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Detroit Ahead

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# HUNGRY 4 EQUALITY



Michigan Community  
Centers Strike For  
LGBT Rights

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9



19



29

**Cover story**

**4 | Michiganders are Hungry 4 Equality**  
Community Center Network partners for LGBT civil rights

**News**

**6 | DIA's smooth operator, Broom inspired to push Detroit ahead**

**7 | Trevor Thomas needs phone volunteers before Aug. 7 Primary**

**8 | 100-day countdown to November election begins across U.S.**  
Team Obama Hits 150 Events Across the State

**9 | How hot was it?**

**13 | Turning up the heat**  
Barb Murray and Ron Thomas Honored at HTJ

**13 | Equality Michigan: Where it's been, where is it heading?**

**16 | Conference: HIV rages among black gay men**

**Opinion**

**10 | S/he Said**  
Democrats' marriage equality platform plank

**10 | Heard On Facebook**  
Michiganders respond to Hunger 4 Equality strike

**12 | BTL Editorial**  
Hungry for change, learn, vote!

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**



**14 | Creep of the Week**  
Bryan Fisher

**15 | Parting Glances**

**Life**

**19 | Provincetown picks**  
Best bets for a trip to the Cape

**20 | Cool Cities: Royal Oak**  
Shakespeare in the Park

**25 | Hear Me Out**  
Frank Ocean comes out with stunning debut. Plus: Whitney's final songs in "Sparkle"

**26 | Happenings**  
Featured: Kelly Clarkson at DTE on Aug. 10

**27 | 'Gruesome Playground Injuries' exposes wounds of deep friendship**

**28 | The OutField**  
Nike reaches the LGBT sports summit

**29 | Transgender Pride in the Park returns Aug. 4**

**Rear View**

**30 | Puzzle**

**31 | Horoscopes**

**32 | Classifieds**

**34 | Cocktail Chatter**

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# Michiganders Are Hungry 4 Equality

## Community Center Network Partners for LGBT Civil Rights

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** – For all Michiganders who are Hungry 4 Equality, now is the time to sit down and shut your mouth. To food at least.

For the 100 days leading up to election day Nov. 6, Affirmations Community Center will be ground zero for a statewide hunger protest. Strikers are hoping to bring attention to the inequality faced by LGBT citizens. The state's most heinous anti-gay politicians, who have been inflicting harm on LGBT families, are also being highlighted through a large window display titled "Equality Rights Hall of Shame."

A website ([www.Hungry4equality.com](http://www.Hungry4equality.com)) focusing on this effort has launched, where the public can learn about the anti-gay legislation currently being pursued and sign-up to participate in the strike effort. The six featured anti-gay politicians working to deny equality to LGBT families includes State Rep. Dave Agema (R-Dist.74); State House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Dist. 63); Troy Mayor Janice Daniels; former U.S. Senate Candidate Gary Glenn, who heads up the Michigan Chapter of the American Family Association; State Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Dist. 45); and Attorney General Bill Schutte.

In rotating shifts, protestors will sit in a living-room set on a stage in the community center's large front windows. From 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. the next day, protestors will go without food in a symbolic strike to raise awareness and educate the public. During the first week, directors from all eight Michigan LGBT centers will each participate in one day of striking. They will return to their local communities with Hungry4Equality information to share with supporters.

Individuals and groups can sign-up for a shift. Some high profile protestors have already agreed to participate including Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, and County Commissioner Craig Covey.

The strike action will be viewable by people walking by the Center, and the 100 day event is being live-streamed on the Internet. David Garcia, executive director of Affirmations took the first 24-hour shift on Monday, starting his day with a round of press interviews and getting cozy with a Superman Snuggie in the evening as his spotters, Cass Varner and Johnny Jenkins stayed on for support.

Security concerns mean that every protestor must have at least one spotter with them in the building at all times. The hunger strike has already made international news, with publications like Queerty and the Advocate picking up the story. Another group following the strike is the religious right, where websites like <http://the-end-time.blogspot.com>, are telling readers things like, "As a side note, the LGBT people who plan this hunger strike are certainly committed. Are Christians as committed to God's agenda as Satan is to his own agenda? This is an

example of how relentless Satan is."

Online comments have mainly been supportive, but some are downright scary. "We had someone write that they hope we all starve and die," Garcia said.

Fighting that kind of ignorance is not on Garcia's mind. "The only way you can not upset people is by not doing anything at all," he said. "You can't just do nothing because of who may not like it." Instead the Community Center Network members, made up of eight

being gay, or that we can't adopt, or that a hard working gay person can be fired from their job just because they are gay." Bauer took the second 24-hour shift that began on Tuesday.

In addition to simply giving up food for a day, the [hungry4equality.com](http://hungry4equality.com) campaign encourages all people to visit Affirmations and get involved. On the "Advocacy Island," near the stage, a phone bank has been established, computers have been hooked up, and information is ready for people who want to learn more.



Kalamazoo Community Resource Center Executive Director Zach Bauer on day two of the 100 Day hunger strike at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. Left, Affirmations Program Director Johnny Jenkins updates the signage outside the center. BTL photos Andrew Potter

### Hall of Shame

Garcia outlined five areas where LGBT citizens are legally discriminated against. In Michigan: There is no marriage equality; second parent adoption is challenged; people can lose their employment because they are gay or transgender; public accommodation and benefits for partners can be denied. But the advocacy goes beyond just talking about these issues. "Garcia said the plan is to teach people why LGBT people face inequality in these areas.

"It's not just the current legislation and bills, but the people behind them," Garcia said.

That's the purpose for the Equality Rights Hall of Shame. These six politicians, plus the current Supreme Court, are all outed to the public for their continued malicious attitude towards the gay and transgender community.

State Rep. David Agema from Grandville proposed eliminating HIV funding and

spearheaded legislation to take away domestic partner benefits for all public employees.

Republican House Majority Leader Jase Bolger from Marshall, is the man behind the infamous banning of two female representatives on the house floor, one for saying "vagina." He was also recently involved in a scam to convince someone to run as a "fake Democrat" for a House seat.

Attorney General Bill Schutte made the list too. Schutte proposed prohibiting transgender individuals from being able to change their gender marker on their drivers licenses, advocated for a law that would allow counseling students to refuse to provide service to gay clients, and defended stripping families of their domestic partner benefits.

Republican Rep. Tom McMillin of Rochester introduced HB 5039, a bill that if passed, would prohibit cities from having specific non-discrimination policies, removing them from the 19 cities that have voted them in.

Gary Glenn is the President of the Michigan's American Family Association and until recently, a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. For the last 14 years he has spent a lot of time and money fighting against gay rights. The sixth Hall of Shame politician is Troy Mayor Janice Daniels whose homophobic remark on Facebook sparked national outrage and led to a successful recall petition drive to force her out of office. She will face voters on Nov. 6.

### United Front

"It's incredibly important for all the LGBT centers in Michigan to work together," Bauer said. "The people who are against us are organized, and they've won because we haven't been organized."

Tim Hekinson is chair of Perceptions, a community center that serves Bay City, Saginaw and Midland. He will be taking the couch over on Friday for his 24-hours of service. "Like all the groups around the state, we want to bring our attention to our allies and the movable middle," Hekinson said.

Garcia noted that in every civil rights battle, it's only been won when allies stood up along side those who are the target of discrimination.

Outside Affirmations, people stopped over and over during the first day, to read the posters on the wall and peek in at the people inside. Trish Cain of Clawson wanted to find out more, and was excited to see the center doing something as bold as the Hungry4Equality campaign.

"This is a civil rights movement," Cain said. "When Martin Luther King Jr. gave his 'I have a Dream' speech, there were a lot of white people, some famous, standing up along with him."

Those who want to help are encouraged

See Next Page



Trish Cain of Clawson wanted to find out more, and was excited to see the center doing something as bold as the Hungry4Equality campaign. She is seen reviewing the Hall of Shame politicians. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

to sign-up to volunteer as hunger strikers or spotters. They can come in and work the phone banks. Donating to their local community center is another way to show their support.

## Michigan Legislation Targeting Gay and Transgender People

The following legislation is being reviewed by elected officials and the campaign is hoping to build opposition to these bills before further damage is done to LGBT families:

### House Bill 4770, Status: Passed

Eliminates health care coverage for domestic partners of municipal public employees.

### House Bill 5039, Status: Introduced

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

### Senate Bill 518 / House Bill 5040, Status: approved by the House Education Committee

Requires university counseling, psychology and social work programs to violate national ethics standards by allowing students to refuse service to certain clients.

### SB 975, Status: Introduced

Would give medical care providers, insurance companies and employers the right to discriminate in services offered based on a moral exemption.

## INFO

### Hungry 4 Equality

The Community Center Network, comprised of eight organizations across Michigan has united to bring awareness and urgency to their local communities about the assault LGBT people are under in the state.

People can learn more about the project which will run continuously at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, by visiting

>> [www.HotterThanJuly.org](http://www.HotterThanJuly.org)

## The Community Center Network Members

### Affirmations

Ferndale, MI  
Executive Director David Garcia  
Scheduled to strike on: Monday, July 30

### Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

Kalamazoo, MI  
Executive Director: Zach Bauer  
Scheduled to strike on: Tuesday, July 31

### OutCenter

Benton Harbor, MI  
Interim Executive Director Santiago Lopez,  
Scheduled to strike on: Wednesday, August 1

### KICK

Detroit, MI  
Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb  
Scheduled to strike on Thursday, August 2

### Perceptions

Midland, MI  
President Tim Atkinson  
Scheduled to strike on: Friday, August 3

### The Network

Grand Rapids, MI  
Executive Director Pat Ward  
Scheduled to strike on: Friday, August 3

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor, MI  
President Terry McGinn  
Scheduled to strike on: Saturday, August 4

### Detroit Latin@z

Detroit, MI  
Co-Founder/Board Chair Reynaldo Magdaleno,  
Scheduled to strike on: Sunday, August 5



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## BRIEFS

### WASHINGTON

#### Democratic Convention - Source: Dems move to formally back gay marriage

BY JULIE PACE

(AP) - A Democratic official says support for gay marriage is set to be included in the official party platform adopted at this summer's convention.

The Democrats' platform drafting committee voted to include language backing same-sex unions at a meeting in Minneapolis over the weekend. Democratic delegates will formally approve the platform during the convention, which will be held in early September in Charlotte, N.C.

The push by several high-profile Democrats to include support for gay marriage in the party platform gained momentum after President Barack Obama voiced his personal support for same-sex unions earlier this year.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the platform committee's decision.

The move was first reported by The Washington Blade.

### OLYMPIA, WASH.

#### Amazon CEO Gives \$2.5 Million for Wash. Same-Sex Marriage Law

(AP) - Amazon.com founder and CEO Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, announced Friday they are donating \$2.5 million to the campaign to defend Washington's same-sex marriage law.

"It's a game changer for us," said campaign manager Zach Silk in Seattle. "It puts us in unique position to win."

But, his group is still the underdog, he said. In 32 previous elections nationally, same-sex advocates have lost. Silk said he believes the Washington election may be the turning point, thanks in part to the Bezos' donation.

Amazon.com Inc. publicly supported the law earlier this year, along with other prominent Pacific Northwest businesses, including Microsoft Corp., and Starbucks Corp.

Silk and officials with two national gay rights groups - Freedom to Marry and the Human Rights Campaign - say Bezos' \$2.5 million donation is the largest publicly reported gift to a marriage campaign. They noted that gay marriage opponents have tried to limit the disclosure of campaign contributions, so they couldn't be certain whether there was a larger one.

### HANOI, VIETNAM

#### Vietnam Considers Same-sex Marriage

(AP) - Vietnam is considering whether to allow same-sex couples to marry or legally register and receive rights, positioning it to become the first country in Asia to do so.

The Justice Ministry's proposal to include same-sex couples in the country's marriage law has surprised gay-rights activists. No one knows whether it will survive long enough to be debated before the National Assembly next year, but supporters say the fact that it's even being considered is a victory in a region where simply being gay can result in jail sentences or whippings with a rattan cane.

The ministry says the courts do not know how to handle disputes between same-sex couples living together. The new law could provide rights for owning property, inheriting and adopting children.

