

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



OWN's '10 Kids 2 Dads'
Features Local Family

Michigan Politics: Not
As Gay Post Primary

Creep of the Week
So what does Paul
Ryan have that's just
so irresistible...

-Paul Ryan, page 16



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Gay Following &
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Plus: The Michigan Film Fail

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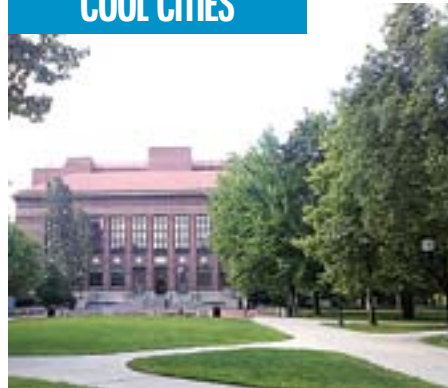


Check in on Hungry4Equality

The Community Center Network continues its 100-day hunger strike to raise awareness for LGBT equality. Go to UStream.tv for a live feed of the Affirmations' strike window.

See the 100-day protest at online at UStream.TV/channel/Hungry4Equality

COOL CITIES



Ann Arbor: The Tree Town

Check out Ann Arbor's Online Cool Cities page to discover LGBT-friendly businesses, upcoming concerts, community events and engage other readers in conversation about Ann Arbor!

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



The Chick-Fil-A Fiasco

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Find the editorials under "Opinions" at www.Pridesource.com



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Enter BTL's "Meet the Parents" Contest and win a Romantic Theatre Package in celebration of "La Cage aux Folles," coming to Detroit's Fisher Theatre this fall! Submit your outrageous story of when your significant other met your parents. The winning story, selected by BTL's editorial staff Aug. 31, will be

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COVER STORY

29 Jordin Sparkles
Photo: Sony Pictures

NEWS

4 '10 Kids 2 Dads' features local family
7 Group threatens rape of women at Gay Day, police let it happen

6 Michigan politics even less gay now that primaries are over
6 BTL picks win in almost all primary races
10 Hungry4Equality: strikers week 2
12 The global view of MSMs & HIV
13 Mayor Daniels proposes marriage policy

OPINION

14 A fable for 6:30 a.m.

16 Creep of the Week
8 Romney-Ryan ticket out of touch

LIFE

25 | The Michigan Film Fail
26 | Hear Me Out
29 | Jordin Sparkles
32 | Happenings

33 | 'Burn This' casts heat and light

REAR VIEW

34 | Puzzle
35 | Horoscopes
36 | Classifieds
38 | Cocktail Chatter

'10 Kids 2 Dads' Features Local Family

Documentary Special Follows Canton Fathers and Their Children

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

For some people, the idea of having to raise a child is scarier than the moment you realize you're out of red wine when you're only one film into a movie musical marathon. For others, the idea is slightly more appealing. But for Clint McCormack and Bryan Reamer, of Farmington Hills, raising a child was so appealing that they decided they'd adopt and raise 10.

Crazy or heart-warming, unfathomable or a dream; judge for yourself when their television special, "10 Kids 2 Dads," premieres at 10 p.m. Aug. 18 on OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network).

Clint and Bryan's journey to becoming the beaming and proud fathers of 10 boys began with a chance meeting at a mutual friend's party in August 1992. From there, things between the two progressed quickly. In October, the two began living together.

Although they both agree on the circumstances of their initial meeting, their stories conflict on the decision to adopt.

"I think it was the first night we met, I told him I wanted to have a family," Clint said. "That was very important to me. He agreed and here we are."

"I don't know that I agreed right that minute," Bryan added. "But it was a topic of discussion as we went along."

According to Bryan, it wasn't until 1996 that they finally made the decision to start building a family.

In 1998, they adopted their first child, Keegan (13 years old), at birth. Not satisfied to have an only child, a year later, they decided to look at adopting another child. That eventually led to their adoption of twins Kenny and Mark (19). From there, they adopted Caleb (13), Graeme (18), Seth (16), Garrett (17), Hayden (5), Liam (7) and Cooper (3).

"We never decided that 10 was going to be the number; it just happened," Bryan said.

"We thought they needed us, we needed them. So, we adopted them," Clint added, frankly.

"Whenever we adopt a child there are three questions we have

always asked ourselves: Can we do it financially? Can we do it physically? Can we do it emotionally? If we can honestly answer yes to all those questions, then there's no reason why we wouldn't adopt the child."

