteristic about them as a client is judged to be wrong.

“Essentially, what the Michigan House leadership worked to do was to create a gap in law large enough to empower our state’s counseling, social work, and psychology students to do HARM to clients if their own personal beliefs inspire them to do so.”

Michigan’s House leadership continues to show little resistance to extremist members despite a majority of Michigan residents consistently polling in favor of social justice. The resulting political agenda translates into a destructive and malicious campaign that tells youth, the best and brightest students, skilled workers,

entrepreneurs, new and cutting edge industries, and our loved ones to either “keep out or leave.”

Equality Michigan hopes that the Michigan Senate will choose to be rational – a voice of reason for the Michigan Republican Caucus and opt to not embarrass our state again, by entertaining the kind of out of touch legislation that was brought to us in the “license to bully” earlier this year, and kill this effort to hurt Michigan families if “first do harm” comes up for a vote.

*Emily Dievendorf is the Policy Director of Equality Michigan and can be reached at [emily@equalitymi.org](mailto:emily@equalitymi.org).*



## Parting Glances



### God bless gay waiters!

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It almost goes without saying, but the second oldest profession in the world is that of the gay waiter. According to U.S. Census 2010 there are four million gay waiters.

While this seems at first glance to be high as far as that time-honored table serving profession goes, the United States ranks tenth, behind India and Argentina.

As for restaurant big cities: as might be expected, New York, Chicago, San Francisco each clocks in with 150,000 gay waiters. Locally, Ferndale MI and Royal Oak MI number 200 each, many of whom have received their gay-specific table training at nearby community colleges.

(Course offerings, as listed in one community college catalog include: Handling Heterosexually Finicky Eaters; Metro-Sexual Outfits to Make A Lasting Gourmet Impression; Wine and European Cuisine Pronunciation; Are Coney Islands A Gay Friendly Career Choice for Beginners?)

Not everyone is happy politically about America's seemingly over abundance of gay waiters. The American Familiar Ass'n, for one, is initiating a campaign urging restaurant chains not to hire gay waiters. Called, Turning the Tables On Temptation, the group staged a week-long, round-the-clock, sit-in at New York's popular All Night Beef & Chicken Bistro on Off Broadway.

According to AFA televangelist Dr. Renfrew B. Denser, "Gay waiters are bringing America to its knees collectively. They are infiltrating traditional family meeting places where food and drinks are blatantly seasoned with 'campy' encouragement to recruit others to the Gay Agenda. Their menu is laced with insinuating verbal anti-America saltpeper."

An article appearing in this month's AFA's issue of The Sky Is Falling warns that Washington, D.C. is being "infiltrated by gay waiters. For every congressman or senator in our nation's capital there are three gay waiters, none of whom, by the way, vote Republican.

"Such open access to our governing representatives - especially at the Supreme Court level - is accorded to none other of our citizenry; yet gay waiters can go about their nefarious business seemingly unmolested. Rumor has it that it was a gay waiter who first served Congressman Barney Frank a flaming dessert. Look what happened."

(Note in passing: that same issue of The Sky Is Falling carries a full page advertisement for Dr. Denser's biblical commentary on a recent Gnostic gospel find that in translation of the Aramaic of Jesus' time maintains that Judas Iscariot was probably a Galilean gay waiter who got a little-too generous silver coin tip.")

How do gay waiters in the Ferndale and Royal Oak view these AFA accusations? According to well-known restaurateur Peter Mel - who knows a thing or two about gay waiters and what makes them tick-tock - "It's been my extensive, but modest, experience with gay waiters I've encountered that they can usually hold their own.

"As a rule of thumb, gay waiters measure up as good breeding types. I've found my older customers like to be serviced by them. It's been nothing but positive word of mouth about their legendary efficiency above and beyond the call of duty. They've made many a person's day succinctly stimulating.

"As my friend Oakland County Commissioner Craig Covey puts it, "I never met a gay waiter I wouldn't tip generously."

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# Creep of the Week Jennifer Carroll

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hey, did you know that Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll does stand-up comedy? Here's a snippet from her act:

Q: How many black lesbians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: I don't know, but no doubt they'll all be ugly bulldaggers.

I know you're probably thinking, "That is a terrible joke. This woman is not funny at all." And you'd be right. The only person laughing seems to be Carroll herself. Though, really, she's more of a giggler.



Jennifer Carroll

Carroll, a Republican, has been accused by a former aide of sexting up a member of her staff, specifically her travel aide, Beatriz Ramos (and if you can't tell from the name, Beatriz is a lady). The accusing ex-aide, Carletha Cole, claims that she found Carroll and Ramos in a compromising position (a.k.a. sexting IRL) in Carroll's office.

Carroll denies such a thing ever happened and is casting Cole in the role of disgruntled fired employee.

As she told WTSP Channel 10 News in Tampa Bay, "The problem is that when you have these accusations that come out it's not just one person that you're attacking. It's an entire family. My husband doesn't want to hear that. He knows the type of woman I am. And my kids know what type of woman I am."

In other words, I have a husband and kids so I'm obviously straight. Because everyone knows that it's impossible to be both gay and married to an opposite sex partner. Just ask Larry Craig.

Carroll is right about one thing, though. These accusations do impact her husband and kids and no doubt hearing rumors about Carroll is unpleasant for them. It's got to be hard to have your wife or mother accused of living a lie. This no doubt will be even harder if the accusations turn out to be factual. And it's important to remember that right now we just don't know.

Carroll's assertion that her kids and husband know "the type of woman I am" is troubling in light of what she says next.

"I'm the one that's married for 29 years. The accuser is the one that's single. For a long time. Usually black woman who look like me don't engage in relationships like that," she said. And then she giggled a lot.

Got that? Cole isn't married and hasn't been for some time, which means she's probably some kind of spinster lesbo. Carroll, who is not a bad looking lady, believes she is simply not ugly enough to be gay.