Extended briefs are available online at:

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

# DIA's Smooth Operator, Broom Inspired to Push Detroit Ahead

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

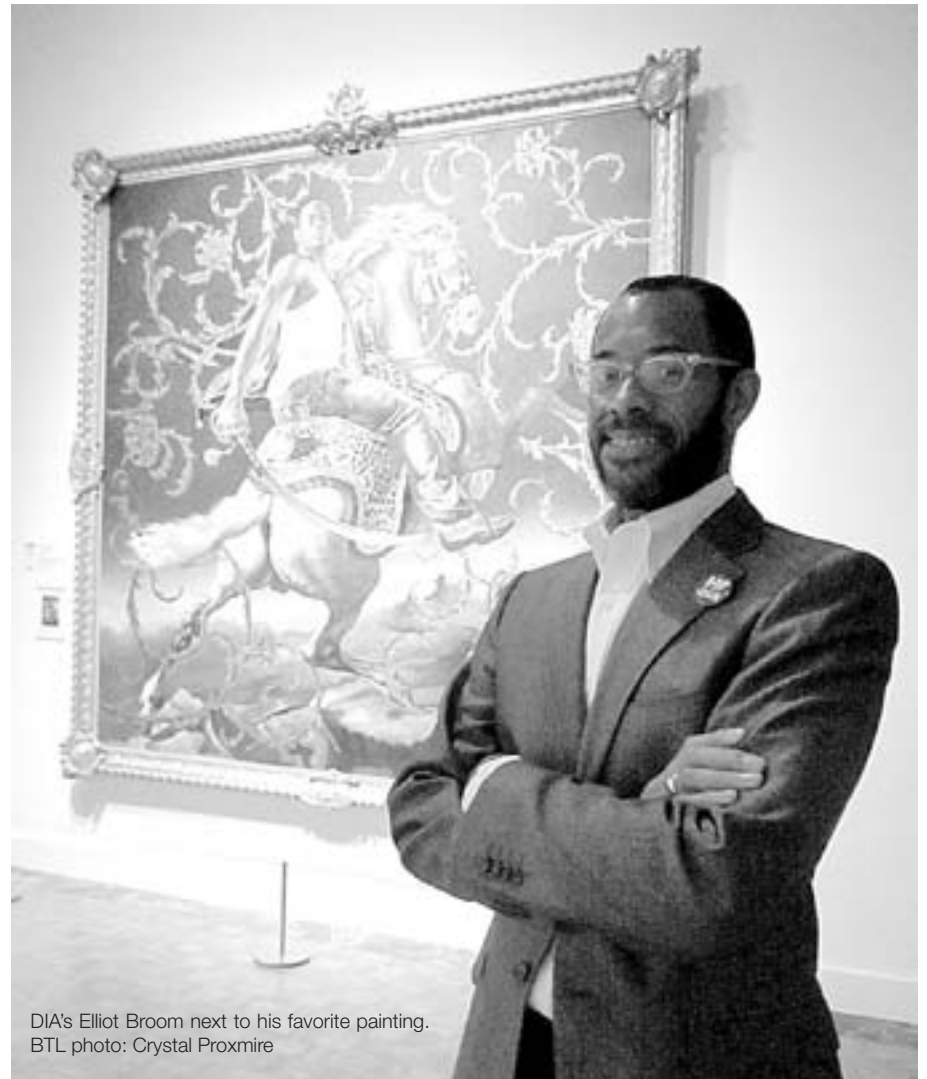
**DETROIT** - Trying to photograph Detroit Institute of Arts Vice President of Operations Elliott Broom in front of his favorite painting was an unexpected challenge. As the 47 year old, brown-skinned, gay man posed, a group of students on a docent-led tour poured into the room and immediately pooled in front of the piece. The teenagers' excitement flooded the air as they pulled out their cell phones and clamored for a closer look. Some rushed to read the painting's description, and others stood in awe.

Broom stepped back and watched with arms folded over his chest and a smile on his face. "Isn't this great," he said. "This right here is what I love most about working here. I get to watch kids get inspired by art."

The painting, called Officer of the Hussars by Khinde Wiley, nearly reaches the ceiling and is as wide as several students standing side by side. A powerful red sky and a smoky battleground set a scene that is common in European artworks which portray a heroic subject. And in the center, riding a big white horse with a leopard-skin saddle and brandishing a mighty sword, is a modern-day black man taking on the world in his Timberland boots, low-riding blue jeans and crisp white tank top.

"He looks so victorious the way he is portrayed," Broom said. "For most of the young people that come through here it's the first time they have seen an African American portrayed positively in art."

Broom noted that in many paintings throughout history, young black men are portrayed only as slaves or servants. "What I really love about Wiley's work is that he typically takes modern African American males and puts them in a classic scene, making them the hero," he said. Officer of the Hussars is a modern remake of the Theodore Gericault's classic of the same name done in 1812. Gericault's work shows a French soldier in uniform, complete with brass-buttoned jacket and black fur hat. It is currently on display in the Louvre in France.



DIA's Elliot Broom next to his favorite painting. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

The painting is just one of the many things Broom loves about his work at the DIA over the past four years. The Detroit native spent many years away from the city of his start, travelling all over the country doing operations in the hotel and hospitality business. It's Broom's job to make sure the museum's building is well-cared for and the staff is operating smoothly. "I do everything but manage the art," he said. "Security, volunteers, events, food service,

group sales and visitor services." Apparently he is lead goof-ball as well, keeping the staff in good spirits with his child-like fascination and joy.

His years of hotel management experience paired perfectly with his BS in Art History from the University of Michigan, and the timing of the job opening could not have been better.

"I moved around a lot. It seems like every three years they'd open a new hotel or a new opportunity would come up," he said. "I was working in Dallas when they told me they wanted to move me to Florida, and I didn't want to do that. I was done with moving around. It was time to move home."

Growing up in Detroit in the 70s and 80s, Broom kept his homosexuality in the closet. "When I was in high school I remember the gay community being in Palmer Park, but they weren't protected. There were hate crimes happening and police turned a blind eye. I did

## Vote YES Aug. 7 for the Art Institute Authority Millage

Voters in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties will be asked Aug. 7 to approve a nominal millage increase that, if passed, would provide essential support to the Detroit Institute of Arts. It's a complete win-win for voters and the DIA, because residents living in counties that approve the millage will receive free, unlimited general admission to the museum, including students on field trips, and there will be enhanced programs for students and seniors and bus subsidies for visits by seniors and students. After years of financial instability due to budget cuts in city and state funding, the DIA would finally have secure financial backing for the foreseeable future. The .2 millage would cost voters only about \$15 per year for every \$150,000 of a home's fair market value.

See DIA, page 7

# Trevor Thomas Needs Phone Volunteers Before Aug. 7 Primary

BY JIM LARKIN

Pre-primary financial reports show U.S. Congressional candidate Trevor Thomas is attracting more donations than his opponent Steve Pestka, but that Pestka's deeper pockets will enable him to outspend his openly gay foe.

And that has Thomas urging his supporters, in an email video sent out July 30 – just 8 days before the Aug. 7 primary – to help him reach all registered primary voters by making phone calls either from their home or his Grand Rapids office. He called those calls “critical” and directed those willing to make them to call 616-235-2012.

“I really believe we’re going to come within 100 votes in the primary,” Thomas said in the video. “Every little bit helps.”

Pre-primary reports filed on July 26 showed Thomas had raised \$107,867 more than Pestka has from individual contributors, but that Pestka more than made up that large margin by attracting more political action committee funds and giving more out of his own pocket.

Pestka received \$34,550 in PAC dollars compared to \$5,000 by Thomas. He also contributed \$20,269 himself and made a \$570,000 loan. Thomas loaned his committee \$7,012 and has not listed any loans.

So that left Pestka with \$451,591 to spend to Thomas's \$86,170 as of July 26.

Pestka, who began running ads on July 12, has outspent Thomas by about \$140,000 heading into the final days of the election.

Still, Thomas called his total contributions – \$293,582 to \$228,522 for Pestka as of the July 26 filing – record-breaking primary efforts for a Democrat in West Michigan.

“I’m fighting for a woman’s right to choose, fighting for our seniors, and fighting for our middle class, and I’m waging that fight with the support of over 2,000 contributors, most of whom gave less than \$100 each,” Thomas said in a press release. “Democrats need a candidate who will work hard to win over voters in the fall and our fundraising effort ... shows I’m the only candidate in this primary who will do that.”

## ► DIA

Continued from p. 6

not come out until after I moved away.”

And now that he’s back he is surprised at how little progress Detroit has made. “Detroit is very much the same as when I left. I expected to return to a great city. I was out of state, but I heard all these great things about the comeback of Detroit – the Super Bowl, the All-Star game. I was really struck that we aren’t further along in the revival. I knew we were in a recession, but I didn’t realize that we were ahead of the curve and that the recession hit Detroit earlier than other places.

“I also thought Detroit would be further along in our relations. I was shocked to hear there are so many people who won’t go south of 8 Mile. The only way Detroit is going to move forward is if city and suburbs become one and work together.”

Broom bought a home in Midtown Detroit, in an area where a third of his neighbors happen to be gay. “My plan is to stick around,” he said. “I think I’m in the right place in the right time in my life. It’s time, at age 47, in the middle of my career, that I should be getting involved and giving back.”

One of the ways Broom is giving back is by serving on the Board of Midtown Inc, a group that is behind a lot of the initiatives that are reviving that neighborhood. Their Detroit Arts X project and D-lectricity have infused the neighborhood with art, while development programs attract businesses and homeowners and a security coalition keeps everyone feeling secure.

He recently spoke at the Model D Scarab Club event to help promote LGBT leadership in Detroit <http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=53972>, and he recently graduated from Leadership Detroit Class #33 through the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. Broom

was excited about the class, saying it gave him so many connections that are going to be crucial in further developing the city.

And of course his work at the DIA gives him the opportunity to inspire young minds and bridge gaps between communities. The DIA’s educational opportunities stretch far beyond the walls of the monolithic historical museum. The Inside Out program places weather-resistant reproductions in public spaces throughout Detroit and the suburbs. These temporary installations inspire others to enjoy art, and attracts visitors to the museum. There is also a program with the Detroit Children’s Hospital where sick children have art making workshops, and there are various outreaches and talks given at schools, senior centers, libraries and for groups.

Besides enabling him to do good community-building, Broom’s job has a couple of more selfish perks. “I love art and I get a real charge watching the docents do their tour, and I love being able to walk through when there is nobody else here and look at the artwork all by myself.”

He also gets access to the parts the public doesn’t see. “When I graduated high school I wanted to be an architect. It’s an honor working in a building designed by Paul Philippe Cret and I love being able to see all the little details of it. Like the plaster dome. The dome that you see is not the true ceiling. Above the plaster dome there are two more stories to the top, and the whole thing is suspended inside by giant cables. Most people don’t realize that, or get to see it. I am fascinated by things like that so I am really lucky.”

To find out more about the DIA visit  
 ► <http://www.DIA.org>.

## WALKING FOR THE FUTURE

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**SAN FRANCISCO**

**Gay Marriage Ban Supporter Named San Francisco Archbishop**

(AP) - A vigorous supporter of California's same-sex marriage ban was named as the next Roman Catholic archbishop of San Francisco on July 27th.

The Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI selected the Rev. Salvatore Cordileone, the presiding bishop of Oakland, to replace Archbishop George Niederauer in October. Niederauer, 76, is retiring.

As an auxiliary bishop in San Diego four years ago, Cordileone, 56, was instrumental in devising an initiative to strip same-sex couples of the right to wed in California and then raising Catholic dollars to qualify it for the ballot.

He also was part of a statewide network of clergy that promoted the measure, known as Proposition 8. Campaign finance records show he personally gave at least \$6,000 to back the voter-approved ban.

A Field Poll released in February found that 51 percent of the Catholic respondents support same-sex marriages.

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.**

**NM School Refused Child of Gay Parents**

(AP) - An attorney says an Albuquerque Christian school has refused to enroll a student in its pre-K program because his parents are gay.

The Albuquerque Journal reports that attorney Shane Youtz says a couple he represents received a letter from Hope Christian school saying their three-year-old son would not be able to enroll because of his parents' sexual orientation.

Youtz says the move is a violation of the New Mexico Human Rights Act.

An official from Hope Christian - which received \$61,455 in public, federal funding for the current budget year - declined to comment.

The New Mexico Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination in "public accommodations." It also bans discrimination based sexual orientation. The statute allows religious-based organizations to discriminate on that basis, but not if they have nonprofit status.

**JACKSON, MISS.**

**SPLC Wants Miss. Officials to End Gay Ceremony Ban**

(AP) - An advocacy group said Thursday it is in discussions with state officials about lifting a ban on commitment ceremonies for gay couples at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

The Southern Poverty Law Center sent a letter to the Jackson museum on July 12, threatening to sue if officials don't allow Ceara Sturgis, 20, and her partner, Emily Key, 19, to hold a commitment ceremony at the museum on Aug. 11.

The state-owned museum refused to allow a similar ceremony for two men in February. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, which oversees the museum, has cited a 2009 state attorney general's opinion that says it can prohibit the ceremonies because gay marriage is illegal here.

The SPLC is not challenging Mississippi's ban on same-sex marriage, but says the museum should allow commitment and marriage ceremonies to take place even if the couple won't be recognized under state law.

Extended briefs are available online at:  
>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

# 100-Day Countdown to November Election Begins Across U.S.

## Team Obama Hits 150 Events Across the State

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

**DETROIT** - The National Weekend of Action kicked off July 28, 102 days before the November presidential election. As part of Team Obama's 100-day push, supporters of President Obama's reelection campaign organized a nationwide, massive effort to canvass neighborhoods, register voters, and conduct phone banks. This builds on the promise to be the largest grassroots campaign in history with more than 4,200 events planned in states across the country.

First Lady Michelle Obama released an online video message (<http://youtu.be/CbWkPYg600>) last week telling supporters that with a tighter election than 2008 likely this fall, "in the end, it could all come down to those last few thousand votes in a single state." With that in mind, she launched the "It Takes One" initiative (<http://www.barackobama.com/day-of-action?source=WeekendOfAction-20120724-HP>) urging supporters to make a difference in this election, and to "start by taking one action that will help grow our campaign" through outlets like digital media, advertising and grassroots organizing.

To help Michigan with this effort, professional actor and political activist Jonathan Del Arco was knocking on doors throughout Metro Detroit to talk with folks about what's at stake in November, and to ensure they have all the information they need to be prepared to vote.

