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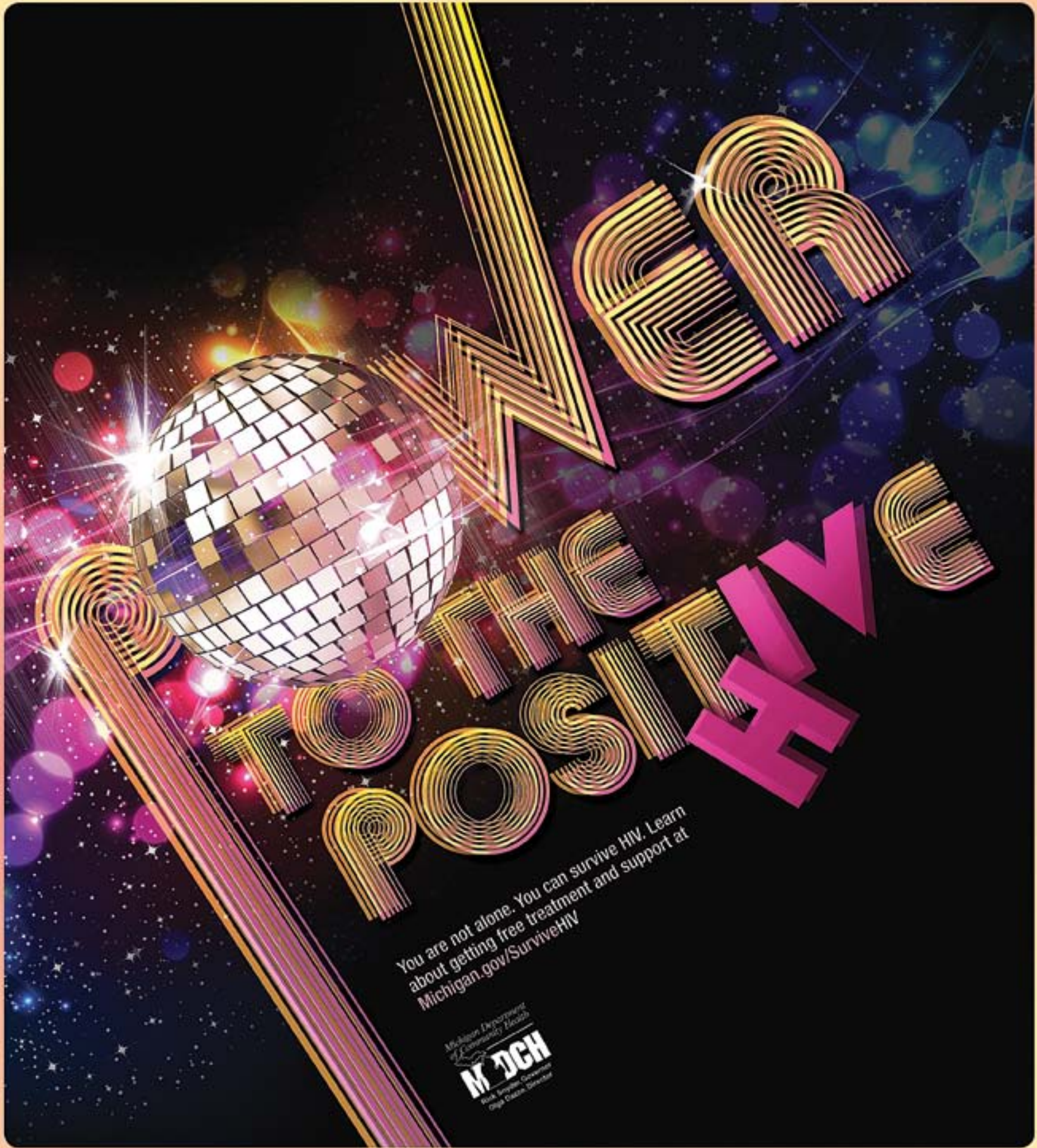
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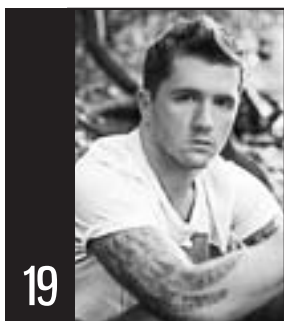


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Learning to LEAD

Marlin Colyer 'Not Settling for Neglect'

has learned tools, such as “Power Mapping,” in which participants “map” strategies to get to the top, and networking that will help in his ultimate goal, mentoring LGBT youth.

“Being in an LGBT community, we’re kind of put down a lot,” Colyer says. “I don’t want anything in the generation beneath me to feel like they are anything less than magnificent. I want them to know that they don’t have to settle for neglect. They don’t have to settle for discrimination or anything like that. There’s so much at our

event. There, he met KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb.

“We just kind of had a conversation,” Colyer says. “Curtis has this divine ability to pull things out of you. He’s talking to me and engaging me and gathering my interest and he thought I would be a good fit for the LEAD program. I went to the orientation, and the rest is history.”

Through the program, Colyer gained more than tools for social change; he also gained a mentor in Lipscomb, whom he credits with helping to prepare him to take a leadership roll.

“Curtis has kind of taken Marlin and put him on his head,” Colyer says. “I’m more accustomed to playing the background, but ... Curtis kind of showed me ‘Hey, you need to be in the front and pull other people just like you out, and the rest of the community together.’”

And to Colyer’s surprise, his chance for an out-front role would come before he left the LEAD class. His classmates unanimously voted that he should give the class’ graduation speech. He said he was so inspired by the class and by his classmates that he finished writing the speech in 15 minutes.

“I remember thinking to myself ‘I’ve come to learn this whole new group of people, we’ve literally become a family over the six weeks and what do I want to say that I can speak for them, for the community and also pay homage and give respect to the people who helped us get to this point,’” Colyer said.

Lipscomb said Colyer’s role as a former LEAD student will help him connect with the incoming class.

“He brings a peer-to-peer advantage to the work,” Lipscomb said. “He brings insight on how today’s movement works.”

Paying It Forward

Colyer hopes to hand down all the lessons he learned next fall. His experience with LEAD will come full-circle when he works as a facilitator for the fall LEAD program.

Colyer’s passion in LGBT causes started early. Though he’s known he was gay since childhood, he came out when he was 16 and said that made him start to pay attention to the adverse treatment some of his peers were getting.

“When you’re 16, you’re kind of

oblivious to things like gay bashing or thinking that if I go get a job there might be a problem for me just being who I am,” Colyer said. “Watching all those things progress as I got older and becoming more aware of the problems that are out there for me for an issue that’s so small as sexual orientation, it really made me passionate about it. I really feel that when it boils down to it, it really shouldn’t be about gay rights because to me they are human rights. We all deserve the right to be human. It’s a shame that in the society we live in everything has to be so cut and dry, everyone has to have a label, we have to fit in this box. When it all boils down to it, we all bleed the same color blood.”

His activism was also sparked by his 10-year involvement in the Chicago-area ballroom community, in which he acts as a master of ceremonies for LGBT balls and walk-offs.

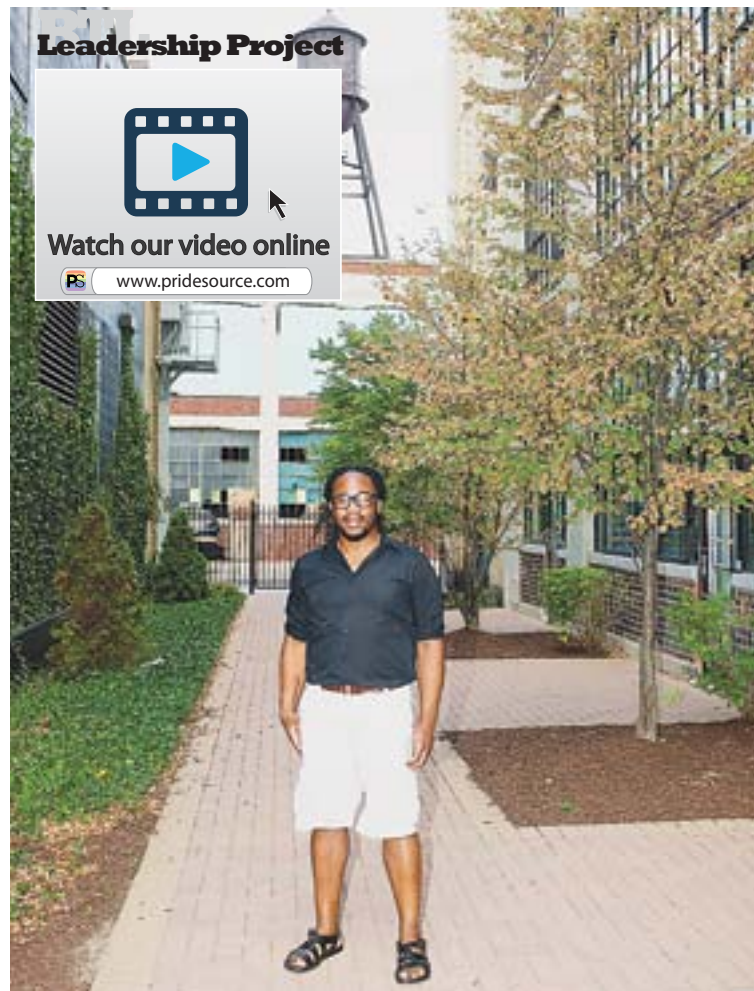
“It kind of feeds into the whole mindset of people who have been, and not all of us, rejected by society, from our families, from our homes,” Colyer says. “We come together as families and nurture each other’s talents.”

For the Chicago native, the move to Detroit has brought surprises as well as opportunities. Though he has not experienced it firsthand, Colyer said he was outraged to learn that in Michigan people can be fired for being gay or being perceived to be gay and that hate crimes directed at LGBT people are often “brushed off” by the police.

“That’s amazing to me, to come from a place where it’s kind of tolerated, and I use that term loosely, and come somewhere where it’s totally different, its like opposite ends of a card,” Colyer says.

Though he’s not sure where his love of helping people, especially those in the LGBT community, will take him, he says he is sure whatever he does he will be able to make a positive difference.

“I want to be recognized for being part of the movement,” Colyer says. “That’s a really big one for me. It doesn’t even have to be one of those things where you put me in books or something like that. I just want the opportunity for people to look back and say ‘Marlin was one of those that was there for us through thick and thin, that helped us to get past discrimination and bring us together as a community.’”



Marlin Colyer, BTL photos: Andrew Potter

BY ANDREA POTEET

DETROIT — Six weeks changed Marlin Colyer’s life.

The 29-year-old Chicago native, who moved to Detroit in December, has a lot of big plans for changing the world. He’d like to mentor LGBT youth and eventually earn a degree in psychology, turning his love of helping people with their problems into a career.

But after graduating from KICK’s first Learn, Educate, Advocate and Drive (LEAD) program in May, he said he has the tools to make those dreams come true.

“It’s almost like a starter kit for activists,” Colyer says. “I learned a lot about the issues that might concern LGBT people here in Michigan.”

Since obtaining that “starter kit,” Colyer, a Chicago native, hasn’t strayed far from KICK; he started work as their project coordinator last month.

“I’m still kind of learning the ropes,” Colyer says. “Everything is so big. It’s so enormous and there’s so much to learn. I have a thirst for knowledge so I’m just trying to gather everything that I can right now and see where it takes me.”

As he chats in a dimly lit Midtown restaurant, he discusses his new job, which is taking him to the Internet, where he’s promoting KICK, an agency for LGBT African Americans,

and its annual Hotter than July event, at a furious pace.

“I would get hired for one our biggest events,” he says with an exaggerated sigh. “I’m kind of thrown to the wolves on this one, but I’m hitting the ground running.”

For Colyer, KICK is another in a string of jobs that in some way revolve around his passion, helping people. In Chicago, he dabbled in marketing, presented products in a grocery store and went to school for massage therapy.

Before moving to Detroit, Colyer had hit a string of bad luck. Out of work in Chicago, he had to drop out of community college after a year because he could no longer afford his tuition. His partner of two years, Henry Martin, was moving back to his hometown of Detroit to be closer to his family. Colyer said he followed him to keep the relationship going and because he needed a fresh start.

“I had a period where I was kind of down on my luck,” Colyer says. “I couldn’t find any work, so just having a change and being able to come somewhere else and saying ‘let me start over here and see where it takes me’ was kind of my push to come to Detroit.”

Power Mapping

So far, the move has paid off. Through KICK, Colyer said he

“I don’t want anything in the generation beneath me to feel like they are anything less than magnificent. I want them to know that they don’t have to settle for neglect.”

fingertips, and nothing is impossible.”

In the program, Colyer and 10 other LGBT young adults met on six Saturdays to discuss LGBT activism, rights and social justice and learn techniques to help them make changes in their community.