Having already adopted 10 children, it's worth wondering if they're looking to add a few more smiling faces to their home.

"That's yet to be seen, let's put it that way," Clint said.

With 12 people living in one house, many would understand their hesitance.

"It's a bit of a blur," they said, laughing.

As fast and furious as their household may be, Clint and Bryan seem to have figured out how to make it work. The two play to each other's strengths to keep their home running smoothly.

"If one of the kids are sick and they throw up, (Bryan) runs for the hills," Clint said.

Bryan may not have an iron stomach but he holds his own when it comes to helping the kids with their homework.

"I'll do everything but math homework with the boys; Bryan handles the math because I can't handle math," Clint said, laughing.

"Yeah, you're not so good at science, or English either," Bryan added.

Although well settled now, things weren't always so easy. As many new parents would agree, the first year was the most trying.

"That first year, it was..." Clint said, pausing to laugh. "We were in the fog because we were so tired. Because I was afraid to not watch him (Keegan) sleep. I was afraid to let him be on his own sleeping at night."

They've figured out the logistics of having such a large family, but that doesn't mean there aren't a few issues that test their willpower, like grocery shopping.

"They're constantly eating. They're growing boys," Clint said. "I hate grocery shopping, I'll tell you that much. (laughs) But you got to do it, you know?"

"You learn how to eat economically; you don't have a choice," Bryan added.

Then there are the plentiful sibling disputes.



“Whenever we adopt a child there are three questions we have always asked ourselves: Can we do it financially? Can we do it physically? Can we do it emotionally? If we can honestly answer yes to all those questions, then there's no reason why we wouldn't adopt the child.”

-Clint McCormack,

"It's no different than any other set of brothers," Bryan said. "They argue with each other, they fight with each other. It's just that instead of having three brothers fighting with each other, we've got 10 of them fighting with each other. So, you tend to have more disagreements per week..."

Somewhere between the perpetually rising tides of work, homework, groceries, sporting events and fights, the guys, shockingly, still find ways to keep their relationship alive.

"We talk a lot on the phone. That's our way of dating, I guess," Clint said. "Just like any other couple who has children, you squeeze it in."

Just like Clint and Bryan's

initial introduction, it was a chance Facebook connection through a friend of a friend that got their story noticed by the production company, World of Wonder. From there, OWN picked up their unique story and "10 Kids 2 Dads" was born.

Primarily shot in April 2012 in their former Canton home, the special chronicles the McCormack-Reamer family's daily life, which includes the madness you'd expect from a 12-person, two-dog household. Such madness includes: ill-advised home repairs, a bouncy house, budding beverage empires, teenage angst, some questionable driving skills and a few pranks.

Through all the craziness, though,

"10 Kids 2 Dads" premieres at 10 p.m. Aug. 18 on the Oprah Winfrey Network. Photo Credit: OWN

what might be most notable is just how normal their remarkably unusual family seems. For Clint and Bryan, that's the message they're hoping that people take away from their story.

"Let people see that it's just like everyone else's family," Clint said. "It's not about politics or anything like that. It's about parenting and it's about being a family. That's our goal."

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ROYAL OAK

The 'Three Supremes' to Star at LGBT Event in Royal Oak

In one of the most important races for Michigan's LGBT people this November, three seats are up for grabs on the Michigan Supreme Court. BTL is strongly supporting the three chosen by the Michigan Democratic Party, Southfield District Court Judge Shelia Johnson, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Connie Marie Kelley, and University of Michigan Law Professor Bridget Mary McCormack. They will appear at a Supreme Challenge Fundraiser on Aug. 21 in Royal Oak at the Black Finn at 5:30 p.m., an LGBT fundraiser to support the "Three Supremes."

Michigan Supreme Court justices are elected on a nonpartisan ballot but usually are placed on that ballot by one of the two major parties. The three candidates selected by the Michigan Democratic Party each have strong records of support for LGBT issues. The two Republican incumbents, Stephen J. Markman and Brian R. Zahra will be joined by a third Republican Party-backed candidate selected at the party convention in August. Markman and Zahra have consistently voted against LGBT rights, including the controversial decision last year to strip partner benefits from public employees.