"I have to do whatever I can to get Obama reelected," said Del Arco, who plays Dr. Morales, the openly gay medical examiner on the critically acclaimed "The Closer," and who also is the West Coast development consultant for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). "It was an exciting and interesting experience encountering voters here. A majority in this neighborhood are supportive of the president," he said.

The self-proclaimed "political geek," reached out to the Obama campaign following a visit to the White House in June with his husband and partner of 20 years where he spoke to the FBI about LGBT issues. "It was beautiful to see LGBT service members in their dress whites celebrating with their partners. I'm pretty sure this would not happen under a Romney presidency and we can't give that up. I strongly believe that if the president is not reelected, we will walk backward on our issues," he said.

Of the 150 Michigan weekend events scheduled from Warren to Muskegon and cities in between, Del Arco visited Kemeny Park Recreation Center in Detroit to target Latino



Activist and actor Jonathan Del Arco center (of The Closer TV series), stopped by Hotter Than July on Saturday. Soundstage director Innocence Milliown left and KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb were busy rallying the crowds at HTJ to "Stand Up & Be Counted" on Nov. 6. HTJ was one of dozens of events that Del Arco worked to get the vote out for Pres. Obama. Photo courtesy of KICK.

voters, stressing to them the importance of their vote in the upcoming election. Del Arco was born in Uruguay, a country in southeast South America. He emigrated with his family to New York at age 10. While addressing the Latino community, he reflected upon the relentless bullying he endured throughout his teenage years and into his adult life.

"In the past 20 years, it has been a challenge

“For any LGBT person to not vote and to not vote for this president at the end of the day seems unimaginable.”

- Jonathan Del Arco, actor and activist

to keep LGBT kids from being bullied in school. We finally have an ally in the White House," said Del Arco, adding that Obama hosted the first-ever White House conference on bullying prevention. Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law, proposed

investments in grants to support anti-bullying programs in public schools, and highlighted the efforts of anti-bullying organizations nationwide.

"Obama reversed a ridiculous 22-year-old travel and immigration ban against people with HIV, and he welcomed the world's largest international AIDS conference to the U.S. in Washington D.C. for the first time since 1990," said Del Arco, who lost his first partner to AIDS around the age of 24. "I have lived through a lot in my life. Now, I'm a happy person living in a very open society in L.A. I believe it's my responsibility to do what I do because of the sacrifice my dad made to bring us to this country. The idea of America according to my dad is that it would always be a place where his kids were accepted and would succeed. This is the legacy of my own family that I continue," he said.

Del Arco also made an appearance at the Hotter Than July Black Pride Festival at Palmer Park in Detroit with the Executive Director of KICK, Curtis Lipscomb. He reminded 5,000 attendees what the Obama Administration has done for the LGBT community. "He is the first president to endorse that he and his family support marriage equality. I was in my car and cried when he announced it," said Del Arco, who looks forward to touring the country to talk about it in places where he's welcome. "Obama's accomplishments are so huge. It

See 100-Day, page 9





Attendees at this year's HTJ events were educated on the need to turn up and help turn out the vote in November. Photo courtesy of KICK.

## How Hot Was It?

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** – “How hot is it?” “Hotter Than July!”

This is the rallying cry heard throughout the week-long Hotter Than July celebration put on by KICK and the Black Pride Society. For six days Detroit's LGBT movement celebrated and mobilized with a family picnic, a cruise on the Detroit River, an interfaith service, a day of education and activism, a candlelight vigil and more.

With record turnouts and a smooth-running event, Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK said he was “overwhelmed with happiness” at the event. “I’m so proud of the way all the Committee Chairs did their part to make this happen. Rev. Darlene Franklin organized the candlelight vigil that brought out the most people in the 17 years of the event. Stacey Hale did a great job with the Film Festival, Jeremiah Jones with Kickin’ it on the River, Walter Houston and the picnic and Robert Tate with the Sunday Brunch that grew by some 400 percent.

“And then my favorite part, while I’m proud of them all, is the Annual Gathering that Cornelius Wilson and his volunteers put together. We had Congressman Hansen Clark and Detroit City

Council President Charles Pugh in attendance. We had spiritual leaders from around the country for different faith institutions. And we had six different workshops people could attend.”

Lipscomb was also thrilled that Jonathan Del Arco of the hit show *The Closer* made an appearance. The actor spoke out about the importance of getting out to vote.

Another highlight of the week was being able to give out HTJ's first awards. Barb Murray, longtime executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan was given the Milestone Award, and Ron Turner, one of the originators of CHAG, was given the Lifetime Achievement Award. The details of their moving acceptance speeches are covered in another BTL article in this edition.

“We had a long-time community activist come home after 20 years of doing AIDS work in New York, and it was so great to have him here. Ron Turner has done so much for our community and inspired so many people,” said Lipscomb.

He said the picnic attracted tens of thousands of people, exceeding previous turnouts.

To find out more about this annual week-long festival, go to  
 >> [www.HotterThanJuly.org](http://www.HotterThanJuly.org)

### ► 100-Day

Continued from p. 8

would take all day to talk about them, but I realize what an amazing job he's done and what he can accomplish with another term.”

Joined by Mayor of Ferndale Dave Coulter, Del Arco attended the LGBT for Obama Happy Hour at SoHo in Ferndale as well, to meet with and empower members of the LGBT community to make a difference by voting in

just a few months.

“With the age of Twitter and Facebook, a lot of people have a lot of power in their hands that they don't know they have to help mobilize. Please show up. Do not stay home. It is unacceptable to stay home. For any LGBT person to not vote and to not vote for this president at the end of the day seems unimaginable,” said Del Arco. “I’m sure there are gay Republicans in this world, but what Obama has done for the community is enough to cast the ballot for him.”

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## Heard on Facebook

### Michiganders respond to the Community Center Network's Hunger 4 Equality strike

I would like to join the hunger strike. Thank you for your brave leadership and the attention you're drawing to our lives. Full of love for all of you.

—David Musselwhite

Good for the Community Center Network. Please keep me posted and let me know how we can help. XOXO

—Stephanie Loveless

I understand the message as well, but I don't think that we have to starve ourselves to prove a point or get a message out to people. I really don't think that people will care if a few people starve themselves when there are some countries with starving people. Starving ourselves is disrespectful towards the people who are starving for real.

—Sam Manilla

If I may, Sam, it is not about starving ourselves. Going hungry for a 24-hour period of time is not going to cause a person to starve. It is a small sacrifice that I can make as part of a community that HUNGERS for equal rights.

—Lisa Ross

It will let people know we truly want to be equal, but I'm not so sure a hunger strike was the best idea. It's worth a shot though.

—Kody Miller

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

## S/he Said

### Democrats' Marriage Equality Plank



#### Barney Frank

*"I want you to be one of the first to know: After a unanimous decision on Sunday, the drafting committee for the Democratic National Convention embraced marriage equality as part of our platform for the 2012 Convention. The next step will be for the full platform committee to vote on it, after which it will be presented to the delegates at the Convention in Charlotte for a final vote. Make no mistake: This is a historic step toward fairness for all. Once again, Democrats are fighting to move this country forward."*

—Barney Frank, Massachusetts's 4th district Representative, on behalf of the DNC in an email blast, [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com), July 31



#### Marc Solomon

*"We are grateful for the Platform Drafting Committee's unanimous vote to include the freedom to marry in its draft of the Democratic Party platform. As I testified to the Committee on Friday, the Democratic Party has a noble history of fighting for the human and civil rights of all Americans. We are proud that the Committee is including language that will ensure the Party is leading the way forward in supporting marriage for loving and committed same-sex couples and their families."*

—Marc Solomon, national campaign director for Freedom to Marry, in a statement responding to the Platform Drafting Committee's decision, [washingtonblade.com](http://washingtonblade.com), July 30



#### Brian Brown

*"They can kiss the presidential election, the House and now the Senate goodbye ... He can collect all the money he wants from San Francisco and Hollywood, but at the end of the day, San Francisco and Hollywood don't elect the president of the United States."*

—Brian Brown, president of National Organization for Marriage, regarding Obama's fundraising in response to the DNC's pro-gay marriage platform plank, [politico.com](http://politico.com), July 30



#### Seve Benen

*"There was no press release from the Republican National Committee; no statement from the Romney campaign; no screaming headlines about an 'attack on traditional values' aired on Fox News. Democrats will become the first major American political party to change its platform to endorse legal protections for same-sex couples who wish to marry, and ... no one is blinking an eye."*

*"If the right saw an electoral opportunity by going on the offensive on this, Republicans would take it. And therein lies the point: the political winds have shifted quickly and anti-gay bigotry no longer translates into votes. The GOP didn't attack President Obama when he endorsed marriage equality in May, and the party didn't attack Democrats yesterday, not just because Dems are on the right side of history, but because Republicans no longer want to advertise about being on the wrong side of public opinion. Between this and the Obama campaign's ads on reproductive rights, the culture war appears to have entered a very different phase."*

—Steve Benen, Blogger for "The Maddow Blog," in a column titled "Dems' move on marriage equality draws no pushback," [maddowblog.msnbc.com](http://maddowblog.msnbc.com), July 31

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**PUBLISHERS**

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

**EDITORIAL**

**Editor in Chief**

Susan Horowitz  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

**Entertainment Editor**

Chris Azzopardi  
chrissazzopardi@pridesource.com

**Associate Editor**

Benjamin Jenkins  
bj@pridesource.com

**Arts & Theater Editor**

Donald V. Calamia,  
curtaincalls@pridesource.com

**CREATIVE**

**Art Director**

David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

**Webmaster & MIS Director**

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

**Production Assistant**

Benjamin Jenkins, bj@pridesource.com

**Contributing Writers**

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,  
Dana Casadei, Abby Dees, Jack Fertig,  
Todd Heywood, Howard Israel, Lisa Keen,  
Richard Labonte, Michael H. Margolin,  
Jenn McKee, Jason Michael, Kate Opalewski,  
Anthony Paull, Andrea Poteet, Crystal Proxmire,  
John Quinn, Eric W. Rader, Bridgette M. Redman,  
Leslie Robinson, Romeo San Vincente,  
Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Jody Valley,  
D'Anne Witkowski, Dan Woog

**Cartoonists**

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

**Contributing Photographers**

Andrew Potter

**ADVERTISING & SALES**

**Director of Sales**

Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

**Sales Representatives**

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

**National Advertising Representative**

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

**Business Office**

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com  
Nancy Blankenship

**Circulation & Distribution**

Diane Smith

**Pride Source Media Group**

11920 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48150  
Phone 734.293.7200 • Fax 734.293.7201

[www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

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# BTL Viewpoint

## Hungry For Change, Learn, Vote!

**H**ungry 4 Equality struck a chord as soon as it was announced. During this political season many state and city politicians – in particular extreme Republicans – have been relentlessly attacking our community, it is a much-needed proactive step that resonates with many folks ready for direct action.

Affirmations Executive Director David Garcia and his counterparts in seven other agencies across the state have finally said ENOUGH! They have united under the Community Center Network banner to mobilize and bring much needed attention to the public about the assault on LGBT neighbors, co-workers and family members who have suffered at the hands of elected officials in our state.

For the next 100 days, 24 hours at a time, individuals and groups will join the hunger strike housed at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. Visitors, strikers and supporters will see a display of the most heinous politicians, posted in the window of Affirmations and dubbed the Equality Rights Hall of Shame.

And shameful they are.

As this hunger strike moves forward, leading up to the Nov. 6 election, an election that includes an opportunity to elect a new state House of Representatives, seat three new Michigan Supreme Court Justices, and the next President of the U.S., this hunger strike hits at exactly the right moment. LGBT families in our state can no longer

simply sit passively by and suffer the consequences of discriminatory laws that will not protect us in employment, housing, public accommodation, marriage equality and



adoption rights.

As Garcia said in BTL's news coverage, Michigan ranks at the lowest rung of the

ladder nationally when it comes to how its LGBT citizens are treated.

As you think about the long-term consequences of doing nothing, instead choose to use this energized moment to promise to do something that helps educate and move voters to the polls Nov. 6. Affirmations has a community engagement area set up where you can participate in phone banking while dropping in to offer support to people who are willing to give up a few calories for equality. All the community centers involved will have voter education projects. Wherever you live, you can engage and make a difference.

And the strike was not the only energized base we saw during the past week. Hotter Than July was in action with its "Stand Up & Be Counted" project. HTJ attendees got to meet activist and actor Jonathan Del Arca, who was working in Michigan this past weekend on behalf of Team Obama.

BTL is so grateful for the spirit that our statewide community is exhibiting. With energy and commitment, we can educate ourselves and really make an urgent and important change in November.

In the meantime, please remember to get out and vote next Tuesday, Aug. 7. BTL has a list of endorsements for the primaries in select races where we can make a huge difference.

Visit our website to download our recommendations.

### Letters

#### Please Vote!

The very best part about being an American citizen is that not only do each and every one of us get to voice our opinions and preferences in a vote, but that each of those same individual votes get counted.

Make the sacrifices of so many be respected by your participation.

Become educated, take a friend or senior to the poll with you and vote.

