

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



New Rom-Com 'Ruby Sparks' Reviewed

Hungry4Equality Strike: Week One

“ I don't really intend on getting married, but that doesn't mean I can't believe fully in the rights of gay people to get married.”

- Hall Sparks, page 17



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“ Lots of people believe in equal rights for LGBT folks, but they don't know that a hard working gay person can be fired from their job just because they are gay. ”

Day 1

**Affirmations Executive Director
Dave Garcia**

“ We need to do a better job educating everyone about the extreme anti-equality environment in this state, so things can begin to change. ”



Day 2

**Kalamazoo Resource Center
Executive Director Zach Bauer**



Day 3

Affirmations Kat LaTosch

“ People just don't realize how bad Michigan has become on equal rights. If they knew, they'd act. I wanted to do my part to help raise their awareness. ”

“ I am Hungry 4 Equality and I am striking because I want Michigan to be safe for our families. ”



Day 4

**KICK-Detroit Executive Director
Curtis Lipscomb**



Day 5

**The Network Executive Director
Pat Ward**

“ Most states are lucky to even have one community center. In Michigan there are so many, and now we can influence representatives as a solid front. ”

WEEK 1

Hungry4Equality Strike Gets Worldwide Attention

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

For some, being an active citizen means scarfing down a chicken sandwich at a fast food joint. But for the people involved in the 100-day hunger strike, activism is about more than just a one-time show of support. Hungry4Equality is a 100-day strike relay where strikers sit on camera for 24 hours in the window of Affirmations, and sustain themselves only through liquids for one day at a time.

The relay-style protest has been in force for over a week now, and community center partners are excited about the progress. “People are really paying attention,” said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia. “The story has made it to media throughout the world. And now it's time to keep the momentum going.”

Leaders from all eight community centers in Michigan completed the first week of hunger striking. The cohesiveness of the Community Center Network shows a historically high level of teamwork, and the statewide effort is a strong beginning to everyone in the state working together. Each day of week one, a different community center executive director took over

the couch in the name of their organization. After their shift, each has gone back to their hometowns with energy and information that will help them carry on the fight for equality in their region of the state.

Ray Magdaleno of Detroit Latinos took day 7 of the strike. “It was amazing. Very uplifting to see families walk by and stop and read the signs, genuinely interested in what they were reading.”

He was referring to the giant posters in the front window of the Affirmations Community Center. The poster lists the reasons for the strike and a list of six politicians whose anti-gay legislative work is harming the community.

Other leaders had similar responses. “It was nice to see all the people walk by on the street and wave to us,” said Pat Ward of The Network in Grand Rapids. “Some came in and started talking to us, to tell their stories. Everyone was really nice, and I never felt like we were just shoved in a corner.”

Back home in Grand Rapids the torch carries on, as Ward prepares to report about the experience in the Network News. They've also hung a banner in their building and provide information about the strike to those that use

The Network. There may also be an open house where Ward will talk about the efforts.

Overall Ward's excited about the collaboration. “When I joined the CCN group this is exactly what I thought we should be doing. Most states are lucky to even have one community center. In Michigan there are so many, and now we can influence representatives as a solid front.”

Ward did several media interviews while she was in town, including a half-hour discussion that was taped by a graduate student for a documentary about gay rights. Word of the protest has spread worldwide, and Affirmations Communications Director Cass Varner has counted over 100 different articles about it, including some overseas. Anti-equality publications as well as mainstream media have also picked it up.

“The story kind of took a couple of different forms when it was released so there wasn't really any surprise to that, however, I was surprised that a couple of fundamentalist groups picked it up and used the story to feed their anti-gay rhetoric. I was also surprised initially when we put this out on our social media streams, how many instant anti-gay rants we received - “I hope you

all starve,” “gay people shouldn't be allowed to get married or adopt,” etc. We also got a few ‘this is stupid’ or ‘this won't help anything’ comments as well. I'm glad though that the vast majority is overwhelmingly excited with this campaign. It's really exciting knowing that the community centers all over Michigan are 100 percent behind this effort and working together,” Varner said.

An email came from England for example, from a woman named Angela Burrow. “I don't live in Michigan, or even in the U.S., but I just wanted you to know that I will conduct a 24-hour hunger strike as a show of support. Please let me know when your campaign starts so I can join you in spirit. I am lucky in that here in the UK. I have the same rights as everyone else. Apart from I can only have a civil partnership instead of a marriage, but even that looks like it will be changing in the next couple of years. Take care and good luck with the campaign.”

Now that news of the hunger strike has spread, Garcia and the Center Network partners must work hard to keep the momentum going. They are seeking out strikers and strike supporters, and reaching out to any celebrities, bands, nonprofit groups, political leaders who would like to take

“It’s not enough to accept your LGBT acquaintances and loved ones, you need to actively work for their fair and equal treatment under the law.”



Day 6

Jim Toy Community Center
Board President Terry McGinn

the stage. “We need people to get involved. We need community members and allies. Change will only come if people stand up with us,” said Garcia.

When the hunger strike opened up to the general public on day 8, Alex Allen of Ferndale was the first in line. The Oakland University student is studying English and communications, and hopes to work for a nonprofit one day.

“I think it’s every individual’s responsibility to take care of the community and educate people about the issues, take political action and be public about it. We can’t expect people who are already established as leaders to do it on their own,” said Allen.

“The thing that bothers me the most is HB 5039, the bill that takes away the human rights ordinances cities have worked so hard to put in place. I find that to be hugely discriminatory in and of itself, but also it limits us to be able to expand. It limits the rights of communities. Cities should have ordinances that include everyone and doing it city by city is a way to show this is important to the cities,” she added.

Overall, Allen said, people need to act. “Contacting their representatives, writing letters, making phone calls, educating their friends about what’s going on, staying up on the issues. Research and stay knowledgeable,” she said.

Executive Director Zack Bauer of the Resource Center in Kalamazoo said this is the perfect time for individuals to hold the spotlight as activists.



Day 7

Detroit Latinos
Ray Magdaleno

“(Striking) was amazing. Very uplifting to see families walk by and stop and read the signs, genuinely interested in what they were reading.”

“Activism is this unobtainable thing they want to do, but can’t because of work or family obligations, or because they just don’t know how. This is a way to do something to get involved and be a part of something bigger than you,” he said.

Bauer said going without food was not hard, and that Affirmations staff made the whole experience easy by providing lots of good conversation and support. After his 24-hour stint, Bauer headed back to the west side of the state, stopping first in Ann Arbor to grab a sandwich from Zingerman’s Deli.

For more information about the hunger strike, including how to sign up to be a striker or strike supporter, go to the movement’s website at www.hunger4equality.org.

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.Hungry4Equality.com

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Youth Find Their Voice at Ozone Ypsilanti

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

If you want to see a success story unfold on stage, visit the Heritage Festival's Frog Island Stage on Aug. 18 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and look for Tiffany Cho, Trisha Gwinner and other youth from Ozone Ypsilanti and Community Records.

Ozone Ypsilanti is a youth drop in center that provides food, counseling, job training, connections to social services and other resources. Most importantly they provide a safe space for youth to hang out and learn from positive role models. It is an offshoot of Ozone House Ann Arbor, where youth find transitional living assistance as well as other supportive programming.

Community Records is a music-based nonprofit that spreads music education with songwriting competitions, performances, and helping youth produce their own music. Unfortunately the founders of the five-year-old organization will soon be hitting the pause button while they figure out the future. This is all the more reason to see the performance on the 18th.

Cho and Gwinner came up through Ozone Ypsilanti while the music program was at its height, offering plenty of fond memories. Upstairs in the Ypsilanti location, is a recording studio where Community Records would help youth with their recordings and even making music videos. The experiences of making music, recording it and doing live performances has given the young people experience that has helped them excel in other areas of life as well.

Singing in Korean

At "almost 19," Cho is confident but humble in her abilities, often doing cover songs from her favorite bands unabashedly before an audience. She and dance partner Chris Lewis perform songs like "I Love You," "I'm the Best," and "Clap Your Hands" sung in Korean just like hit band 2ne1 does.

"I love 2ne1," Cho said. "They're the female version of Big Bang. I love them because in Korea girls are supposed to wear skirts, but 2ne1 wears Addias guy shoes and pants." Cho said she likes to sing in Korean because it "brings culture" wherever she performs. When she begins Washtenaw Community College in the fall she'll be continuing studies in three languages: Korean, Spanish and Japanese.

Being involved in Ozone House, and being encouraged to sing the way she wants, has helped her in her education path and given her a way to express herself that she may not have had otherwise.

"They advertised a poetry slam at my high school," she recalled. "They really liked my poetry and they asked me to go on to Project



Photo courtesy of Ozone House by Myra Klarman

"But what makes me able to do it, is I want that message to be heard. For some people it's scary but if you want your message to be heard you need to face it."

-Tiffany Cho of Ozone Ypsilanti

Speak Out in Chicago, where we used poetry for advocacy.

"We had a coach for poetry that taught how to get us writing and how to get us thinking. The experience was phenomenal. Youth from all over the world were speaking their minds. ... Before the first performance all the groups got together and said our name and what we were there for."

Cho grew in her boldness, and said that in high school people would come up to her and ask her how to overcome nervousness. "I'm just as nervous as you are," she would say.

"But what makes me able to do it, is I want that message to be heard. For some people it's scary but if you want your message to be heard you need to face it," she said.

Gwinner is a little more reluctant to perform, and still is not sure if she will perform at the Heritage Festival (though hopefully this article will help nudge her in that direction). She has participated in the Community Records songwriting workshops and has performed in

"I've been coming here since I was 13 and it's given me a lot of stability. I have a job and I get to help the youth that come in now ... We all need help sometimes."

-Trisha Gwinner of Ozone Ypsilanti's Solo Program



Photo courtesy of Ozone House by Myra Klarman

small groups. Ozone Ypsilanti offers an open performance space every Monday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., where youth like Gwinner can do poetry or music in a non-judgmental place. Wednesdays are Pride Zone, a meet up of LGBT youth and their allies.

Gwinner is 18 and has been coming to the center since she was 13. She is now part of the Solo Program, which helps young adults get an apartment and learn to blossom into adulthood by teaching them life skills and helping them adjust to living on their own. She also works at the center, doing cooking for the youth on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

"I've been coming here since I was 13 and it's given me a lot of stability. I have a job and I get to help the youth that come in now," Gwinner said. She is going on to study culinary arts in college and says she really enjoys being able help the younger people who come to the center.

"We all need help sometimes," she said. "It's nice to have that kind of help just for the kids.

They can come in here and grab food out of the fridge, or we have canned food and stuff they can take with them."

Doing a video for Ozone House was just one of the many fun things she's done over the years. One video was a contest for Toyota where Gwinner was one of the youth featured doing work on stage and in the studio.

"I would have never have thought I'd be able to perform in front of so many people. But without Ozone I would never have found the music side of me," she said in the video.

Sue Dvorak, development associate at Ozone House, is impressed with the work that youth have put into the various programs, including their musical pursuits. She pointed out that for the Frog Island Concert the youth helped write the grant that funded the show, and they produced it and will be performing. Even though it may be the last performance with Community Records, it's not the end of all that Ozone has to offer.

Work Zone

"We're sad to see Community Records taking a break," Dvorak said, "But we want to keep an emphasis on the programs that are continuing. Work Zone is a program that is helping get the youth employed, and we're really focusing on that. Ozone started in 1969 as a place for runaways, and we've kept evolving to meet the needs of youth. Right now the economy is an issue for our youth."

In addition to the show on Aug. 18, Ozone House supporters are looking forward to the Center's biggest fundraiser of the year, an Evening at the Farmer's Market. On Friday, Sept. 7, there will be an open-air dinner at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market celebrating local chefs, local businesses, and Ozone House's service to youth in our community. This

annual event features an elegant meal prepared by local chefs, wine, beer, a signature Ozone House drink, live entertainment, and a silent auction. Last year, the event attracted over 300 guests and 90 volunteers - raising more than \$70,000 to support their services. Reserve seats by contacting Sue at sdvorak@ozonehouse.org or at 734.662.2265 x26.

INEO

Ozone Ypsilanti

For more information about the Ozone House visit their website at

» www.OzoneHouse.org

For more information about the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, go to

» www.YpsilantiHeritageFestival.com

Ruth Ellis Center Looks to End the Chill

Campaign Seeks to Help More LGBT Homeless Youth

DETROIT – The Ruth Ellis Center is launching a major crowd-funding and awareness campaign, End the Chill: Where Homeless Youth Sleep this Winter, to bring aid this winter to Detroit's homeless LGBTQ youth, many of whom live in horrifically unsafe and unsecured conditions. The funds will ensure that the Ruth Ellis Center's Second Stories Drop-in Center is open additional days as a warming station for the youth.

"There are more than 800 homeless youth on the streets of Detroit daily, which comes as a surprise to many people because the youth work very hard to remain under the radar," said Laura Hughes, Ruth Ellis Center executive director. "We are using our strong relationships and the trust we have built with these youth to gain exclusive access to the spaces in which they stay, shed light on the horrible conditions in which they live, and raise money to provide the youth with more access to safe space at the Ruth Ellis Center."

The Ruth Ellis Center will release 10 captivating images with accompanying narratives every week from Aug. 1 to Sept. 20, to chronicle

the spaces where homeless LGBTQ youth are living. The images will be released on the Ruth Ellis Center's website (www.ruthelliscenter.org), and Facebook and Twitter pages, with a link to an Indiegogo fundraising page, (www.indiegogo.com/EndTheChill), where the public can donate.

The goal is to raise \$20,000 by the night of its annual benefit, Voices, to be held Sept. 20 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD). Actress and comedian Wanda Sykes, who is making a special guest appearance at Voices, will announce the results of the End the Chill campaign at the event.

"It costs approximately \$1,700 per day to operate the Second Stories Drop-in Center. If we reach our fundraising goal, we can keep the drop-in center open one more day per week throughout the winter months," said Hughes.