Carroll also told a reporter from WOKV, "My husband and I have a very healthy and exciting relationship for 29 years and I don't need to seek satisfaction anywhere else."

So does Carroll think that same-sex relationships are just about sex? That the only reason a woman would stoop so low as to hook-up with another woman is because she's tired of her boring hetero sex life?

Maybe this whole thing really is a big misunderstanding, like in that episode of the L Word where Bette is on her knees cleaning up a broken wine glass her drunk friend just dropped and when Jenny sees the two through the window it looks like Bette is face-to-face with her friend's privates. Maybe Carroll is not the latest Republican to get caught gay-handed.

But it's pretty clear that Carroll has some strange ideas about lesbians, and that she's not above demeaning them in order to protest that she isn't one.

# High-Powered Lesbians Create a PAC of Their Own

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As a co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, her politically active family's sole Democrat, and a sister with three brothers, Laura Ricketts is comfortable being the odd woman out.

But it has not escaped her notice that lesbians such as her are in the minority at political events for gay donors, whether it's a White House reception or a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, who hopes to become the first openly lesbian member of the U.S. Senate.

So Ricketts immediately embraced an idea by a fellow Chicago businesswoman who approached her a few months ago about creating a first-of-its kind political action committee to champion candidates and causes that appeal to lesbian voters.

Ricketts immediately embraced an idea by a fellow Chicago businesswoman who approached her a few months ago about creating a first-of-its kind political action committee to champion candidates and causes that appeal to lesbian voters.

LPAC, as the independent super PAC was christened, will be launched Wednesday with the freedom to spend unrestricted amounts of money

for or against candidates.

"Being a woman and being gay is really a unique position in our society," said Ricketts, a co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council and one of President Barack Obama's fundraising bundlers. "I know in my experience of activism, oftentimes it makes a difference if something is women-focused. It's likely to get the attention of women much more easily."

LPAC's fundraising goal for the 2012 election cycle is \$1 million, a modest amount by the standards of many super PACS, including the conservative Ending Spending Action Fund founded by Ricketts' father, TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts,

LPAC beneficiaries have not been finalized, although candidates such as Baldwin and campaigns to defeat ballot measures that would ban same-sex marriages or restrict access to abortions and birth control are likely to be recipients of donations.

However, the group's aim to give lesbians an influential voice in mainstream politics is groundbreaking, said chairwoman Sarah Schmidt, a scion of the family behind Midwest petroleum distributor U.S. Venture Inc.

Unlike the Gay and Lesbian Victory

Fund, which supports gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual candidates, and Emily's List, which is dedicated to electing Democratic women who support abortion rights, LPAC plans to promote men and women from either major party regardless of their sexual orientations, as well as ballot initiatives.

"In my mind, there really was no downside here," said Schmidt, a management consultant and philanthropist. "If it raises \$5 million, amazing. But if it raises \$500,000, we have still raised \$500,000 for critical races and it's being raised from lesbian leaders whose voices may not have been heard before."

Along with Schmidt and Ricketts, the committee is led by veteran gay rights activist Urvashi Vaid and Alix Ritchie, former publisher of the Provincetown Banner. Jane Lynch and Billie Jean King also have pledged support.

"Members of the LGBT community are inspirational leaders and role models in every aspect of American life," King said. "The formation of LPAC provides lesbians and the entire LGBT community a new, stronger voice and a real and respected seat at the table when politicians make policy that impacts our lives."

# Obama Administration Takes Steps to Improve Health of Older LGBT Americans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Administration on Aging (AoA) announced July 10, that it would release important new guidance that empowers AoA-funded aging providers to consider LGBT older adults as a population of "greatest social need" — paving the way for increased services that can significantly improve their health and well-being.

The Human Rights Campaign and Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) partnered to urge AoA to provide this guidance.

The FAQ guidance clarifies that the current definition of "greatest social need" in the Older Americans Act — the country's leading vehicle for funding and delivering services to older people nationwide — allows communities to identify populations in their service area that experience isolation for cultural,

social or geographic reasons. The guidance provides specific examples of these populations, including increased need based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBT older adults are at an increased risk for social isolation, experience poor health and health access, and face higher poverty rates than other seniors. Despite this increased need, this group is less likely to seek federal assistance and healthcare due to actual and perceived discrimination. This FAQ guidance allows the aging networks that serve LGBT older adults and receive AoA funding to consider this vulnerable population as one with a "greatest social need." This designation will encourage Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to include LGBT older adults when prioritizing funding, engaging in outreach, evaluating unmet

needs and collecting data.

This announcement is the latest action taken by the AoA to address LGBT elders' unique needs. In January 2010, SAGE received a historic grant from the Administration on Aging to establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging ([lgbtagingcenter.org](http://lgbtagingcenter.org)), the country's only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to LGBT older adults. With a wealth of multimedia resources for aging providers, the National Resource Center will be a key resource for AAAs as they implement the guidance.

Learn more: [www.sageusa.org/oaapolicybrief](http://www.sageusa.org/oaapolicybrief), [www.hrc.org/resources/entry/hrc-issue-brief-aging](http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/hrc-issue-brief-aging); [www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/OAA/resources/Faqs.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/resources/Faqs.aspx)