“It was learning who’s on your side, who’s not on your side and how do you get everyone to a happy medium to get your cause pushed to the top and kind of seen through,” Colyer says.

Colyer said the conversations were often so interesting, the four-hour sessions flew by before he realized it.

“It never seemed like there was enough time,” Colyer says. “It was an amazing program, I love it to death. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.”

But the opportunity may never have happened for Colyer had he not logged into Facebook.

Shortly after moving to Detroit, Colyer, who was then working at the Somerset Macys, was invited via Facebook in February to Kick’s winter tea party, its quarterly fundraising

VOTE EQUALITY
2012
Tuesday Aug. 7

BTL Primary Election Endorsements Aug. 7

Between The Lines endorses candidates based upon their record and their public statements in support of equality for LGBT people. Here is a list of the contested races in which BTL has an endorsement:

U.S. Senate

Incumbent **Sen. Debbie Stabenow** is running unopposed in the Democratic primary, and BTL will strongly endorse her in the general election this November.

On the Republican side, U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra is leading a field of now three, since arch conservative, anti-gay activist Gary Glenn dropped out of the race over the weekend. BTL has no endorsement on the Republican side.

U.S. House of Representatives

District 3 – BTL endorses openly gay candidate **Trevor Thomas** in the Democratic primary.

District 11 – BTL endorses **Syed Taj** in the Democratic primary.

District 13 – BTL does a **split endorsement between Glenn Anderson and John Conyers, Jr.** Both have strong records on LGBT rights.

District 14 – BTL endorses incumbent **Gary Peters**. This new district is the result of Republican gerrymandering during the redistricting process, and pits two Democratic incumbents against each other, Peters and Hansen Clark. Peters is a member of the House LGBT caucus, has been a co-sponsor of most LGBT positive legislation and has established an LGBT community panel that meets regularly with him to discuss issues important to LGBT voters. Clark is a strong candidate as well, and BTL has endorsed him in the past, but forced to choose, BTL supports Gary Peters.

State House

Michigan House of Representatives – BTL rarely endorses in Michigan House primary elections, but due to the redistricting, some incumbents are running against each other. In the three cases below BTL endorses incumbents who have been unequivocal in their support of LGBT issues and who are facing primary challenges due in part to the redistricting:

District 6 – Democrat **Rashida Tlaib**
District 21 – Democrat **Dian Slavens**
District 28 – Democrat **Jon Switalski**
District 53 – Democrat **Jeff Irwin**
District 76 – **Write In** -
Democrat **Winnie Brinks**

6th Circuit Judge – Oakland County

Incumbents – five incumbents running for reelection. BTL takes no position

Non-Incumbents five candidates vying for one seat. Top two vote getters go on to the general election in November. BTL endorses **Karen McDonald**, and recommends without endorsement **Sahera Housey**. McDonald is an experienced, progressive-minded attorney having spent years in the law firm which U.S. Rep. Sander Levin emerged. Many in the legal circles think she could be an excellent candidate for even higher office down the road, even to the Michigan Supreme Court. McDonald is supportive of LGBT rights, including same-sex marriage. Housey also answered judicial questionnaires and indicated she supports LGBT rights including adoption rights for same-sex couples.

Judges

In the following judge races, BTL supports these openly gay candidates who are also endorsed by the LGBT Victory Fund:

22nd Circuit Judge – Washtenaw County

BTL endorses openly lesbian candidate **Democrat Carol Kuhnke**.

30th Circuit Judge – Ingham County

BTL endorses openly gay candidate **Democrat Ken Ross**

Oakland County Executive

Kevin Howley, openly gay Democratic candidate, does not have a primary challenger. BTL will strongly endorse Howley in the general election.

Oakland County Commissioners:

18th District - BTL endorses incumbent **Democrat Craig Covey**. Due to Republican

gerrymandering during redistricting, two incumbent Democrats are forced to run against each other, **Covey** and **Helaine Zack**. Both are strong supporters of the LGBT community, but when forced to choose, BTL endorses openly gay candidate **Craig Covey**

Art Institute Authority Millage - Strong YES vote recommended

Voters in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties will be asked Aug. 7 to approve 0.2 mills for 10 years, which is approximately \$15 per year for every \$150,000 of a home's fair market value. This money will go to provide funding to support the Detroit Institute of Arts. Residents living in counties that approve the millage will receive free unlimited general admission, including students taking field trips to the museum, and there will be enhanced programs for students and seniors and bus subsidies for visits by seniors and students.

The DIA is an invaluable asset to the city and the entire region. There are economic benefits because the museum attracts tourism and visitors, and there are incalculable social and civic benefits that justify supporting this world-class museum and performing arts venue. After years of budget cuts due to cuts in state funding, the DIA would finally have secure financial backing. "The DIA will have the kind of financial stability it hasn't had for 40 years," said **Graham W. J. Beal**, the museum's director.

Sign-up: BTL Voter Guide 2012

BTL is currently working on its biannual Election Guide for the Nov. 6, 2012 election. Please be sure to register to vote and check that household members are registered as well.

You can follow election news on our website @ www.pridesource.com and sign up to receive the 2012 BTL Voter Guide when it is available, either electronically or in the mail.

This is a critical election cycle where LGBT people can continue to push our agenda for full equality forward. Much has been accomplished federally, with the help of President Obama's administration, but so much more remains to be done. We must begin to change the climate in Lansing if we hope to realize full equality one day here in Michigan. So please volunteer, donate and educate yourselves and vote accordingly in Nov. 6.

NEW YORK

Despite Protests, Boy Scouts Reaffirm Ban on Gays

(AP) - The Boy Scouts of America on Tuesday emphatically reaffirmed its policy of excluding gays after a confidential two-year review, angering critics who hoped that relentless protest campaigns might lead to change.

The Scouts cited support from parents as a key reason for keeping the policy and expressed hope that the prolonged debate over it might now subside. Bitter reactions from gay-rights activists suggested that result was unlikely.

The Boy Scouts' policy stands in contrast to inclusive membership policies adopted by several other major youth organizations, including the Girl Scouts of the USA and Camp Fire.

BOSTON

Boston Mayor Vows to Keep Chick-fil-A Out of City

(AP) - The mayor of Boston is vowing to block Chick-fil-A from opening a restaurant in the city after the company's president spoke out publicly against gay marriage.

Mayor **Thomas Menino** told the Boston Herald on Thursday that he doesn't want a business in the city "that discriminates against a population."

Chick-fil-A President **Dan Cathy** told the Baptist Press this week that his privately owned company is "guilty as charged" in support of what he called the biblical definition of the family.

The fast-food chicken sandwich chain later said that it strives to "treat every person with honor, dignity and respect - regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender."

Atlanta-based Chick-fil-A has more than 1,600 stores nationwide but just two in Massachusetts, both located in suburban malls.

SAN DIEGO

Troops March in San Diego Gay Parade - in Uniform

(AP) - Some of the loudest cheers Saturday at San Diego's gay pride parade were for active-duty troops marching in military dress, the first time that U.S. service members participated in such an event while in full uniform.

Dozens of soldiers, sailors, and Marines marched alongside an old Army truck decorated with a "Freedom to Serve" banner and a rainbow flag symbolizing gay pride.

"Today is so important," said Navy Lt. **Brian McKinney**, who marched with his civilian partner, **Hunter Hammonds**. "It's about putting on my uniform and taking pride in my service, my fellow service-members, my family and myself. It's something I'm incredibly thankful for."

In a memorandum sent to all its branches this year, the Defense Department said it was making the allowance for the San Diego event even though its policy generally bars troops from marching in uniform in parades.

About 200 active-duty troops participated in last year's San Diego gay pride parade, but they wore T-shirts with their branch's name, not military dress.

The theme of this year's event is "America's Pride: Equality is an American Value."

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

Legalizing Discrimination in Name of Religion

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

LANSING – On the same day that hundreds of active citizens flocked to Lansing to stand up for women’s rights, State Senate Republicans removed SB 975 from discussion, effectively killing the bill for now. Introduced in February and slated for discussion on July 18, the bill would have given medical care providers, insurance companies and employers the right to discriminate in services offered based on a moral exemption.

The Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection Act addresses three levels of care. It allows any health facility to decline providing services if they have “a moral or religiously-based desire not to.” It gives employers the right to exclude objectionable procedures from employee’s health care benefits. And it gives doctors, nurses and pharmacists the right to refuse to participate in health care services they object to based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Marry Pollock, legislative vice president of the National Organization for Women, gave testimony about the potential effects of this bill back in June.

“SB 975’s apparent intent is to reduce the number of insurers, facilities and providers who provide comprehensive reproductive health care, or health care services to homosexuals based on the religious tenets of the Catholic Bishops. According to the Guttmacher Institute, one of three women will have an abortion in her lifetime.

Ninety - nine percent of American women have used birth control. Catholics themselves reflect these same percentages. The bill provides no religious liberty protection to these women and homosexuals but instead permits and promotes denial of services to them.”

“Some examples of what SB 975 would permit : an insurer or employer could refuse to cover pregnancy costs associated with an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, an insurance company could refuse all coverage for gays or lesbians based on the religious objection of the insurance company, a doctor could refuse to provide services to a woman, a minority, or an HIV - positive person, a hospital could block doctors from treating miscarriages and late ectopic pregnancies. Women who need a life-saving abortion could quite literally be left to die, all in the name of ‘conscience.’”

Michigan received national attention last November when legislators tried to include a conscience clause to the anti-bullying bill in the Senate. It would have given kids a license to bully as long as their hurtful words and actions are based on their moral beliefs. Ultimately the language was removed and PA 241 of 2011 did not include it, but that isn’t stopping conservatives from attempting to impose it on other types of legislation.

HB 5040, which BTL reported on earlier in July, seeks to give counseling students an excuse not to treat people whose morals they disagree with. This would not only affect LGBT clients, but others who might have potentially

Consciencelaws.org lists legislation by state pertaining to conscience laws, including recent and pending attempts at exemptions. Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire and South Carolina join Michigan on the list.

objectionable morals, such as those who have premarital sex, those who have had an abortion, those who use contraception, or those who date outside of their race. This bill only applies in the world of education, whereas SB975 would affect anyone in the general public who may need medical care.

Michigan is not the only place this is happening. An even broader bill has been signed in Arizona. It gives anyone the right to refuse to provide any services, other than peace officer services, based on sincerely held religious beliefs. Arizona SB 1365 passed in May, 2012.

Consciencelaws.org lists legislation by state pertaining to conscience laws, including recent and pending attempts at exemptions. Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas,

Missouri, New Hampshire and South Carolina join Michigan on the list. Massachusetts and Montana also have pending laws with conscience clauses, though in those cases the laws establish legality for assisted suicide and do not pertain to other procedures.

Conscience clauses came about in the late 70s after Roe v. Wade made abortion legal. According to the Guttmacher Institute’s most recent report, almost every state has conscience clauses that exempt doctors from providing abortion services. Fourteen states allow some providers to refuse contraceptive services and 18 allow some health care providers to refuse providing sterilization services. Michigan does not yet have a conscience clause for contraception or sterilization, though SB 975 would cover these services and more if passed.

Jay Kaplan of the ACLU’s LGBT Project spoke against conscience clauses in BTL’s previous interview concerning 5040. “We are embarking on a dangerous slippery slope as our legislature attempts to carve out exceptions to non-discrimination policies and laws. We have a right to our religious beliefs, but that does not give us the right to use our religion to discriminate and impose those beliefs on others who do not share them.”

To follow the legislative process on HB 5040 and its companion SB 0518, as well as SB 975, go to the State Legislature website at
>> <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

In Focus: Faith Comes Full Circle

One Man’s Journey from Catholicism and Back Again

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – If 50 is the age that traditionally signals the onslaught of a midlife crisis in most men, in Kevin Kinsel it’s signaling the rebirth of his faith. On July 28th, three days after he reaches that milestone age, Kinsel will realize a lifelong dream of sorts, as the well-known MCC minister is ordained as a Catholic priest. Worry not LGBT worshippers, he will actually be ordained a priest with the Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ, not a Roman Catholic one.

Traditional Beginnings

Growing up, to say that the Catholic Church was an important part of Kinsel’s family would be an understatement. It was actually the foundation upon which the family was built.

“Many of my aunts went to church almost every day,” Kinsel recalled. “My grandparents

helped build St. Jude’s church. It was very much the center of the social scene for my family for many years. I was baptized, made communion and confession all within the same church. It was within walking distance of my house, and I actually went to Catholic school for most of my elementary and some of my high school as well.”

In the movies, altar boys are usually restless and bored young men who fuss about in their vestments as they wait impatiently for mass to end. But that’s the not the case with Kinsel, who was an especially enthusiastic altar boy.

“I had to wait till I was in fourth grade until I could be an altar boy,” he said. “I wanted to be an altar boy even earlier than that.”