The Ruth Ellis Center's Second Stories Drop-in Center is currently open three days per week and offers youth resources such as full meals, gender identity support groups, on-site mental health therapy, laundry facility and clothing, a cyber center, and recreation.

Federal Judge Hears Challenge Against Michigan Domestic Partner Health Care Ban

DETROIT - The American Civil Liberties Union asked a federal judge Tuesday to strike down a state law that bans many public entities from providing health insurance to the domestic partners of their employees. The ACLU also asked the judge to block the ban until a decision is issued.

The ACLU and Kirkland & Ellis LLP are representing five gay and lesbian public employees, as well as their long-term domestic partners who either have lost their health insurance or will lose their insurance shortly as a result of the law.

"We have no interest being in a legal battle with the state of Michigan, but standing up for the rights of our families is more important right now," said Peter Ways, an Ann Arbor teacher whose partner will lose his benefits. "This law targets gay families in a very specific way, sending the message that we don't count and that we are not wanted. The state cannot retain a high quality work force with this type of policy in place."

The lawsuit charges that the new law discriminates by forcing local employers to cancel family benefits for gay and lesbian

employees in committed relationships while heterosexual employees can marry and maintain family health protections.

"The governor tried to pass this unfair statute off as a cost-cutting measure," said Kary L. Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan. "Yet, this law will have no impact on state spending, but will have a huge impact on families who have lost the security of caring for their loved ones."

The law only bars domestic partners from receiving health care coverage, while allowing government employers to offer these benefits to all other family members, including parents, siblings, uncles and cousins.

"This discriminatory law serves no purpose other than to single out a small minority of people and deprive them of critical protections," said Amanda C. Goad, staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. "The state is unconstitutionally interfering with the benefit plans established by city and county governments, school districts, and community colleges, and that's hurting hardworking employees and their families."

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Breakthrough Survey to Focus on Needs of LGBT Seniors

DETROIT - A new survey was launched Aug. 3 to assess the needs and concerns of Michigan's older adults who identify as LGBT. The survey was created through a partnership between the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan and the LGBT Older Adult Coalition of Michigan. Its genesis makes Michigan the first state in the nation to collect statewide information about LGBT older adults.

The survey addresses questions of relationships, employment, financial planning and retirement, housing, transportation, and health care.

"We already know from smaller studies that LGBT older adults are significantly more likely to be poor and living alone," explains Kathleen LaTosch, co-chair of the LGBT Older Adults Coalition of Michigan. "Only 1 in 9 has children to help care for them and few have partners or family members to assist with day-to-day needs. They may avoid healthcare altogether out of fear of mistreatment by care workers, putting them at greater risk for health complications, and even premature death, as they age."

LaTosch emphasized the need to reach those who may not know this survey exists, including the very elderly or those not connected to standard information streams.

The Older Americans Act - the federal law that supports most aging and disability services in the states - acknowledges LGBT older adults as a group for whom special efforts should be made in light of the challenges they face. "This survey is an exciting response to the OAA," said Laura Champagne, board chair of the Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan, a group that is seeking affiliation with the nationwide SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders) organization. "More importantly, the effort evidences a strong partnership between the Office of Services to the Aging and the LGBT community."

"The survey gives older LGBT adults and those with disabilities an unprecedented voice in identifying their concerns and needs to public officials in charge of meeting those needs," added Jay Kaplan, a co-chair of the LGBT Older Adult Coalition and head of the ACLU's LGBT Project. "We are asking that all eligible people to help by answering this Michigan LGBT Aging and Disability Needs Assessment." The survey targets both those over the age of 50 and those living with a disability.

The survey takes 15-20 minutes and participants can access it online at www.LGBTneedsMichigan.com, by scheduling a phone interview at 517-348-5972 or by emailing Needsmichigan@gmail.com to schedule an interview.

Rochester Hills Citizens Speak Out After Council Refuses to Discuss Human Rights Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ROCHESTER HILLS - There are signs welcoming people to Rochester Hills, which label the city as "progressive," though a group of citizens called Rochester Hills Together is starting to have their doubts. At the July 30 city council meeting several used the public comment time to ask their elected officials why they would not put a human rights ordinance proposal on the agenda for public discussion and a vote, even though it has been in discussion since last November.

"Seems like we've been talking about this issue for the better part of a year now, and here we are again," said resident Brian Kersey. "It still deserves to be on the agenda so that everyone one here can take an up down vote... But I have a sneaking suspicion to the reason why an up down vote doesn't happen is because some political cowardice is happening. People don't want to take an up down vote in front of the public because they don't want the political repercussions of saying no to this... Tell the public how you really feel about this issue."

The Council's response was resounding. "I do not support an ordinance, I'm not hiding anything," said Council President Greg Hooper. "This is a federal and state issue. I think the effort is great... but the focus needs to be at the state level. I talked one-on-one with all our council members here and there is no support that I'm aware of for an ordinance here in Rochester Hills and I made the decision not to put it on the agenda."

Councilperson Adam Kochendefer stated, "at the end of the day, you need four votes...and there's a huge generational gap in the polling on this issue."

One councilperson even accused the group of trying to "construe a new claim-right." Councilperson Mark Tisdel quoted several founding fathers about the fundamental value of property ownership and argued that discrimination is a right. "What rights and protections are owed to employers and the landlords? You see, someone owns those jobs. Someone owns those properties that are being sought by the new claim-holders. Should property rights be subordinated to a new claim-right?"

Quoting James Madison, Tisdel said, "Government is instituted to protect property of every sort. That is its end." He added, "I simply cannot, and will not, vote for a newly created



Rochester Hills resident Brian Kersey requesting the ordinance be on the agenda July 30. Right Councilperson Mark Tisdel seen arguing against the request.



claim-right at the expense of our endowed and unalienable property rights."

Two other councilmen echoed the sentiment that human rights only happen at the state level. One refused to comment. And only one,

“I simply cannot, and will not, vote for a newly created claim-right at the expense of our endowed and unalienable property rights.”

- Councilperson Mark Tisdel quoted several founding fathers about the fundamental value of property ownership and argued that discrimination is a right.

Councilperson Ravi Yalamanchi, supported the human rights ordinance idea. "To me, nothing supersedes a human right. Every day discrimination happens in one form or the other. Kids are treated very poorly...I don't know when the federal law will pass or the state law will pass because of how much hatred and division is going on. If we could come together here in our community and demonstrate that we do not tolerate any type of discrimination

by a simple ordinance you could see...There has to be a message to the state and federal that this is an important issue. And nothing is more important than equal rights. Every human should be treated the same no matter who the individual is."

While council refused to vote, residents did make their voices heard. Among the dozen or so who spoke were gay students from local schools, parents, a transgender woman, and straight allies who all want Rochester Hills to be the 20th city to adopt an inclusive human rights ordinance. Flint, Traverse City, Detroit, Ferndale, Ann Arbor and Mt. Pleasant are among those that have enacted ordinances letting LGBT people know that if they live in or visit those cities and they are discriminated against, the law is behind them.

In cities without local ordinances, individuals can be fired just for being gay. They can be denied service at restaurants, hotels, print shops and other businesses. And as a group gays are not protected from hate speech that is addressed to them as a group, the way that racial and religious groups are. Inclusive human rights ordinances let progressive people know that a community is making a public, conscious effort to be inclusive and to create a culture that is welcoming to everybody.

"The young people standing here tonight may be a minority group. But their parents, their brothers, their sisters, their cousins, their

See Rochester Hills, page 14

Struggles, Pride and Support All Shared at Trans Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Bonnie Gibson doesn't usually "do the whole group thing," but she did make the trek across the border from London, Ontario to attend her first Transgender Pride in the Park, which took place Aug. 4th at Geary Park in Ferndale.

She was among 118 individuals who gathered under the pavilion to share food and mingle with transgendered people and allies.

"In London we've got the alphabet communities that support each other, but I find it depressing. A lot of people have issues and they need to talk about them, but it's just not for me. I am very happy," Gibson said. "We had a Pride weekend in Toronto that was nice. The parade was an hour long. And I got to nosing around on the internet and it's a long weekend. I saw this on Facebook and I thought, I do like to travel and I love to meet new people. I looked at the comments and they seemed so nice and welcoming. It seemed like I've got to meet those people."

She met other transgender people from places like Grand Rapids, Flint, Ann Arbor, all around the Detroit Area, Indiana and Ohio. Folks at the picnic were of varying ages and stages in their journeys, and some can only be themselves freely at events like the picnic.

Gibson's wish for women in the community is to be more confident and to uplift everyone they meet regardless of how they are treated. "I like to make people feel comfortable and like they don't have to keep any face between us. People feel like they have to be careful what they say, because a lot of girls are insecure because of how the main line, the mainstream, views us," Gibson said. "Smile up and don't let it get you down. The prettiest women are the happy ones!"

In addition to breaking bread, Transgender Pride in the Park attendees had the opportunity to browse books from Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor, which specializes in LGBT and feminist publishing. Owner Keith Orr said that books for transgender audiences can be hard to come by. "It gets better all the time," he said. "But they aren't always easy to come by. But when people come in and see our transgender section they're very impressed."

Orr said that books by Kate Borstein are very popular, and that "My Gender Workbook" gives transgender people a good starting reference. "She's Not There," is another popular choice for MTFs, while Orr said "Becoming a Visible Man" by Jamison Green is still the top choice of FTMs.

Events like Transgender Pride in the



Attendees enjoying Transgender Pride in the Park. BTL Photo: Crystal Proxmire. See more photos online.

Park give Orr an opportunity to bring his special collection out to people who may not otherwise make it out to Ann Arbor. Patrons can also order books through their website www.GLBTBooks.com.

Opportunities also abounded for those who do not always get to express themselves. Stephanie Pawloski came out as a transgender in the late 1990s, but has been in and out of the closet ever since. The Grand Rapids transwoman has lost two jobs, one because of presumptions about her sexuality, and one she says because of age discrimination. Now she and her wife are living with her mother in a home where she can only behave as male, despite being 44 years old.

"Mom says I have four sons and for daughters and it's going to stay that way," Pawloski said. "I live in a rough and tough tumble type of family. My brother pulled a gun on me because he didn't like something I had to say. He's the type that has a shaved head and a goatee and thinks that all men should be like that." She likened her father, who refuses to acknowledge her since she's come out, to Arnold Swartzneggar, saying, "He's built like him too so he could say what he wanted and back it up."

The problems with joblessness and family acceptance have taken their toll, and Pawloski has landed in the hospital due to stress. She says she just wants to be able to be herself, to be able to work, and to afford not living at home with her parents. She said she is lucky to have her wife, though she "gives mixed signals" about how she feels seeing the man she married transitioning. "I told her about it two years after we got married in 94. I was scared to death to tell anyone. And at first she laughed and didn't take it seriously. Now she's back and forth, but she's back and forth on a lot of things so it's okay."

Pawloski's saving grace has been the

internet and groups like Transgender Michigan, which offers a variety of online resources and ways to connect with other transgender people. "If you take away my Facebook, and my connection to the world, then you take away my happiness," she said.

The former coordinator for Transgender Flint, Charlie Ford, was also there. This year he brought friends, who he lured down with the promise of meeting other people and with food. He said that the support group fizzled out because the need wasn't pressing and people's schedules didn't match up. He added "a lot of it was differences with age groups. The support really needed may be older folks who grew up in a different time. Folks that were coming didn't really need the support"

Ta'Kaya Smith said that being from Flint, her biggest problems aren't from being a transwoman, but from the harsh economy. "I'm from the projects and there are a lot of gay and transgender people there. Nobody really messes with me because I'm from there. There are some ignorant, closed minded people. I've been threatened, had guns pulled on me, people say stuff. It's out there. Some people are just ignorant. But I live in Flint and what we really need is jobs."

While it can't solve all the problems facing transgender individuals, Transgender Michigan does provide support and resources. Their 24 hour helpline can answer questions for those in crisis and their website helps connect people across the state and beyond. Events like Transgender Pride in the Park give people a chance to be social in a comfortable environment, and other events like Transgender Health Fair and Transgender Day of Empowerment provide both education and social interaction.

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WASHINGTON DC

HRC Increases Investment by 1M dollars in Marriage Ballot Measure States

On Monday the Human Rights Campaign announced a further cash investment of \$1 million in the four states facing marriage-related ballot measures in November – Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington. The cash infusion brings HRC's contributions to legislative and electoral marriage issues in the 2011-2012 cycle to \$4.8 million.

"This is a tipping point year in the fight for marriage equality that requires significant investment," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "We are committed to making sure this is the year that our opponents can no longer claim Americans will not support marriage equality at the ballot box."

Nationally, support for marriage equality is at 54 percent according to a June 2012 CNN poll. Additionally public polls in Maine, Maryland and Washington show majorities of voters favoring marriage for committed gay and lesbian couples and polls in Minnesota also show voters there opposing the discriminatory constitutional amendment.

HRC has established a special ballot measure PAC to aid funding of all four states. Today's \$1 million contribution will be split evenly among Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington.

In Maine, voters will be asked for the first time in the country to affirmatively pass marriage for gays and lesbians at the ballot box. Voters in Maryland and Washington are being asked to affirm legislatively passed marriage equality laws. In Minnesota, voters will consider a constitutional amendment to ban gay and lesbian couples from marriage.

"All of these campaigns are winnable but they need resources to educate voters and fight back the lies from groups like the National Organization for Marriage," said Griffin. "The country is moving in the direction of equality and a win in any of these states will show that marriage equality is quickly becoming a mainstream, American value."

SAN FRANCISCO

US to weigh gay relationships in deportation cases, will continue to comply with DOMA

BY LISA LEFF AND AMY TAXIN

(AP) – Homeland Security officials reiterated Friday amid pressure from Democratic lawmakers that a foreigner's longstanding same-sex relationship with a U.S. citizen could help stave off the threat of deportation.

Binational gay couples are eligible for consideration under a federal program designed to focus resources away from low-priority deportation cases and let officials spend more time tracking down convicted criminals, said Marsha Catron, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security.