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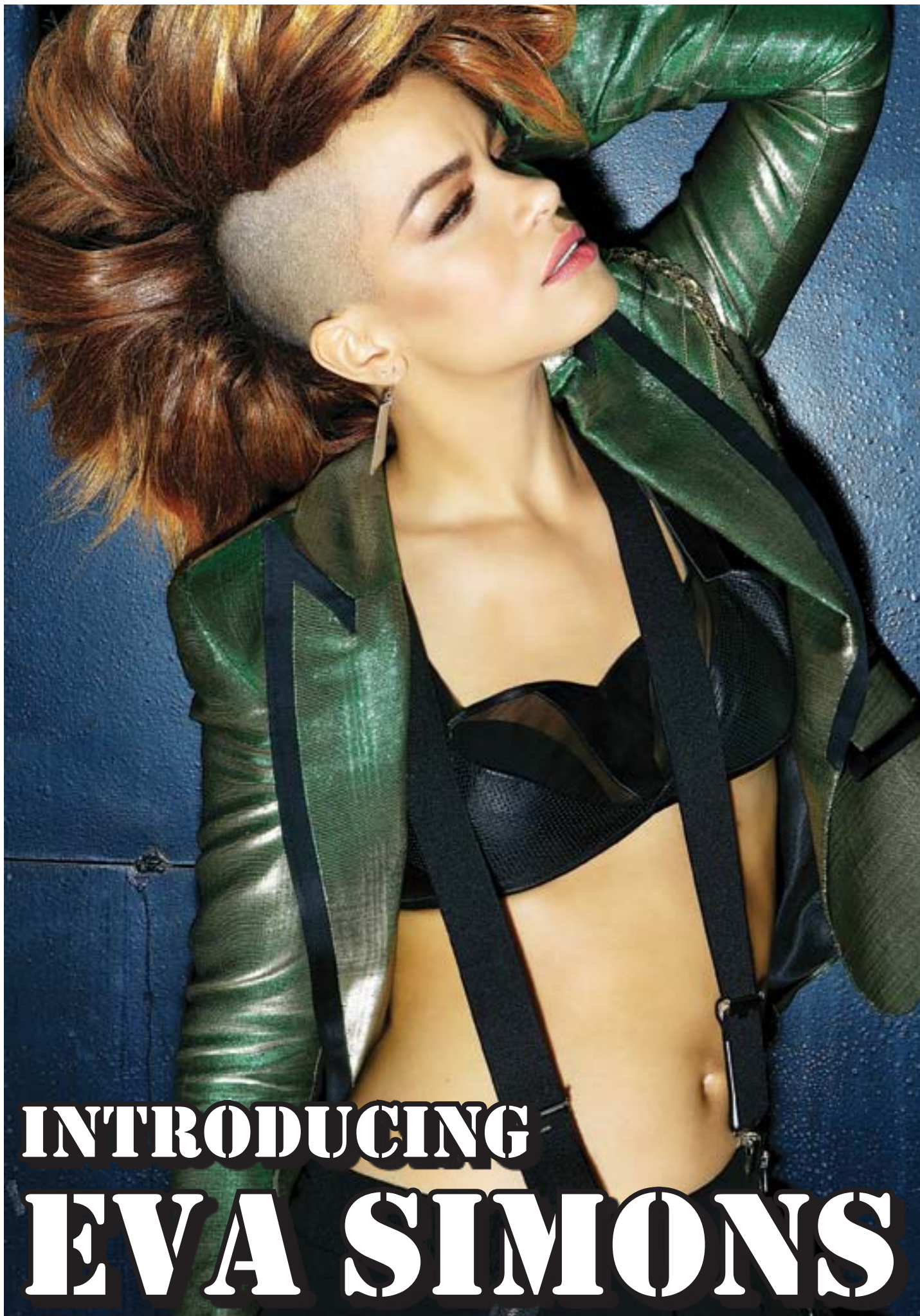
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# INTRODUCING EVA SIMONS

## Rising Pop Star Talks Gay Influences, Doing Pride and Her Huge Hair

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It's hard to talk about Eva Simons without mentioning her hair. That towering mohawk is as big as her voice, which guests on will.i.am's single "This Is Love" and comes to the Identity Festival on July 20 in Pontiac. With Simons' debut due this fall, the Dutch up-and-comer chatted about her recent Pride gig, how gay people influence her ... and the hair, of course.

### How much hairspray do you go through?

A lot! You know how they say you can't bring flammable things on the plane? I think those things are flammable but I have to bring them, otherwise I can't do my hair. I sometimes feel like – is that legal? I don't know! But I need it. I need my European hairspray. It's very important.

### How tall is your hair?

Eight inches. My brother was measuring it the other day. He wanted to know.

### That's bigger than the average penis.

(Laughs) Oh my god, is it really? Well, good to know. I'm huge!

### How aware are you of your gay fan base?

I wasn't aware until I performed at gay Pride in New York recently. That was when I was aware; they gave me so much love.

### Is that the first time you received that kind of reception from a gay audience?

I mean, I always have! Ever since my first record, "Silly Boy," they really believed in me. It's always nice when people get you, especially in the gay community where they are so much about people being misunderstood. I totally understand that.

### You used to go to gay clubs when your mom, who's also a singer, used to perform at them. What do you remember?

I was just mesmerized by them. They were always so original and ahead of the game with the creativity. That always inspired me to always think ahead. I don't want to be old news with my music; I want to be current and fresh so people can relate. And the freedom! Sometimes life can feel like a closet.

See Eva Simons, page 23

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# Art Show Offers Mix of Art, People Annual Event Celebrates 10th Anniversary

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the high quality fine art and craft event July 27-29 at the West Bloomfield Plaza on Powers and Daly Roads in West Bloomfield.

This year, special guest mixed-media artist Dan Neil Barnes has been invited from Lexington, Ky., to share his contemporary work with art lovers in Michigan. Barnes goes beyond traditional ideas about lamps and windows by adding treated metals, crafted wood and unique lighting to stained glass. His work moves the craft of stained glass into a new creative art form.

Hotworks executive director Patty Narozny worked him into the show to expose people to the well-respected gay artist who stands as an inspiration in the art world to adopt a new way of thinking.

“Dan can build anything for anyone,” says Narozny, who owns the company, Hotworks.org, which produces the show along with others in Indiana, North Carolina and Florida. In planning the West Bloomfield show, she contacts artists from in and around the country.