Kinsel’s mother was very pleased and proud that her son was so devout.

“He was a very young altar boy,” Gail Kinsel remembered. “Both my sons were altar boys. Kevin, of course, seemed to be more motivated to seek out a further career in the church, a vocation.”

Seek it out he did, before he even turned 18.

“I went through the whole vocational program and sat down with the social worker who told me that he thought I needed to be more socially adept,” said Kinsel. “I was 16 or 17. I was heartbroken. I left the church for a long time.”

In his 30s, Kinsel began to reconnect with his faith when he became involved in his mother’s church, Nativity of Our Lord. He became as active as a lay person could, directing the choir, teaching vacation Bible school and becoming a Eucharistic minister with the church. Still, he knew in his heart he was called to do more.

“There was always an understanding that I was an openly gay man, and there was no way that I was ever going to be able to fulfill the ministry that I felt God called me to do within Roman Catholicism,” Kinsel explained. “One day I said to myself, ‘I’m called to do more than just be a minister of service.’ So I left and I didn’t have to search long. I had been to MCC once when they

were in Birmingham. So I said let me go back and that’s when my whole MCC journey started.”

Accepting the Calling

Kinsel started attending MCC-Detroit in 2000 and became a member the following year. Shortly after that, he spoke with the church’s pastor, Mark Bidwell, about joining the church’s diaconate program.

“I went and saw him and he told me that he was disbanding the diaconate program,” said Kinsel. “But after talking with me he said, ‘you and I both know you’re not supposed to be a deacon anyway. You and I both know that you need to go back to school so we can ordain you.’”

Kinsel had already earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Michigan. So

See Faith, page 13

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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Kalamazoo Loses the Perfect Mom: Kelly Miller

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

KALAMAZOO –“Kelly Miller was the mom that we’d want in every gay kid’s home,” said Zack Bauer, executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. “Her son Jack is gay and she was one of those PFLAG moms that just jumped in to support her son, and in doing so touched the lives of so many people.”

Miller was just fifty years old when she lost her battle to cancer on July 12. The news of her passing hit home for many in the West Michigan community, who remember Miller volunteering every year at Pride, volunteering around the center and participating in other community events.

“She was a fundraising Tour de Force,” Bauer said. Miller served two years on the Pride Steering Committee, and last year was given a Community Award from the organization. “This is the first year that Kelly couldn’t come to Pride and her absence was definitely felt.” Bauer said that she and her husband James would jump in and do any task, even though they weren’t the youngest volunteers in the bunch. “Last year at Pride they were moving these big concrete anchors and it’s like ‘no, you guys don’t have to do that.’ But you could always count on her to come in and set up or tear down, active in everything.”



Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center Executive Director Zack Bauer presenting Kelly Miller with a 2011 Community Award for her volunteer service to the LGBT community. Photo courtesy of KGLRC.

He said one thing people loved was that for fundraisers she would create sculptures of people out of clay pots that would be raffled off as auction items.

In addition to volunteering in the LGBT community, Miller participated in community

volunteering events through her work at State Farm Insurance, including an anti-bullying campaign and walking in Relay for Life.

Bauer said Kelly Miller will most be remembered in her role as mom, not just to her sons Matthew and Jack, but to a whole generation

of youth at the Kalamazoo Lesbian and Gay Resource Center. “You know how when it’s Pride season and you’re working with different people and it can get a little stressful? There’d be snipping or a little bit of drama and she could just walk right in and mellow everybody out,” Bauer said.

Kelly Miller will most be remembered in her role as mom, not just to her sons Matthew and Jack, but to a whole generation of youth at the Kalamazoo Lesbian and Gay Resource Center.

Miller had lived in the Kalamazoo area since the late 90s and was married for 33 years to James Miller. In addition to two sons, Matthew and Jack, the couple had two grandchildren Addison and Emma.

Miller’s family has asked that in lieu of flowers people consider giving a donation to Kairos Dwelling, a home for people in their last days of life. The home is free of charge for the terminally ill who are receiving hospice care, and it depends on donations to provide this service.

Obituary: Michael McGuire, An Unsung Hero

BY GREGORY VARNUM

This month the LGBT movement lost an inspirational leader. His passing will not be marked by a Presidential Proclamation nor will any great monuments be erected commemorating



Prof. Michael McGuire

his achievements, but his impact on the individual lives of many in our movement is no less profound than that of Frank Kameny or Barbara Gittings. Professor Michael McGuire was a courageous LGBT pioneer in his own right, and one of our movement’s many unsung heroes.

Before it was the popular thing for a public university to do, Prof. McGuire was among a small group of professionals working for Eastern Michigan University who recognized the university’s LGBT students needed something more than just an ally in the Dean of Students office. Working with his colleagues, he helped

EMU found a campus LGBT resource center which has been a leader in Michigan’s higher education community ever since.

His accomplishments in his beloved field of music therapy were monumental; earning him the Lifetime Achievement Award from his colleagues and culminating in the creation of the Music Therapy Center at EMU, which is used for teaching and demonstrating music therapy clinical practice. In much the same way he became a leader in the field of music therapy, serving in many leadership roles within the National Association for Music Therapy and the American Music Therapy Association, he remained a prominent figure in EMU’s LGBT community. He helped create the Stonewall Scholarship, which provides financial aid to LGBT student leaders on campus. Like a proud parent, he served on the LGBT resource center’s advisory board, and advised student leaders working towards true equality among EMU’s student body.

In the early 2000’s, I was fortunate enough to be one of those student leaders, and the course he helped me plot towards being an advocate of those in need, is one I proudly remain on today. I will never forget his glowing smile as he bragged to others about the accomplishments of his students; his subtle and kind words when things like the inclusion of gender identity and expression in

university policies seemed more like a dream than a soon to be realized reality. Perhaps most importantly, his forgiveness of mistakes and relentless support even after the title of “student” had faded. He went out of his way to send thoughts and donations, of encouragement as my work took me far away from EMU’s campus.

Michael left us far too early, and I will always regret not sharing with him sooner how much of an impact his support had on me. He is one of the many unsung heroes in our movement whose work and support, sometimes subtle and sometimes profound, empowered those around them to go after our dreams, never lose hope and never lose sight of the impact our actions can have on others. While we cannot erect the monuments or amass the proclamations these pillars in our movement deserve, we can and should take more opportunities to recognize and praise them. Do not make the same mistake I did and wait too long, reach out now and share with the unsung heroes in your life how much they mean and how much they are cherished.

Michael: You were a truly amazing man, a wonderful role model, a relentless supporter, and a catalyst for positive change. Thank you.

Michael McGuire died at the age of 63 on July 16 in a hospice after mounting a gallant war on Stage 4 terminal lung cancer. At the time of his passing he was nearing 30 years as director

MEMO

Memorial Celebration

A memorial celebration of Professor Michael McGuire's life and work will take place on Saturday, July 28, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the organ recital room in the Alexander building on the EMU campus. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Michael G. McGuire Endowed Scholarship Fund at the EMU Foundation, 1349 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. **Please note that the donation is for the Michael McGuire fund.**

of music therapy for EMU in Ypsilanti. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Michael G. McGuire Endowed Scholarship Fund at the EMU Foundation, 1349 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Please note on the check that the donation is for the Michael McGuire fund.

Gregory Varnum has worked professionally in the LGBT movement for over a decade and has held leadership roles at The Aequalitas Project, a nonprofit incubator, as well as the National Youth Advocacy Coalition and Triangle Foundation (Equality Michigan). He got his start in the LGBT movement as the Student Coordinator of Eastern Michigan University's LGBT Resource Center, a start he owes in part to Professor McGuire.

Hicks Departs MAC to Run Macomb County Habitat for Humanity

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Michigan AIDS Coalition faces another change in leadership as CEO Helen Hicks announced her resignation after three years on the job. Hicks accepted a new position as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Macomb, where she will oversee a staff of 30 and a budget of over \$6 million.

The announcement of Hicks departure came July 19 and is effective on July 31. Longtime AIDS activist Terry Ryan will serve as interim CEO while the board begins a search.

Hicks praised Ryan's work saying, "I have worked closely with Terry during the past three years and I have every confidence in his ability to continue to move the agency forward. While our styles are different, our values are the same."

Hicks became CEO shortly after MAC was created after merging Michigan AIDS Fund and Michigan AIDS Prevention Project into the new organization.

"Working at MAC has been one of the most positive and life-changing experiences of my life," Hicks told staff. "I have made professional contacts and close friends who will remain with me for the rest of my life. Never have I met a group of people who were more dedicated or sincere as they battle new challenges

with renewed dedication and strength. While I look forward to my new position, which is much closer to home and our critically ill son, a part of my heart will remain at MAC."

Hicks said her biggest accomplishment was gaining the respect of the community as a straight person. Other accomplishments include "working side by side with people who continue to do everything in their power to educate those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, Hep C and STDs in spite of a challenging economic environment."

"Creating a work environment that follows a business model with serious financial controls and a strong fundraising arm," was another accomplishment noted by Hicks. Strong financial controls and fundraising efforts have given the organization what Hicks calls "strong 990s for the past two years," referring to the nonprofit's financial statements.

Hicks also secured two national AIDS events that have generated revenue for the organization. DIFFA: Dining by Design, is a high-class annual event that will carry on in Hicks' absence. This year's multi-day event will take place Sept. 13 through Sept. 15 at the State Fairgrounds, and Dine Out for Life will be held again in April 2013. "These events pair non-traditional donors with the community to further create strong partnerships and

collaborations," Hicks said.

"In spite of my efforts and those of my team, few too many people in metro Detroit understand the challenges facing AIDS-service organizations such as MAC, HELP, CHAG, APM and others. As I depart, I hope the folks reading this article will consider making a donation to any of these charities so that prevention work can continue and more young people especially, can be educated. As I leave, I hope for a trail of gifts – not to me directly, but to the missions, such as MAC who truly save lives and provide hope."

Hicks also hopes that organizations will weather the storm of the rough economy by working together more. "I hope the CEOs of all of the organizations come together and find ways to either permanently or temporarily collaborate. Everyone is working in the same general area, using donor dollars which are shrinking to do more. It would just make sense to come together on different levels, share resources and staff, and help those who are from the communities we serve more efficiently and with more compassion."

Hicks will also continue to be involved as a consultant for MAC.

To find out more about MAC, visit their website at
 >> <http://michiganaidcoalition.org>

DETROIT

Stand Up and Be Counted Continues

"Stand Up Be Counted" continues through July 29 with a series of events and activities listed below. Sponsored in part by KICK, The Agency for LGBT African Americans, Hotter Than July is the third oldest pride event of its kind in the U.S. and is now in its 17th year.

"Stand Up Be Counted" is a powerful, experience exemplifying where the LGBT movement is currently," said Victoria B. Edwards, director of development for KICK. "With the downfall of Don't Ask Don't Tell, the degeneration of the Defense of Marriage Act, and the many other wins for LGBT equal rights, I am just proud to work with and be a part of the movement."

Thursday, July 26 - The Annual Hotter Than July Film Festival will be held at the Cass City Cinema (formerly The Burton Theater) located at 3420 Cass Ave, in Detroit. The festival starts at 5:30 p.m. and continues to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are available at the Cass City Cinema and are \$20. For more information contact Stacey Hale at 248-310-9902.

Friday, July 27 - The Annual Gathering for LGBT Issues will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Detroit located at 351 Gratiot Ave. The Hotter Than event is free and open to the community. For additional information please contact Cornelius Wilson at 313-942-2803.

Saturday, July 28 - The Annual Hotter Than July Picnic will be held at Palmer Park beginning at 11 a.m. This free community event welcomes all allies, family and friends who are looking to love, be proud of and celebrate the LGBT community. For additional information please contact Walter J. Houston, III at 313-828-9723.

Sunday, July 29 - The Annual Worship Service will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Detroit located at 351 Gratiot Ave at 10 a.m., hosted by Detroit's Faith Community. Rev. Tennial, Ed.D will speak at this year's Hotter Than July Worship Service and is the founder and executive director of the Trinity Learning Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information please contact Rev. Darlene Franklin at 248-825-6149.

Sunday, July 29 - The Annual Sunday Brunch hosted by The Billionaire Boys Club will be held on at the Detroit Yacht Club from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Tickets are \$75 and \$100 for VIP. There is a strict dress code and tickets will not be available at the door. For tickets and to RSVP for this year's Annual Sunday Brunch, please contact Robert Tate at 313-585-6005.


See the Hotter Than July ad on page 9 of this issue of BTL

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Heard on Facebook

America's first woman in space, Sally Ride, passed away Monday after a 17-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She is survived by her loving partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy.

I very much remember the amazing news when a woman was part of the "space adventure". I can remember Sally Ride. My respect, my pride, and love for this woman who I did not know made me realize that my grandchildren will be able to achieve so much more. Thank you to this amazing American. My heart goes out to her partner of many, many years. My love and respect to both of these pioneers.