In recent years, nominations have tended to become more ideological and campaigns for the court nastier. Three years ago, the University of Chicago law school released a study ranking the nation's state supreme courts. Michigan's was dead last. The study concluded that the court was bitterly partisan and little respected for its decisions.

Johnson, speaking to a Democratic meeting in Adrian in May, said many of the decisions in recent years have been on 4-3 votes, split along party lines with Republicans in the majority. "Decisions in the past 10 to 15 years have been purely on a political agenda, rather than by the actual letter of the law," Johnson said. "The court should reflect a balance of views of the people in Michigan."

For more information about the Supreme Challenge Fundraiser call 248-290-1427 or email jon.hoadley@gmail.com.

- filed By Jan Stevenson

LANSING

Heywood Files For Lansing Community College Board of Trustees Election

Former Lansing Community College Trustee Todd A. Heywood filed Aug. 14 to seek a six-year term on the board.

"Since I left the leadership at LCC in 2003, this college has been drifting off course," said Heywood. "The current board and the administration seem wholly incapable of making decisions that are in the best interest of the college and the community it serves. I intend to make sure LCC remembers its middle name, Community."

Heywood, 42, is a long-time resident of Lansing. He served a partial term on the LCC Board 2001-2003, helping to fund the largest expansion of the College in years. He voted to approve the Health and Human Services Building, the West Campus and more. He was the first, and to date, only openly gay man ever elected to serve on a community college board of trustees in Michigan. He becomes the first openly HIV-positive candidate for elective office in Michigan history. He is known in the community for his work helping respond to the protests of the Westboro Baptist Church as well as running a successful Shakespeare in the Park program for a decade.

He points to the July 31 decision of the board to approve \$49.5 million in bond financing to improve school facilities as prime example of why he is running to be on the board. The board approved plans which include building a park and renovating the Moon House. President Brent Knight and his wife are expected to take up residence in the house once the renovations are complete.

"This is wasteful spending. Those bond dollars should go to projects that directly benefit the students and the community, not vanity projects and perks for an inept president," Heywood says.

Michigan Politics Even Less Gay Now That Primaries Are Over

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

There weren't many openly gay candidates in the 2012 elections to begin with, and now that the primaries are over, the LGBT community has even less representation to look forward to in Michigan.

Trevor Thomas, the young activist from Grand Rapids, lost in his primary against Steve Pestka for the third Congressional District. The 28 year old came home from Washington, where he worked for HRC, to make the run for Congress. His opponent, 60 year old Pestka, had many more years of experience in campaigning and plenty of name recognition, but the vote was a close 56-44 percent. The election is important not only because Thomas is gay, but because it is an opportunity to turn a traditionally Republican seat blue. The incumbent Republican, now running against Pestka, is Jason Amash, the 32 year old Libertarian Republican.

"I spoke with Judge Pestka tonight and congratulated him on his victory in this hard-fought campaign," said Thomas in an issued statement. "I told him that I look forward to working together to defeat Justin Amash in the fall. Democrats and folks from across the political spectrum are united in feeling that Representative Amash is out of touch with West Michigan values, and we need to make sure that we unseat him in November."

Back on the east side of the state there is sad news for Oakland County, as a decade of gay representation on the Oakland County Commission will come to an end as Commissioner Craig Covey exits as the last person to represent the now-eliminated 25th District. Earlier this year Republicans challenged the new district maps and lost in court. So rather than accepting the maps they lobbied State Representatives to enact a law limiting the number of districts in counties to 21, and changed the rules over who gets to draw the maps.

PA 280 was enacted with immediate effect despite having the required number

of votes to do so on Dec. 28, 2011. The state law only affects Oakland County. It cuts the number of districts from 25 to 21, making the redistricting maps that were already created and approved by the courts no longer in compliance. The act also stripped the Apportionment Committee of their authority to draw districts. It gave that power instead directly to the Commissioners themselves.

Democrats sued about the Constitutionality

“Michigan is so far behind the rest of the country in terms of having LGBT equality. This is a great opportunity for people to rally around a gay candidate.”

- Democrat Kevin Howley who is taking on 74 year old Republican L. Brooks Patterson for Oakland County Executive.

of PA 280. They won in the Appellate court, but the State Supreme Court voted along party lines uphold it. Thus Covey's district was eliminated and Ferndale was re-drawn into the 18th District, which is also home to Democratic incumbent Helaine Zack. In a district that includes Ferndale, Hazel Park, part of Oak Park, Royal Oak Township and Huntington Woods, Covey lost 45-53 percent. He served for two years, following nearly eight years of representation by Dave Coulter, who was arguably the first openly gay county commissioner, who is now the Mayor of Ferndale.