Cathy Markes  
Oakland County



# Turning up the Heat

## Barb Murray and Ron Thomas Honored at HTJ

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - "Sometimes there ain't nothin' wrong with puttin' up your dukes." That's what longtime AIDS Activist Ron Turner said about the ongoing struggle to serve people with HIV and AIDS and to prevent the disease from spreading. "Because the struggle continues, we have to address the issues with some force."

Turner spent years in Detroit with organizations like CHAG, Community Health Awareness Group. He and fellow AIDS activist Barbara Murray, the soon-to-be retiring executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan, were given awards at Hotter Than July's Annual Gathering on LGBT Issues.

Murray was given the first-ever Milestone Award, and Turner was given a Lifetime Achievement Award. Turner, who left Detroit twenty years ago to do AIDS work in New York, currently serves as the Community Liaison for FACES New York, which grew out of New York City's oldest African American AIDS Service Organization.

Turner took time to share his view on the AIDS movement as it stands today, over two decades from a time when friends and loved ones were dropping left and right from the mysterious disease.

"There is something I really want to address. LGBT inequity. Me being a black gay male, and a senior, some might say a sexy senior, certainly I'm

an advocate. I'm a staunch advocate for talking about change. That's what leadership is all about, making change." Turner noted that he didn't have many

soon be stepping back from activism. "Yes, I am moving towards retirement, and the bucket list has Annie at the top of it," Murray said, referring to longtime partner Annie Eaton. "I could never have gone this far as long as I did without the love of my life."

She urged members of the African American community to stand up to religious intolerance. And she shared her advice to the upcoming leaders in the room.

She praised the work of Rev. Darlene Franklin and told the audience "If you get beat up from the pulpit on Sunday morning because you are LGBT, stop! Get up and walk out. Walk up to the pulpit and say 'No more!' That is not religion. That is domestic violence."

The loudest part of Murray's acceptance message spoke to the futures of the Detroit-based LGBT organizations. "I want to challenge you," she said. "In this room are three agencies that I think are the guts and glue of the LGBT African American community in Detroit. They are KICK, Ruth Ellis Center and they are AIDS Partnership Michigan, and I'd like to challenge you. You must support these organizations.

And you must give them your time, your talent, and let me be blunt, your money. "If your income is \$10,000 a year

years of activism left, and encouraged the people in the room to keep moving forward and fighting for the change they want to see.

Murray too announced that she would



AIDS activist Ron Thomas and APM's Executive Director Barb Murray were both honored for their work at HTJ Conference. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire.

See HTJ honors, page 14

“ If you have not seen the report about HIV and African American same-gender loving, gay, MSMs whatever title you use, if you have not seen the report it will scare the life out of you. Those numbers are not acceptable, and we are not done yet! ”

- APM Executive Director Barb Murray

# Equality Michigan: Where It's Been, Where Is It Heading?

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

**DETROIT** - With the announcement of Equality Michigan Executive Director Denise Brogan-Kator's departure in May and a recently announced lawsuit against the organization by a former employee, questions continue to arise as to the sustainability of the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization.

In the past two and a half years, since Triangle Foundation merged with Michigan Equality to form Equality Michigan, there has been turnover in employees, executive directors and most recently key board members. The vice chairman of the board, Alan Semonian, stepped down in June, and in July, Amy Hunter resigned as well. She had served on both the Equality Michigan board and as the president of its affiliate, Equality Pride PAC.

Most political analysts agree that a strong, LGBT political group is needed in Michigan; one that can articulate the issues, lobby legislators on behalf of LGBT people, identify candidates who will advance LGBT issues and mobilize the LGBT community to get those candidates into office. Although the need is clear, some question whether Equality Michigan will ever be ready to meet that need.

## Current Situation

In an announcement July 25, the organization said a grant from an "anonymous donor" had been given "to grow development and communications efforts." The amount of the grant was not stated in the press release. "The funding will enable the organization to expand their development and communications efforts without pulling resources from its successful slate of advocacy and anti-violence programs," read the release.

The release stated that former Triangle Foundation staff member Greg Varnum has been hired "to help with implementation" of the new grant. There are currently five other employees and one intern.

In June, the board of directors set up a three-person team to help run the day-to-day operations of the agency. Board members Dave Wait, Joy Geng and Amy Hunter were put in place to assist the staff and handle financial transactions, however Hunter resigned from the management team when she left the boards in early July.

According to financial reports, the budget in 2011 was \$1.1 million, up 44 percent from \$782,000 in 2010. Much of this increase was supported by a multi-year grant from the Arcus Foundation intended to support the 2010 merger and launch the newly formed Equality Michigan. But as the grant funds ran out, fundraising did not generate nearly enough new money to replace the Arcus grants.

Wait, the board treasurer, said that the 2012 budget, which has been finished but not entirely approved, calls for reducing staff and overhead in order to bring the budget down to \$720,518.

"We recognized that our current mode of operations was not sustainable," said Patrick Schuh, board president. "We have pulled the board and staff together to do an overall assessment of the organization; we are looking at our strategic focus, the organizational structure, and the scope of work. We are confident that an assessment of this depth will yield results. It will bring about an organization that is better able to respond to the changing demands from the cultural, economic and political environment. We intend to bring the community into this process too, and we think they will be confident, like we are, in the organization and the future."

According to Wait, the total budget of \$720,518 to operate Equality Michigan will come mainly from special events (\$314,000),

See Equality Michigan, page 14

# Creep of the Week

## Bryan Fischer

BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

Poor Chick-fil-A. The company's president, Dan Cathy, makes a few disparaging remarks about how marriage equality is basically the same thing as punching God in the nuts and then the Muppets break up with the fast food chain and hell breaks loose.



Bryan Fischer

Actually, Cathy has a long anti-gay history and Chick-fil-A has given millions of dollars to rabidly anti-gay groups like Exodus International and the Marriage & Family Foundation, a Virginia anti-gay group.

Therefore, the company's stance isn't exactly news. But you'd never guess from the uproar. Granted, there are legitimate concerns about a corporation so proudly flying the gay-hating flag. I need not point out that if Cathy were shouting from the rooftops about interracial marriage he'd have a lot fewer defenders. But everybody who is all of a sudden screaming that eating a Chick-fil-A sandwich is basically the same thing as aborting a gay baby needs to get a grip.

As for Chick-fil-A's fans, there's nothing at Chick-fil-A anyone should be putting in their mouths. So everyone rushing to the restaurant's defense by stuffing their faces with garbage is really only punishing themselves. And the chickens. Especially the chickens.

Mike Huckabee has even declared Aug. 1 Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day in order to fight against the liberals who've declared they're going to buy their lifespan shortening meals somewhere else now.

And no one seems more enthusiastic about this Aug. 1 "demonstration" than the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer.

During a recent radio address Fischer complained that gays were "trying to present themselves as these innocent little victims." In reality, he says, "They are bullies. They are intolerant, they are vicious, they are mean, and they are after people of faith."

Oh how I love the big-gay-meanies-are-attacking-us argument from the religious right. Especially when the

so-called bullies are picking on a multi-billion dollar corporation. As if a corporate entity's political views should not impact the bottom line. And remember, in this case it's not just that Cathy has a big mouth, but he also has a big wallet. A lot of chickens have been sacrificed in order to fund the anti-gay agenda.

Fischer continued, "(Gays) have no tolerance for those who support the institution of the natural family. None, zip, zero. They have no room in their so-called 'diversity world' for people who believe in natural marriage."

That's right. The gays just want everyone to get gay-married and have a gay ol' time. Anyone who wants one of those icky one-penis-one-vagina marriages can stuff it. No pun intended, obviously.

Fischer then sounds the alarm: "(T)he bullies at Big Gay are coming after Chick-fil-A. They're trying to take them out, they're trying to obliterate them,

Even if every LGBT rights supporter stopped eating at Chick-fil-A the company is hardly going to wither and die.

they're trying to go Ahmadinejad on Chick-fil-A, they want them wiped off the face of the map."

Get it? Like how Iran wants to wipe Israel off the map? Super appropriate analogy.

Look, even if every LGBT rights supporter stopped eating at Chick-fil-A the company is hardly going to wither and die. And I can assure you, there are plenty of people who abhor the company's policies but can't live without their Spicy Chicken Sandwich (note to those people regarding life: you're doing it wrong).

Still, Fischer's Chick-fil-A rescue fantasy is something to behold. "Let's make it our goal to buy out every chicken sandwich that Chick-fil-A makes on August 1," he said. "Let's send them out behind the restaurant with an ax to cut the heads off of more chickens to feed people because they're selling so many chicken sandwiches."

Firstly, what did those poor chickens ever do? Secondly, yes, please let this be exactly how the day goes. My guess is that slaughtering chickens out back by the dumpsters would mean some pretty serious health and safety violations and shut more restaurants down than protesters ever could.

## ► Equality Michigan

Continued from p. 13

individual contributions (\$147,000), government services, i.e. funding to do victim services (\$95,000), earned interest (\$25,000) and grants (\$111,000). The two main grants will come from the Arcus Foundation and State Voices.

\$377,000 (52 percent) of the budget is set aside for programs, \$219,000 (30 percent) for special events, \$101,000 (14 percent) for administrative and fundraising and \$21,000 (3 percent) for accounting and audit. Wait added that there are "a couple" more grants out there that he's confident Equality Michigan will receive that could add to the amount of money allocated to programming and rebuilding of the staff. For example, the budget does not reflect the newly announced anonymous grant to support Greg Varnum's position.

The existing program staff continues to deliver results, despite the organizational chaos around them. Emily Dievendorf, policy director since August 2010, has built strong relationships in the legislature and was effective in helping to frame the anti-bullying legislation passed last year. Nusrat Ventimiglia, also hired in August 2010, is the director of victim services, a program that interacts with law enforcement and provides direct services to victims of hate crimes. Roland Leggett came in January 2011 as the field director

and has worked hard on the many local anti-discrimination ordinances across the state. This is part of a larger strategy to eventually get LGBT people included into the state's anti-discrimination legislation, the Elliot-Larsen Act, by first mobilizing lots of people at the local level.

## Going Forward

According to Wait, the board plans to launch an in-house search for a new executive director. He was also quick to add that no one on the current board is interested in the position.

The existing program staff continues to deliver results, despite the organizational chaos around them.

With respect to Equality Michigan's involvement in the 2012 elections, Wait said it is unrealistic for them to have much of a role. He said that now the board is waiting until the legislature is more favorable before focusing on political organizing, and that they "have fine-tuned a plan to be more realistic from a political standpoint. We'll be concentrating on local non-discrimination policies until the legislature changes."

Varnum has already started at

Equality Michigan. He recently returned to Michigan after several years in Washington, D.C. where he served as the executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition. He has also been involved in the Harvey Milk Foundation, GLSEN, the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and the strategic development of new progressive initiatives, including the recently launched WikiQueer, a Wikipedia like resource for the LGBT communities. As a communications and development staffer at Equality Michigan, he will provide some of the functions that normally would be covered by an executive director, although the existing staff will not report to him. For the time being all staff will continue to report to the management team of Wait and Geng.

## The Lawsuit

A lawsuit recently filed in Wayne County Circuit Court is a new potential expense and distraction for the organization. In Sept. 2009, during Skillman's tenure as executive director, Dr. Selma Massey was hired as the Director of Victim Services. She left the organization several months later and, according to Wait, Massey had threatened to sue before and a settlement was made between her and the organization. He said he was "surprised this is coming up now, this was settled years ago." He said that because it is a personnel issue he could not disclose more details.

## ► HTJ Honors

Continued from p. 13

I want you to give \$5 a year to KICK. Do it. Don't wait until Curtis Lipscomb comes to you after [money] has run out and he's going "What do we do now?" Don't wait 'til Laura Hughes comes after you because you will not know how to say no to that woman.

"Laura and Ruth Ellis Center raises from people just like us over 50 percent of their budget. That's a lot of money people. It needs to be more money. There are ten beds at Ruth Ellis Center. That is not enough. That is unacceptable.

"AIDS Partnership Michigan, if you have not seen the report about HIV and African American same-gender loving, gay, MSMs whatever title you use, if you have not seen the report it will scare the life out of you. Those numbers are not acceptable, and we are not done yet!"

The awards were part of a day-long tradition of education and empowerment within the Hotter Than July festival. The day began with welcomes from Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, U.S. Congressman Hansen Clarke and other community leaders. Workshops throughout the day focused on issues

such as the state of the LGBT movement, economic justice, health and wellness, knowing healthy relationships, LGBTQ studies at a Catholic college and a conversation between youth and elders. Dozens of participants packed the conference room at the Hilton Garden Inn in Downtown Detroit for the event.

For more coverage of Hotter Than July please visit our online site at  
» [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

There you will find the speeches delivered by the honorees,  
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# Parting Glances



## What would Woody do?

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Woody Allen – who takes religion, God, get-saved theology with a grain of salt (Epsom, no doubt) – quips, “I don’t believe in an afterlife, although I am bringing a change of underwear.”

(Woody adds, “I believe that there’s somebody out there who watches over us. Unfortunately, it’s the government.”)

If a poll conducted by the First Amendment Center, a nonpartisan educational group, is indication, there’s a possibility that Woody’s choice, at age 76, of heavenly, wide-front briefs (assuming he’s a wide fronter) might be red, white, blue striped.

According to FAC, Americans by a 55 percent margin have taken it into their collective salvation/sawdust trail heads that our nation’s founders – mostly Deists, agnostics, Masons, or, just as irreverent, High Church Anglicans – wrote Christianity into the Constitution. They did not.