“World-renowned and top-notch local artists are invited to sell their paintings,

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clay, glass, sculpture, wood, fiber, jewelry, photography and more. All work is original and handmade by the artist who is present at the show and happy to answer any questions about their work,” she says.

Barnes tours the country as a juried artist and has been recognized at many art shows for his outstanding booth design and display technique. The love of creating his own designs led him to open his own business in 1986. “I am fortunate. It’s easy to create when you love doing it. My work is inspired by travel to places like Egypt and Hawaii. Sometimes an idea comes to me while riding down the highway or I wake up in the middle of the night to sketch so I don’t forget,” says Barnes.

In the business for 15 years, he earned a degree in Human Environmental Design from the University of Kentucky where he

met his partner of 18 years. “I will have pieces at the show ranging in price from \$50 to \$15,000. I want people to take the time to experience my work. I hope my work takes the worries off their mind, takes away their pain, or enlightens them in some way.”

Three judges – Ann Kuffler, director/owner of Ariana Gallery in Royal Oak; Les Slesnik, a retired Orlando photographer who remains active in the field by volunteering his time at various art fairs around the country; and Jill Marks, curator for Outside Gallery in Dearborn – will be honoring and awarding the artists for their creative works.

“The show is for everybody: from collectors to a child with no art experience (who wants) to learn some form of appreciation. If people are true art collectors, this is the show to come to. Do not be intimidated,” says Narozny, “There is a price for everyone.”

The show also helps support the Institute for the Arts & Education, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization dedicated to educate and promote fine arts and crafts among all artists and students, of all age groups and diversity, and the general public.

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## Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

# Missy Higgins' Triumphant Return. Plus: Marina and the Diamonds Almost Sparkles



### Missy Higgins, 'The Ol' Razzle Dazzle'

She almost walked away from music altogether, but good thing Missy Higgins changed her mind: "The Ol' Razzle Dazzle" takes the Aussie out of her sad-girl-with-piano comfort zone and into newfound greatness. Releasing five years after her second album, "On a Clear Night," spawned the heartbreaking hit "Where I Stood," this one has Higgins stepping up her game, going jazzy on the whistle-worthy ear-magnet "Hello Hello," her confrontation with a fair-weather friend, and taking the blues route for the sultry soul song "Watering Hole." Country also runs through "If I'm Honest," a cute little ditty about an inimitable lover; an instrumental smorgasbord is the foundation of "Set Me on Fire," a piano-riffing pseudo-pop jingle that has her harmonizing with herself – proof that two Missy Higgins are better than one. "Everyone's Waiting" is so good – an etherealized stunner about following your heart that reaches a lovely climax – it's already being used in a "Revenge" promo. And the built-like-Coldplay "Hidden Ones" is an underdog anthem that sticks with you. Higgins' power on the soul is also in full effect: "Cooling of the Embers" is a profound look at death in its final moments, while "Sweet Arms of a

Tune" cuts away from "razzle-dazzle" for a simple lovelorn downer. Higgins is back, and where she stood doesn't matter. That she's *still* standing does. *Grade: B+*



### Marina and the Diamonds, 'Electra Heart'

Marina Diamandis made it clear she wasn't pleased that her debut "The Family Jewels," released to astounding buzz in early 2010, didn't make her a pop star. That explains her latest LP, a deliberate balancing act that wants to impress radio programmers and emo hipsters – even flaunting her "big ego" and making it known on the swaggering opener, "Bubblegum Bitch": "Here I come, straight to No. 1." She may not get that far, but that doesn't mean she shouldn't. The Welsh-born songstress taps Dr. Luke and Greg Kurstin for "Electra Heart" and turns out songs that sometimes make her sound like the second coming of Katy Perry (their voices could seriously ghost each other). But as far as girl drama goes, both "Lies" and "Homewrecker" have more hook than Perry's

"Wide Awake." Where Marina distinguishes herself is personality: She sarcastically – though perhaps somewhat earnestly – riffs on the dangerous fate of child stars with "Teen Idle," easily the album's standout (her muse, Marilyn Monroe, comes into clear focus). Here, her voice flutters into a high register that's both haunting and tragically vulnerable. Between that and her feminist approach to the deluxe edition's "Sex Yeah," parts of the album's last – and much better – half could almost be a response to pop stars like Perry. "No room for imagining," she criticizes, "cause everyone's seen everything." Take that, boob bazookas. *Grade: B-*

## Also Out



### Saint Saviour, 'Union'

Adele and Florence Welch are among the premier vocalists of our time. Welcome a new one to the Power Vocal Pack: Becky Jokes (aka Saint Saviour), yet another English import who's making American singers look bad. Her hypnotic electronica debut is all whimsical whirls and soulful runs, like Kate Bush in a fairy tale. "Mercy," with just piano and her effortlessly reaching voice, is a glorious way to start "Union." It's a high the album never comes down from as it shifts into "Tightrope" – again, that voice! – and goes '90s-woman rock on "Liberty." The best new find of the year is here.



### Fiona Apple, 'The Idler Wheel...'

Few people would go with a 23-word album title. But we're talking about Fiona Apple, and nothing she does – or has done for the last 15-plus years – is part of an ordinary machine. Take songs from her intimate and captivating new album (and the fact "thighs" are credited in the liner notes): "Every Single Night" starts like a music box and morphs into a tribal chant, and on the organically rhythmic "Hot Knife" she gets into a frenzied sing-off with herself. Like her best singles, "Werewolf" takes an easier-to-digest stab. "The Idler Wheel..." is a complicated, patience-testing work with a satisfying payoff.

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“ I was just mesmerized by them. They were always so original and ahead of the game with the creativity. That always inspired me to always think ahead. ”

► **Eva Simons**

Continued from p. 17

**Have you ever come out of the closet, so to speak?**

Yeah, especially before I did my hair. When I did my hair I was like, “Yes! I’m free.” And everybody’s gonna have an opinion about it, and I don’t care.