However, the Obama administration will not automatically shelve deportation cases or process green card applications involving foreign citizens married to same-sex American partners.

Catron said Homeland Security will continue to comply with a 1996 law that prohibits the government from recognizing same-sex relationships, even as it takes these relationships into consideration when evaluating possible deportation.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit seeking green cards on behalf of five foreign citizens married to gay or lesbian Americans has been on hold while the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether to take up several other cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act.

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com

Shifting the HIV Research Paradigm: From Treatment to Cure

BY BOB ROEHR

"Cure" was the fresh buzzword among researchers at the XIX International AIDS Conference. It was the focus of a two-day pre-conference workshop and a new initiative by the International AIDS Society (IAS). The talk of a cure is driving hope but not yet much funding. And the path to the distant goal is far from clear.

"Today is the end of the first step," Françoise Barre-Sinoussi said at a July 19 news conference that launched a collaborative effort focusing on a cure for HIV. The French researcher, who won the Nobel Prize in 2008 for her part in identifying HIV, has cochaired the IAS effort that has been in development for three years.

"We've achieved all we can achieve with the current strategies" of treatment, said cochair Steven Deeks, "and now we are shifting to the next steps." He is an HIV researcher at the University of California San Francisco.

"The other reason for now is the so called Berlin patient, Timothy Brown (see sidebar)," has proved that a cure can work, Deeks said. "We cannot easily find any virus anywhere; the immune system is back toward normal."

The collaborative research effort, which is open to all who wish to participate, is not so much a roadmap toward a set location, but more a set of principles for working well together. The hope is that by prioritizing questions that need to be answered, using commonly agreed upon research tools, and sharing information the research process might be speeded up.

It draws upon lessons learned from HIV vaccine and microbicide research, where lack of standardization and limited sharing of information impeded progress in the early years, and later took much effort to sort out.

One principle driving their effort is that a cure must be relevant for the entire world, not just the wealthy few in the developed world.

What is a Cure?

HIV cure research tends to fall into two broad and not necessarily exclusionary categories that often reflect the disciplines of virology and immunology.

The "eradication" approach seeks to drive HIV from reservoirs where current therapies do not reach, while the "functional" approach looks to strengthen or augment the immune system to achieve a kind of peaceful coexistence with the infection so that it does not cause serious illness. Either would mean the end of daily drugs, if they can be achieved.

HIV commonly infects part of the immune system known as CD4 cells that circulate in blood and tissue. The initial hope was that treating the infection in these cells might result in a cure. But the introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in the mid-1990s led to the discovery that the virus also resides in resting CD4 cells and HAART only works against active cells.

A theory emerged that if one could activate these resting cells containing HIV, while on HAART, this reservoir might be eliminated.

David Margolis saw that the anticancer drug vorinostat could activate resting CD4 cells in the lab. Because the drug was already approved, the University of North Carolina researcher tried it out in HIV patients.

The drug "was not very effective," he reported at the conference. He had proven the principle that it was possible to activate resting CD4 cells in humans, but he is moving on to try other compounds that might do the job more efficiently. The process is likely to take some time because those molecules are not approved for use in humans.

Other researchers are wary of the eradication approach. They fear that, as with the earlier experience when HAART was introduced, eliminating HIV from one pool of infected cells is likely to reveal other places where the virus is hiding.

The brain is a likely candidate. Some HIV drugs do not penetrate the blood-brain barrier very well and separate genetic variants of the virus can evolve within it. NIH brain researcher Avi Nath is afraid that if the virus is suppressed in the body, "HIV will become primarily a CNS (central nervous system) disease."

Functional Cure

Harvard researcher Daniel Kuritzkes tried a variation of the approach that cured Brown

(see sidebar), using less toxic chemotherapy and "normal" stem cells, not ones containing the genetic mutation chosen for Brown.

The "transplanted donor cells replaced the patients' own lymphocytes, and as this occurred, the amount of HIV DNA that was detectible in the patients' blood cells decreased and eventually became undetectable," he said in presenting preliminary findings on two cancer patients for the first time.

"We believe that continuous administration of effective antiretroviral therapy protected the donor cells from becoming HIV infected," while the original immune cells became infected and died off. Kuritzkes said they also saw "a significant decline" in antibodies to HIV, which suggests there is little or no viral replication going on.

However, patients in the study have been on HAART the entire time. The big test will come if and when they stop taking the drugs. Will the virus come back? It is likely to be several years before we know the answer to that question.

Marty Markowitz took a look back at patients at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York. He looked at two key blood markers of immune activation, CD8+ T cells and soluble CD14.

He found they were elevated in most HIV-positive patients whether they were on HAART or not. The exception was 31 patients who started treatment early (19 to 155 days) after they became infected with HIV; they had levels of immune activation that were similar to persons who were HIV-negative.

"When you intervene early, you kind of freeze things" in the course of viral destruction of the immune system, Markowitz concluded. He thinks understanding the biology behind this might suggest possible pathways toward a functional cure.

HIV Cure: Berlin Patient Timothy Ray Brown

impervious to infection by the virus.

Timothy Ray Brown, the so-called "Berlin patient," is the first and so far only person cured of AIDS. He developed leukemia and had to undergo chemotherapy, radiation, and a bone marrow transplant, which first destroyed his immune system, then gave him a new one.

His doctor searched for and found a one-in-a-million match of a bone marrow donation that also contained the rare genetic mutation (ccr5Δ32). Persons with that mutation lack the receptor on the cell surface that HIV uses to enter the cell. The transplant took and Brown's new immune system seems to be

He announced formation of the Timothy Brown Foundation, on July 24, to "fight for an innovative cure." He criticized the NIH for not being willing to take risks in funding new approaches.

The foundation, at least initially, will not conduct its own research but will offer grants to those who do. Beyond that the organizers were vague on structure, process, how it would acquire money, and why contributions should be funneled through it rather than other groups supporting cure research such as the long-established American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR).

As Eagle Scouts Return Medals, Gay Ban Still Firm

BY DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) - For many former Eagle Scouts, their medals were treasured reminders of youthful achievement. Yet some are parting with their hard-earned medals from the highest echelon of scouting out of dismay over the Boy Scouts of America's recently reaffirmed policy of excluding gays.

Several dozen former Eagle Scouts who have taken such steps following the July 17 announcement that the Boy Scouts of America, after a confidential two-year review, were sticking with the divisive, long-standing policy of excluding openly gay youth and adults as members and leaders.

"I can no longer maintain any connection to an organization which actively promotes such a bigoted and misguided policy," Dr. Robert Wise, 59, of Chicago wrote to Scout headquarters in Texas. "To that end, I am interested in removing all evidence that I was ever a Scout."

Another of the protesters is attorney Jackson Cooper, 32, a former senior patrol leader of Troop 342 in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. In an open letter, he said he was unsure if any of his fellow Scouts were gay.

"But I do know that my now deceased mother, a lesbian, would not have been allowed to serve as a den mother if her orientation had been public knowledge," he wrote. "The thought that I have invested such a large part of my life with an organization that would have turned my own mother away breaks my heart."

Also returning his medal was Martin Cizmar, 31, arts and culture editor of Willamette Week, an alternative newspaper in Portland, Ore.

He tweeted the news: "Just mailed my Eagle Scout medal back to the BSA to protest the ban on gay scouts. Kinda sad, but important."

In a letter sent to BSA headquarters along with the medal, Cizmar detailed his scouting career with a troop in Ohio.

"Though I did not know at the time, I was acquainted with a number of gay Scouts and Scouters (adult leaders)," he wrote. "They were all great men, loyal to the Scout Oath and motto and helpful to the movement. There is no fair reason they should not be allowed to participate in scouting."

Deron Smith, the Boy Scouts' national spokesman, said there was no official count at his office of how many

medals had been returned. He also noted that about 50,000 of the medals are awarded each year.

"We're naturally disappointed when someone decides to return a medal because of this single policy," he said. "We respect their right to express their opinion."

Beyond the Eagle Scout protests, the Boy Scouts' reaffirmation of the no-gays policy has drawn condemnation from liberal advocacy groups, newspaper editorialists and others. In Washington state, Republican gubernatorial candidate Rob McKenna, an Eagle Scout, joined his Democratic opponent, Jay Inslee, in suggesting the policy be changed.

But overall there has been little evidence of any new form of outside pressure that might prompt the Scouts to reconsider.

The leadership of the Scouts' most influential religious partners – notably the Mormons, Roman Catholics and Southern Baptists – appears to support the policy. And even liberal politicians seem reluctant to press the issue amid a tense national election campaign.

For example, President Barack Obama has made no public statement thus far about the Scouts' policy – a notable void given that he is a staunch supporter of gay rights and also, like all presidents of the past 100 years, is the Boy Scouts' honorary president.

The American Civil Liberties Union, in its online newsletter, suggested that Obama re-evaluate White House ties to the Boy Scouts. The White House press office declined comment on the matter, and there has been little pressure on Obama from other quarters.

"People are reluctant to force him to take sides," said Richard Socarides, a former Clinton White House adviser on gay rights. "Everybody knows what side he's on anyway."

In contrast to Obama, Republican candidate Mitt Romney does have a public position on the Scouts' policy – he politely disagrees with it.

Back in 1994, during a political debate in Massachusetts, Romney said this: "I support the right of the Boy Scouts of America to decide what it wants to do on that issue. I feel that all people should be able to participate in the Boy Scouts regardless of their sexual orientation."

A Romney spokeswoman, Andrea Saul, said in an e-mail that this remains Romney's position today.

Beyond the political arena, the Boy

Scouts' stance was bemoaned in various newspaper editorials, ranging from The New York Times to the Iowa City Press-Citizen to the Salina Journal in Kansas.

"The Scouts do matter. They do a lot of good for a lot of families and boys," said the Journal's editorial. "But their influence and relevance will wane if they continue to go against a society that's becoming more inclusive, not exclusive."

Some critics of the ban say it endures because religious organizations sponsor about 70 percent of the Boy Scouts' units nationwide – and these church groups generally support the membership policy.

According to the latest BSA figures, the Mormons' Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints charters more than 37,000 Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops with a youth membership of more than 420,000, the highest figures of any denomination. Roman Catholic parishes charter about 8,500 units with about 283,000 members.

The Scouts have about 2.7 million youth members in all.

Chip Turner, a Southern Baptist who chairs the Scouts' religious relationships committee, said the no-gays policy is unlikely to change as long as it has the support of the churches most active in sponsoring Scout units.

The Southern Baptist Convention, back in 1992, adopted a resolution saying it stood in solidarity with the Boy Scouts in confronting a "sustained attack because of its refusal to allow homosexuals as Scout leaders."

Among the mainline Protestant denominations that sponsor large numbers of Scout units – the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church and others – the picture is less clear.

Gilbert Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, said the Scouts' membership policy would be discussed soon by a scouting ministry committee and might be an agenda item at a board meeting this year. The United Methodists sponsor more than 11,000 Scout units with about 370,000 youth members.

The Episcopal Church – which ordains openly gay people as priests – has no churchwide position on the Scouts' policy and leaves it to individual congregations to decide if they want to sponsor a Scout unit. More than 1,100 Episcopal churches do so.

Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Louis Sheldon

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Gayship Enterprise to base, do you read me? I repeat, Gayship Enterprise to base. We are closing in on our target. The U.S.A.

will soon be the U.S.G.H.L., the United States of Gay Homo Lesbos. We have permission to land.

That's the kind of message I imagine Louis Sheldon "intercepting" when he puts on his tin-foil hat.

Sheldon, the founder of the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition, penned a pretty amazing homophobic fantasy piece for Charisma Magazine, published online on July 31 and titled "The Plan For a Gay (Domi) Nation." In it, Sheldon claims that the gays are taking over, and that Hollywood is largely to blame. "From kindergartens to city councils to churches to the Supreme Court, the mainstreaming of homosexuality has reshaped everything in America," he writes. "And one of the most powerful vehicles by which the gay agenda has accomplished this is media."

I know, this is old news. Sheldon is hardly the first person to make such a claim. But Sheldon's rantings about the homosexual "activists who have masterfully driven the gay agenda for more than 30 years and, with remarkable success and precision, changed our nation's cultural mindset on homosexuality" have a certain hyperbolic je ne sais quoi.

Sheldon laments that gay characters on TV are often "portrayed as witty, clever, lovable and just a little quirky," instead, as I presume Sheldon would prefer, as sad-sack sinners dying of AIDS.

And what has the promo-homo media accomplished with shows like Will and Grace and that one time Mariel Hemingway kissed Rosanne Barr on Rosanne? "It's perfectly clear what the Hollywood writers and producers were doing – grinding away at public morality, using comedy as a vehicle to overcome the natural resistance of adults, and playing on the curiosity and credulity of children," writes Sheldon. "By sheer persistence, the gay-friendly media have been forcing Americans to accept homosexuality as a normal and natural choice, whether they believe it or not."

First of all, "grinding away" ha ha. Secondly, he's right. By portraying LGBT characters in an even remotely positive way, Hollywood has managed to trick everybody into believing that LGBT people might be – could it be? – human beings capable and deserving of love and compassion. And America has been forced to accept that such a concept could even exist when everyone who hates homos knows that isn't possibly true. Take it from Sheldon.

All of this leads Sheldon to make what is perhaps the most astounding claim I have yet heard in the "culture war" over homosexuality. He writes, "Today, based on the large number of primetime TV shows that currently feature openly gay characters, you have to believe that the most favored and most protected type of sexuality is homosexuality."

Wait, I'm sorry, what? Or, more specifically, WTF? What planet is this man living on? Because *Glee* is one of the most popular shows on TV that makes homosexuality "favored" and "protected"? Does he even know what those words mean?

If homosexuality were favored and protected in America then it would not be legal anywhere in this country to fire someone because he or she is gay. We would not see young LGBT kids driven to suicide by relentless bullying. Same-sex couples would be allowed to be legally married and have it be recognized by all 50 states. Children being raised by same-sex couples would have the full legal protection of two parents, not just the one the government deems "real." The list, sadly, goes on and on.