If you bother to read it (who does?), the United States Constitution is non-theistic: the word God (or Jesus, Christianity, Christ, Bible, or even Creator) does not appear in its wording.

The only mention of religion in its original seven articles is (number VI) to proclaim “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust in the United States.”

As reported by USA Today, Charles Haynes, a senior FAC scholar, says the poll findings are “particularly troubling.” And oddly ironic. “Americans are dying to create a secular democracy in Iraq, and simultaneously a growing number of people want to see a Christian state here.”

Rick Green, spokesperson for WallBuilders, an advocacy group for government built on biblical principals, er, principles, says the poll doesn’t mean that a majority favors a theocracy, but that the Constitution reflects Christian values, including religious freedom.

“I would call it a Christian document,” says Green. (How about Mitt’s Book of Mormon, which Mark Twain called “printed chloroform?”) Even so, “The scariest thing,” says FAC’s Haynes, “is that only 56 percent agree that freedom of religion applies to all groups, regardless of how extreme their beliefs are.”

Reports USA Today, “More than one in four say constitutional protection of religion does not apply to ‘extreme’ groups.” (MCC-Detroit? Dignity? Lutherans Concerned? Westboro Baptist?)

One more quote’s worth highlighting. From James Madison, our fourth president and time-honored Father of the Constitution: “Who does not see that same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other Religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other Sects?”

God knows there are a few “in”sects buzzing about. Latter Day Saints. Jehovah’s Witnesses. Seventh Day Adventists. Moonies. Biblical Reconstructionists. Christadelphians. To mention only a few contenders in America’s religious, spiritual turf (and monetary) wars.

Make no mistake! There’s a power struggle going on. The fundamentalist/evangelical coalition is out, “gentle as doves, sly as foxes”, to make their “fundygelical” beliefs the dominant billy goat on the family farm, with us “lost LGBT sheep” its major scapegoat.

If these right-wing believers are to survive they know gosh darn well that separation of church and state must go. Science, psychiatry, history, philosophy must take a backseat to their ad hoc Jesus. There’s no compromise in their Onward Christian Soldiers warmongering.

One last Allenism: “If it turns out that there is a God, I don’t think he’s evil. I think the worst you can say about him is that basically he’s an underachiever.” Have a blessed day! (Give a fundygelical a Woody.)

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# Conference: HIV Rages Among Black Gay Men

BY BOB ROEHR

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An alarming 60 percent of black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the U.S. will become infected with HIV by the age of 40, according to the latest research presented at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington last week.

The HIV Prevention Trials Network study (HPTN 061) involved 1,553 black men in six cities – Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington – between 2009 and 2011.

It found that 2.8 percent of the study participants became infected with the virus each year, a rate almost half again that of white MSMs, said Kenneth Mayer, the study co-chair and medical research director at Fenway Community Health in Boston.

“For younger black MSMs, those under the age of 30, there was an HIV incidence rate of about 5.9 percent per year, or about three times the rate of white MSMs,” said Sheldon D. Fields, assistant dean for clinical affairs and health policy at Florida International University. “These rates are comparable to (what is seen in) countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are hardest hit by the epidemic.”

Almost all of the participants in the study (97 percent) agreed to take an HIV test. More than half either did not know their HIV status or believed that they were negative when they entered the study, but in fact, 165 of those men (12 percent) were already infected and did not know it.

“Black MSMs in America are more affected by HIV than any population in the developed world, it rivals the epidemic that we find in the developing world,” said Phill Wilson, president of the Black AIDS Institute.

“Black gay and bisexual men account for only 1 in 500 Americans, but 1 in 4 new HIV infections,” he said. “They are significantly less likely to be alive three years after being diagnosed with AIDS than are white or Latino MSMs.”

## Why

The public face of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. in the 1980s was of white gay men, “but from 1985 on there was a disproportionate impact in the African American community,” said Cornelius Baker, a veteran AIDS advocate based in Washington, DC. “We failed very early on to grapple as a country, to wrestle with that disparity.”

He said it is important to acknowledge the proactive steps that black gay men (BGM) have taken to educate themselves and create a sense of community and support, often in the face of racism, AIDS phobia, and homophobia within the broader black community.

It has been difficult to financially sustain those efforts because of high rates of poverty within the black community that limit both financial support for organizations and access to healthcare, according to Baker.



Phill Wilson, president of the Black AIDS Institute, addresses the XIX International AIDS Conference last week. Photo Bob Roehr

An initial assumption was that BGM must have been doing something different from other gay men that put them at higher risk for infection. But evidence over the years has shown that is simply not the case, said Gregorio Millett. He is a researcher with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and played a leading role in writing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, released in 2010. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf>

“They engage in comparable if not less risky behavior than other gay men,” he said. Young BGM in particular “are less likely to have amphetamine use, injection drug use, less likely to use drugs during sex, but they are still five times more likely to be HIV-positive and two-and-a-half times more likely to have a STD (sexually transmitted disease).”

“We need to refocus on the context,” Millett said. A leading factor is that the prevalence of HIV is higher among the pool of BGM they tend to have sex with. Higher rates of poverty also mean that BGMs are less likely to be under medical care for their HIV.

“In terms of viral suppression, we are far less likely, at least 50 percent less likely, to be virally suppressed (below the level of detection) compared to white gay men,” he said.

Each of these factors increases the likelihood of being exposed to the virus. It means that the same level of risky behavior for BGM carries a greater risk of becoming infected than it would for other gay men.

It is important to understand the role that homophobia and discrimination play in the lives of Black MSM. It often plays out in

“Black MSMs in America are more affected by HIV than any population in the developed world, it rivals the epidemic that we find in the developing world.”

- Phill Wilson, president of the Black AIDS Institute.

the “down low,” particularly in the South where many BGM from small towns and cities travel to party in Atlanta. But that situation provides little social support for healthy living.

Atlanta is the epicenter of AIDS for Black MSM. While other big city hospitals have closed their AIDS wards, Grady Memorial still fills 30-40 beds with patients suffering from opportunistic infections that are preventable if the patient is receiving medical care, said Carlos del Rio, an AIDS doc at Emory University. Often that care begins much later than it should.

## Remedies

There is “an urgent need for bold action and leadership, not business as usual, at every level to reduce the epidemic among Black MSM in America,” said Wilson. He called for effective targeting of Black MSM “with high impact prevention, to build sustainable community infrastructure.”

It is important that “that in the Black gay male community people understand what PrEP [pre-exposure prophylaxis using the drug Truvada to prevent infection] is, how it works, and whom it is appropriate for,” he said.

Fields added, the HPTN 073 study under development, which he co-chairs, will look at how to best use PrEP in combination with other prevention tools among BGM.

Full implementation of the health reform under the Affordable Care Act will be “perhaps the biggest game changer” for black gay men said Millett. “It is going to help out enormously.”

High portions of them do not have health insurance. The Act provides coverage for persons making up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, and has a floating scale of subsidies for persons with somewhat higher income.

Increasing access to health care will result in higher rates of testing for BGM and linkage to care. That in turn will reduce the level of HIV viral load within the community and the likelihood that the virus will be passed on to another person.

However, those provisions of the Act are not slated to take effect until January 2014. More importantly, they are dependent up states buying into and helping to pay for an expansion of state Medicaid programs. Many Republican and a few Democratic governors have been reluctant to take on that long-term financial responsibility. Thus, full implementation is not assured.

Millett said the formula for distributing AIDS funding under the Ryan White program is shifting from one based upon the cumulative number of cases to one that uses the current HIV caseload. That should benefit the South where the epidemic struck later but continues to grow at a faster pace than in the rest of the country.

The CDC already has begun to shift prevention and testing support to target communities most at risk, particularly black MSM.

Shame, discrimination, homophobia and poverty are important underlying structural factors that must be addressed. “If we are going to mobilize black gay men, maybe we need to mobilize across broader issues than just HIV, talking about poverty, talking about unemployment, talking about those structural factors,” said Wilson.

A report from the Black AIDS Institute issued in July, the 76-page Back of the Line: The State of AIDS among Black Gay Men in America 2012 documents the scope of the epidemic among that community. Fields said they will be updating research priorities in light of new data presented at the Conference. To see this document, go to

>> [www.blackaids.org/docs/back.pdf](http://www.blackaids.org/docs/back.pdf)



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# Provincetown Picks



## Best Bets for a Trip to the Cape

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The thick smell of seafood isn't something Michigan offers unless you're in the Red Lobster parking lot. But in Boston, at Bay State Cruise Company's pier at World Trade Center, the lingering aroma of fresh fish followed me all the way on the 90-minute fast ferry to Provincetown.

Part of the reason you go to P-Town is for the food (duh), and, if you're gay, you go there because ... you're gay. For something a little different – besides, of course, the famous tea dance that originated there and lots of gay bars along Commercial Street – consider a beachside clambake, a scenic bike ride or a night of gut-busting laughter with a bawdy queen.

### CLAMBAKE

Lone travelers might go for the scrumptious scallops at the Central House at the Crown or a Lucky Dog lobster po'boy, but for groups – or even for honeymooners (gay marriage is legal in Massachusetts!) – who love their seafood, don't pass up the chance to have a full-course seafood meal prepared in front of you. On the beach. As the sun is setting. The bake itself is just over \$60 a person, with a \$150 staff cost for up to 15 people,



so it's not cheap. But to enjoy authentic New England cuisine – clam chowder, littleneck clams in a wine broth, 1 1/2-pound steamed lobsters, jerk chicken and jalapeno corn bread with honey butter – around a roaring bonfire, the experience is priceless. [www.ptownparties.com](http://www.ptownparties.com).

### PURPLE FEATHER

It's not just the almond-crunch gelato and homemade fudge that are sweet at the Purple Feather. It's the couple that owns it: Ann Okun and her husband Peter. The couple's always smiling – who wouldn't be, working around freshly baked pastries, dozens of gelato flavors and specialty coffee drinks? Named Best Ice Cream on Cape



Cod by a local magazine (I'd go as far as saying one of the best anywhere), they even offer gourmet sandwiches for people who like to eat heartier before they dive into something sinfully delicious. Ann and Peter, see you soon for my sugar fix. [www.thepurplefeather.com](http://www.thepurplefeather.com).

### BIKING

A car in P-Town? Don't be silly. The best way to get around, considering how many people walk along the main drag, is to hop on a bicycle (just ask John Waters). It's safe, hassle-free and a nice way to expose your ass crack to all the other gays. Commercial Street makes it easy – take the bike both ways and, should you want to stop somewhere, the area has racks everywhere. For a scenic jaunt,



follow the recently renovated National Seashore Bike Trails for views of dunes, forest, ponds and the ocean. Wanna get naked? Take it to Herring Cove, a lovely spot that's also home to an unofficial nude beach. Oh yeah, baby. [www.ptownbikes.com](http://www.ptownbikes.com).

### DINA MARTINA

Lip-synching is one thing, but to truly perfect a complete character – that takes talent. Dina Martina has that and a lot of raunchy jokes, butchered songs from yesterday and today, tasteless costumes and absurdly hilarious video footage of

See Provincetown, page 24

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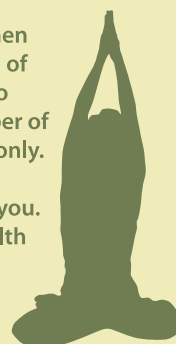
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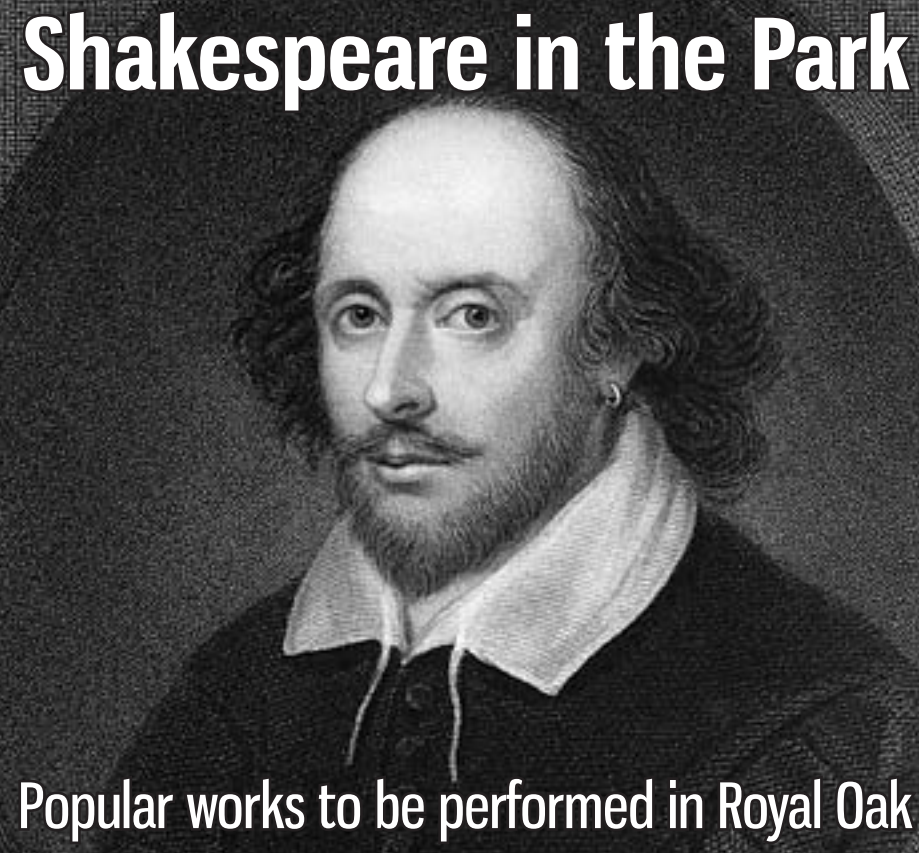



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# Shakespeare in the Park



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Michigan's biggest outdoor theater event, Shakespeare in the Park, will run through August with shows like "Henry V," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Summer Sonnets," presented by Water Works Theatre.