**One of your biggest influences is Madonna. What kind of influence has she had on your music?**

Madonna is Madonna. It’s just there. It’s Madonna. I think everybody has been influenced by her. She’s just amazing. She’s so professional, beautiful and I really like her voice. People can say whatever they want to say but I really enjoy listening to her. She is a go-getter and that’s inspiring.

**Is there a song of hers that changed your life?**

“Secret.” She showed a different side of her when she did that song. I like that she can do anything but she’s still her.

**What kind of effect do you hope to have on pop music?**

I don’t know if I want to have an effect on it. I just know that I want to have a good time, I want to be happy and I want to share that. I want to share happiness and I want to make something people can relate to.

**What’s the word on your debut album?**

I’m finalizing it now and I really hope that we can release it in September. It’s unfiltered, on real subjects. It’s gonna be me and you really have to be into my sound to like it, of course. If you’re into “I Don’t Like You” and “Renegade,” you’re going to really like this album.

**How would you describe yourself?**

I have a big mouth, I am very energetic and I’m very positive. To me, that’s just what everybody should be like – be free, be positive. And just fucking enjoy yourself. Stop complaining!

**What’re some of your vices?**

I like chocolate, but who doesn’t? So that’s boring. I like to keep my shoes neat. I brush them. Is that weird? I like everything neat. On tour, it’s horrible: Sometimes you have to have a shirt and you can’t wash it till next week – but I want to wash it! I will find a washing machine to wash my stuff. I love



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things to be clean and neat. It keeps me still inside. It’s like meditation.

**Bad habits?**

I eat all the flesh next to my nails. Not till they bleed, but it’s still really horrible. And I can’t shut up. When other people talk, I’ll talk through them. I’m very about my music so some people call that selfish; I just call that dedication.

**Finish this sentence: If it weren’t for music, I’d be...**

... dead. I’d probably be dead. It speaks to the soul, man. There would be nothing without music – no birds singing, nothing. It would be really weird. The world would be very cold.

**If you were gay, who would you be gay for?**

(Laughs) I would be gay for... oh, man. Let’s see. I think that everybody picks Angelina Jolie. Boring, boring. But she’s a very pretty woman!

**Craziest thing you can do with your body?**

I can move my back like a snake. I can pull it all the way up. Apparently when we were all babies my grandma stretched us immensely and now we’re all super stretchy and bendy. Putting my feet in the back of my neck is easy for me.

**If you could have written any song in pop music history, which would you choose?**

All the songs from Queen, all the songs of Michael Jackson, all the songs of Chaka Khan. (Laughs)

**You’d be, like, 80.**

Yeah, I know. And I would have a lot of publishing rights!

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The girls of Eastland School return in a "lost episode" at The Ringwald Theatre. Photo: Colleen Scribner

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## 'The Lost Episode' Is Classic Burlesque

BY JOHN QUINN

English, that most flexible of languages, has lots of words with multiple meanings. Woe to the writer who legitimately uses the right word, only to have his readers misunderstand his intent. Thus if I describe the Ringwald Theatre's revival of their 2008 hit, "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode" as an unadulterated travesty, you might not get my meaning.

Travesty: n. A literary or artistic burlesque of a serious work or subject, characterized by grotesque or ludicrous incongruity of style, treatment, or subject matter. 2. A literary or artistic composition so inferior in quality as to be merely a grotesque imitation of its model. 3. Any grotesque or debased likeness or imitation: a travesty of justice.

It's a shame that the primary meaning of "travesty" has been overshadowed by definitions two and three, because travesty can be a thing of wonder, and "The Lost Episode" is wonderful travesty.

The "'serious' work or subject" in question is NBC's popular '80s sitcom "The Facts of Life," which was set at a private boarding school in upper New York state. Edna Garrett serves as housemother to a motley quartet of young women. They include the rich, beautiful, but vacuous Blair; "Tootie," the gossip; pleasingly plump Natalie; and tomboy-tough-girl Jo. Familiarity with the characters and typical plots of the series is helpful, but not necessary, to enjoy "The Lost Episode."

How does that "grotesque or ludicrous

**REVIEW**

**The Facts of Life:  
The Lost Episode**

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Saturday-Monday through Aug. 13. 96 minutes. \$10-\$15. 248-556-8581.  
» [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

incongruity of style" figure in? "Travesty" has a fraternal twin in English and that's "transvestitism." All the characters are played by guys in barely disguising wigs and dresses. All the more fun, as they present a randy plotline that could never make it to prime time.

Melvin Reynolds, headmaster of Eastland School, threatens to raze the girl's dorm and build a self-aggrandizing administration building. At the same time, Mrs. Garrett's coffee and sweet shop is facing stiff competition from Starbuck's and may be forced to close. Blair, who may have a head for business if for nothing else, has a solution for the latter problem: "Edna's Edibles" begins selling pornographic tasties. Raising enough money to buy off Reynolds is tougher, but the girls find an alternative method of fundraising. Two rousing production numbers demonstrate that Edna Garrett has more in common with Dolly Parton than just that DD bosom.

Travesty can be cruel, but it is at its best when the playwright has affection for his or her source material. It is clear that Jamie Morris dotes on "The Facts of

Life" and renders a tight, terribly funny turn on the sitcom genre. There's ample opportunity to spoof the characters.

Thus Joe Bailey's immaculately coifed Mrs. Garrett performs vocal acrobatics Charlotte Rae could only hope to master. It should come as no surprise for Ringwald regulars that Bailey also directs of this fun-fest.

Richard Payton takes self-obsessed Blair Warner to new depths of sexual depravity. Jerry Haines revives all of Tootie's sass, with just a touch of moral turpitude. Joe Plambeck is a self-referential Natalie, noting how the "fat girl" laughs her lines to hide her tears. Jamie Richards acts the most outrageous role of the night. Playing a testosterone-charged Jo with five-o'clock-shadow and bare, unshaven legs, the character's sexual ambiguity – on top of cross-dressing – is parody at its best. Hats off to Melissa Beckwith for her bright and silly costuming; is she also responsible for the dead-on, character-defining wigs that add so much to the performances?