Covey declined to comment on the election, though he did post on his Facebook

page, "I congratulated Helanie Zack on her victory, and I endorse her for the November election. The bad guys here are the state and county Republicans, who engineered this primary battle. Shame on County Clerk Bill Bullard, and L. Brooks Patterson, who forced the powergrab redistricting on us. We will remember in November."

One key race in which a gay man stands a chance is Democrat Kevin Howley who is taking on 74 year old Republican L. Brooks Patterson for Oakland County Executive.

Howley, who was unopposed in the primary, said he was excited to see his name printed on the ballot, and hopes that he can continue to be successful in campaigning from now until November. He is one of only a few openly gay candidates for public office remaining in the state, and has gotten endorsements from the Victory Fund, the Pride PAC, and various other progressive groups.

"Michigan is so far behind the rest of the country in terms of having LGBT equality. This is a great opportunity for people to rally around a gay candidate," Howley said. "We need to have a more cohesive political presence. That's why they (Republican elected officials) were able to strip away domestic partnership benefits. People need to get involved."

Howley is not your typical politician, but he has an accomplished career helping businesses and non-profit organizations make economic turnarounds. At the end of 2010 he took on the task of helping Affirmations restructure economically as he served as the interim executive director. He has also worked with Ruth Ellis Center, Friends Schools of Detroit and other organizations. He lives in Huntington Woods with his partner and their two children.

Patterson, who has held the position for the last 20 years, was in a car accident days after the primary, with his driver slamming into another car and sending Patterson to the hospital with broken bones and a gash to the head, although reports indicate that he will recover and continue campaigning.

BTL/Equality Picks Win In Almost All Primary Races

BTL STAFF REPORT

Of the 16 primary races in which BTL made endorsements, all but two races resulted in wins for BTL endorsed candidates and issues. But the two losses were by two of the most prominent gay men running for office. Oakland County Commissioner Craig Covey lost his reelection bid after being forced to run against a fellow Democratic

incumbent due to gerrymandering by Republicans during redistricting. In the race for the Third Congressional District, openly gay newcomer Trevor Thomas lost to fellow Democrat Steve Pestka.

In the 11th Congressional District, BTL endorsed Dr. Syed Taj and he easily won the Democratic nomination. He will presumably face off in November against Tea Party favorite Kerry Bentivolio, a reindeer farmer

from Milford. He won the Republican primary which had been thrown into chaos when incumbent Rep. Thaddeus Mc Cotter abruptly dropped out of the race July 6, leaving no time for established candidates to get on the primary ballot. This usually solidly Republican district may now be in play because Bentivolio is widely regarded

See Equality Picks, page 14

Group Threatens Rape of Women at Gay Day, Police Let it Happen

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

GRAND RAPIDS – At the end of the East Hills Neighborhood Gay Day Aug. 4, women faced threats of violence, rape and an inevitable race war where men of the Black Hebrew Israelites would kill white men and ravish their women. A group of men, some wearing robes and toting Bibles, gathered outside Cherry Park where about 300 LGBT people and their allies were together in a celebration of acceptance and diversity.

They called for the subjugation of women and cited Biblical verses to justify the claim that God wanted women to be raped. One of the women being threatened recorded the incident on her phone and posted it to YouTube. In the video the man can be seen reading Isaiah 13, “Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.”

“Keep your pussy clean, I’m looking forward to it,” said another.

When the police were called, no arrests were made. The Gay Day event and the protestors dissipated due to rain.

Their presence, and the drama that ensued as a result, brought national attention to the inaugural event, which was already remarkable in that it was the first of its kind in West Michigan. This wasn’t another Pride put on by LGBT-serving nonprofits. This was an independent celebration hosted by a typical neighborhood association to celebrate the diversity of its residents.

“I don’t want Gay Day to be marred by this,” said Sara Lewis, a straight ally who attended the event and heard the threats. “Gay Day is awesome... When these people came they weren’t there protesting. They didn’t mention LGBT, and their threats were to women in general. They have a very skewed view of things, and they accosted all people that day.”