But look, folks like Sheldon aren't interested in all of that. After all, oppression is the goal. And whenever a teenage boy gets called "fag" and has the shit kicked out of him, whenever a gay man or lesbian dies and leaves behind a partner with no legal recognition, whenever another state passes an anti-gay "marriage" amendment, Sheldon's camp celebrates.

But hey, gays always have *Glee*.

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Freedom and Chicken Sandwiches

Is standing up for LGBT rights tantamount to censorship?



Thinking Out Loud

OPINION BY ABBY DEES

I am so happy I decided to stop eating chicken last month. It had nothing to do with the Chick-fil-A brouhaha, but rather, a chance encounter with a sweet wandering hen in Minnesota. That story's for another time, but for now I'm relieved that I got to have my chicken sandwich mourning period privately, without having to hear everyone's opinions about it on CNN.

However, when I was still a chicken eater, I'd already boycotted Chick-fil-A (sigh – I loved their sandwiches). They'd been donating scads of money to anti-gay groups for years and even founded a "pro-marriage" organization through their charitable wing, WinShape. They're not the first company I've stopped patronizing for political reasons (Carl's Jr., Dominos, Walmart and even the Salvation Army are on the list too), and will probably not be the last. I thought this was one of the core concepts in capitalism – customers create demand not just for products but for business practices as well. It's almost a national tradition.

Thus I'm baffled by the sudden uproar over CEO Dan Cathy's comments in support of the "Biblical definition" of marriage. It's not like he said anything surprising, considering that Chick-fil-A has funded groups like the Eagle Forum (remember Phyllis Schlafly? Still going strong!), Focus on the Family (founder James Dobson recently declared that "Glee" was in the hands of "the Enemy"), and Exodus (praying the gay away...but not very well). If he'd sung the Lumberjack song in full drag, now that would've been a fabulous shock.

Please don't misunderstand; I think Cathy is a moron. But why is everyone so upset by what he said, and not so concerned about what he's been doing all along? And why does the dialog seem so screechy? Predictably, the far right is calling the entire left intolerant and against free speech because some of us have called for a boycott, and a few more want Chick-fil-A officially banned. Meanwhile, Texas is rolling out the red carpet. Rahm Emanuel has declared Chicago a no-Chick-fil-A zone while the Palins are posing with thumbs up and holding bags of the stuff. And Facebook has caught on fire. Everyone is screaming about free speech, but my impression is that few know what that actually is.

I never thought that I'd be using my legal background to explain free speech as it applies

to chicken sandwiches, but here goes.

Each of us has a right to vote with our wallets for any reason. Money talks, and talk is protected by the Constitution (see the Citizens United case for a vivid example of that). A Chick-fil-A boycott is a lawful, and I'd even argue, American, thing to do. Meanwhile, evangelicals get to boycott you, me or Kermit the Frog for boycotting Chick-fil-A (and Kermit has boycotted Chick-fil-A, by the way). Dan Cathy's remarks are offensive, but I'd still defend his right to speak.

Rahm Emanuel, however, as the mayor of Chicago doesn't get to ban Chick-fil-A from his city; neither does Boston Mayor Thomas Menino nor D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray. This is because our Constitutional guarantee of free speech only applies to government action. You and I are free to protest Chick-fil-A as much as we like, but no government official could interfere with its operations just because its CEO is an odious jerk.

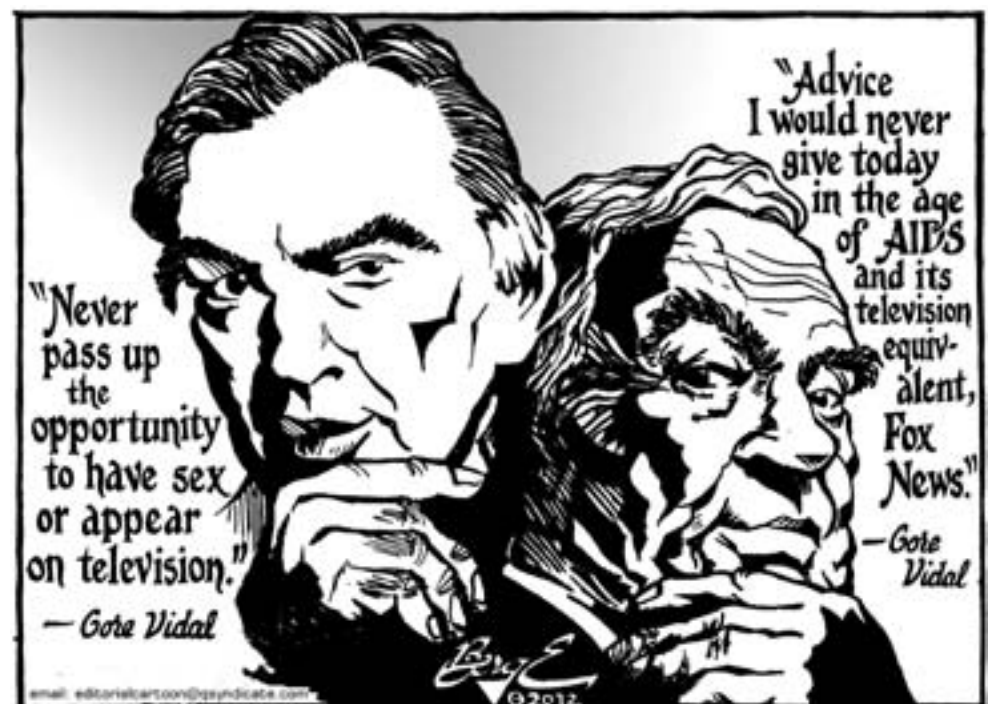
You might wonder, then, why each of these

mayors is spouting off anyway. As individuals they can express their opinions, even if they can't actually head Chick-fil-A off at the city limits.

We can support their bully-pulpit leadership, or scream outside of City Hall because ... well, almost any reason. Personally, I suggest a nice note to Mayor Gray for tweeting about "hate chicken," which gets my vote as best new term describing the intersection of inequality and fast food.

If this still seems convoluted, you only need to remember one thing: Imagine if the tables were turned and politicians were allowed to ban local businesses for publically supporting LGBT rights. There is an old legal axiom that applies now as much as ever: the best response to bad speech is more speech. It's messy, loud and often painful, but it's way better than the alternative.

I'm baffled by the sudden uproar over CEO Dan Cathy's comments in support of the "Biblical definition" of marriage. It's not like he said anything surprising, considering that Chick-fil-A has funded groups like the Eagle Forum, Focus on the Family (founder James Dobson recently declared that "Glee" was in the hands of "the Enemy"), and Exodus (praying the gay away...but not very well). If he'd sung the Lumberjack song in full drag, now that would've been a fabulous shock.



Pages past tense #18



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My fledgling journalist days began at Harry Burns Hutchins Intermediate School, as contest editor for the Hutchins Star, during my senior year.

Three times that long-distanced semester when the four-sheeter was published I'd dream up contests based on riddles. (Q: Who's a moving vehicle plus a flotilla of ships? A: Mr. Van Fleet, gym teacher. That sorta simplistic thing.)

I also did drawings and wrote a poem for "The Coach and Four," the school's year book. Looking back at my poem recently stumbled upon in a Detroit Public Schools bound anthology, I appear to have been rather morbidly introspective for my young, just post-pubescent years, age 15.

"The Clock." Ahem, it goes: "Our dusty old clock sits on the shelf/ Ticking softly there by itself/ Slowing counting the hours away/ As night turns to another day./ Winter, summer, the whole year through/ Tick tock, I hear it, do you?/ We grow old and pass away/ But the clock goes on/ From day to day."

(For decades now I've been meaning to have my poem set to music but I haven't found a gay composer worthy of matching suitable mood music -- non-contrapuntalist, overly acoustic, no hint of boom-box rap -- to such a prescient literary gem.)

As a lark while attending my second semester at Wayne University I asked Frank Gill, Wayne Collegian journalism advisor, whom I met through my then partner Ernie, if I might try my hand at reviewing something for the paper.

"How about it, Frank?" said Ernie, who was writing music reviews. "I've been mentoring Al's aesthetic tastes, inspirationally, emotionally -- occasionally physically as well. Give him a byline opportunity. Let's see what happens."

Gay friendly Mr. Gill, gave me the nod and a go ahead to the paper's chief editor. I was off and running. (I still am. Both.)

My first review was of a dance concert choreographed by modern dance mavin Harriet Berg at Wayne's Jessie Bonstelle Theater. (Harriet, at 80-something-young, is still around, and, one way or another, actively promoting dance. She's founder of Detroit's famous Madam Cadillac Dancers.)

I remember little of Harriet's performance back then, except a pas de deux, set to the hauntingly lovely music of the *Bachianas Brasileiras* by Hector Villa-Lobos. The piece is for five cellos and soprano. (It was, as performed by Harriet, "lyrical." Another piece she did in near-total darkness with flashlights was anything but.)

There's just a possibility that I also had a reviewer's "first." Mentioning it here is timely. It was a performance of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" also at the Bonstelle. It was the local debut of a yet-to-be-discovered star.

Raymon Lee Cramton was Oberon, King of the Faeries. (No comment.) Ray, who died recently, was TV's Medical Center Chad Everett. Off stage he was a frequent reveler at Verne's Bar, a theatrical gathering place for actors, on Wayne's campus.

Ray's agent, Henry Willison, also "discovered" Tab Hunter, Rock Hudson, Troy Donahue, Rory Calhoun. (My, my. Small world.)

I wasn't paid for my Wayne Collegian reviews, but earned a by-line, saving my handful of column comments, insights, sarcasm as samples of presumed mastery of Journalism's 5 Ws. Who. What. When. Where. (And, Why Not!)

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Between Ourselves Dream Cruise's Michael Lary

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Behind the scenes of the mammoth hot-rodding, classic-car-loving, traffic-jam-celebrating Woodward Dream Cruise is an activist and event enthusiast named Michael Lary. He's been event coordinator of the Ferndale Dream Cruise since 2005, and has a long history of bringing people together, not just over cars, but also over gay pride. Dream Cruise takes place August 16-18 in Downtown Ferndale.

1 What events have you worked on prior to the Dream Cruise?

I was the coordinator of "PrideFest" from 1992 to 2002, and founder of South East Michigan Pride, the parent non-profit organization of PrideFest Celebration, Michigan's Lesbian & Gay ComedyFest and the Michigan Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. I was owner and operator of Just 4 Us in downtown Ferndale from 1997 until early 2005. My first pride event was at the Royal Oak Community College in 1991. Times have certainly changed since then...and that's primarily awesome! Back in 1991, we weren't visible yet. The community wasn't ready to be Out. Loud and Proud. Now, here it is 2012. How times have changed. Due to determination, commanding voices and faces being seen, we are linking to a wider audience of acceptance.

2 What do you enjoy about event planning?

The challenge. Trying to make your vision become a reality. When first taking on the challenge of coordinating the Ferndale Woodward Dream Cruise I did not "get it." It took a couple of years and speaking with car enthusiast before I realized what the Dream Cruise was all about. It's not just about the car. It's also about the pride, passion and joy that comes from owning, building and driving the vehicles from days gone by. The Ferndale Woodward Dream Cruise stars are the cars followed by the things that make being at an event exciting, entertaining and fun. To build community you must bring people together. Special events bring commonalities to the same space. You make new friends and discover new art, music and delicious elephant ears!

3 What goes into planning the event that people may not think about?

Coordinating the event begins in early February involving sponsorships, logistics, volunteer recruitment, merchandise sales, website updates and event promotions. I also represent the City of Ferndale on the Board of the Woodward Dream Cruise, Inc., as Vice President.

► Rochester Hills

Continued from p. 8

nephews, their friends, step parents, aunts and uncles are an overwhelming majority. They're organized and they do not forget," said Rochester Hills Together member Tim Mauer. He said that with the exception of Yalamanchi, "Council chose strategy over integrity," and that the gay youth and their allies "will not forget who stood up for them tonight after eight months of us asking you to stand by them."

Nick Rinehart was among the students who spoke. "In June I graduated from Rochester High School with a 3.9 GPA. I'm going to the University of Michigan next year. But no matter how successful I might be in life, I can still be fired just for being gay. No matter how financially independent I am, I can



4 What are some things readers may enjoy about Dream Cruise this year?

In Ferndale, we will be attempting to feature two new activities; "Cars In Art" where artists will create and paint an automotive theme on vehicles, and "Restoration Academy" where a group of young and retired engineers will build a classic car on location. Both of these activities will begin on Thursday, Aug. 16 in hopes of completion by Saturday, Aug. 18 afternoon. You can watch the process as it happens.

5 Has being gay caused any problems in your work?

Absolutely not. If there were, I would feel sorry for the fool. My coworkers are wonderful people.

6 What else should people know about you?

I don't own a classic car...yet.

For more info go to www.ferndaledreamcruise.com

still be denied housing for being gay. Simply because of who I am, I can be denied services that others take for granted," Rinehart said.

The co-founder of the Rochester Adams Gay-Straight Alliance also addressed council, sharing what he has seen first-hand. "Some LGBT students even at my own high school have had their best friends turn their backs on them. They've been ostracized by their own parents and closest family members just for being who they are. These LGBT teens are bullied for being who they are and for something they cannot change....Now how do you think these kids feel if the government does not protect them? Let's show these kids they have something to look forward to in life - full equality under the law without discrimination."

The next Rochester Hills City Council meeting will be Aug 13 at 7 p.m.