Don't miss "Henry V," Shakespeare's greatest hero, from Aug. 2-12 at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 5 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 and good for any performance.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Barton Bund and starring five actors who play all the roles, returns as a fun hour for the whole family. Catch it at 1 p.m. Aug. 4, 5, 11 and 12,

and 7 p.m. Aug. 7 and 8. Tickets are \$6 and good for any performance.

"Summer Sonnets" is a magical hour in the park with the Bard's legendary poetry set to a modern tale by playwright Audra Lord, and directed by JM Ethridge. "Summer Sonnets" plays at 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Aug. 4, 5, 11 and 12. Admission is free.

For more information on Shakespeare in the Park, thou shalt visit:

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

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## ► Provincetown

Continued from p. 19

her in recognizable shows. Her stints are always changing, and townies tell me she's best when she's completely off-the-cuff, but her dose of demented cartoon comedy is a brilliant way to spend a night with friends. [www.dinamartina.com](http://www.dinamartina.com).

## DUNES

If you do the dunes tour, you'll probably hear the story of the Man Who Hates People (his real name escapes me, but that about sums him up). He isolates himself in the sandy parts outside of town, where he walks down a steep slope to get water. No thanks. It's interesting, however, to hear about him and other shack dwellers who live on the outskirts, where famous artists and writers like Eugene O'Neill found inspiration. Known as the dunes of the Province Lands of the Cape Cod National Seashore, the area is a surprisingly sprawling mass of beach grass and pines – just beautiful sky overhead. Snap away! [www.artsdunetours.com](http://www.artsdunetours.com).

## SAGE INN

Leave it to two lesbians to take on the major renovations of a former Pilgrim House from 1800s that caught fire in 1990. Diane DiCarlo and Jeanne Leszczynski added a newly designed lounge with a fireplace, commercial kitchen and a custom-built first floor welcome desk. The space is modern, inviting and has become a popular place for hanging with friends and holding

private parties. Not to mention their food: Chef Lucio Garnica offers a memorable culinary experience with uniquely prepared cocktails and sharable small plates. The peanut butter and bacon rolls – made special at the time – changed my life. [www.sageinntown.com](http://www.sageinntown.com).

## WHALE WATCH

It's a four-hour commitment, but seeing those mighty mammals in their natural habitat on a whale watch is still a hoot. A boat takes you out to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary – home to vast marine life including whales, dolphins, sea turtles and sea birds that like to ride the behemoths' backs – and lets the whales show off. The humpbacks, minkes and finbacks peek out of the water, flip their tails and make use of their blowholes. After a while, it becomes just as much fun watching the camera-crazy people flock from side to side of the boat to catch these whales in action. [www.whalewatch.com](http://www.whalewatch.com).

## CARPE DIEM GUESTHOUSE

As soon as I walked into this luxury resort in the heart of Provincetown, I was charmed. Dessert wine in the guesthouse? A homemade German-style breakfast? How lovely. It's the perfect place to unwind, lounge in the secluded courtyard and get lost in a novel. They also have a hot tub, steam room, spa – and, after dark, clothes are optional. The Victorian-style rooms are adorable; each is uniquely furnished and named after historical authors (I was in "James Baldwin"). The little things make a big difference at Carpe Diem. [www.carpediemguesthouse.com](http://www.carpediemguesthouse.com).



# Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## Frank Ocean Comes Out With Stunning Debut. Plus: Whitney's Final Songs in 'Sparkle'



### Frank Ocean, 'channel ORANGE'

Even if Frank Ocean hadn't recently acknowledged that he's an equal-opportunity lover, becoming one of the first major hip-hop artists to come out, his very personal major-label debut doesn't hide a thing: He's living it up with a lady on "Super Rich Kids," but he's sad that his man doesn't love him back on the sorrowful "Bad Religion" – the guy he referenced in a public letter. Not only is his storytelling strewn with poetic vividness about a lonesome taxi ride and the feeling of "steak knives," but when his tenor – over an escalating instrumental palette – hits a vulnerable falsetto, he breaks you into pieces. The rest of Ocean's remarkable work stays away from R&B conventions, too: "Sweet Life" grooves with an old-time feeling that's got hit power without bringing bitches and hoers into the mix; "Forrest Gump" is a bittersweet confessional about, presumably, the same boy who has his heart; "Lost," percolating with gaming-noise blips, is sexy, liberating and good enough to go on for another five minutes. His influences are everywhere, from classic Mary J. Blige references to the Stevie Wonder and Prince sounds that are heard in the caramel-smoothness of his voice. But this is obviously Ocean's moment, as the

24-year-old who once guested for Jay-Z and wrote for Beyoncé steps into superstardom. The album shot to No. 2 on the pop charts in its first week, and rightfully so: "channel ORANGE" is a soul-baring piece of hip-hop art. And that has nothing to do with who's in his bed at night. *Grade: A-*



### 'Sparkle' soundtrack

Near the end of Whitney Houston's life, the super belt that made the singer a star had been reduced to a rough whimper. One of the most treasured vocal icons of our time lost its unparalleled power. Nothing, though, could take away the spirit and soul inside it. Both find their way into her version of "His Eye is on the Sparrow" from her first movie in 15 years, which would also tragically become her last; it doesn't capture Houston at her vocal zenith, but there's no denying she feels every word of it: Over just piano, she – along with a choir – carries the song hauntingly into a moving posthumous paean. "I sing because I'm free" is all the more powerful in

the wake of Whitney's death. It's not the best song on the Motown-inspired soundtrack, also featuring Jordin Sparks and Cee Lo Green, but it's definitely a standout. Sparks' song with Houston, "Celebrate," goes for Disney cutesiness with a disco-lite sound that makes it an easy listen, but Sparks does all the heavy lifting. If only there were more to celebrate. And elsewhere, there is: Soul singer Goapele's own song, "Running," has classic '60s written all over it, Sparks' "One Wing" is an inspiring ballad with a showy climax of diva runs, and Cee Lo keeps "I'm a Man" fresh without losing that trademark blues sound. More on that level and "Sparkle" could really shine. *Grade: B-*

### Also Out



### Gentleman Reg, 'Leisure Life Part One'

The five songs on the queer Canadian's EP is just the beginning: Two more are due shortly, before a full-length hits in the fall (how very Robyn of you, Reg). If this one's any indication, the indie outsider – known for lo-fi folk that eventually becomes background music on popular TV dramas – goes for power-pop on "I Could Be What You Wanted," about a pair of star-crossed lovers, and the synth-swirled "Waiting Around for Gold." Both sound progressively rich. His androgynous voice, however, is still an acquired taste. Proceed with an open mind.



### Jennifer Lopez, 'Dance Again ... The Hits'

Thanks to "American Idol," Jennifer Lopez's career found a second life. But the fly girl's best dance songs still go back to the first, when she initially made the actress-to-singer transition with "Waiting for Tonight" and "If You Had My Love." It's easy to forget the genius of those – especially the slinky former single – when what she's recently released doesn't exactly have the same charm. "Feelin' So Good" is another reminder of how good Jenny From the Block could be when she had a simple beat, a rapper du jour and lighthearted lyrics about ... nothing.

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 2

#### Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends

7 p.m. 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 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

**Speak Out** 7 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBTQ people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Crystallair@jimtoycenter.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/14842818609115

**S.P.I.C.E.** 7:30 p.m. S.P.I.C.E. works to empower and enhance the lives of women of color in the LGBTQ community in Detroit, by eradicating the health, social and educational barriers facing them. S.P.I.C.E., 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### 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. lsbndanii@aol.com

### Sunday, Aug. 5

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Topic of discussion: Who has been your greatest influence in life? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

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

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

### Monday, Aug. 6

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

### Tuesday, Aug. 7

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

**Rainbow Writers** 7 p.m. Come and share your artistic talents, find people to read and edit/proof your work or just come together to help one another discover their muses. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thetenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

### Wednesday, Aug. 8

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

**Coping with Disabilities Group** 1 p.m. Group for adults with disabilities. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Handicapped accessible. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### Friday, Aug. 10

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

**Older Lesbians Organizing** 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

### Saturday, Aug. 11

**Transgender Resource Group** 7 p.m. All ages, sexual and gender identities are members. Allies are welcome too. This is a support and social group, with an emphasis on advocacy and education. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thetenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

### Sunday, Aug. 12

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Topic of discussion: What is the best could not put it down book you have read? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

**PFLAG St. Joseph/Berrien County Meeting** 2 p.m. Meets the second Sunday of every month. PFLAG St. Joseph/Berrien County, 4340 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph. PFLAGBerrienCounty@yahoo.com

**Rainbow Book Club** 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

**The Rubi Girls** 9 p.m. The Rubi Girls are a group of friends who began putting on shows for one another in an attic in the late 1980's. Initially, it was all in fun. When the AIDS crisis hit, they made the transition to public performances in order to help raise funds for those in the community living with HIV. Admission is free. CARES, 333 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck. 937-694-2196. RubiGirls.com

## MUSIC & MORE

### CONCERTS

**Farmington Hills Department Cultural Arts** "Davin Scillian & Arizona Son" Named "Best country Performer" at the Detroit Music Awards will perform his own special brand of country. Scillian is backed by the amazing Arizona Son, a group that opened for such well-known singers as Reba McEntire and Lean Rimes. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 9. FHGov.com

**Flint Institute of Music** "Alyssa Smith" An evening of solo marimba, percussion ensemble, and ragtime xylophone music, including works by J.S. Bach and G.H. Green. Free and open to the public; donations gratefully accepted at the reception following. All proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen three-day walk for the cure. MacArthur Recital Hall, 1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Aug. 2. Smithmarimba.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Susan Chastain" Celebrated jazz vocalist and owner/impressaria of the Firefly Club for many years. Joined by jazz colleagues Paul Keller and Phil DeGreg, the trio will perform selections from the Great American Songbook. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 4 - Aug. 4. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

**Meadow Brook Music Festival** Train, with special guests Mat Kearney and Andy Grammer. Tickets: \$25-60. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang" k.d. lang is a pop and country singer-songwriter, occasional actress, and four-time Grammy Award winner. She ranked number 33 on VH-1's 100 Greatest Women in Rock and Roll in 1999 and Number 26 CMT's 40 Greatest Women in Country Music in 2002, one of only eight women to make both lists. Tickets: \$45-61. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Sound Board Theater** "The Summerland Tour 2012" Featuring Everclear, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Lit and Marcy Playground. Tickets: \$43-48. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 2. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

**The Ark** Candye Kane; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 11. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** Harpeth Rising; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 6. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Bling Pig** Charlene Kaye; Born in Hawaii and raised in Hong Kong, Singapore and Arizona, Charlene's love of music started with classical piano training at age five. At 13, she began teaching herself punk songs on her mom's nylon guitar and was further influenced by her sister's love of classic rock bands such as Queen and Led Zeppelin. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in English, she moved to New York City to pursue a career in music. Tickets: 10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Aug. 11. 734-996-8555. BlingPigMusic.com

**The Bling Pig** "Magical Mistakes" Performing with Mutual Benefit, Little Spoon, Dreampeter and Lou Breed. Tickets: \$5. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. Aug. 8. 734-996-8555. BlingPigMusic.com

**The Majestic** "I Love Dinosaurs / K@ Dog" I Love Dinosaurs second to last show of the year, and first Detroit appearance ever. Tickets: \$5. The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10 p.m. Aug. 5. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

**The Majestic** "The Hague" Portland, OR quintet The Hague are churning out smart, indie-rock that pays tribute to the classics while remaining true to their own agenda. Free. The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10 p.m. Aug. 11. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

**The Palace** "Kelly Clarkson with The Fray" Tickets: \$27.50-75. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 10. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com



Kelly Clarkson at DTE, Aug. 10

**The Palace** "Barenaked Ladies" With special guests Blues Traveler, Big Head Todd & The Monsters and Cracker. Tickets: \$25.50-75.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 11. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

### OTHER

**Meadow Brook Music Festival** "Ralphie May" Tickets: \$17.50-24.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 5. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

**SCP-Michigan and UR** "7th Annual SCP/UR Backpack Music Festival" Two day festival/fundraiser for Backpacking for Success. SCP has collaborated with Detroit area community outreach programs, and churches along with public and charter schools for the betterment and improvement of the students' learning environment. Entertainment includes: Derrick May, Eddie Folkes, Galaxy 2 Galaxy, Jeff Mills, Juan Atkins, Mike Banks, Timeline, John Collins and more. Admission is through donations to Backpacking For Success. New Center Park, 2929 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit. Aug. 4 - Aug. 5. BackparkMusicFestival.com