—Bob Mitchell

I'm very saddened about Sally's death. She was a fantastic woman and a great contribution to society. It's too bad that people from the right are so bigoted towards gays and lesbians. May they read and educate themselves what gays and lesbians have contributed to our society. Rest in Peace, Sally!

—Wayne F. Frese

Her sexuality makes no difference in my book. Call them partnership, call them lovers, call them whatever — they were together 27 years and that's better than some marriages I know. Mine included! Both times!

—Richard Greenlaw

They should have been able to get married. An American hero who risked everything certainly deserved better from her country.

—Valerie Mach

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

S/he Said Chick-Fil-A, Jim Henson Company and Huckabee



Dan Cathy

"I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage.' I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about."

—Dan Cathy, president and chief operating officer of Chick-Fil-A, speaking on "The Ken Coleman Show" about his opinion on same-sex marriage, <http://www.christianpost.com>, July 18



Jena McGregor

"On the one hand, you could argue leaders of businesses, particularly private, family-owned ones, should be able to speak their minds. But when a business leader elects to take a public and vocal position on a hot-button political issue in an election year, he or she also risks losing the support of many of its customers."

—Jena McGregor, in her blog titled "Post Leadership," in a post titled "Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy bites into gay-marriage debate," responding to Dan Cathy's public statements on same-sex marriage, <http://www.washingtonpost.com>, July 19



Lisa Henson

"The Jim Henson Company has celebrated and embraced diversity and inclusiveness for over fifty years and we have notified Chick-Fil-A that we do not wish to partner with them on any future endeavors. Lisa Henson, our CEO, is personally a strong supporter of gay marriage and has directed us to donate the payment we received from Chick-Fil-A to GLAAD."

—The Jim Henson Company staff, in a Facebook status update responding to Dan Cathy's stance on same-sex marriage, www.Facebook.com, July 20



Mike Huckabee

"I have been incensed at the vitriolic assaults on the Chick Fil-A company because the CEO, Dan Cathy, made comments recently in which he affirmed his view that the Biblical view of marriage should be upheld. ... Too often, those on the left make corporate statements to show support for same sex marriage, abortion, or profanity, but if Christians affirm traditional values, we're considered homophobic, fundamentalists, hate-mongers, and intolerant. This effort is not being launched by the Chick Fil-A company and no one from the company or family is involved in proposing or promoting it."

—Mike Huckabee, in a Facebook status update, calling for Aug. 1 to be "Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day," in support of Dan Cathy's stance on same-sex marriage, www.Facebook.com, July 22



MCC minister Rev. Kevin Kinsel will be ordained as an Ecumenical Catholic priest at Cathedral of Saint Anthony's in Detroit July 28th. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

► **Faith**

Continued from p. 8

he opted to attend the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, which offered a graduate certificate in theology. After completing the program in 2005, Kinsel was ordained an MCC minister and installed as the associate pastor of MCC-D. Kinsel stayed with the church until 2010, when he left to develop the first MCC Christian counseling center, New Spirit Centers. He also served for a time as network team leader to the Michigan and Canada MCC Network Team.

When Kinsel's father died last year, Kinsel co-officiated the funeral mass at his parent's church.

"I knew I had missed the sacraments, I had missed the high liturgy, and I knew I needed to do something different," Kinsel said. "So I had heard about this independent Catholic church in Detroit and I started searching around and found it."

That church was the Cathedral of Saint Anthony on Detroit's east side. Before long, Kinsel was in talks with the bishop, Dr. Karl Rodig, about joining the ministerial staff of the church and becoming ordained.

"He's a very honest man and he shows it," said Rodig. "And in our church, it's not about whether

you're gay or straight, it's about that you love Christ and the people you serve."

Serving people is what it's all about for Kinsel, and what it's always been his desire to do. With dual credentials now, Kinsel believes he will be uniquely placed to be of service to the LGBT community.

"The wonderful thing about the Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ is that they allow LGBTs to be ordained, yet I feel that the LGBT community is still disenfranchised," Kinsel said. "So hopefully I'll be able to use both my credentials to move forward in both denominations for the glory of God and to bring my gifts as needed."

For now, Kinsel said his ordination is like a homecoming.

"It just kind of brings me home," he said. "This will allow me to use the beautiful and enriching sacraments that the Catholic tradition allows their priests to use and it opens a new chapter as to what my ministry can enfold and roll out to be."

Kinsel's ordination will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 28th at St. Anthony's, located at 5247 Sheridan St. in Detroit. All are welcome.

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Viewpoint

Josh Puckett was a Cub Scout

BY KATHLEEN LATOSCH

He was 14 years old when his gay father died from AIDS. Six months later his lesbian mom and her partner were shot point blank by their next door neighbor, leaving him orphaned. He was shuffled around to various family members who counseled, “everything is God’s plan.” His parents’ sexual orientation was not celebrated in the family, but rather whispered about in dark corners with sideways glances and hand gestures. He was shielded from the murder trials. The loss of his parents created a deep, gaping hole in him and he grew progressively more angry at the lot life had thrown him, acting out in unhealthy ways until he was eventually kicked out of his family’s home and living homeless on the streets. He found “family” when he was co-opted by a local gang and entered their world. He was 17.

His story is compelling to me. I have two sons and wonder what would happen to them if both Jen and I passed away. They would likely fare better than Joshua Puckett, yet I wonder. As lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Michiganders, we have fewer rights than we had ten years ago. We have no family health insurance if working for the State, we have no access to second parent adoption, and we are constitutionally prohibited from ever legally marrying the one we love, benefiting from hundreds of financial and legal protections that go along with that critically important contract.

His story is also compelling to me because his mother was Christine Puckett, one of the founding board members of Affirmations who offered up a Detroit rental property to house the Helpline in 1988 before Affirmations established its formal Ferndale office. Josh remembers well the “switchboard” and all the LGBT community members hanging out at the house. We were part of his extended family and his hall of memories. His mothers remain forever enshrined at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale in its memorial naming of the “Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery.” Josh is a lost child of our LGBT community.

And his story is also compelling because he was a cub scout. A member of the Boy Scouts of America which just decided to continue its ban on gay scouts and gay scout leaders, professing that they believe that being gay should only be discussed with children by their parents. So - and here’s the leap - not only will they not talk about it in the boy scouts, they’re banning anyone gay from coming near them. It’s the new



Affirmations' Executive Director David Garcia, Josh Puckett and Kat LaTosch visiting at Shiawasee State Prison in May.

Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, relegating gay scouts to a shameful, secretive existence that chips away at their self-esteem putting them at greater risk for substance abuse, homelessness and suicide. And for straight scouts, how many have gay parents, brothers, lesbian sisters? How do they feel when Boy Scout leaders tell them their family members are only to be discussed behind closed doors in hushed voices?

It’s not too different from the messages Josh Puckett got after his parents died, parents whose deaths were driven by the same social stigma now being enforced by the Boy Scouts of America.

How do I know all this? In May of this year, Affirmations’ Executive Director David Garcia and I took a road trip to the Shiawasee State Penitentiary in the Upper Peninsula to meet Josh, where he has spent the last 16 years of his life behind bars. In 1997, Josh’s gang was involved in a drive-by shooting on Detroit’s southwest side that killed an innocent 12-year-old girl. He didn’t pull the trigger and he didn’t drive the shooter, but he did aid and abet. Josh was sentenced to life in prison without parole. He was 19.

I’ve decided to support his request for commutation of sentence. A request for commutation of sentence means he fully admits his role, his responsibility for his part in the crime, in the girl’s death. And it means he’s asking for some level of forgiveness, so that he

His mothers remain forever enshrined at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale in its memorial naming of the “Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery.” Josh is a lost child of our LGBT community.

can come back to society and tell his story. So that perhaps he can help make a difference in the lives of LGBT youth, of youth with gay parents. So that he might help prevent this from happening to another child.

If you would like more information about his story, visit www.FreeJoshPucket.com. For more information about Sue Pittmann and Christine Puckett, visit www.PittmannPuckett.com.

Kathleen LaTosch, MSW is a Special Projects Consultant. She can be reached at KLaTosch@gmail.com or www.LaToschConsulting.com



Parting Glances



Pages past tense #17

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My first non-matriculated class at Wayne University in 1959 was English 101, held in a Quonset hut, one of several such make-dos behind what is now State Hall.

The Quonset huts were processing centers for World War II U. S. Army draftees. I learned from my partner Ernie that his dad Dr. Sam Gilbert was there serving his country (1941 to 1945) as a staff member giving physicals.

Instructor for English 101 was Miss Isabel Graham, who was also the administrative assistant to Department Chairman Dr. Herb Schueller. On our reading list for discussions and term papers were Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" and J. D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye," the latter published 1951.

(Over several months I became friends with Miss Graham - who I learned years later had a gay nephew - and Ernie and I invited her and Dr. Schueller for a convivial evening of long-play record classical music listening with festive finger food at Ernie's home.)

At a time when homosexuality was a little discussed topic, suspecting - or establishing by guarded conversational ploys - that your prof might be "a friend of Dorothy" could become a grade point plus at final marking. (Not that I ever used being gay to obtain browning, er, brownie points.)

I recall two instances of professorial comments about homosexuality. In Social Psychology 101 homosexuals were referenced by an apologetic prof as "sadly unfortunate;" and, another time, at a popular drinking spot on campus, Lou Walker's, I told an instructor I might be gay.

In Social Psychology 101 homosexuals were referenced by an apologetic prof as "sadly unfortunate"

Said he, "Sorry to say, Charles, I don't envy you. So many doors are closed to you. Career wise you'd be better off to seek psychoanalytical help. Just my professional friendly tip on life, love and learning. Drink up!"

If homosexuality was little referenced or clinically spoken about in social sciences classes, there was certainly a lot of undercover activity going on in Old Main, State Hall, Mackenzie Hall, if one intuited where, when, how to map the convoluted lay of the land.

The basement of the 12-story Mackenzie Hall, student and administrative center, was seemingly nonstop in use as an assignation venue for cubicle, tap-tap activity. (I once received a folded note requesting me to escort its sight-unseen scribbler outside of the men's room for a stroll down the nearby swimming pool corridor - while he was nude! Lacking a stop watch and chlorine bleach I diplomatically declined.)

It was no exaggeration to observe that there were daily, weekly - presumably monthly celebrants - who came for adventuring under the rubric of "in house sitter" (or, is that "out house"?). These were frequently monitored by security, two former cops in their late, potbellied, huff-and-puff, 50s.

Once, as I was studying, I looked up and chanced to observe how they operated at State Hall's exit street men's room. One sneakily held its door open. The other stood a few feet distance away, bent down and peeked earnestly for any under-the-stall acrobatics. They made arrests solemnly. And emphatically.

I must assume that such erotically untoward activity is these days a thing of "flaming youth's hormonally imbalanced past." Extra curricular while it lasted. But draining all in all. Now camera monitored for posterity and/or head count.

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Creep of the Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Judson Phillips

With Democrats and many Republicans demanding that Mitt Romney release his tax returns, it was only a matter of time before someone, in Romney's defense, called Obama a crack-smoking homo.



Judson Phillips

This someone is Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation.

In an editorial posted on the Tea Party Nation website July 19, Phillips actually says that this fuss over Romney's taxes is a baseless attack and what people should really worry about is whether Obama's ever had a crack pipe in his mouth or a man in his ass.

Phillips begins his diatribe complaining that the "Obama campaign and the Party of Treason continue to demand Mitt Romney release his tax records so they can pull them apart and continue to distort facts and lie about Romney."

Got that? The only reason Democrats want Romney's tax returns is so they can lie about him. Which is an interesting claim since lying has never really been about facts so much. It also assumes that Romney has nothing to hide. Basically in the eyes of Mr. Phillips, Romney can do no wrong.

Obama, on the other hand, is nothing but wrong according to Phillips. And he wants to see Obama's medical records to prove it.

"Obama by his own admission was a very heavy marijuana user in his youth. He has also admitted to using cocaine, though he denies using drugs such as heroin. He also says he was a significant drinker," writes Phillips.

For Phillips it seems the fact that the president is black and supports marriage equality is enough to suspect he's a gay crack-head.

"Why is this important? Because these are all symptoms of addiction."

Addiction to what, exactly? To being young and smoking some pot and drinking until you puke? That's called college to many kids. I'm not condoning it, but such a thing is hardly a rarity in America.

Phillips continues, "A man named Larry Sinclair claims that in 1999 he and Barack Obama had sex and then smoked crack cocaine. This is 1999, nine years before Obama would run for President."

Oooh, a smoking gun (pun intended)? Hardly. Sinclair is not exactly a reliable fellow. His tale of drugs and sex with the prez is backed by no evidence besides Sinclair's imagination. It's also interesting to note that after what the Huffington Post called a "stupefying" press conference in 2008, Sinclair was arrested on charges unrelated to his Obama fantasies.