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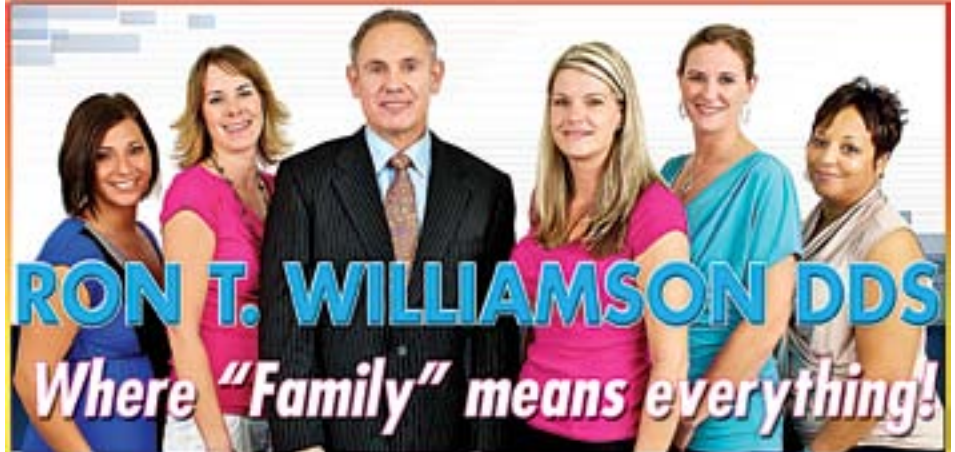
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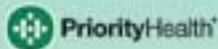
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'Queer As Folk' Star On Comedy Career, His Motto and Being an Ally

INFO

Hal Sparks

7 and 10 p.m. Aug. 17
Magic Bag
22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
>> www.themagicbag.com

BY ANDREA POTEET

Hal Sparks is talking about his breakthrough role in "Queer as Folk" when he suddenly interrupts himself.

"As far as taking the role, it was not a problem because you could tell from the script, you could tell from the content that it was worth..." he says before trailing off.

"I'm sorry," he says politely. "Could you hold on a minute?"

The phone goes silent, minutes lapse and then his chipper voice returns.

"Sorry, it was my dad. I never keep my dad on hold for long."

Known as one of the talking heads on VH1 staple "I Love the 80s," E!'s former mainstay "Talk Soup" and the groundbreaking Showtime drama "Queer as Folk," which followed gay men and women in Pittsburgh, Sparks, 42, owes a lot to his father, who introduced him to comedy somewhat by accident, when he won a crate of comedy records in a bet.

Poring over those discs – by legends like Lenny Bruce, Woody Allen and Richard Pryor – Sparks said he was inspired by their ability to make audiences laugh.

"As far as physical reactions you could have somebody do, it's pretty much laughter and orgasm," Sparks says. "And laughter's way easier to make a living at long term. You may be able to make people laugh until you're nearly dead. I think the window of being paid to give them an orgasm is probably a 12-year one at best."

If he was looking for longevity, Sparks, who will bring his stand-up comedy to the Magic Bag on Aug. 17, picked the right path. After growing up in Kentucky without a television until he was 15, his family moved to Chicago in his teens, where stand-up comedians flourished.

"In Chicago, stand-up comedy in general and acting are really blue-collar professions," he says. "There's no mystery to them. It's something you work at to get better, get hired and get better jobs for better pay. So once I realized it was a job like any other that you could practice at and get better, I was like, "Well then,

See Hal Sparks, page 19

HANGING WITH HAL

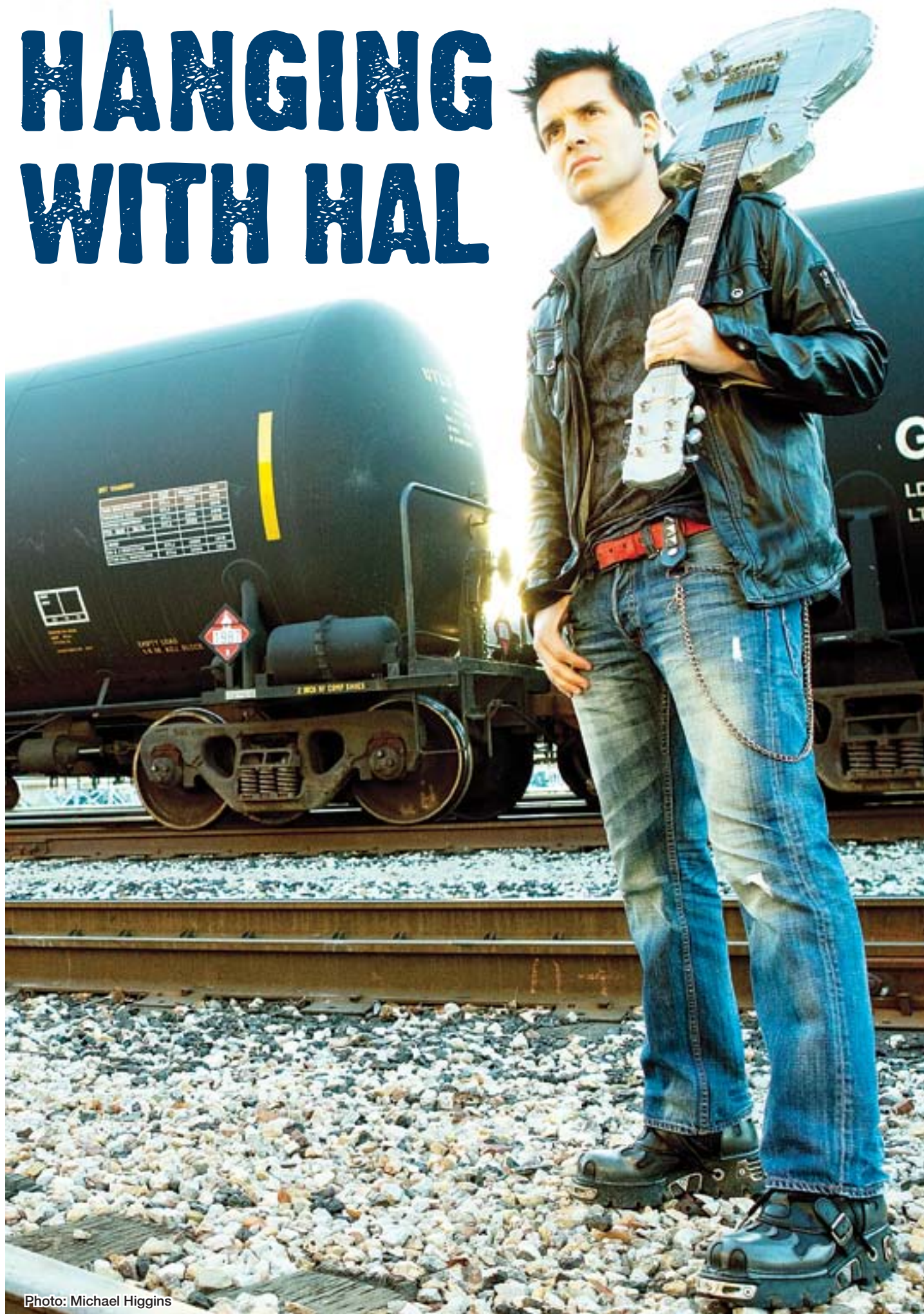


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'Ruby' Almost Sparks

'Little Miss Sunshine' Duo Go Rom-Com Route For New Film

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The idea of love with a make-believe mate isn't a novel concept. (Ryan Gosling, as an awkward loner, was all about his blow-up doll in "Lars and the Real Girl.") Except the concept of "Ruby Sparks" is a novel: Calvin Weir-Fields (Paul Dano) is an author suffering from a bout of writer's block when, as part of an exercise suggested by his shrink, a character — a shiny red-head plucked out of a pixie-girl dream — comes to him. But not just on the page — in real life.

Ruby (Zoe Kazan) appears in his apartment one day, making eggs like it's not strange that she found her way from Calvin's clouded, crazy mind into his kitchen. It is strange, and Calvin's not the only one who thinks so — his brother, Harry (a hilarious Chris Messina), doesn't believe the absurdity of such a ridiculous scenario. Until he meets her.

Calvin and Ruby have that freewheeling, teenage love thing going, and then he realizes just how much power he has over her: the words he writes can alter their entire relationship. His brother is floored by this whole puppet-master dominance,

suggesting he take full advantage of this — i.e. make her tits bigger — for "the sake of men everywhere."

He doesn't adjust her boob size, but Calvin doesn't let his super-writing go to waste. Too distant? Not peppy enough? A few key strokes and voila. And then it gets complicated. Calvin starts to recognize his abusive nature on Ruby, reeling into a crazed meltdown that's not typical rom-com territory. Self-deception, it turns out, has consequences.

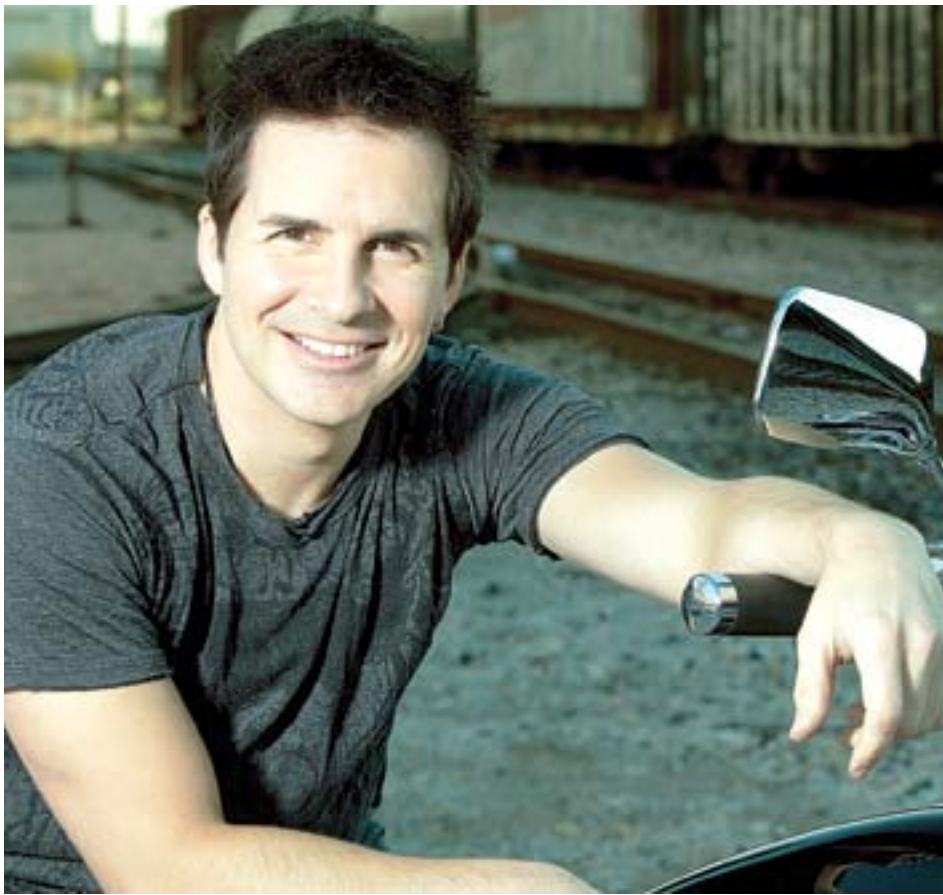
After impressively filling small roles, most notably as the color-blind kid who took a vow of silence in "Little Miss Sunshine," Dano is the perfect Calvin with his scholarly look, precocious nature and the ability to alternate light comedy and dramatic darkness (he did the latter especially well in 2001's "L.I.E.," as a troubled teen in a relationship with a much older man). Empathetic to the core, Dano makes an otherwise hard-to-like egomaniac the very person we can all relate to — who doesn't want to control their own destiny?

It's the flipside of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," Charlie Kaufman's brilliant film about a memory-zapping procedure that could wipe out any

recollection of a relationship. If you could erase an ex, would you? "Ruby Sparks" works similarly — it's about making the memories before they even start. Much like Kate Winslet in Kaufman's film, Kazan plays the burst of fresh air, the woman who helps lift Calvin out of his mopey low. In her first major role, Kazan is instantly likable with a cool sassiness that breaks gender boundaries. She's not afraid to put up a fight when shit hits the fan.

The casting of Annette Bening and Antonio Banderas as Calvin's hippie parents is shoehorned as simply a way to get veteran-actor cred. "Ruby Sparks" is too good for that sitcom-y kind of writing. But otherwise, the script, created by Kazan under the direction of husband-wife duo Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (the twosome also did "Little Miss Sunshine"), only makes light of some of the sillier possibilities (like the breast augmentation).

What's really going on here is a poignantly metaphorical drama about love and all its imperfections. Now excuse me while I go write a novel about a gay guy who has Joseph Gordon-Levitt's dorky personality and Zac Efron's man-bod.



► **Hal Sparks**

Continued from p. 17

that's what I'll do."

That approach landed him his first television show, at age 18, hosting the short-lived game show "Treasure Mall." He then went on to host "Talk Soup," before landing the job on "Queer as Folk."

And it has brought him other surprises as well. Days before our interview he threw out the first pitch at a Pittsburgh Pirates game after the team adopted as their good luck charm a hand signal he created for cult leader Zoltan in the 2000 stoner comedy "Dude, Where's My Car?"

"It was one of those magical, bizarre, silly, fun things," he says. "I don't know how you'd expect it but this was certainly off-the-charts unexpected."

He was less shocked by how quickly he accepted the role of a gay character on "Queer as Folk." A longtime supporter of gay causes and a self-described straight ally, Sparks said he never had second thoughts about it despite assumptions viewers made about his sexuality.

"I guess in the beginning there was a basic belief that everyone on the show was gay," Sparks says. "It was just kind of a rumbling that went along. If you play a doctor or a cop on a TV show in America, at some point someone will run up to you in public and say, 'There's been an accident, come help!' That's just the kind of society we are. You can't even afford to take it as a compliment."

Though the assumptions never bothered him, Sparks, who is also active with charities like AIDS Walk and the NOH8 campaign, chose to address them so the public would realize how many LGBT allies exist.

“I don't really intend on getting married, but that doesn't mean I can't believe fully in the rights of gay people to get married.”