Make no mistake – travesty is an acquired taste. "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode" is bawdy, rude and crude. The plot, dialogue and characters are so over-the-top that they could only be presented by men barely pretending to be women. But if you're comfortable with a loving parody played by actors who are clearly enjoying every minute with their audience, a taste for the outrageous is worth cultivating.

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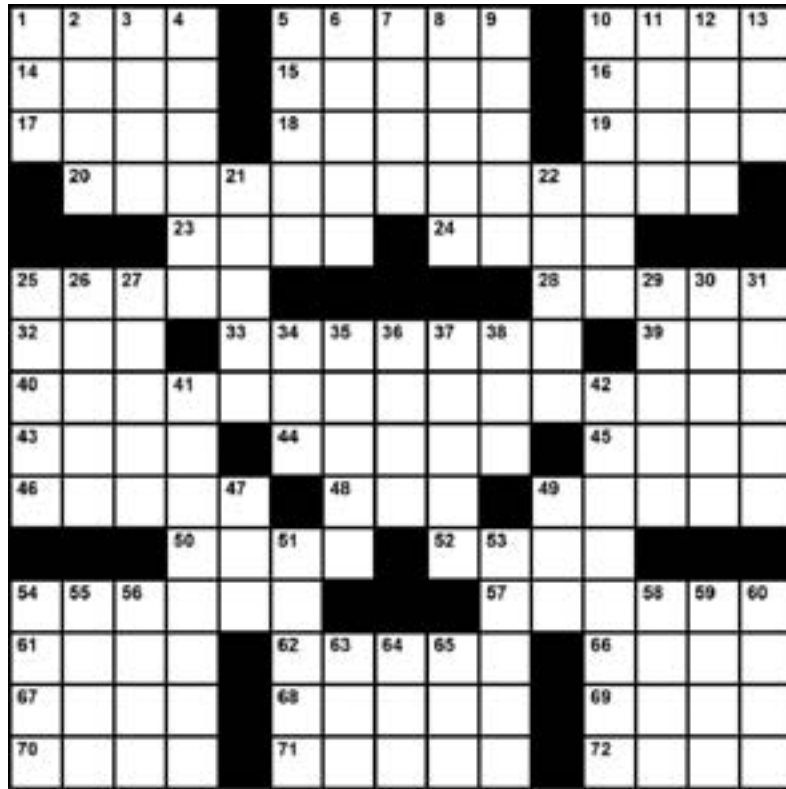
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# Faking It



## Across

- 1 With 57-Across, late great director/screenwriter
- 5 Anal insert from a UFO?
- 10 With 20-Across, movie of 1-Across
- 14 Hammer's target
- 15 Pilot's affirmative
- 16 Shakespeare's foot, but not his 12 inches
- 17 Suffix with sermon
- 18 Main line from the heart
- 19 Succotash bean
- 20 See 10-Across
- 23 Old Soviet news agency
- 24 Himalayan legend
- 25 Immeasurably vast hole
- 28 Tree with triangular nuts
- 32 Writer Harper
- 33 "Bewitched" baby
- 39 Fill in \_\_\_ blank
- 40 With 54-Across, comment in the movie about a fake orgasm in a deli
- 43 Food on the floor
- 44 It arouses you in bed
- 45 Crew tools
- 46 Full of lip
- 48 Monogram of Prufrock's creator
- 49 Photographer Leibovitz
- 50 What a small shooter shoots off

- 52 Political district
- 54 See 40-Across
- 57 See 1-Across
- 61 Set down
- 62 Drag queen Joey
- 66 Land of Yeats
- 67 Painter Bonheur
- 68 Brief opening?
- 69 Tops cakes
- 70 Take off your clothes
- 71 Equal rights org.
- 72 The lion's share

## Down

- 1 U-turn from SSW
- 2 Scout's promise to be "morally straight"
- 3 First name in lesbian fiction
- 4 Tips off
- 5 Asks for it on one's knees
- 6 Woolf said a woman should have one of these of her own
- 7 Fairy-tale monster
- 8 Rosie's role in "The Flintstones"
- 9 Use a rubber
- 10 "Wear a condom on your \_\_\_" (Elton John)
- 11 Word with Mary
- 12 TV honor
- 13 New York Knicks org.
- 21 Jamaican cultist
- 22 Opportunity for Glenn Burke
- 25 Edgar Box to Gore Vidal
- 26 Gay civil rights backer Abzug
- 27 Kennel cries
- 29 Green with a mostly unfabulous social life
- 30 1920 Colette novel
- 31 Novelist Hermann
- 34 Gardner of "Show Boat"
- 35 Cold-cocks
- 36 "\_\_\_ only trying to help"
- 37 Lost intentionally
- 38 Radio hobbyist
- 41 Setting for Dr. Callie Torres
- 42 "Gypsy" lyrics writer
- 47 Long, to a Samurai?
- 49 Klee contemporary
- 51 Enthusiastic lover's cry
- 53 Man of morals
- 54 It requires several G-strings
- 55 Soothing agent
- 56 Tool with jaws
- 58 Puerto \_\_\_
- 59 Shaft output
- 60 Kristy McNichol sitcom "Empty \_\_\_"
- 63 Cell stuff, for short
- 64 "Let's call \_\_\_ day"
- 65 Rainbow shape