There's also the question of how seeing someone's medical records would prove that they're gay. But Phillips really, really, really wants Sinclair's story to be true. He wants it so hard. And that's impacting his ability to tell the difference between reality and nut case make believe.

"Crack cocaine is very addictive," Phillips writes. "It is very destructive. Addiction specialist will tell you that a crack addiction is very tough to break."

Wow. That's some heavy medical information. I suspect Phillips may be a doctor. Or perhaps he just freelances for Web MD. In the comments.

"Is Obama an addict? Was he an addict in the past? These are all legitimate questions to ask about a man who has his hands on the nuclear trigger," Phillips continues, breathless.

The question about drug addiction would be a legitimate question to ask about the President of the United States if, in fact, there was any basis in reality for the question in the first place. For Phillips it seems the fact that the president is black and supports marriage equality is enough to suspect he's a gay crack-head.

Know what is a legitimate question for a presidential candidate? Where are your fucking tax returns?

Optimism Drives XIX International AIDS Conference

BY BOB ROEHR

"Turning the Tide Together" is the audacious slogan of the XIX International AIDS Conference that officially opened here in Washington, DC on July 22.

"We're talking about ending AIDS," said conference cochair Diane Havlir, a researcher at the University of California San Francisco.

Two powerful forces are driving that optimism. One is the huge scientific strides made in understanding the human immunodeficiency virus, and a belief that with time and money the remaining questions will be answered.

The other is success not just in creating therapies that can save the lives of persons in the wealthy nations of the world, but in generating the political and economic will to make those same treatments available to 8 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The scientific building blocks" of treatment and prevention "have brought us to the point where we can be bold enough to consider the possibility of an AIDS-free generation," said Anthony Fauci. The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has been a leading figure in the fight against AIDS from

the start of the epidemic.

"Now that we have the scientific capability, there are no excuses to not do it," Fauci said. However, he also acknowledged ongoing "challenges" in the areas of creating a vaccine and a cure.

Carl Dieffenbach, Fauci's deputy, was a bit more reserved in reviewing scientific questions that remain to be answered in searching for a cure that goes beyond treatments available today. When asked if the cure glass is half full or half empty, his response was, "We have a glass."

Money is the big issue in Washington and agencies are struggling to avoid making real cuts. NIH is no exception. The budget has been essentially flat for a decade, said NIH Director Francis Collins, "inflation has eaten away; we are about 20 percent down in terms of purchasing power."

Rally

"President's are not born, they are made. They have to be pushed into their greatness. They must be held accountable," said television host Tavis Smiley. He was speaking a few blocks away at a rally near the Washington Monument, organized by the AIDS

Healthcare Foundation under the theme of "Keep the Promise."

"I just heard that Obama flew over us in his helicopter. I can't understand why he's not here with us," said the master of ceremony for the event, comedian Margaret Cho.

"The news that President Obama has elected to skip the International AIDS Conference speaks volumes," AHF president Michael Weinstein said earlier in the week when the White House made it official that the President would not attend.

In his place at the opening ceremony for the Conference was Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. She announced what the Department news release called "a series of innovative public-private partnerships in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

They were: "(1) using text messaging to improve patient management of disease; (2) partnering with a national pharmacy chain to develop an innovative medication therapy management; (3) creating a common, easy to use form for HIV patient assistance program applicants; and (4) launching online education modules to better train providers to treat people living with HIV/AIDS."

U.S. Rep. Hansen Clarke endorses movement to end HIV criminalization

BY TODD HEYWOOD

WASHINGTON, DC - Michigan Congressman Hansen Clarke became the first sitting elected official in the U.S. to endorse a new consensus statement condemning the criminalization of HIV.

Clarke, who has said Michigan's HIV-specific statute criminalizes sex and does nothing to address HIV transmission, made his announcement through a statement at the Center for HIV Law and Policy Positive Justice Project national convening on HIV criminalization in the U.S.

"The Consensus Statement clearly identifies the serious failures of our current law to prevent injustices in the prosecution of HIV-positive people and charts a way forward based on reasonable criteria," says Clarke in his statement to the convening. "The criminalization of HIV adds a fear of legal bias to the daily struggles faced by the growing number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S."

The consensus statement reads,

in part, "Public health leaders and global policy makers agree that HIV criminalization is unjust, bad public health policy and is fueling the epidemic rather than reducing it."

Early in July the Global Commission on HIV and the Law released a significant report calling on states and countries around the world to repeal their HIV-specific laws. The Commission said such laws violate the fundamental human rights of people with HIV. The report also called on governments to set aside and pardon those who have been convicted under such laws.

President Barack Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy, released in July of 2010, also called on states to revisit their HIV laws. However, to date, no state has availed itself of Department of Justice resources to do so. In fact, three states -- Maryland, Nebraska and Utah -- have introduced new HIV-specific laws. Nebraska passed its "assault with body fluids law last year, while Maryland has legislation pending to

make HIV exposure a 25-year felony, raising the crime from a misdemeanor.

Since the HIV-specific criminal law went into effect in 1988, Michigan has had at least 60 cases brought under the HIV-specific law, according to statistics from the Michigan State Police and obtained by University of Michigan researcher Trevor Hoppe.

Catherine Hanssens, executive director of the New York City based Center for HIV Law and Policy, praised Clarke's endorsement.

"Public opposition to HIV criminalization and support for those who are mistreated in the criminal justice system reflects a level of intestinal fortitude that, frankly, is pretty rare in Congress from members of any political party," she said.

Clarke is one of only 40 co-sponsors of the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act which was introduced in Congress last year by California Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

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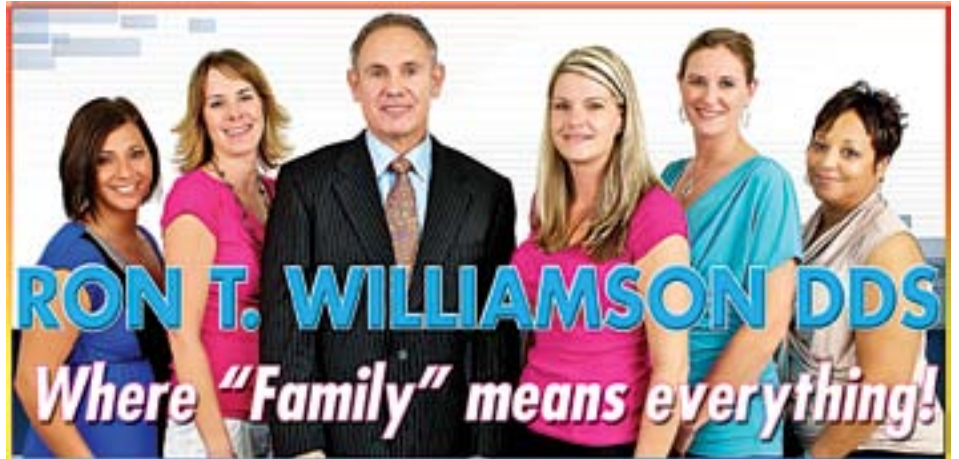


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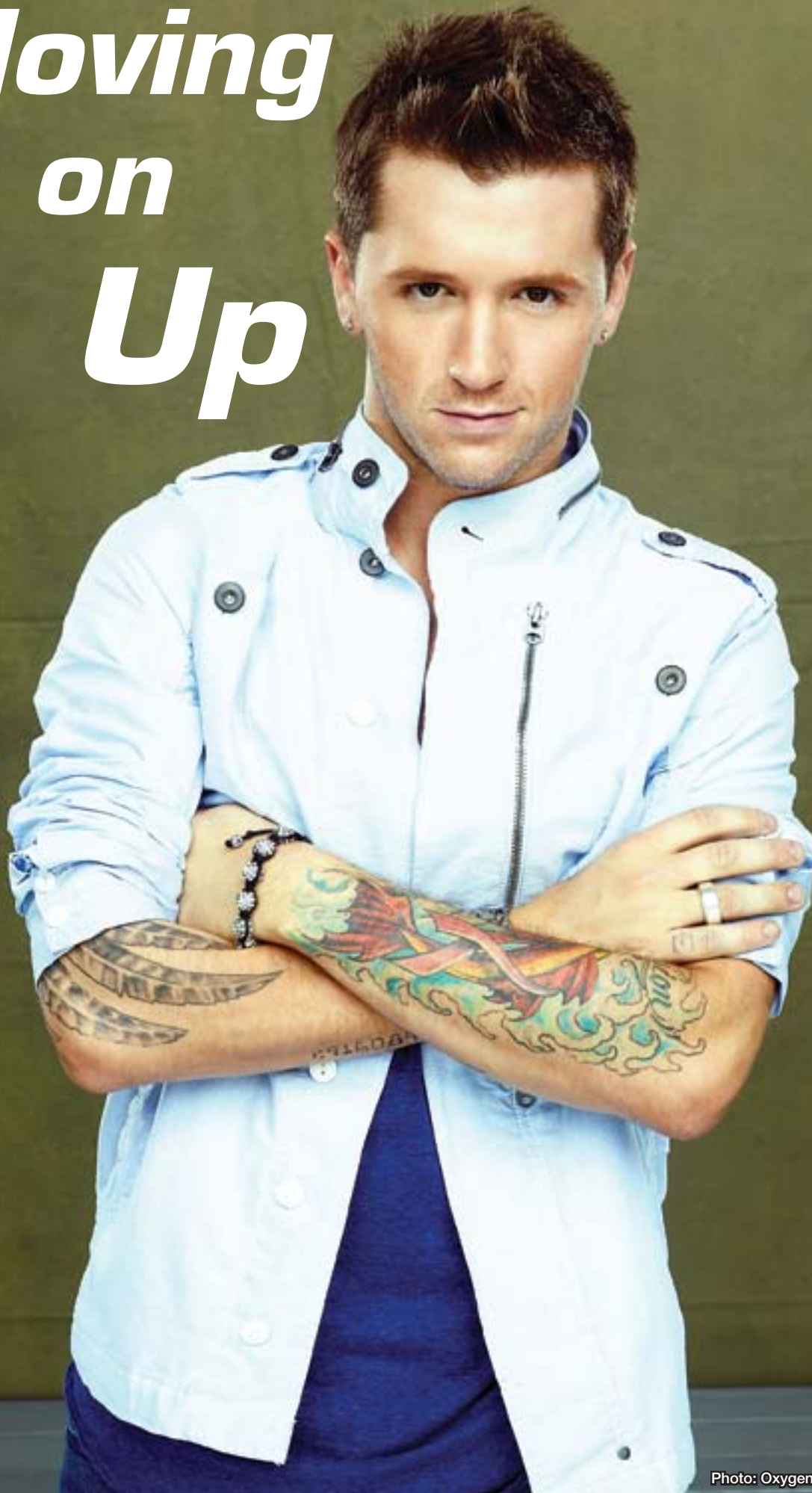


Photo: Oxygen

Dancer Travis Wall Talks New Reality Series and Challenge for Gay Dancers

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

So he thought he could dance, and he can, but Travis Wall didn't stop there.

Now, the 24-year-old has his own dance company, a start-up that's the focus of Oxygen's new reality series, "All the Right Moves," premiering July 31. The eight-episode stint follows Wall and his bendy buddies – Teddy Forance, Nick Lazzarini and Kyle Robinson – as they go through business challenges, power struggles and friendship drama.

We caught up with the "So You Think You Can Dance" contestant-turned-choreographer, who dished on his roommates, his first big movie and why gay dancers shouldn't dance gay.

What's it like living with these guys?

We've been living together for two years now and it's been something else! (Laughs) We're brothers from another mother, and we go through life together and support each other. Two are gay and two are straight on this show, so it's cool to see how we live as one and how it doesn't really matter.

Is "All the Right Moves" actually reality?

It's our lives. (The network is) a fly on the wall. We'd have a dance company regardless of whether we have a TV show or not.

What will surprise people about the dance world that you guys are living in during this show?

What we have to go through starting this dance company from the ground up with no money – you see the whole process. We have this huge goal but absolutely no way of getting it done. I saw the first episode – it's so surreal. I was biting my nails. It's definitely suspenseful and emotional and also there's beautiful dancing. You get everything in one little package. It's really good TV.

How much of your relationship with Dom Palange will be part of the show?

Not as much as I wanted to be, because he's in Miami. It's long distance. He comes in halfway through the season, but I definitely talk about him as much as possible.

Has having a dance company always been a dream of yours?

Yeah, I always wanted one. I've always wanted to have my own TV show, too! (Laughs)

You really have done so much for as young as you are. What new goals have you set for yourself now that you've accomplished your other ones?

By the time I'm 31 I want to move into directing and producing and choreographing my own movies, productions, events and shows. There's so much more room for me to grow in this industry, and I can't wait to take those steps. And hopefully by 32, I'll be ready for a child.