**WellspringCory Terry & Dancers** "Burger Bash" Tickets: \$25 (Children 12 and younger, \$10 with paid adult). Live music, dancing, celebrity judges, Best Burger and People's Choice Awards and more. This summer fundraiser supports Wellsprings Scholarship and Outreach Fund. Bells Eccentric Cafe, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo. 11 p.m. Aug. 11. 269-342-4354. Wellspringdance.org

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

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Avenue Q** \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 10 - 25. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

**Fiddler on the Roof** \$5-12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden Road, Warren. Aug. 10 - 19. 586-268-8400. WarrenCivic.org

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

**Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen** \$5. The All Of Us Express Children's Theatre at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, Lansing. Through Aug. 4. 517-319-6963. CityofEastLansing.com

**Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** \$25-28. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Aug. 10 - 19. 517-264-SHOW. Crowell.org

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

**Will on the Water** \$5. Enter Stage Right at Riverview Plaza & Palmer Park, 201 N. Riverside Dr., St. Clair. Through Aug. 12. WillOnTheWater.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 - 12. waterworkstheatre.com

**AbraCadabra Magic Show** \$7. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 3 - 11. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

**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

**Antony and Cleopatra** \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave., Grand Rapids. Aug. 9 - 19. DogStoryTheater.com

**Banana for Turtle** \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Aug. 4 - 18. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

**BoxFest Detroit 2012** \$10 day pass, \$30 festival pass. BoxFest Detroit at The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Aug. 2 - 18. BoxFestDetroit.com

**Burn This** Previews Aug. 2-5 & 9 (\$22-\$32), \$27-34. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 2 - Sep. 2. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

**Chaps!** \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. 8th Street, Holland. Through Aug. 10. 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

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Aug. 4. 248-327-0575. gocomedynet

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

**Getting Strong - The Wiggles! Live in Concert** \$15-40. The Palace, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Aug. 10. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

**Gruesome Playground Injuries** \$12; The Elizabeth Theatre at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 12.

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

**Hot Dog Mondays** \$5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Aug. 27. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Continued on page 29



## Editor's Pick

In an Internet age consumed by social media like Facebook, Twitter and Match.com, the idea of two lonely hearts connecting as anonymous pen pals may seem quaint. The Penny Seats theater company aims to correct that assumption with its summer production of the award-winning musical classic "She Loves Me," opening July 26 at Ann Arbor's West Park Band Shell.

"'She Loves Me' is about real people, with real flaws and real problems," said returning director Jacqui Robbins. "It's clever and sort of cynical in places, but

yet, it has this incredible romantic hopefulness. Audiences will be drawn to the humor and the edginess...but will then hope, in spite of themselves, for the fairy-tale ending."

Performances continue Aug. 2-4 and Aug. 9-11, all at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The West Park Band Shell is located at Ann Arbor's West Park, between Miller and West Huron. For more information, call 734-276-2832.



Kelly Komlen-Amadei and Peter Prouty star in "Gruesome Playground Injuries" at The Elizabeth Theatre.

# 'Gruesome Playground Injuries' Exposes Wounds of a Deep Friendship

BY DANA CASADEI

Friendships come and go, some last, some quickly dissolve, but there are others that are so special that even through distance, fighting and everything else you would still be there in an instant for them, and once together it's as if you hadn't spent more than a few hours apart instead of years.

In the Michigan premiere of Rajiv Joseph's "Gruesome Playground Injuries" at The Elizabeth Theatre, that special kind of friendship is what Doug (Peter Prouty) and Kayleen (Kelly Komlen-Amadei) have.

The show begins with the two of them meeting for the first time at age 8 in the nurse's office, then alternates between going forward 15 years and then backward 10, ending with them both at 38, each scarred in more way than one.

Spanning across 30 years in the 90-minute performance, each of the eight scenes revolves around a new injury for one of the duo, ranging from an eye blown out by a firework to others that are much more internal and psychological. Each scene discusses the history between the two friends and foreshadows some of what's to come, but really just adds to the depth of this guardian angel-like friendship, each being the life support for the other.

## REVIEW

### Gruesome Playground Injuries

The Elizabeth Theater, Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Sunday and Thursday through Aug. 12. 90 minutes; no intermission. \$12.

>> [gruesomeattheelizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:gruesomeattheelizabeth@gmail.com)

While the ages of the characters vary, both Prouty and Komlen-Amadei give breathtaking performances, no matter the age.

As 8-year-olds, they both have childlike innocence and actions, such as the way their conversation ping-pongs between everything and nothing, while as teenagers they're both awkward in a way that any 13-year-old would be.

But as adults is where they both have their shining moments not soon to be forgotten.

For Prouty it happens during Scene 7 – "Twenty-Three: Tooth and Nail." He's still the Doug we have seen earlier, but there's something different here, as he expresses his feelings for Kayleen and tells her about the night that he saw her father to find out where she was living. He's angry and hurt, but wants nothing more than to protect her, something he tries to do throughout, even when he doesn't have it all together.

In Scene 4 – "Twenty-Eight: Tuesday," Komlen-Amadei brought tears to my eyes as she talks to Doug, who's in a coma. With many more wounds than at first sight, she's heart wrenching to watch as a woman who is slowly coming apart at the seams.

Friendship goes a long way, not only in the show, but also by those who put it together.

The entire show is produced, directed, acted and designed by Wayne State students past and present. Director Jordan Whalen, a 2011 graduate of Wayne State's M.F.A. acting program at the Hilberry Theatre, enlisted fellow classmate Prouty and Bonstelle alumna Komlen-Amadei to act, and added current students Devon Davey, Sara Hymes and Brian Scruggs as his artistic team. Everything from the costumes to the lights add something distinct to the age that Prouty and Komlen-Amadei are playing in any given scene, making it believable as we slowly watch it all unfold.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries" is much darker than I thought it would be, even with its moments of humor, but that's OK; it exposes the scars and wounds that make these characters, for both the good and the bad, and that's refreshing in a world where any sort of imperfection is often hidden.

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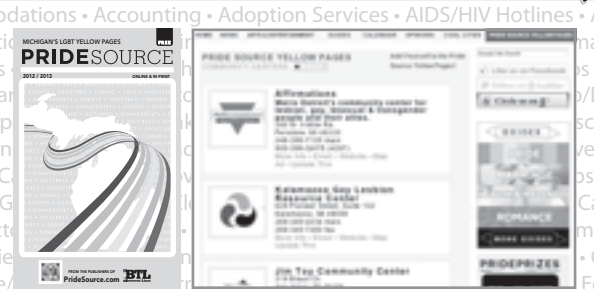
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## The OutField

# Nike Reaches the LGBT Sports Summit

BY DAN WOOG

A few years ago, no one was talking about LGBT issues in sports. Now, everyone is.

Suddenly, the game that dared not speak its name turned into a cacophony. Legit sports organizations (the NCAA; American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) wanted to address homophobia in athletics. So did gay groups like GLSEN, GLAAD and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Smaller organizations cropped up specifically around gays in sports. They had names like Athlete Ally, Our Group, the StandUp Foundation and You Can Play.

You could not tell the players without a scorecard.

Cyd Zeigler covers LGBT sports for a living. Co-founder of the very popular website Outsports, even he was confused. And he realized many groups were talking past – if not against – each other. Observing so much duplication of ideas and energy, he wondered what it would take to get a variety of organizations into the same room.

Kirk Walker, head softball coach at Oregon State University, loved the idea. He suggested the perfect host: Nike. Walker had worked with the company in the past and had been impressed with their gay-positive attitude.

Robert Goman, a consumer product manager and head of Nike's LGBT & Friends Network, was immediately enthusiastic. With the help of NCLR Sports Project director Helen Carroll and GLSEN Changing the Game sports director Pat Griffin, the Nike LGBT Sports Summit was born.

The first problem was keeping the June meeting to a manageable size. "We wanted it to be a working group," Zeigler says. "You can't do that with 100 people. We kept it to 25 so we could have real conversations."

Talk they did. Though Nike went all out as host – covering travel costs and meals; throwing a welcome party and Pride reception at their downtown Portland store; offering meeting space on their Beaverton campus; welcoming Summit participants to march with the Nike contingent at the Portland Pride parade – their real contribution was providing leaders and facilitators.

On Saturday morning – after two days together – a Nike executive spoke up. "This is great," she said. "But you're not thinking big enough."

Her words were electrifying. "Everyone realized she was right," Zeigler recalls. The group scrapped the rest of the day's agenda, and focused on how they could "really, really change sports in a big way," he says.

Gradually, participants focused on the idea of "champion." Though the word now



Cyd Zeigler. Photo courtesy of Cyd Zeigler.

means an athlete who plays on a winning team, Zeigler says that from the time of the Romans a champion has been defined not by trophies won, but by actions taken.

"A champion is someone inclusive and supportive," Zeigler notes. "We realized how important it is to drive this idea forward: that a champion includes and supports everyone on his or her team."

The newly formed "LGBTQ sports coalition" vowed to work to achieve several goals. They will engage each of the major American professional sports leagues to work toward inclusion. They will try to increase the visibility of out college athletes, coaches and allies. They will devise an "LGBTQ inclusive model policy" for national youth and adult recreational leagues.

And they will promote a new, inclusive definition of "athletic champion" to young athletes, while providing inclusive training resources to physical education teachers and coaches.

"Everything we do, it's ultimately about youth and young athletes," Zeigler says. "That's something everyone agreed on."

Of course, any time over a dozen groups get together, there will be contention. At the summit, discussions of funding were seldom easy. "Ultimately, there's a limited amount of resources," says Zeigler. "Groups compete for funding. That came through very clearly."

But overriding those discussions was a more important feeling: trust. "A lot of the people there had never met each other. Or they didn't understand or trust them," Zeigler says.

"Trust is a huge part of sports. You have to trust your teammates. You have to trust a game plan. I think we really built trust among the different groups. There's a much better sense now of knowing when to lead, and when to follow."

Zeigler adds, "The gay sports movement has been going on for 40 years. But I think this is the beginning of the end of homophobia in sports." He predicts that within four years, anti-gay attitudes in athletics will have faded remarkably.

Why four years? "That's the length of high school, or the number of years you play in college. It takes four years for each group, beginning to end."

Zeigler uses one final sports analogy to sum up the good feeling of the men and women at the Nike LGBT Sports Summit.

"Part of winning is playing well together. We're athletes. We all know how to win."

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.*

# Transgender Pride in the Park Returns Aug. 4

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIER

Transgender people from around the region will converge on Geary Park in Ferndale for the annual Transgender Pride in the Park event, taking place from noon to 6 p.m. on Aug. 4.

The event grows each year, and among the new attendees will be Cary Marsh, Transgender Michigan's newest board member. Marsh is a 61-year-old FTM (female-to-male transgendered person) who joined the organization four months ago.

"I have never been to one, but I do feel with all the feedback I have been told it's lots of fun, games, food and very friendly people," he said. "I heard a lot of good feedback about it."

Indeed Transgender Pride in the Park is a good time and a unique time for trans-identifying individuals and their allies to get together. Last year over a hundred people came to the event, many from around the state and Ohio and Indiana. One person came up from Texas.

People grill burgers and hot dogs and many bring a dish to pass. There is plenty of good food and opportunity to mingle, with Transgender Michigan co-founder Rachel Crandal likening the event to "a big family reunion."

Marsh said that when he came out as transgender at the age of 59, "Transgender

**Transgender Day  
in the Park**

12 p.m. Aug. 4. Geary Park, 1198 Earl Blvd.,  
Ferndale. Open to all trans-people and allies.  
517-420-1544.

» www.TransgenderMichigan.com

Michigan helped me in finding professionals who specialize in transsexualism. Also I was able to meet other individuals feeling the same as me, and got a lot of support that was needed."

After having gender-affirming surgery last August, Marsh has found value in sharing his success and evolution with others. "I think It's important to get involved to get out and show we are the same as any other person: we have feelings. We love. We respect all people. And we need to show it by being out and about."

In addition to his work with Transgender Michigan, Marsh is active at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. "I co-facilitate in two groups there Senior Koffee Klatch and Life Support. I also started a support group for loved ones and partners of transgender individuals called S.O.S. I found someone to take it over that's not trans so all will feel comfortable," Marsh said. "I want to help in



any way I can for all transgender individuals."

Transgender Michigan, which is also headquartered in Ferndale, provides counseling, information, advocacy and networking opportunities for transgender people and their allies. They also hold community events like

the Pride in the Park Picnic and offer a 24-hour help line for those with questions about transgender issues.

Learn more about Transgender Michigan at its website: <http://www.transgendermichigan.org>.

## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 26

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

**Into the Woods** \$10. The AKT Theatre Project at The Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut Road, Wyandotte. Aug. 3 - 11. 734-258-8370. [AKTtheatre.com](http://AKTtheatre.com)

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

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

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

**Othello** \$12-15. The American Shakespeare Collective at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capital, Lansing. Through Aug. 5. 517-372-0945. [americanshakespearecollective.com](http://americanshakespearecollective.com)

**Our Sinatra** \$36-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 12. 269-857-2399. [sc4a.org](http://sc4a.org)

**Palin Bunch** \$5-20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Aug. 9 - 18. 269-282-1953. [WhatADo.org](http://WhatADo.org)

**Pretty Fire** \$15-18. Threefold Productions at Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Through Aug. 4. [threefoldproductions.org](http://threefoldproductions.org)

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

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

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

**Songs for a New World** \$20. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Holland Area Arts Council, 150 E. 8th St., Holland. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. [hope.edu/hsr](http://hope.edu/hsr)

**Summer Sonnets** Free. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycees Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Aug. 4 - 12. [waterworkstheatre.com](http://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/hsr](http://hope.edu/hsr)

**The Detroit Improv Festival** \$5-\$20. The Detroit Improv Collective, Inc. at Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 8 - 11. [DetroitImprovFestival.com](http://DetroitImprovFestival.com)

**The Detroit Improv Festival** \$25. The Detroit Improv Collective, Inc., The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. [DetroitImprovFestival.com](http://DetroitImprovFestival.com)

The Detroit Improv Festival \$15-\$20. The Detroit Improv Collective, Inc., The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 9 - 11. 248-545-5545. [DetroitImprovFestival.com](http://DetroitImprovFestival.com)

The Facts of Life: \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 13. 248-556-8581. [TheRingwald.com](http://TheRingwald.com)

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

**The Rocky Horror Show** \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 12. 269-731-4121. [barntheatre.com](http://barntheatre.com)

**Viva Le Cirque** \$15-59. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. Aug. 3. 1-800-745-3000. [palacenet.com](http://palacenet.com)

## ART'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Five to Nine: An Exhibition of Extracurricular Work From Creative Young Professionals" Along with a large collection of new drawings and paintings from Noellert, Detroit-area photographer Daniel Ribar brings imagery from the wilder parts of northern Michigan, while local legend Tucker Myers shares sharp insights from his regular adventures in Mexico. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. July 27 - Sep. 2. 734-995-8004. [AnnArborartcenter.org](http://AnnArborartcenter.org)

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Janet Kohler Pastels" Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. July 1 - Aug. 31. 734-995-8004. [AnnArborartcenter.org](http://AnnArborartcenter.org)

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

**Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History** "The Chris Webber Collection" Chris Webber, Detroit native, National Basketball Association All-Star player (retired) and NBA announcer, collects rare artifacts that illuminate the lives and legacies of African American greats such as Phillis Wheatley, the first African American author. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1 - Sep. 30. 313-494-5853. [TheWright.org](http://TheWright.org)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "George Nelson: Architect / Writer / Designer / Teacher" The first comprehensive retrospective of Nelson's work. It has been touring in Europe and most recently in the United States at the Bellevue Art Museum in Seattle. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 16 - Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. [CranbrookArtMuseum.org](http://CranbrookArtMuseum.org)

**Epiphany Glass Studio** "Epiphany Glass Open Studio" Opportunity to see the state of the art hot glass studio of artist April Wagner, owner of epiphany glass. Light refreshments will be served. Epiphany Glass Studio, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 4 p.m. Aug. 2. 248-745-3786. [Epiphanyglass.com](http://Epiphanyglass.com)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Abstract Expressionism" Drawing on works from the FIA's permanent collection, along with important loans from regional museums, the exhibition surveys the art movement from its origins in the post World War II period to the latest developments in the 21st century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)



Picasso at the DIA

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Cities in Transition" A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use brings both challenges and opportunities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 1 - Aug. 26. 616-831-2904. [Artmuseumgr.org](http://Artmuseumgr.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Elliot Erwit: Dog Dogs" This exhibition leaves little question about Erwit's love of man's best friend. Erwit proves that our close relationship with dogs is due to mutual resemblance and emotion. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo.

July 7 - Sep. 23. 269-349-7775. [klarts.org](http://klarts.org)

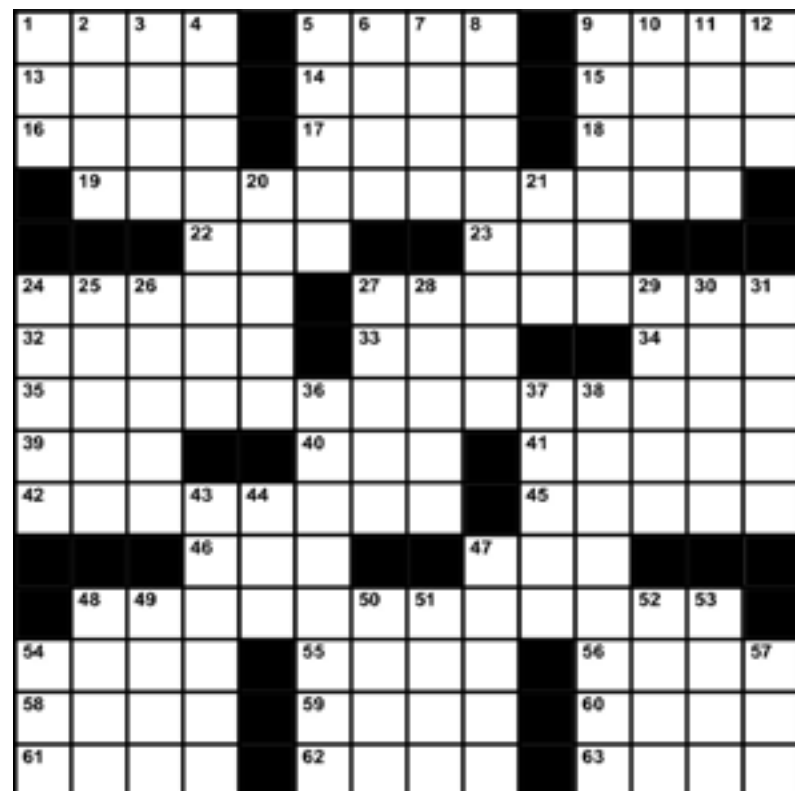
**Michigan State University Museum** "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" The MSU Museum revisits the publication of the landmark book, Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1 - Nov. 30. [Museum.msu.edu](http://Museum.msu.edu)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Picasso and Matisse" Groundbreaking visionaries who constantly experimented with techniques and materials. Features almost all of the works by Picasso and Matisse in the museum's prints and drawings collections. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11 - Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. [DIA.org](http://DIA.org)

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

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Judith Turner: The Flatness of Ambiguity" Judith Turner is a noted American photographer whose subject matter is mostly architecture. Turner's training as a designer allows her to visually understand an architect's intention and to reveal it in compositions that she constructs and edits through her camera work. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. June 9 - Sep. 2. 734-647-0524. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)

## Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child



### Across

- 1 "Tearoom Trade" author Humphries
- 5 Red-coated cheese
- 9 \_\_\_ to the bottom (sank)
- 13 K-12, educationally speaking
- 14 His grandmother had a Woody
- 15 Skin softener
- 16 Shakespeare's Othello, for one
- 17 Mark with a branding iron
- 18 Love, to Amelie Mauresmo
- 19 Upcoming sitcom about two gay dads
- 22 Rank of H. Sanders
- 23 "\_\_\_ on a Hot Tin Roof"
- 24 Mapplethorpe work
- 27 Village People classic
- 32 Strung along
- 33 Dr.'s org.
- 34 Suffix with ox
- 35 He plays one of the gay dads in 19-Across
- 39 It means nothing
- 40 Senatorial seat holders, e.g.
- 41 "Ready \_\_\_, here I come!"
- 42 Openings for a peeping Tom
- 45 Pounding parts
- 46 C.I.O. is partner
- 47 D.C. lobby group

- 48 He plays one of the gay dads in 19-Across
- 54 Staying power, in "Variety"
- 55 Encouraging words
- 56 They're tiny but attractive
- 58 "\_\_\_ put hair on your chest!"
- 59 Tuna-and-cheese sandwich
- 60 "WKRP" actress Anderson
- 61 Eyelid ailment
- 62 Choose not to come
- 63 Genie portrayal Barbara

### Down

- 1 The Eagle, to NASA
- 2 Loads
- 3 Oops!
- 4 Joel Schumacher, for one
- 5 Stand next to O'Keefe
- 6 Barrymore of "Boys on the Side"
- 7 "Six Feet Under" creator Ball
- 8 Casablanca citizen
- 9 Start to like
- 10 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
- 11 Witty Coward
- 12 X, sometimes

Solution on pg 32

# Horoscopes

## Be discreet, Cancer!

BY JACK FERTIG

*The sun in Leo aspecting Uranus and Pluto builds confidence, perhaps a bit too much. Sure you can do anything, but not on your own!*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** Worries about your relationship, or fears of never getting in one, are mostly groundless, but do say something about long-buried wounds or anxieties. Talking it out with your partner or a close friend can be very illuminating.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Whatever you do with your money or flirtations will come to naught, but there's nothing wrong with feeling flirty and confident. "Wasting" time with pleasant company can make good practice to shore you up for real investments of your treasure or time.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Humility is your big issue now. Whether you are too cocky or too shy you need to get back to knowing that in the grand scheme you are anyone's equal – no more or less.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Be discreet and strategic. That doesn't mean "be shy." Know what you're worth, but keep your cards close to your chest. Trust your instincts, be adaptable and know whom you can depend on. Even with all that, hard work counts for more than politics.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Trying to smooth over differences only causes problems to fester. Deal with it now. Solutions require original thinking, and you probably will make mistakes, but better to do that and correct them than not to try.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** You might get to act out some long-hidden desires. Revealing that secret side can cause doubts, especially if word gets out. Hold your head high, dismiss lurid rumors as trashy gossip and let them wonder. The mystique will do you good.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** However you need to revise plans, stay focused on your goal and clear on your limits. Promising too much can ruin everything. Talk up what you realistically can do; that's quite enough.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Let people know what you can do that will really make a difference. You may need to work on getting it across diplomatically. Think carefully before speaking, but it's better to risk offending than to say nothing and let opportunity pass you by.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** A new adventure will live up your partnership, or help you build or find one. Be daring and bold. It doesn't have to be expensive. For some people roller skating or karaoke are daring and bold. What would get your pulse racing?

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** You could be the center of domestic disturbances, a force of change in the community, and/or a dynamo in the bedroom. Any one of these can support another. Thinking of others first will help to keep it all clean and positive.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** You need to get a grasp of deep worries that are affecting your relationship. Talking with your partner is generally better than talking about your partner, but find a sympathetic and trustworthy ear where you can.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Confusion at work can stir a greater range of anxieties. Take a break and think through the problem at hand. It will get crazier before you can solve it, but control the damage and don't let it undermine other parts of your life.

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

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## Cocktail Chatter

### A Lesson for You: Grasshopper

BY ED SIKOV

The grasshopper is a delicious dessert cocktail, but I rarely make them because of their repulsive name. I just can't stand the idea of drinking insects. Is that so difficult to understand?

Why the inventor, some now-unknown master mixer but terrible namer in the French Quarter of New Orleans, probably in the early 1950s, felt compelled to dub his rich, creamy, minty milkshake of a drink after an overly excitable leapy-crawler – featured as one of the plagues visited on Egypt in the Lord's surprisingly belabored attempts to free the Jews from slavery – is quite beyond me.

Given its already nauseating name, I kept the cocktail du weekend a secret from the housemates this time around. (Cocktail Chatter regulars will recall that I spoiled my own presentation of the delightful Brandy Alexander one year by claiming I was instead going to serve Boogers, the contents of which are guaranteed to make even the most gut-hardened drinkers spew; this time, no jokes.)

I started the meal with a yellow tomato gazpacho, which turned out to be surprisingly unlike the typical throw-everything-in-the-blender messes that we're all used to. For one thing, there was no bread to thicken it; second, the color was quite a spectacularly bright yellow, what with the yellow tomatoes and the inspired addition of a little bit of no-pulp orange juice. Robbie flew off into a disgusting tangent about what the color reminded him of, but the adults at the table ignored him, with the exception of Craig, Chipper, Sal, Sean, Kyle, and Dan. (Yes, readers – I was the only adult at the table.)

We moved on to a heavier main course: linguini carbonara, made in part from the bacon grease I'd saved from last Sunday's breakfast. OK, not so good for you. But delicious! Those two extra egg yolks I added to the recipe's



recommended three also enhanced the fat and cholesterol reverie.

I suppose I should have listened to Dan and let him make a fruit salad, a lighter ending to the meal than the Grasshoppers I had a craving for. Dan makes an excellent fruit salad – any fresh, ripe fruit cut up mixed with whole blueberries and raspberries and tossed with a little Triple Sec – but it was after the Fourth of July at Fire Island Pines and I was getting a little irritated at the endless parade of flawless chiseled abs and decided to make sure than no one in our house could possibly have them. We practically had to hold Robbie down in the chair, pinch his nose closed and pour the drink into him, but even he drank his full share and admitted that his perfectly tight stomach could stand a little cuddly layer of fat as long as the cause was a delicious – I can barely type it – Grasshopper.

#### The Grasshopper

- 1 part green crème de menthe
- 1 part white crème de cocoa
- 1 part heavy cream

Mix ingredients together with ice in a shaker, shake and serve in a cocktail glass. In addition to white crème de cocoa, there is also dark crème de cocoa. Beware: It will really screw up the color of your grasshopper.

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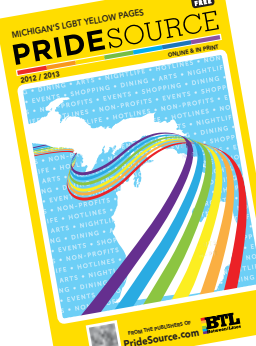
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