Solution on pg 28



## Adopt Amanda Jones - 2-year-old tuxedo cat

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### bitter girl

#### public nervous announcement



# Horoscopes

## Do your homework, Pisces!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Mars in Libra making a T-square to Uranus and Pluto suggests solutions to major crises, but the teamwork involved means that you have to adapt your plans to suit others, not vice versa.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** What you have to say is too important to go off half-cocked. Bombastic challenges usually get shut down. Listen to others and think about how to express yourself so that they will appreciate what you have to say.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Don't worry about the global economy. Everyone's in trouble, but relative to it all, you're going to be OK. Your hard work is appreciated and valued, and some meditation will take the edge off. Keep those two in balance and you're fine.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Efforts to defend your pals may be ill-considered. Listen to them about what they need and be clear, but adaptable, on long-term strategies. Reconsider your own plans for the future. Let go of some old ideas; identify problems now, solve them later.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Feeling alone and disconnected can be a lesson in standing on your own. When you feel negative and self-critical focus on ways to improve yourself. Decide on some positive habits to develop and stick with them.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Some time alone to look after yourself will do you good. When the Sun enters Leo on the 22nd you'll feel stronger and more certain, perhaps too much so. Approach others with modesty and sensitivity.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Asserting your sexuality, whether as an individual or as part of your LGBT community, requires insight and sensitivity. Reconsider your place in your community and your own deepest truths. Maturity and growth require adaptivity.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Feeling lost and disconnected can be a good thing. Take yourself on an intellectual adventure, preferably an artistic one. You won't find yourself in a museum, but you could find yourself open to brilliant new ideas.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Sex can offer distraction from or insight to your problems. Talk with an intimate partner (sexually or not) about whatever's bothering you. Without that clarity you can get crankier, undermining your work and your health.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Making plans with your partner may push you to reevaluate your own priorities, to look harder at your responsibilities. Some creative thinking can get you through this, but you won't manage it on your own. Keep talking with your mate.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Don't take anything for granted with your health. Bad news now can be dealt with better than worse news later. Change your habits: quit smoking, revise (or start) your exercise routine, improve your diet. It's not too late – yet.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Trying to be fun and witty, you're sure to upset someone. Maybe they need or deserve a kick, but think ahead about consequences. Also remember the difference between justice and vengeance. Are you speaking up for noble purposes or from resentment?

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Refinancing a mortgage now could work out very well, but do your homework, be very clear on details and fight for better terms. Domestic problems can be assuaged in the bedroom, but tough issues and decisions still need to be dealt with.

*Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, 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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# 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.

## 109 ANNOUNCEMENTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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## 112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIFFA: DINING BY DESIGN & ArtWorks Detroit

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### Solution to puzzle from page 28

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# Dear Jody



## Pride virgin

**Q.** I don't really have a question; I just want to tell you and all the other gays and lesbians out there what a wonderful time I had yesterday. Yesterday was my first Pride event.

I have put off going for many years because I just didn't think it was necessary, as I am already proud of who I am and have no problems with being a lesbian. In fact, I would not change if I could.

Anyway, I went to Pride because one of my friends, "Mary," from the U.P. was visiting and she wanted to go. She has very few opportunities to talk to or be with members of the LGBT community, so she was really excited to be at Pride.

The atmosphere was so festive, even the Bible thumpers and nasty mean signs on the side couldn't dampen our joy. We marched to the Capitol, watched the marriage ceremony – that was really touching. We ended up shopping, eating and dancing. It was a joy to watch people enjoy who they are and not be afraid. We hung out with some of my friends and met some folks from the U.P. Mary is very excited because she now knows some folks not far from where she lives and they are planning to get together and organize some activities. I was pleasantly surprised how many LGBT families were there. What a great thing for kids: to see other families that look like their family. It was so wonderful to see so many people out and proud. If we could only be like this every day of our lives!

I would encourage everyone to go to these events even if you think you don't need to. It will warm your heart.

*New to Pride*

**A.** I always find these types of events inspiring and energizing. Thanks so much for sharing.

## Neighborhood trouble

**Q.** I just bought a house on the north side of Lansing. It has been my lifelong dream

to own a home. I wake up in the morning and it takes me a minute to realize that it's really true: I am a homeowner.

However, I have one problem that is driving me crazy. It's the kids in the neighborhood. They are extremely noisy. I work at home and need it to be quiet. These kids run through my backyard to get to each other's houses. I've told them to go around and use the sidewalk, but if they think I'm not looking they run across as fast as they can. They seem to have figured out I am gay. They called me a "fag" the other day. It's only been a few days and I already hate these kids. What can I do to keep them away from my house and yard and get them to lower their voices? I thought about going to their parents, but I don't want to make everyone mad at me right off.

*Save Me From the Kids*

**A.** If I were you I would start by trying to make the kids my friends. If kids like you, they are much more likely to listen to your needs. Go outside and get to know the kids; show some interest in them as individuals. Find out what they like to do and where they go to school. In other words, establish a relationship with them. Then when you see them outside, call them by name, wave and, if time, ask them about something you have found out about them. After you have a relationship with them, tell them why you don't want them running through your back yard. Let them know you work at home and that their yelling near your home bothers your work. If this doesn't work, then go to the parents. (Hopefully, you've developed a friendly relationship with them as well.) Talk to the parents – not in a blaming way, but explaining your problem and what you need from the kids. If all else fails, you may need to put up a fence to keep the kids from running through the back yard.