I set high goals. If someone would've told me seven years ago, "You're going to have your own TV show, your own dance company, choreographing all these movies and things," I would've slapped them in the face and said, "Yeah, right." But I did.

With your new series, and ones like "So You Think You Can Dance" and "Dancing with the Stars," dance reality shows are all the rage. Why does dance make for good reality television?

See Travis Wall, page 24

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The Makings of Marina

Photo: Caspar Balslev

Starlet Talks Big Gay Following, Nervous Breakdown and How Britney Spears Inspired Her New Album

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

With that trademark heart on her cheek and songs that boom with chirpy beats, Marina Diamandis appears to have walked out of a Saturday morning cartoon. Except she's not that innocent.

The persona the Welsh-born Londoner presents with "Electra Heart," the follow-up to her debut, "The Family Jewels," is a prissy, sinfully sexual diva who aspires to be a "bottle blonde."

In our interview, Marina chatted about how the character has more to do with her than you think, being the "only gay in the village" and not talking about the dirty title pun of her first album ... until now.

I don't know if you've heard, but some of your fans are gay.

(Laughs) About 97 percent of my shows' audience! It's so fantastic. Truthfully, I'd say 60 percent gay, 40 percent teen girls. And 2 percent 50-year-old creepy man in the back!

When did your relationship start with the gay audience?

On the first album I definitely did have a gay fan base, but it was much smaller, because I'm a very flamboyant character and the shows are really theatrical. But I don't really talk about the whole gay community thing, because I don't want to be a cliché pop star saying like, "I love my gays!" But the truth is it's a really supportive fan base

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How about just going the bisexual route?

That's on the way! (Laughs)

What was the gay scene like where you're from in Wales?

Are you joking? I lived in a village of 200 people! (Laughs) I didn't really see any kind of gay scene until I moved to London when I was 19. I was the only gay in the village!

You've said that you relate to your gay fans, and obviously they relate back to you. Can you talk about that?

Again, I think it's part of the camp nature of my first (album), but I think with this album in particular, it lends itself to that more. On a lyrical level, with the first album I wrote a lot about feeling like an outsider and like I wasn't accepted for who I was, and that upset me very much — so perhaps that's why. If you've dealt with discrimination in your life, you probably

really connect to some of those feelings. Also, on this album, a lot of the humor has really caught the gay community's attention. You're very humorous.

What was your reaction to seeing Cazwell and Amanda Lepore do a video for "Primadonna"?

Oh my god, I died! I love Amanda Lepore so much. I was just like, "Is this real?" Because Amanda Lepore really isn't real, obviously. I actually love Amanda Lepore so much. I listen to her quite a lot. There's a song called "Cotton Candy" and it's just fantastic.

Have you seen a drag queen do one of your songs before?

I haven't ... yet.

What tips do you have for Marina drag queens?

You have to have gigantic roots, paint the heart on your face with some eyeliner and then cut a strip of lashes from MAC and put four on each lower lash. Then use a nice bubblegum pink lipstick.

Tell me you named the first album "The Family Jewels" because of the pun.

That was the sole reason for it. But I was so lily-white skinned that when I began I absolutely couldn't admit it to the press in case my family heard or my dad heard and

See Marina, page 24

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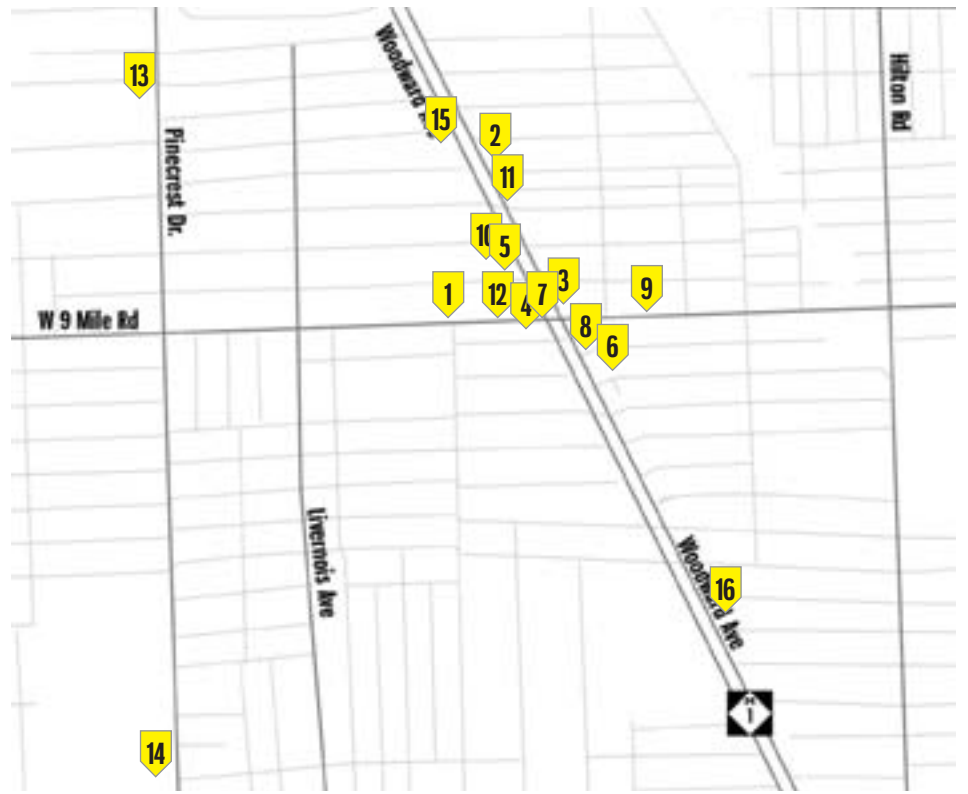
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Pub Crawl Returns for 16th Year

One of the most popular and anticipated events in Ferndale returns July 27. The Annual Ferndale Pub Crawl will again be held the last Friday of July, and this year the number of participants is expected, again, to reach 2,000. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. at Boogie Fever on Woodward in downtown Ferndale. Participants must be at least 21 years of age.

The Pub Crawl began 16 years ago with 36 people walking to the half dozen bars in downtown Ferndale. Created then by a group called FANS of Ferndale, the event grew every year with more people and more clubs and venues, as the renaissance of Ferndale took place. This year the crowds will visit 22 establishments. All funds raised go to four local tax-deductible charities, including the Ferndale Police Auxiliary, FernCare, Ferndale Community Foundation and the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

The event is a walking tour of the pubs, bars and restaurants in downtown Ferndale. No motor vehicles are permitted. The crowds of residents and visitors are very diverse: women and men, gay and straight, young and old, from many cities and regions of Michigan, and even other states and countries.

Crawlers travel in groups of 20 to 100, spending 20 minutes to a half hour at each venue. Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter will send off the first groups.

Craig Covey, who founded the event in 1996 as president of FANS and has managed the event



since, said, "The Pub Crawl is all about fun, but it has also raised huge amounts of funds for our local charities, and it showcases Ferndale's glittering downtown and many fine businesses."

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased the night of the event at Boogie Fever from 6:30-9 p.m. or through volunteers in the downtown all night long. To volunteer or for other information, contact Monica Mills at 248.545.1435 ext. 117 or email her at mmills@michiganaidcoalition.org. More information is available at www.FerndalePubCrawl.org or via the event's Facebook page.

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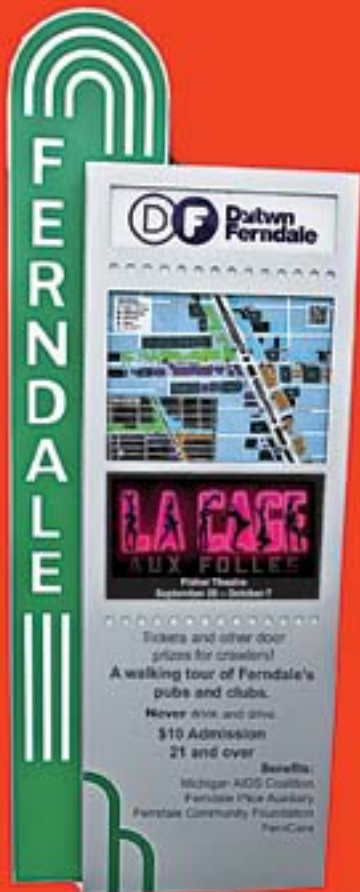
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www.ferndalepubcrawl.org

► Travis Wall

Continued from p. 19

Good question. It's emotional and (viewers) want to see what people go through; they want to see people work through their problems and aggressions. And dancers are really nice to look at! (Laughs) It makes people feel good because a lot of people don't know how to dance the way we dance, so they admire it. With this (show), you see me 100 percent completely bare, and you see why I dance and why I choreograph, and you care about it more.

One-hundred percent completely bare? This is on Oxygen, right?

(Laughs) Yeah. You know what I mean!

What inspires your choreography?

Usually personal life stories of my own. And I have really vivid dreams a lot of times and I live my dreams full out. I sometimes don't know when they're real or not. I dream every night, so there's a lot of images I take from my dreams.

What's the last dream you had that inspired a routine?

For the top-10 girl piece (on a recent episode of "So You Think You Can Dance"), I had this dream I was lifted out of my body and I couldn't move. It was really weird. It wasn't like I was dying or anything; it was just that I was paralyzed and couldn't

move my body and I was floating toward this white light. It was pretty crazy.

Are you glad you came out the way you did? Do you think that's the best way to come out if you're a public figure?

I don't really know. This is what's so crazy: I never thought I was "in." I never had press to talk about it. I wasn't ever hiding anything. I guess when I got verbal about it on Twitter people were like, "Travis is out." I'm like, "When was I 'in'?" I did "So You Think" and disappeared from the public eye because I was working on choreography and I didn't really ever think I was a big enough public figure to say anything. I didn't think it was a big deal.

Have you ever felt pressure to ever stay "in" professionally?

No – god no!

Many public figures stay closeted because they don't want their sexuality to define their profession. Is that an issue within the dance community?

I don't think people think of me as "Travis Wall, that gay dancer." It doesn't define my work. For guys, it's different if you're gay and can only dance gay. As a male dancer, you have to be strong and masculine. I think it's terrible when a guy is dancing with a girl and the guy is dancing girlier than the girl. I absolutely hate that, and I won't hire them. You have to do your role

as a male dancer. What you do outside of those doors is your own business and your own thing, but don't let that define who you are as a dancer.

How did your part in "Step Up Revolution" – as choreographer – come about?

Adam Shankman hired me, but the best thing is that Jamal Sims – the supervising choreographer – brought me in as a choreographer. He actually made me choreographer on this movie, and I haven't even been an associate choreographer on a movie. To get full credit on my first movie, I was so thankful. A lot of people in the industry wouldn't have done what he did. I loved working on that movie. I saw it last month and think it's completely different than every other "Step Up."

If you could choreograph for anybody, who would it be?

I would love to create a visual show to Jason Mraz music. I love Jason's music so much. And if I ever got to work with Beyoncé – it's a lifelong dream and I would probably freak out and shake my ass.

Ass shaking is probably part of the interview process.

Yeah, probably! (Laughs)

Read the complete interview online
>> www.pridesource.com

► Marina

Continued from p. 20

thought, "How rude! You can't be making those dirty puns." So I never really explained the meaning of it, but I just quite liked that my album title was basically bollocks.

After the first album was released, you admitted to being bummed that it didn't live up to your expectations commercially. What were your expectations with "The Family Jewels," and are you feeling more positive about "Electra Heart"?

Looking back on all of those interviews from that era, I look like I'm on the edge of a nervous breakdown. (Laughs) So I think that might have influenced my promotional duties at the time. I was really stuck in a rut, and I think I was ambitiously disappointed.

It wasn't that it didn't do well. Looking back, I can't actually believe that I sold that many records on an album that was pretty alternative except for two of the songs. I guess I am really ambitious and I want to be one of the greats – and there's nothing wrong with being honest about that. With this album, I didn't really have any of those expectations. I've let go of a lot of that baggage while writing the album. I've just changed my perspective completely.

Fame and the media's effect on us come

up a lot in your songs. Why are you so interested in exploring those topics?

To be honest, it's less about fame and more about praise and performance. If you look at all of the lyrical themes that are connected with that subject, it's more about theatrical terms – like prima donna or the starring role in theater – so it's not about being famous or being known. It's more about feeling like you're No. 1.

Who inspired "Teen Idle"? Did you have any one in mind for that song or the rest of the album?

There's a bit of Brit-Brit on the album. I mean, "Bubblegum Bitch" is basically Britney Spears peeled inside out. Britney is our teen idol, so that's what we all relate that term with. It's just so strange how everyone relates to that song ("Teen Idle") – that's been the biggest shock of the album, and I'm so happy about that.