"To me, it was really important that everyone know I'm straight, and I don't really intend on getting married, but that doesn't mean I can't believe fully in the rights of gay people to get married," he says. "It's just the right thing to do, and I think as a straight ally it bridges a gap. You can't always sound like you're preaching to your own choir."

When he's not performing stand-up by himself or with the popular Sexy Liberal Comedy Tour, lending his voice to the Disney Channel's "Lab Rats" and spending time with his 14-month-old son, the comedian, a devout heavy metal fan, is living another dream – performing with his band, Zero 1.

"It's all there: all the undue and unearned attention from the opposite sex or even the same sex if that's your proclivity," he says about his rock career. "All the joy of expressing music emotionally and physically onstage is exactly as it's described."

Fans aren't used to seeing him trade jokes for guitar riffs, but he said he doesn't let that bother him.

"My motto has always been 'care enough not to give a shit,'" he says. "You have to care enough to really deliver for everyone – for the audience, for the people listening – but you also have to care enough not to care if they want to stop it."

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Out of Town

BY ANDREW COLLINS

Yellowstone, Cody, Bozeman and Jackson Hole

Established as America's first national park in 1872, Yellowstone has bewitched human visitors for more than 11,000 years with its otherworldly landscape of geothermal features, coniferous forest and high-altitude lakes and rivers. It's one of the most visited places in North America, and this immense park is accessed on all sides by communities that command plenty of attention in their own rights – rugged western mountain towns like Bozeman, Cody and Jackson. A trip to Yellowstone can easily be an adventure of a lifetime.

Although you won't find an obvious gay scene in the region, in this part of the West, you'll encounter a welcoming and generally tolerant live-and-let-live spirit, where locals tend to care more about whether their neighbors are reliable and honest than if they're gay or straight. Bozeman and Jackson are among the most politically liberal towns in their respective states, and Cody is home to one of the few vocal proponents of gay rights in the Republican Party, former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson. The town also hosts a fabulous Western fashion-themed fundraiser each September, the *Rendezvous Royale* (rendezvousroyale.org), whose efforts support the town's outstanding Buffalo Bill Historical Center museum complex.

Furthermore, the U.S. National Park Service takes great pride in the diversity of its workforce and contributions by its LGBT employees (www.nps.gov/diversity/lgbt.htm), and its lodging concessions in Yellowstone (Xanterra Parks & Resorts) and Grand Teton (Grand Teton Lodge Company) are enthusiastically gay-friendly.

Planning a Trip to the Yellowstone Region

There's enough to see and do within Yellowstone's park boundary, which at 3,472 square miles is approximately the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, to keep you entertained for a full week. If you're coming a long way to visit the park, you should try to spend at least four days here, and allow an extra two to three days if visiting any of the major park gateway communities, such as Bozeman, Cody and Jackson (where you may want to spend a day or two in Grand Teton National Park). Trying to visit the region over a two- or three-day weekend is technically possible but very restrictive, and you're likely to find yourself rushed and wishing you had more time.

Yellowstone National Park has five entrances, most open spring through



Bison grazing outside the Lake Yellowstone Hotel. Photo: Andrew Collins

fall and others (on the north and west sides) open year-round. The most popular regional airports are in Bozeman, Montana; Cody, Wyoming; and Jackson, Wyoming; there's also more limited, seasonal service on Delta to West Yellowstone, Montana. The closest major city is Salt Lake, Utah, about 370 miles south.

Yellowstone National Park

Few sites in the world inspire a more stirring reaction in visitors than Yellowstone National Park (www.nps.gov/yell), a literal hotbed of volcanic and geothermal activity set around a humungous collapsed caldera and constantly moving and shaking with tremors, bubbling hot springs and gaseous fumaroles. Nowhere on the planet can you view so many geysers, but while these sites are arguably the park's most famous collective feature, Yellowstone is a vast and diverse land.

Fans of wildlife can view the largest free-roaming herd of bison (buffalo) in the country, and opportunities also abound for viewing grizzly and black bears, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, osprey and countless other creatures in the wild. Rippling blue Lake Yellowstone, the largest freshwater lake in North America with an elevation above 7,000 feet, is home to 11 different native fish species. The lake is fed by the Yellowstone River, where you can see the powerful Upper and Lower waterfalls. The awe-inspiring Grand Canyon of Yellowstone is 24 miles long and ranges from 800 to 1,200 feet deep. More than 1,000 miles of hiking trails cover the park, much of which is blanketed by verdant lodgepole-pine forest. You'll also find endless views of alpine meadows and cloud-scraping

mountain peaks – the highest point, Eagle Peak, rises to 11,358 feet. Yellowstone is about much more than geysers.

Bozeman, Montana

The laid-back college town of Bozeman (www.bozemanvb.com) makes a good base for visiting Yellowstone from the north. It's about a 90-minute drive from the North Entrance (open year-round) of Yellowstone, near Mammoth Hot Springs, and a two-hour drive from the West Entrance (open late April to early November). This small city of about 38,000 is home to the superb Museum of the Rockies, which contains some of the world's most important dinosaur remains, and it's also a year-round hub for myriad recreational activities, including skiing in winter at nearby Bridger Bowl and Big Sky ski areas.

In downtown Bozeman you'll find some terrific microbreweries and eateries, with Montana Ale Works, Over the Tapas and Cateye Cafe leading the pack. The high quality of life and relatively progressive politics make it increasingly popular as a place to relocate, or spend summers, among gays and lesbians. Among accommodations, one of the finest B&Bs in town is the eight-room, gay-owned Lehrkind Mansion (www.bozemanbedandbreakfast.com), a splendid redbrick Victorian with an adjacent guest house. Other excellent, gay-friendly options in the area include the Silver Forest Inn (www.silverforestinn.com), which is up near Bridger Bowl ski area, and the posh Gallatin River Lodge (www.grlodge.com), a perfect perch for fly-fishing with a superb restaurant to match its cushy accommodations.

Read the complete article online:

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Happenings

Thursday, Aug. 9

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

Friday, Aug. 10

Black Lesbians Fifty and Over 6 p.m. The new support/discussion group for Black lesbians who are gracefully transitioning into their 50's 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. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

Sunday, Aug. 12

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

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. GetOutAndLive.me

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

Monday, Aug. 13

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

ACT (Allies Coming Together) 7 p.m. This is a group for parents, siblings, children and friends of LGBT people. It focuses on support, education, and advocacy. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

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

Tuesday, Aug. 14

Out4Equality 6:30 p.m. Calling all slam poets, poets, writers, musicians, comedians, rappers: Affirmations hosts an open mic series called Out4Equality the second Tuesday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Facilitated by Arlene Kish, Lorraine Brown, Jessica Manko, Tracy Hoover, Helena Blakemore, Marty Howland and Colt Stacer. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

Women's Group 7 p.m. This group focuses on networking, socializing, and discussion of issues relevant to lesbian and bisexual women. Additional activities

occasionally planned. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

Wednesday, Aug. 15

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 16

KGLRC Youth Group 7 p.m. Meets every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at a confidential location. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Polyamory Network 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenr.org

Friday, Aug. 17

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Saturday, Aug. 18

Jaguar Affiliates Concours D'Elegance See the cars that really growl. Jaguars of virtually every make and model including the exquisite and timeless E Type. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for those 'display only' cars will be determined by 'the peoples' choice' voting. Jaguar Affiliates Group of Michigan, 39400 Woodward Ave., **Bloomfield Hills**. 989-284-0112. CFDiamond@BigTube.net JAGM.org

Sunday, Aug. 19

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

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Topic of discussion: What kind of risks have you taken in life? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mix @ The Max Feat. Sin Hielo" Join the DSO for Mix @ The Max. This group allures audiences with their eclectic mix of Detroit grit, modern jazz, Flamenco, rock and the flair of Brazil. Arrive early to mix, mingle and sample food and drinks from some of your favorite Detroit establishments. Tickets: \$25. Music Box, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Aug. 9. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

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

Kerrytown District Association "6th Annual Nashbash" Nashville singer-songwriter Kathy Hussey headlines sixth annual Nashbash, which has a tradition of showcasing the music of Nashville. Ann Arbor Farmers Market, 315 Derott St., Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. Aug. 16. 734-769-2999. Kerrytown.com

Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel "Bonnie Raitt" Tickets: \$78. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 16. 866-752-9622. http://Soundboarddetroit.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. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. 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 "Stewart Francke" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 17. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "American Mars" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 18. 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,



Charlene Kaye at the Blind Pig

208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9 p.m. Aug. 11. 734-996-8555. BlingPigMusic.com

The Majestic "The Treasure Fleet" The Treasure Fleet is a newish Chicago band that consists of Isaac Thotz and Dave Merriman of The Arrivals, Neil Hennessy of The Lawrence Arms and Smoking Popes, Eli Caterer of Smoking Popes and Mike Oberlin of Sass Dragons. Free. The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 10 p.m. Aug. 10. 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

OTHER

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Masters of Tap" An evening of performances by leading tap artists in the industry, accompanied by Skeeto Valdez's The Mighty Funhouse. With careers spanning Television, Broadway, Film, Emmy nominations, as well as the Radio City Rockettes, Masters of Tap promises to be an evening of fascinating rhythms and diverse styles. Tickets: \$25. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Royal Oak Farmer's Market "Corn Roast & Country Fair" Take a stroll viewing the many unique artisans while sipping on cool, hand squeezed lemonade or eating fresh roasted corn. Enjoy traditional fair munchies, all while listening to local bands. The kids will enjoy games, face painting, jump in the moonwalk or enter the corn or pie eating contests. Proceeds from the event benefit improvements to the Farmers Market. Royal Oak Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 9 a.m. Aug. 11. 248-399-3727. Ci.RoyalOak.mi.us/farmersmkt

WellspringCori 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 De-stress and dance into shape with this easy to follow workout with Latin and international music. Admission: \$8 per class. International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, **Detroit**. April 25-Sep. 26. 313-587-6203. Facebook.com/ZumbaWithChandraMI

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Avenue Q The characters occasionally spew profanity as they grapple with adult themes. \$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

Home Grown: Plays from the Ground Up \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at ACT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann Street, **Ann Arbor**. Aug. 17-19. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers \$25-28. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., **Adrian**. Aug. 10-19. 517-264-SHOW. Crosswell.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 adult, \$3 senior and child. 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 \$6. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. Through Aug. 12. waterworkstheatre.com

Abacadabra Magic Show \$7. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., **Coldwater**. Through Aug. 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**. Through Aug. 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**. Through Aug. 18. BoxFestDetroit.com

Burn This Previews Aug. 9 (\$22-\$32 \$27-\$34. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., **Ann Arbor**. Through 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

Family Day On Broadway \$15-49. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., **Rochester Hills**. 2 p.m. Aug. 11. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

Fiddler on the Roof \$26-32. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., **Dexter**. Through Aug. 12. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.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; limited seating. The Elizabeth Theater at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., **Detroit**. Through Aug. 12.

Continued on page 24



Editor's Pick

After performing to rave reviews in May at Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, Bonnie Raitt brings her "Slipstream Tour 2012" back to Michigan. Raitt performs at 8 p.m. Aug. 16 at MotorCity Casino and Hotel's Sound Board.

Of her Ann Arbor show, BTL entertainment editor Chris Azzopardi said, "Raitt was dead-on and wondrously powerful, really hitting a groove midway and riding it on through to the encore."

Raitt got her start in the '70s but became a mainstream

staple when she swarmed the charts with hits like "Something to Talk About," "Love Sneakin' Up On You" and "I Can't Make You Love Me." Her first album in seven years, "Slipstream," was released to critical acclaim in April.

Tickets for Bonnie Raitt's Aug. 16 show at Sound Board are \$65-\$95. Soul icon Mavis Staples opens the show. For more information, visit www.soundboarddetroit.com.



Let's all do the Time Warp again at the Barn Theatre! Photo: Barn Theatre

Horrors Rock Augusta Stage

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Some shows gain their popularity by being terrifically bad. Without a doubt, the leader in this genre is the cult classic movie “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” and its live companion “The Rocky Horror Show.” It’s not a movie nor a musical that is known for its stellar plot nor vivid characterizations. Rather it is an audience favorite because the members present can catcall and participate with the wildly improbable stage antics.

The production at The Barn Theatre – the 10th time this show has made an appearance in the Augusta theater’s seasons over the years – is true to all the classic elements of this oddball musical. It is campy, darkly colorful, raunchy, and plays openly and with glee to its audience. It is pure, no holds-barred entertainment of the craziest kind.

The actors are prepared for the audience talking back, and more than once they acknowledge the ad libs and play along with them. The Barn staff encourages the ad libbing and for audience members in to come in costume, though they do warn that props are not welcome and are firm about people not throwing things at the actors or on the stage. These are good measures to keep things from getting out of control, though on opening night, they

REVIEW

The Rocky Horror Show

Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta.
Tuesday-Sunday through Aug. 12.
101 minutes; no intermission. \$34.
269-731-4121.

» www.barntheatre.com

had few die-hard Rocky fans in either costumes or shouting out the “assholes” and “sluts” common to the show.

Third-year apprentice Melissa Cotton, recently seen as Elle in the Barn’s “Legally Blonde,” plays Janet (slut) who travels from apple pie innocence to teased-hair slut in the space of a single evening. Her fiancé, the equally straight and narrow Brad (asshole), is played by a returning Barnie: Kevin Robert White in his first season with the Barn as an Equity resident (his fourth season total). Together the two make an amusing juxtaposition with the wild household of Dr. Frank ‘N’ Furter. She screams; he protects. She swoons; he catches. And they spend a lot of time in each other’s arms striking poses of astonishment and fear.

The Barn’s Frank ‘N’ Furter dominates the stage in many ways, starting with his height, towering on its own before getting

the assist from spiked platform heels. Reprising the role for the sixth time is Fee Waybill, a man who made his fame as the lead singer of The Tubes. He never hesitates to make the broad choices and rocks it out non-stop. His presence is such that it is impossible to take one’s eyes off him as he scampers through a stage crowded with his minions.