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

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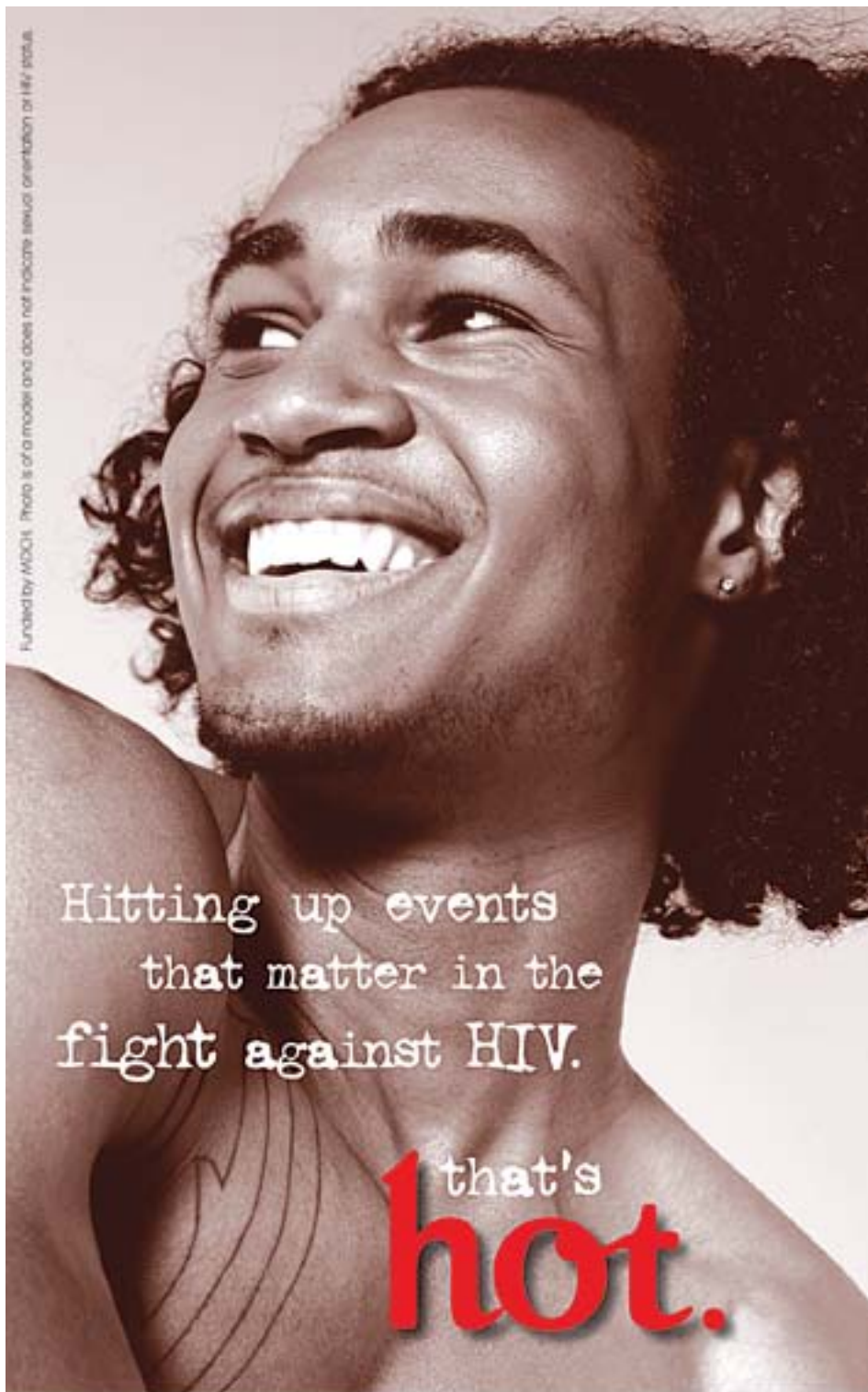
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# Cocktail Chatter

## The Ginger Binger: A Perfect Summer Quencher

BY ED SIKOV

My nephew, the lanky 6-foot-5-inch science teacher (and I assure you he got none of those genes from me) was visiting the beach house a few weeks ago, and at one point Dan and I sent him on a shopping trip to the Pines Pantry to get the makings of dinner.

As usual, he returned with twice as much stuff as we'd asked for; he lives in a half-gentrified, half-dicey section of Brooklyn, and he delights in finding things in the Pantry he can't buy within a mile of his apartment. (Let's be fair: the Pantry isn't big on gandules and sofrito, and the infinitely cheerful check-out girls aren't protected by a massive wall of Plexiglas.) One of these items was a six-pack of Gosling's ginger beer. It was quite hot that weekend, and the Gosling's – plain but chilled – really hit the spot.

I guzzled most of mine, but just as I reached the last gulp I had my Proustian moment: in place of Proust's madeleine was a great but all-but-forgotten cocktail, the Moscow Mule: a shot of vodka goes into a glass with ice, and ginger beer fills the glass. It was a great cocktail in its day; I used to drink them with my high school teachers. (Oh get off your high horse! Big deal! I smoked pot with them, too. Bless them for treating me as an adult.) But I thought it was time for an update, this being the 21st century and all, the Moscow Mule seeing its heyday in the 1970s. So I added a secret ingredient, and suddenly the old Mule got back up on its feet and became even more of a crowd pleaser.

The secret ingredient is Domaine de Canton's delicious ginger liqueur. Used in moderation – this is very important, people – Canton's intense ginger flavor only magnifies the spicy yet somehow fruity flavor of the ginger. It's not a must; it's hard to find. (Order it on the Internet if your local liquor emporium doesn't stock it.) But it adds just a touch more intense ginger



flavor to the drink. You only need a little bit for each cocktail, and it'll last forever in your liquor cabinet.

Dan and I threw one of our summer cocktail parties yesterday, and the cocktail du jour was the updated Moscow Mule. I had to rename it, since it was no longer my hip English teacher's Moscow Mule. Judging by the sheer number of drinks our guests had, the cocktail named itself: the Ginger Binger. It goes down so easy that you may find it difficult to get out of your seat at the end of the party. Your guests may feel the same way. So beware.

### The Ginger Binger

Absolut premium vodka – as much as you like  
1 to 2 tsp. Domain de Canton ginger liqueur  
Gosling's ginger beer

Fill a tall glass with ice. Add the ginger liqueur, then the vodka; if you want a strong drink, add lots; if you want a weaker one, add less. (Duh!) Then fill the glass with the ginger beer, stir mildly (don't ruin the fizz) and serve.

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