You were looking to Marilyn Monroe and Marie Antoinette for this album, too. How did they work into it?

That was more of a visual thing. I've been looking for people who have always been portrayed with a certain duality to them in public. I'm really interested in that for some reason. I think villains are interesting. I wanted Electra Heart to have a villainous side to her.

Electra Heart is an alter ego?

I don't know. I always think "alter ego" means something completely different. I think it's a character that I formulated in order to be able to talk about things that I was too embarrassed to talk about.

How much of that character is actually you?

Quite a lot. It has to be. If you made it, then it's real. If you've created it, it has to come from somewhere. I think people make stories up, but it has to evolve from some truth somewhere along the lines. It's just like "Primadonna" – there are parts of my personality that are like that. I am kind of precocious, but it's not exactly something that you would market yourself as being, because it's not a very likable character. Maybe Electra Heart allows me to act or to write in a certain way and to write about universal truths.

Is Electra Heart more sexually adventurous than you? Would she have a lesbian encounter?

(Laughs) No, I don't think she would. But I do portray her as a bit slutty, and I don't really know why! Maybe I'm trying to live through her because I've never been one-night stand-y or anything. I'm a stage mom trying to live through her daughter.

Read the complete interview online
>> www.pridesource.com

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Love Labors In a Most Raucous Manner

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Not a moment of labor is lost in the Michigan Shakespeare Festival's production of what is often called one of Shakespeare's problem comedies. Under the skillful direction of Robert Kauzlaric and his highly talented cast, "Love's Labour's Lost" is a comedic romp filled with the unfettered joy of immature youth.

It is a romp filled with slapstick, juvenile antics, boyish tussles all made even sillier when faced with the more sophisticated beauty of the fairer sex whose greater maturity looks upon the antics with affectionate contempt.

Kauzlaric, however, doesn't overlook the more serious undertones of this play. He teases them out with the most light and subtle of hands, ensuring they will have the maximum impact when the time is right.

A collection of young would-be scholars have holed themselves up in the treehouse of King Ferdinand's castle, determined to keep the girls out under the name of most honorable study. Even the strict terms of little food, little sleep and no women are unable to keep the easily distracted members of this academy focused on scholarship.

As the juvenile schoolmates, Bill Irwin's King of Navarre, David Blixt's Berowne, Brandon St. Clair Saunder's Dumain and Joseph Wycoff's Longaville make a perfect team, always giving to each other to create the greatest comic effect in any given scene. They each bring their own quirks, which are made all the more foolish by Wesley Scott's butler/footman who responds wryly and without comment or surprise to the behavior of his employers.

Janet Haley's French princess leads the more sophisticated yet still playful entourage of Elsa Harchick, Amy Montgomery and Stacy Stoltz. They are entertained by the boys, even while shaking their heads at how quickly they are forsworn and how foolishly they woo. Stoltz's Rosaline foreshadows the Beatrice of "Much Ado About Nothing," with her biting wit and openly mocking behavior.

While the nobles at play are the focus of the play, Kauzlaric doesn't ignore Shakespeare's clowns. Lydia Hiller's Jaquenetta is sassy and pert, and Hiller expertly provides a subtext going far beyond the words that Shakespeare allowed her. She is sweetly wooed by Kenneth Z. Kendall's Costard, a love made more tender when contrasted with Alan Ball's Don Armado flamboyant desires and the futile wooing of Matt Andersen's Moth.

There is a melancholy amongst the clowns, a melancholy that is the echo of loves not just forbidden but unspoken and unacknowledged. It creates a bittersweet flavor that tempers the more sugary moments of the play.



The 2012 Michigan Shakespeare Festival continues with "Love's Labour's Lost" through Aug. 11. Photo: MSF

REVIEW

Love's Labour's Lost

Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Plays in rotating repertory through Aug. 11. 135 minutes. \$32-\$39. 517-998-3673.

>> www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Kauzlaric contributes to the brightness of this comedy by turning many of the monologues into songs, creating the feel of a Golden Age musical where hope and tap dancing can hide the ever-lurking darker threats of the world outside.

David Turrentine's Boyet acts as chaperone to the ladies, but is as witty and playful as his charges. He has all the experience and wisdom that the frat boys lack, but that they might someday attain. Boyet makes easy gulls out of the King and his men, doing so in a friendly fashion that provides entertainment to the ladies.

Nothing was spared in the production of this play. The set is framed with sweepingly tall trees and backed by a scrim where perfectly timed lighting effects created rainbow pillars around the hanging trees that provide plenty of hiding spots for kings, constables, butlers and other variety of spies and miscreants.

Set between the two World Wars, Renae Pedersen Skoog's costumes create a delightful palette that changes frequently and contributes to the festive air in this land that is shutting out the horrors of the past and still oblivious to those which are to come.

"Love's Labour's Lost" infrequently makes it to the stage because the humor is in a wittiness that is sometimes difficult for modern audiences to follow. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival has managed to overcome all of these challenges and create a highly physical comedy replete with a spectrum of emotions. If you only ever see this play once, make it this one. It is a well-constructed beauty and not to be missed.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 26

Civic Engagement Committee 1 p.m. Fourth Thursdays, May 24, 1PM at the OutCenter. Empowering people to advocate and speak out for themselves and the LGBT community is key to creating effective change. Our Civic Engagement committee organizes to educate and resource our community members to make a difference in our community. E-mail to learn more. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. CivicEngagement@OutCenter.org

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

Hotter Than July Film Festival 5:30 p.m. A presentation of 5 featured and short films. Admission: \$20. KICK, Hotter Than July, 3420 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. Hotterthanjuly.com/Schedule.html

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

Friday, July 27

17th Annual Gathering on LGBTQA Issues 8 a.m. Formerly The Genesis Conference, 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 and youth. The Gathering offers an excellent educational balance to all the fun and frolic experienced at Pride. KICK, 351 Gratiot Ave., **Detroit**. 313 876-4071. Belcrest5440@yahoo.com Hotterthanjuly.com

Great Lakes Regional Rodeo 11 a.m. Amateur charity rodeo sanctioned by the International Gay Rodeo Assoc. Country music, line dancing, beer with traditional and gay rodeo events. Charities for this year are Ruth Ellis Center, Southeast Michigan Gleaners, The Trevor Projects It Gets Better Campaign

and National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. 18071 Quirk Road, **Belleville**. 616-735-4521. Dirvmireg@michiganrodeo.org Michiganrodeo.org

Grease Social Night 7 p.m. Affirmations Volunteer Development Committee presents Grease movie sing-a-long night; providing free refreshments. Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

OKK Fashion Designs Launch Party 7 p.m. OKK Fashion Studios presents a new direction in LGBT fashion trends. Androgyny, women of leisure, and more will be explored at this very exclusive launch party featuring the designs of Ouida K. King. OKK Fashion Studios, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. OKKFashionStudio@ymail.com GoAffirmations.org

TGIF Dance Party 9 p.m. DG g.b. Presents Park Theatre TGIF Dance Party. \$2 cover charge benefits Holland is Ready. Holland is Ready, 248 S. River Ave., **Holland**. 616-355-7275. Facebook.com/OfficialDjgjb

Saturday, July 28

Palmer Park Picnic 10 a.m. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual pride celebration is like a family reunion and all are invited. Each year the Palmer Park Festival is host to thousands of guests taking a moment to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity. Features music, entertainment, and everyone is encouraged to bring a picnic basket. KICK, Hotter Than July, Palmer Park, **Detroit**. Hotterthanjuly.com

Picnic At Belle Isle 1 p.m. Bring your own picnic lunch, non-alcoholic beverage and blanket/chair! RSVP via email for additional info. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20 Somethings, Belle Isle, Detroit. Det20somethings@gmail.com Facebook.com/LGBT20Somethings

ALIVE Youth Group Meeting 2 p.m. All LGBT and allied youth 14-20 encouraged to join. 4th Saturday of every month is Social Justice Saturday. As some meetings are held around town, contact ALIVE prior to attending meetings. ALIVE Youth Group, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. Youthgroup@outcenter.org

Monday, July 30

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

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12 step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Tuesday, July 31

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

Wednesday, Aug. 1

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

PLUS (Youth Group) 5 p.m. A safe place for youth to socialize, discuss issues, make friends and find support to embrace their true selves. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

Dykes on Bikes 6:30 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

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

Thursday, Aug. 2

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

Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Friday, Aug. 3

Kiss the Best of My Gender 7 p.m. A mix of new numbers and old favorites from the Drag King Rebellion. Drag King Rebellion, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Facebook.com/events/148482818609115

Saturday, Aug. 4

Transgender Pride in the Park 12 a.m. Celebrating the 15th anniversary of Transgender Michigan. Free food, entertainment and socializing. All trans-people and allies welcome. Transgender Michigan, 1198 Earl Blvd, **Ferndale**. 517-420-1544. TransgenderMichigan.org

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. No partner needed. For beginners to experienced. Come join the fun and meet new friends. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-303-5977. lsbndani@aol.com

MUSIC & MORE

Farmington Hills Department Cultural Arts "Delta Twins" Blues/Americana/rock, performed by an accomplished Farmington-based band of performers, known for a full offering of passionate and original songs. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 2. FHGov.com

Kerrytown Concert House "A Tribute to Wes Montgomery" Perry Hughes, Randy Napoleon and Ralph Tope with Duncan MacMillan and Sean Dobbins perform a tribute to jazz legend Wes Montgomery. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. July 29-July 29. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

MSU College of Music "Muelder Summer Carillon Series" Kimberly Shafer of Chicago 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. July 4-Aug. 1. 517-353-9958. MSU.edu

Olympia Entertainment "Jimmy Buffett" Award-winning singer, songwriter and author Jimmy Buffett will take anchor just one mile off the Detroit River this summer for his debut performance at Comerica Park. Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward, **Detroit**. 6 p.m. July 28. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang" Tickets: \$45-61. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Mindless Behavior" American teen pop quartet. Following their success as part of Detroit's sold-out "Scream Tour: Next Generation" show last fall, Mindless Behavior's summer headlining "#1 Girl Tour" is their biggest yet and will include special guests Jacob Latimore and Lil' Twist. Tickets: \$45. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. July 26. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Florence + The Machine" Tickets: \$30-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. July 31. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark "Lucciana Costa" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. July 27. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Buckwheat Zydeco" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. July 26. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Maia Sharp" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Palace "Coldplay" With special

guests Marina and the Diamonds and Emeli Sande. Tickets: \$49.50-99.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 1. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com



Florence + The Machine

Killer Bs Productions "Stoogefest" Admission: \$9 Adults, \$7 Kids. Five classic Three Stooges shorts, music from The Glob, raffles, prizes and more. Main Art Theater, 118 North Main St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. July 26. 248-263-2111. Facebook.com/events/257619717685869/

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Getting Near to Baby \$12-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. July 26-Aug. 5. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat \$10. Paul's Players at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. July 26-28. 248-347-4134.

She Loves Me \$10. The Penny Seats, West Park Band Shell, 215 Chapin St., **Ann Arbor**. July 26-Aug. 11. 734-276-2832. PennySeats.org

PROFESSIONAL

A Midsummer Night's Dream A one-hour family-oriented production \$6. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Aug. 4-Aug. 12. waterworkstheatre.com

An Inspector Calls \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Dewitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., **Holland**. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Studio Theatre in the DeWitt Center, 141 E. 12th St., **Holland**. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Ernie \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Through Aug. 12. 1-800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Fiddler on the Roof \$26-32. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., **Dexter**. Through Aug. 12. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Funny Money \$15-27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., **Coldwater**. July 26-Aug. 4. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

Henry V \$20. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Aug. 2-12. waterworkstheatre.com

On Golden Pond \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., **Chelsea**. Through Sep. 1. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Othello \$12-15. The American Shakespeare Collective at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capital, **Lansing**. July 27-Aug. 5. 517-372-0945.

americanshakespearecollective.com

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

Red, White and Tuna \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., **Williamston**. Through Aug. 19. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Summer Sonnets Free. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Aug. 4-12. waterworkstheatre.com

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Dewitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., **Holland**. Through Aug. 11. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Through Aug. 13. 248-556-8581. TheRingwald.com

The Wedding Singer \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, **Augusta**. Through July 28. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

Viva Le Cirque \$15-59. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, **Clarkston**. Aug. 3. 1-800-745-3000. palacenet.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Five to Nine: An Exhibition of Extracurricular Work From Creative Young Professionals" 117 W. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. July 27-Sep. 2. 734-995-8004. Annarborartcenter.org

Box Factory for the Arts "Michigan 10th Annual Art Competition" 1101 Broad St., **St. Joseph**. June 15-July 28. 269-983-3688. BoxFactoryfortheArts.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "George Nelson: Architect / Writer / Designer / Teacher" 39221 Woodward Ave., **Bloomfield Hills**. June 16-Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Epiphany Glass Studio "Epiphany Glass Open Studio" 770 Orchard Lake Road, **Pontiac**. 4 p.m. Aug. 2. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

Flint Institute of Arts "Abstract Expressionism" 1120 E. Kearsley, **Flint**. May 5-Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Cities in Transition" 101 Monroe Center, **Grand Rapids**. June 1-Aug. 26. 616-831-2904. Artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Elliot Erwit: Dog Dogs" 314 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. July 7-Sep. 23. 269-349-7775. Klarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, **Ferndale**. July 4-July 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Ruth Ellis Center Photography Exhibition" 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. July 1-July 28. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Patti Smith: Camera Solo" 2100 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. June 1-Sep. 2. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The University of Michigan "Man Up! No Balls About It" Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd, **Ann Arbor**. July 12-Aug. 9. 734-763-0606. Umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Judith Turner: The Flatness of Ambiguity" 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. June 9-Sep. 2. 734-647-0524. Umma.umich.edu



Editor's Pick

Wildly successful country/pop singer-songwriter and lesbian LGBT rights champion k.d. lang comes to Detroit Aug. 9 for her latest tour with her band, The Siss Boom Bang.