Director Brendan Ragozy takes a turn on stage in this musical as the Igor-like Riff-Raff, a menial who does Frank ‘N’ Furter’s dirty work for him while his sister Magenta (played by first-year apprentice Emily Callahan) cleans up the messes. Second-year apprentice Bethany Edlund is enthusiastic as Columbia, the groupie who falls in love first with the doctor and then with his doomed first experiment, Eddie (Nicholas Pearson, second year apprentice).

While Steven Lee Burright’s narrator (boring) brings out a chart demonstrating how to dance the Time Warp and invites the audience to join in, there is very little room in the tight aisles of the Barn Theatre to do any movement, much less dancing.

The entire cast and crew commits to making this musical a wacky tribute to that ‘80s cult movie, playing to the hilt every element. It’s an entertaining evening, especially for those who come prepared to participate.

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Editor's Pick

Don't miss the 13th Annual Royal Oak Corn Roast and Country Fair on Aug. 11 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. Take a stroll viewing the many unique artisans while sipping on cool hand-squeezed lemonade or eating fresh roasted corn. Enjoy traditional fair foods, all while listening to local bands. Children will enjoy games, face painting, jumping in the moonwalk or entering corn or pie eating contests. Meanwhile, Mom and Dad can try to "Dunk-A-Cop," with proceeds benefiting the Royal Oak Police Honor Guard. The Royal Oak Corn Roast and Country Fair promises to be a fun and affordable day for the whole family.

Since the event is held at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, you can pick up your fresh fruits and organic produce, free-range eggs and chicken, or Michigan made yogurt and ice cream, at the same time, supporting your local farmers.

Other proceeds from the event will benefit improvements to the Farmers Market. The fair is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. For more information, search for the Royal Oak Farmers Market on Facebook.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

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

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

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

Into the Woods \$10. The AKT Theatre Project at The Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut Road, Wyandotte. Through Aug. 11. 734-258-8370. AKTtheatre.com

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

Monty Python's Spamalot \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Aug. 14-26. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

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

Opera at The Acorn Open dress rehearsal Aug. 15 (\$20). \$30-\$35. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Aug. 15-18. 269-756-3879. acorntheatre.com

Our Sinatra \$36-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 12. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Palin Bunch \$5-20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Aug. 9-18. 269-282-1953. WhatADo.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

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

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/hsrt

Speech & Debate \$5. Drastic Theater Company at The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 19. drastictheatercompany.com

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

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

The 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

The Detroit Improv Festival \$25. The Detroit Improv Collective Inc. at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. DetroitimprovFestival.com

The Detroit Improv Festival \$15-\$20. The Detroit Improv Collective Inc. at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 9-11. 248-545-5545. DetroitimprovFestival.com

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

The Great American Sex Farce \$15-\$18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Aug. 18. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

The Judy Show \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 16. 269-756-3879. acorntheatre.com

The Rocky Horror Show \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through Aug. 12. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Janet Kohler Pastels" Janet's pastels and oils have been exhibited nationally and internationally and are included in many corporate and private collections. She has received many honors and awards, and most recently was published in the third of a series of drawing books: Stroke of Genius 3-The Best of Drawing. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. July 1-Aug. 31. 734-995-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Canvas Studios "Open Creativity Time" 306 1/2 S. Main St., Royal Oak. March 11-Aug. 12. 248-759-4633. thecanvasstudios.com

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "Great American Artists-Part II: The Branches" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 3-Sep. 1. 313-494-5853. TheWright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "George Nelson: Architect / Writer / Designer / Teacher" The first comprehensive retrospective of Nelson's work. 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 16-Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Flint Institute of Arts "The Golden Age of Painting, 1600-1800 from the Speed Art Museum" Highlighted in the show are paintings that illustrate the popular subjects of that age, such as: landscapes, portraits, still lifes, religious paintings, interpretations of classical antiquity and scenes from every day life. 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5-Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

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

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "A Conversation between Monet and Sochi: Video Art" In this exhibit Lee-nam Lee projects the images of a classic painting from the Western tradition by Claude Monet and an ink painting from the Eastern tradition by Korean artist Sochi. As the projected images change and interact, the artist brings the paintings to life. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 1-Aug. 18. 269-349-7775. Kiaris.org

Michigan State University Museum "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1-Nov. 30. Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/527

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Patti Smith: Camera Solo" This is the first American museum exhibition to focus on the photography of artist, poet, and performer Patti Smith. 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 1-Sep. 2. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries" The Seoul-based art collaborative is known for innovative video works that exist at the nexus of visual art and digital literature. Blurring the boundaries between media, technologies, and cultural histories, YHCH has gained international acclaim for their "net art" productions and videos. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 11-Dec. 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



The English (L-R: Keith Kalinowski, Doug Warehall, Kirk Haas, Clifford Katske and Artun Kircali), lead by Henry (Michael Brian Ogden), prepare to attack the French in Water Works Theatre Company's "Henry V." Photo: Snyers

Sound Problems Distract From 'Henry V'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

There comes a point in any production when a decision must be made whether an element is doing more harm than good. If it is, a way must be found to change it or eliminate it.

Water Works Theatre Company would have done well to eliminate its sound system and ensure that the actors could project according to the rigors of outdoor theater. As it is running now, the microphones are compromising all the other good work they are doing. The mics frequently cut out, were late getting turned on, were inappropriately left on during fight scenes, and made for disconcerting ventriloquism effects when an actor strode through the audience but his voice was still coming from the stage in front.

The actors in "Henry V" are skilled and surely could be up to the basic task of making sure they could be heard over the eager crowd that had gathered to hear them. Indeed, they deserve to have the responsibility for their performance put back in their hands and voices, rather than the fickleness of the electronics.

This is especially true of Michael Brian Ogden, an actor who made for a charming Henry, a charismatic king who deserved the loyalty of those who followed him. Some of his best speeches were broken by the crackling of a microphone that kept going in and out. While he tried valiantly to overcome the technical difficulties, his courage would have been better focused on the battles the beleaguered king was fighting.

"Henry V" is compelling on many levels. It is a war story, a coming-of-age story and the story of cultures clashing. After a mostly misspent youth, Harry

REVIEW

Henry V

Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Thursday-Sunday through Aug.12. \$20.

>> www.waterworkstheatre.com

has taken the throne and must put aside childish things and lead his country nobly. It is a play that is best understood if the audience, like that which Shakespeare was writing for, understand some of the basic historic background and know of the characters that appear on the stage.

The cut of the script that Water Works used puts the focus firmly on Henry and his nobility. We see him as the young king who must prove himself both home and abroad. He struggles with the responsibility that lays heavily on his shoulders, but does not hesitate to do what he must do. Ogden nailed the "we happy few" speech with passion, conviction and sincerity.

Some of the lesser plotlines are given short shrift, with the stories of Henry's former drinking buddies being left fragmented and unclear. We are given a wonderful introduction to them, but no explanation of why they mourn so deeply for Falstaff or what it means to their future. Likewise, their fates are almost like footnotes, with the final exchange between Piston and Fluellen being odd because there was so little set-up for it.

Kirk Haas first created a Fluellen who was a loyal follower of the king, eschewing the typical Welsh accent while in the presence of the king. However, when it came time for the comic scenes, the Welsh accent came out in full, an inconsistency that did little to help the

storytelling.

As the loyal uncle present to guide the king and carry out his commands, Keith Kalinowski was solid in the role of Exeter. He was generous in his choices, especially during the tennis ball scene where his reactions set up the opportunity for Ogden to show Henry's many layered reaction.

Director Sara Wolf Molnar launched the play by dividing up the famed "Muse of Fire" speech, giving the words of the chorus to the entire cast. This immediately provided action and energy to the play with broad crosses and by filling up the stage with those who would tell the story. It was an effective choice that quickly sets the stage.

Jon Ager as Dauphin led one of the most effectively comic scenes in the show as he praised his horse to the not-so-patient ears of two fellow nobles in his army. Ager created a Dauphin who was an arrogant, spoiled prince – the perfect contrast to Henry.

Lauren Knox's Katherine and Erika Hoveland's Alice were charming and full of energy. They provided such fun and delight with their scenes that it mattered not if you could understand a single word of the French they were speaking. They clearly communicated with their tones, expressions, and movement.

The "Henry V" production at Water Works Theatre Company has much to recommend about it. Before you go, read up a little on who the characters are if you are unfamiliar with it, and then let yourself be swept away by the story of a boy becoming king. Maybe you'll even get lucky enough to see a show where the microphones are more consistent than they were on opening night – or better yet, turned off completely.

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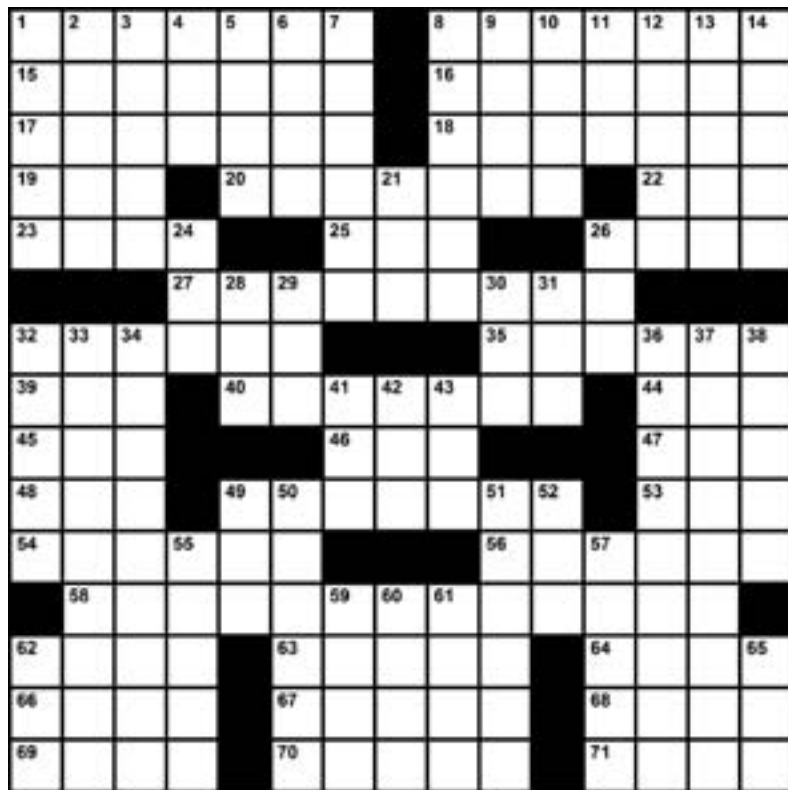
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Did You Ever See a Lassie Go This Way?



Across

- 1 Ties down
- 8 Japanese escorts
- 15 Part of a Bernstein score
- 16 Madonna album
- 17 Queer, but not necessarily gay
- 18 Aware
- 19 With 20-Across, lesbian TV drama set in Glasgow, Scotland
- 20 See 19-Across
- 22 Beginning of a description of sex with men in 19-Across
- 23 Irrate, with "off"
- 25 Many, many moons
- 26 Midvoyage
- 27 More of the description
- 32 Tool of Emma Stebbins
- 35 Car safety device
- 39 Leibman of "Angels in America"
- 40 Dairy counter items
- 44 Maugham's "Cakes and ____"
- 45 What Kahlo put out
- 46 PAC of docs
- 47 Pose for pix
- 48 U-turn from NNW
- 49 More of the description
- 53 Prefix for system
- 54 Jazzman Fred

- 56 Thames timer
- 58 End of the description
- 62 Cruising greeting
- 63 River of Marseilles
- 64 Jerusalem server
- 66 Margaret Cho's "All-American ____"
- 67 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 68 This is one
- 69 Cathedral of Hope area
- 70 Broadway events
- 71 Where to find Munch work

Down

- 1 Enjoyed a cologne queen, old-style
- 2 Frightfully strange
- 3 Caesar's "seize"
- 4 Olympics chant word
- 5 Wheel-worn ways
- 6 Buffalo's lake
- 7 Confidential matter
- 8 Zodiac twosome
- 9 Mabus of "Ugly Betty"
- 10 Actress Skye
- 11 Possible result of unsafe sex
- 12 Stereos, in Johnny Mathis' day
- 13 Penetrating
- 14 Latin music
- 21 Button you use to turn down REM

- 24 Singles players
- 26 Rhine feeder
- 28 180
- 29 Roadside warning sign
- 30 "Cabaret"'s Kit-____ Klub
- 31 Rilke's ice
- 32 Market bear's fear
- 33 Flog like a stallion
- 34 1978 Woody Allen drama
- 36 Courage in the Major Leagues?
- 37 American suffragist honored with a 1995 stamp
- 38 Invitation to mount
- 41 Long-snouted fish
- 42 Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"
- 43 Genre for Eazy-E
- 49 Coll. or univ.
- 50 They may prick you in the rose garden
- 51 Be too single-minded
- 52 Coll. basketball competition
- 55 Concern of Todd Oldham
- 57 Spanish painter, with "EI"
- 59 "I don't think so"
- 60 Kind of list
- 61 From the top
- 62 Turkish title
- 65 Matthew in "The Producers"

Solution on pg 28



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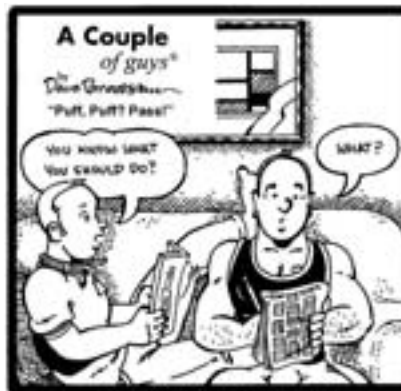
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bitter girl Whatta Stretch



Horoscopes

Go easy on yourself, Libra!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus entering Cancer brings out domesticity, familial affections and good cooking. Easy on the sweets! Mercury quincunx Neptune brings a last burst of madness (enlightenment?) as he turns direct. It will all clear up soon.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You can hardly help but to push too hard. Hitting a limit in your efforts with your partner (at home or at work) will help you clarify your capacities. It can also be a make-or-break time for the partnership.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): The longer you keep smoothing things over at home, the bigger it will backfire. Resentments and anger will come out so face them squarely and deal with them. It's not so bad. With forthright honesty it can actually work out very well.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): With your ruler Mercury turning direct, expect everything you've been wanting to say to be heard. So will a lot that you wanted to keep under wraps. You think you can handle the fall out yourself, but you really do want some help!

CANCER (June 21- July 22): As much as your dreams do come true, resist the impulse to fret over those that don't. Be mature and constructive with what you have. There's a difference between dedication and stubbornness. Focus on your long-range goals.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Friends mean well with their promises. Try to be kind and forgiving when they don't come through. Perhaps, just maybe you were expecting more than they were offering? Be careful not to reveal sexual secrets, unless you want to create some more.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Worries that have been lurking in the back of your mind are moving to your mouth. For your own sake, and everyone else's, be careful who you share that with. Conversations with your partner can open up problems that need work. Roll up your sleeves!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): The velvet glove isn't fooling anyone. Everyone sees your iron fist. Go easy on yourself and everyone around you. A long, deep heart-to-heart with a trusted friend, or even a therapist, can get you back in balance.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Life feels like trying to win the Indy 500 with your parking brake on. If you let it, the tension will only get worse and worse. Consult with a spiritual (or psychological) authority. You really need to work hard on letting go.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): There will always be a part of you that wants to be somewhere else. Don't let that stop you from settling in with the one you love. Partnership is an adventure that will test you, push you and teach you more than world travel.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): You're pushing ahead harder in your endeavors, but something's holding you back. Distinguish between necessary structure and dead weight. Advice from your partner could make life easier. Don't be too proud to listen!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Don't get ahead of yourself. You can master the great ideas, but you need to start from the basics. That might mean reviewing what you think you know and finding new approaches.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Recent problems can feel overwhelming, but answers and order will come soon. Intuition is a better friend than logic, although you do need both. Just keep asking yourself: What's the mature, responsible thing to do?

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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Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 26

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M	E	A	S	U	R	E	E	R	O	T	I	C	A
E	R	R	A	T	I	C	M	I	N	D	F	U	L
L	I	P	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	I	T	S	
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Chicken Fellatio



Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Tapping the steering wheel, my friend Johnny is clearly on edge during the drive to dinner. I can understand why. Minutes earlier, he was engaged in a heated phone debate with some random hookup because of his diet. “I can’t believe it. He’s pissed off because I used to eat Chick-Fil-A. My mom’s pissed because I eat meat in general, and my dad’s pissed because I eat penis. What am I supposed to eat?”

“I hear tofu is PC these days.”

“Seriously. Since when did what I put in my mouth become a political statement?”

“Since you started giving head.”

He twists his lips. “Since middle school?”

He sighs, turning up the radio. “Well, at least things were easier back then. I could eat cafeteria nuggets and still kiss a boy without an argument. Life was simpler back then.” Lost in thought, he stares out the car window. “Maybe I need to rewind, date a guy who’s less informed. You know, someone stupid.”

That night, Johnny finds a few dim-witted options on a dating site. He says it’s easy. Instead of asking about penis size he questions their educational background, along with their thoughts on queer existentialism. Anyone who asks “what’s queer existentialism?” passes the first round.

“What’s next? An IQ test?” I ask.

“No, a writing sample,” he states. “I’ve asked three guys to shoot me an email stating why I should sleep with them. The one with the most grammatical errors wins.”

I tell him he’s taking it too far, that dating stupid guys is only cool in college. At some point, after the sex slows, what’s left? Stupid doesn’t age well. What do stupid men talk about? My experience has been that when stupid men have nothing to say they get drunk to form sentences, only to end up in conversations that remind the world why they shouldn’t be talking in the first place. How many of us have gone on a movie date, hoping to spark conversation afterward, only to hear “I don’t know. I didn’t get it.” Talk about anti-climatic.

“Well, it beats dating a whiny bitch with an opinion,” Johnny defends. On a hike through Whole Foods, he tries to figure out what grain is in vogue when he pulls up an email on his phone.

“Check out this guy,” he states. “He wrote his paragraph using chat acronyms and shorthand.”

The paragraph reads: I’d b da best luva ud eva hav. I’ll take you NSA (no strings attached) 2 da moon if ud like. Poof.

“Well, he might not be that stupid,” I gather. “Apparently he’s into astronomy.”

“Please. He probably still thinks Pluto’s a planet.”

“Or just a Disney character,” I laugh.

Johnny chuckles, scooping a bag of quinoa. “Whatever. I don’t care if he makes me watch cartoons all day. I just want him to go along with whatever I say, and I want him to eat rugged objectionable things. A real man should never say the word quinoa.”

The problem is Johnny discovers his Moon

Man can’t say much else either. It wouldn’t be a big deal, but Johnny likes to talk during sex. Still, when Johnny asks Moon Man for some dirty conversation to spice up their first salami session, Moon Man begins to stutter, failing to find the proper words to get Johnny off. Johnny

says he was about to use cue cards when Moon Man finally managed to speak. “You like that?” he said, pumping away. “You fag. You silly fag you. You fag bitch.”

“Ugh! Being degraded is not exactly my idea of hot,” Johnny complains to me on the phone. “Now, whenever he texts he jokingly refers to me as his fag bitch. He thinks it turns me on.”

“You wanted the lowest common denominator.”

“Well, I didn’t want some vegan quoting Maya Angelou while he was fucking me. But I didn’t want this either. Isn’t there a happy medium?”

“Yes,” I reply. “But if you want to continue with this guy, you’ll need to educate him.” Harrowing, yes, but isn’t that how it works in a relationship? The sharing and challenging of ideas, the passing knowledge to one another to strengthen the union – isn’t that what keeps things spicy outside of the bedroom?

Johnny says he never put that much thought into it because he hasn’t met a man that has lasted more than a week. Moon Man is different though. Johnny finds him cute, eager to learn and malleable. When Johnny explained that gay men don’t like being called fags, Moon Man stopped using the word, asking how else he could improve. This week, Johnny plans to help him with the basics, starting with legible texts and edible sex talk.

“No field trips to Whole Foods to teach him about auinoa?” I inquire.

“I’ll save that for later,” Johnny laughs. “I mean, I don’t care if he eats it. I just can’t see the relationship going any further if he starts talking about it.”

“The problem is Johnny discovers his Moon Man can’t say much else either. It wouldn’t be a big deal, but Johnny likes to talk during sex.”

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Kimberly Peirce is wild about 'Harry'

No, the "Boys Don't Cry" director is not jumping on board a reboot of "Harry and The Hendersons." (But wouldn't it be weird and cool if she were?) She is, however, in for an English-language remake of the creepy 2000 French thriller "With A Friend Like Harry," known in its European release as the more alliterative "Harry, He's Here to Help." It won Cesar Awards in France and starred Sergi Lopez – France and Spain's answer to Alec Baldwin – as a charming man who insinuates himself into the lives of a couple he claims to have known long ago, soon exposing sinister intentions. No cast has been named yet for this new version, but Peirce is scheduled to handle duties after she finishes the "Carrie" reboot and actor Wentworth Miller ("Prison Break") is said to be handling the script. And now all we can think of is Baldwin as Jack Donaghy as Harry.



Kimberly Peirce. Photo: Ralph Nelson

Gaga carries a big 'Machete'

Inspiring as her acting was in the long-form "Telephone" video (you know you watched it over and over, don't pretend) and as ubiquitous as she's been these past couple of years, you'd be forgiven for thinking Lady Gaga had "already" appeared on the big screen in somebody's movie somewhere. But no, it has taken "Planet Terror" director Robert Rodriguez to turn Mother Monster into her generation's Streep. The film? "Machete Kills," of course. It's the sequel to "Machete," the Danny Trejo-starring festival of violence and awesomeness made even more memorable by a weird hair-taped-to-naked-breasts Lindsay Lohan cameo and even more so by lines like "Machete don't text." This time around, Gaga will play "La Chameleon," a femme fatale who, at least in the teaser poster, is wearing at least some portion of a dead wolf (sorry, PETA, we just report the news, we don't make it). No release date set yet but you'll know it when it's coming: the Gaga train makes a lot of pre-arrival noise.

Provincetown's Afterglow Festival, so this is still only a comforting rock 'n' roll flame from a cigarette lighter in the distance. But the good news is that it's really happening. Stephen Trask will return to write more music and, if we're all very good and very lucky, maybe a film version will find its way into your local arthouse sometime after. See? There's hope for the human race, after all.

Dustin Lance Black's 'Earthquake': Don't call it a remake

The last large-scale earthquake to hit Southern California was in 1994. And that means geologists are predicting another, maybe even the mythical anxiety-beast known as The Big One. And you know what that means: make a movie about it and get the money before it actually happens and nobody can touch the idea for at least a couple of years afterward. This is what JJ Abrams is doing for Universal and he's hired Dustin Lance Black ("Milk") as his scribe. Working under the title "Earthquake," it's not a remake of 1974's Charlton Heston-starring Universal production "Earthquake." It just happens to be about an earthquake and just happens to have that title and come from the same studio. Got it? Furthermore, do not confuse it with another movie already in the works from New Line called "San Andreas 3D," which will also be about The Big One hitting Southern California. Do not confuse them for one minute. It'll be kind of like when there were those dueling Truman Capote movies, only these will feature lots of people being crushed to death.

Romeo San Vicente requires Sensurround. Google it, kids. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

'Hedwig' sequel arriving soon, but with no extra inches

It's been 11 years since the film version of John Cameron Mitchell's "Hedwig and The Angry Inch" stormed into movie theaters and became an enduring cult classic. Since then its creator has gone on to direct the sexually explicit "Shortbus" and the emotionally devastating Nicole Kidman drama "Rabbit Hole." But ask the fans: it's Hedwig they still love. Hearing that cry, JCM is back at work with the wig, hatching a stage musical sequel with new adventures for his transgender heroine. There's no title yet and its first reading will take place in September at

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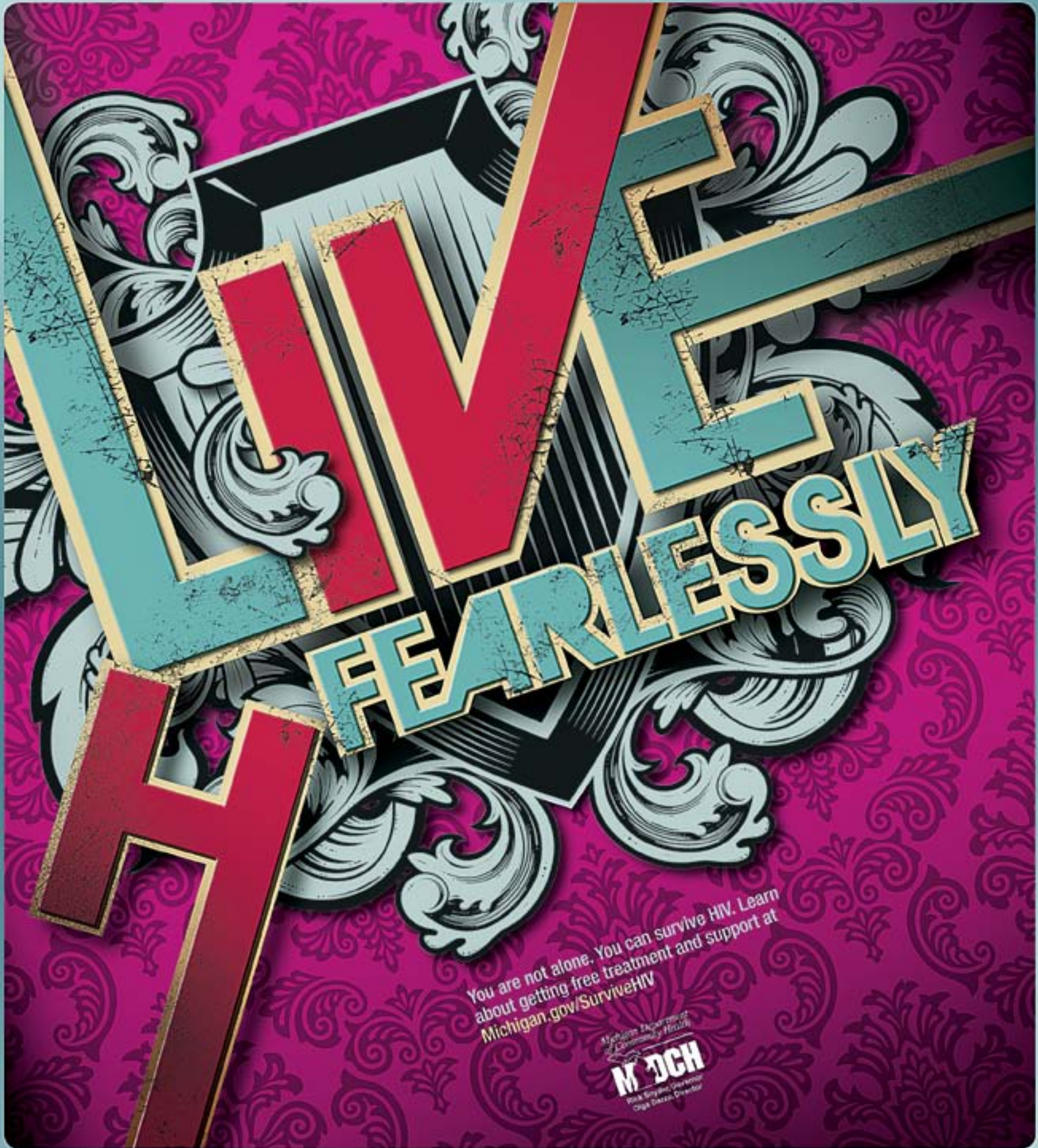
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