Born in Alberta, Canada, k.d. began her musical aspirations after finding a passion for the music of Patsy Cline in the '80s. Throughout her career she has been honored with both Juno and Grammy awards for hits such as "Constant Craving" and "Miss Chatelaine." She even performed Leonard Cohen's

"Hallelujah" live at the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang will perform at 8 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel, 2901 Grand River Ave., in Detroit. Tickets are \$45-61. For more information or ticket sales, call 866-752-9622 or go to www.OlympiaEntertainment.com.

Add your events to next week's issue!

<http://www.pridesource.com/calendar.html>

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Horoscopes

Stay in good humor, Leo!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury retrograding across the Sun in Leo already tempts people to say way too much too forcefully. Other aspects make it worse. People using ears and brains will beat those using only their mouths.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Efforts to get playful with your partner are likely to misfire. Don't let that stop you, but think twice before acting or speaking up! The "backfire" could just be fun you weren't expecting or a chance to clear the air.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your ruler, Venus, is part of why everyone is working too hard to look good and feel good, so you understand the value of that, but also have a special gift for seeing and cutting through the crap. Trust your instincts, not appearances.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): New insights challenge you to revise your plans, but your new plan B is just a necessary draft. In a few weeks, plan C will be better. Speak your mind but don't take disagreements personally.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): New investments are just sweet talk and fantasy. Recommit to your priorities. That can even open new creative opportunities. Financial arguments can lead to helpful insights or impulse spending. Remember those priorities?

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Your friends help you look good and you're eager to return the favor. Efforts on both sides could cause mishaps, nothing serious, but be ready to apologize for embarrassing situations. Stay in good humor. Don't take yourself too seriously!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Whatever you want to say, however difficult or unpleasant, will come out. Get it off your chest while you're calm and eloquent. Save yourself the embarrassing trouble caused by an explosion of temper or resentment.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Winning people over with your charm doesn't necessarily mean they agree with you. They don't need to. Let it be! A little less attention to some of your friends and more for your partner can improve relations on both fronts.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Speaking your mind will get you committed to positions and challenges you probably didn't want, but you can rise to the occasion and even shine. Jog, bike or exercise with a confidante. Sweating and talking will help get your ideas in order.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Misunderstandings with your partner could end up being more funny and revealing than problematic. Over-identifying with community ideals or traditions can complicate your efforts toward political progress. Here, too, confused messages can be revealing. Pay attention and keep your sense of humor intact.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Some colleagues are encouraging you to bite off more than you can chew. Some of them mean well. You need to focus on your own goals and strong suits. You need to adjust your long-range strategy, but make sure you have one!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Efforts at sly wit will probably anger friends. If you really think you're so clever, write it down and save it for later. Disagreements and confusion with your partner can help draw out suppressed anxieties, helping you to understand and heal lingering old problems.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Struggling to get ahead at work can leave you wondering who you really are. Let the work define you for now. Perseverance will bring insights. So will mistakes, so learn from them, fix them and stay steady on.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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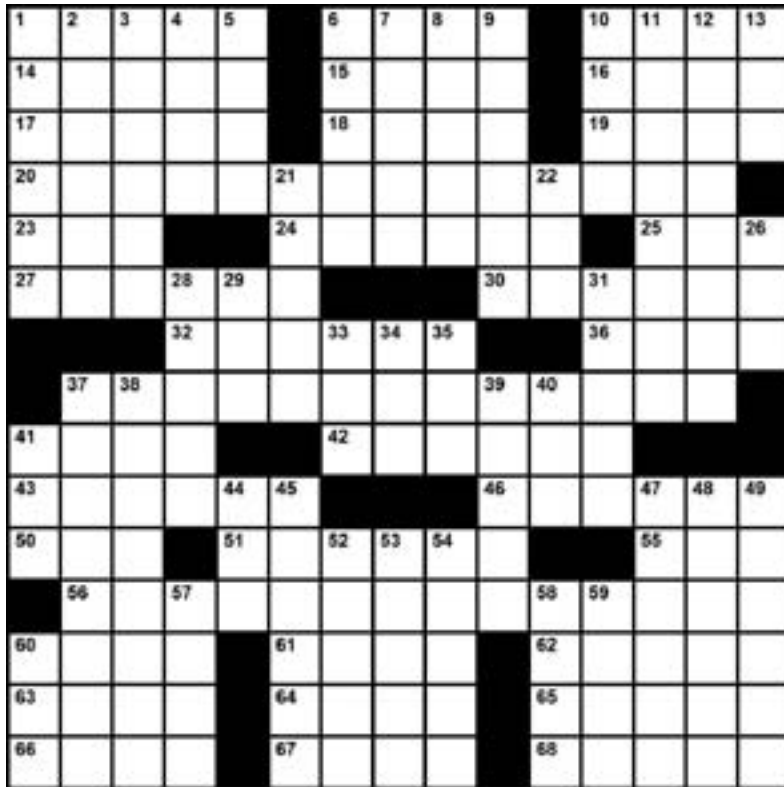
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Across

- 1 Act up, with "on"
- 6 Used a forked tongue
- 10 Sitcom radio station
- 14 Threesome member for Dumas
- 15 160 rods
- 16 Strong as ____
- 17 It may slip over one's head
- 18 Can of worms, maybe
- 19 Salty bodies
- 20 CNN anchor in the news
- 23 "Look at Me, I'm Sandra ____"
- 24 Poet Rimbaud
- 25 Ewe's milieu
- 27 Give out
- 30 Medical treatment
- 32 Like something in the state of Denmark
- 36 Persian Gulf land
- 37 Website that published a statement by 20-Across
- 41 Evita's husband
- 42 Cowboy's job in "The Boys in the Band"
- 43 Put the collar on
- 46 Uses a gifted tongue
- 50 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 51 Man who doesn't date women
- 55 St. that follows "My Own Private ..."

- 56 Statement by 20-Across
- 60 Nannies' cries
- 61 Oompa Loompa creator
- 62 Judges
- 63 Seizures for Caesar
- 64 Do a nocturnal activity
- 65 Shrek and others
- 66 On top of that
- 67 Parts of a min.
- 68 Gay rodeo accessory

Down

- 1 Where PrideVision originated
- 2 Makes up
- 3 Where a Colossus straddled all who entered the harbor
- 4 Deep pink
- 5 North Sea feeder
- 6 What a surrogate mom goes into
- 7 Impotence confession
- 8 John of "Gay Sex Quotes"
- 9 Alternate route
- 10 Ethnic acronym
- 11 Oral sex providers, perhaps
- 12 Really enjoyed, as a Margaret Cho routine
- 13 GI suppliers

- 21 Vixen's master
- 22 Vein contents
- 26 Objectivist Rand
- 28 Cara of "Fame"
- 29 Alan Morissette role, in "Dogma"
- 31 Sporty Mazda
- 33 Reason for extra innings
- 34 Above-ground trains
- 35 MSG container?
- 37 Shake your moneymaker?
- 38 Condoms, to a Brit?
- 39 " ____ of Leather, Slippers of Gold"
- 40 Make a blunder
- 41 ____ alai
- 44 Letters from South Beach
- 45 Sports deals
- 47 Pussies with sharp teeth
- 48 Mingo's portrayer in "Daniel Boone"
- 49 Affirms orally
- 52 Start of Caesar's boast
- 53 Set of principles
- 54 River deposits
- 57 Canadian oil company
- 58 Clay Aiken was almost one
- 59 Huge opening?
- 60 Writer's deg.

Solution on pg 32



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**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
Sunday July 29th from 2:00-9:00pm at his Oak Park home. 24320 Seneca Ave. For further information contact Tom at 248-591-9444 or musicalchairstz003@gmail.com

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

C	A	R	R	Y	L	I	E	D	W	K	R	P						
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jennifer Lopez turns mogul

Jennifer Lopez jumping the “American Idol” ship wasn’t really that surprising when you consider the show’s slowly fading public profile and Lopez’s perception of herself. This isn’t a woman who likes to hide in the background of popular culture. She’s got plans, and the next one involves developing groundbreaking television. Specifically, she’s behind a one-hour drama for ABC Family about a pair of lesbian moms and their ever-growing brood of children. The untitled pilot, created and written by “Queer As Folk”’s Peter Paige and writing partner Brad Bredeweg, will be executive produced by Lopez and tell the story of a couple – a police officer and a teacher – whose child-filled home welcomes a troubled teenager into the mix. Next question: Could Lopez please play the cop? In fact, could it be the tough Karen Sisco, her character from Steven Soderbergh’s brilliant 1998 film “Out of Sight”? That would be great.



Jennifer Lopez. Photo: Melissa Moseley

‘Wicked’ casts a spell on Daldry

Casting aside the question of whether or not acclaimed filmmaker Stephen Daldry (“The Reader,” “The Hours,” “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close”) is still a gay man after being married to a woman for 12 years – look, it’s complicated and, more importantly, his own life to live – it only makes sense that Universal would at least be courting a gay-ish person to direct the film version of the musical “Wicked.” And that’s exactly what they’re doing. Other names have been tossed around, of course; that’s how it works. But you’re telling an alternate take on a pre-Dorothy “Wizard of Oz” here, so it just makes sense to go with the gay guy. Furthermore, Daldry would definitely lend an element of dignity to the situation; it’s more or less his trademark as a director, and when one of your characters is green like Shrek you need all the dignity you can get. Meanwhile, in the world of the not-quite-so-gay musical, Jon Favreau is in negotiations to helm “Jersey Boys” for its leap to the big screen. That makes sense, too, since Favreau’s straight guy camaraderie skills were well-honed in the ‘90s with “Swingers.” And if the failure of “Rock of Ages” has proven anything, it’s that jukebox musicals need a point of view and purpose for the public to care. Favreau seems like just the right man for that job.

Tony-winning Nina Arianda breathing new life into Janis Joplin

It wouldn’t be a shock if – after a dozen years of false starts, speculation and turnaround – the proposed film about the life of bisexual rocker Janis Joplin never happened at all. From early buzz about the late Brittany Murphy’s audition tape to Melissa Etheridge to Pink to Zoocy

Deschanel to Renee Zellweger and now to at least one project with Amy Adams still attached, it seems like every woman in Hollywood with singing ability has been considered, then unconsidered, with nobody getting any closer to actually making a movie. So now they’ve turned to Broadway, where Tony-winner Nina Arianda (Best Actress In a Play for “Venus In Fur”) is now on board to handle Joplin’s life in “Joplin” from director Sean Durkin, recently acclaimed for last year’s dark indie hit “Martha Marcy May Marlene.” There’s no timeline yet and, well, we’re not holding our breath that there’ll be one, but this is the latest news on a project that may or may not take another 12 years to find its way into actual movie theaters

Melanie Griffith and Sandra Bernhard roll with ‘DTLA’

A one-hour television drama about the lives of gay men and lesbians in Los Angeles that doesn’t incubate its characters in a tiny homosexual bubble of interactions and life experiences? That’s a novel idea; one that shows like “The L Word” and “Queer As Folk,” as entertaining as they often were, only occasionally accomplished. But that’s the concept behind “DTLA,” a series from Larry Kennar – himself a former producer of “L Word” – that will focus on a group of friends in L.A. who don’t shy away from actually having straight friends. And the coolest news surrounding the production is the presence of both Sandra Bernhard and longtime friend Melanie Griffith co-starring as lesbian exes. The pair are already shooting their scenes and if the powers that be are smart these two will have meaty roles and not just occasional cameos (and, naturally, we also want to see them making out, exes or not). The show begins airing in Canada this October, with U.S. networks still in negotiations to run the series at an unknown date.

Romeo San Vicente’s straight male friends are acting gayer and gayer all the time. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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