Lewis was dismayed by the police response and by the misinformation by the media. “The police showed up and we told the officer what happened. They just tried to keep us away from them, and said that they aren’t threats until they are written down or texted,” she said. “What moved people was how the media handled it, making it look like black people vs. gay people. In my mind the issue is, when does hate speech become a crime? Women should never be told they are going to get raped.” Lewis works with an organization that provides counseling and rape kits to women after they have been assaulted, and could not believe that the police refused to help.

Sgt. James Potter of the Grand Rapids Police Department said that while the investigation was initially closed, the emergence of the YouTube video has prompted the department to seek more

information. “We’re still talking to people that were there, and it’s up to the prosecutor if there will be charges,” Potter said. “This is a group of people that shows up at parks all the time around town, and we don’t think they targeted this. They just happened to be there.” He said that free speech is an issue and it’s up to the prosecutor if the men crossed the line or not.

Individuals have come forward with their stories, including Lewis who said one of the men “tried to put his Bible on” her, and recited the license plates of another woman’s boyfriend who showed up at the event, while also saying he would track her down, murder him and rape her.

Claire Fisher, an organizer for the event and one of the musical performers for it, wants people to remember the good that Gay Day has brought. “We’re the first neighborhood association to have a gay pride event. The whole goal of Gay Day is to show the rich history in our neighborhood over the last 30 years. We have a very creative, LGBT friend, Bohemian neighborhood with strong activists and a creative culture. This is our way of tipping our hat to our gay neighbors, and up until the last hour it was a very quiet, family-friendly event and people seemed to enjoy themselves.”

Until Love is Equal, NOW, and The Red Project were among the nonprofits that set up booths in the Cherry Park tennis courts. Local bands like Pet the Warrior and Pistol Brides came out to perform. A food truck sold mango smoothies and a craft area gave the children something to do. Over 300 people peacefully attended.

“I don’t want people to remember Gay Day by this [the threats]. It is a safe, family-friendly event and I hope people will still come next year,” Fisher said.

The National Organization for Women Grand Rapids and other progressive groups have come forward with statements urging police to take allegations of threats seriously. “NOW GR is a huge proponent of free speech and the right to public discourse. Indeed, we rely on the ability to gather peacefully in public in order to accomplish the mission of our organization. What happened at the Gay Day event was not, however, free speech. The threats of violence and intimidation on the part of the ‘protestors’ crossed the line of free speech, becoming hate speech and verbal assault,” the statement said.

TEAM, the Tolerance, Equality and Awareness Movement, also weighed in with a statement. “It is our position that these actions should not be tolerated in this community, and that the perpetrators of such actions be brought to justice. Hate speech is constitutionally protected. However, hate speech that incites violence, rape, and other criminal actions is not constitutionally protected.”

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Romney-Ryan Ticket Out of Touch with Americans on LGBT Equality



Viewpoint

OPINION BY DAN RAFTER, HRC STAFFER

Mitt Romney announced Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate, giving us a 2012 GOP ticket that could roll back much of the progress we've seen toward full equality. Ryan's voting record in Congress – and his public remarks – make it clear that he does not support the dignity of LGBT Americans; a matter on which he is out-of-touch with the majority of Americans – even those within the Republican Party.

Paul Ryan does not support LGBT families, and has voted against allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt. He voted against hate crime protections. He opposed repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and he does not support marriage equality. Recent polling shows just how out-of-touch Ryan’s positions on LGBT equality are: support for marriage equality stands at 54 percent nationwide, with those between the ages of 18 – 34 supporting marriage equality by 73 percent; according to a June CNN/ORC International Survey. Nearly 50 percent of Republicans under the age of 35 also support marriage equality, according to an NBC News/WSJ poll.

Mitt Romney’s record is no better than Ryan’s

on matters of LGBT equality. Romney does not support relationship recognition for LGBT people – making him even more conservative on LGBT issues than former President George W. Bush, who supported civil unions while in office. Romney views workplace protections for LGBT people as an “unfair burden on employers,”

protections for LGBT people twice. He does not support marriage equality – in fact, he has twice supported the Federal Marriage Amendment that would ban loving, committed same-sex couples from marrying, and he supported a similar constitutional amendment in his home state of Wisconsin. Ryan does not support LGBT

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PAUL RYAN
MITT ROMNEY'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

- VOTED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BANNING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
- VOTED AGAINST THE HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT
- RECEIVED A 0% RATING ON HRC CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD FOR ANTI-GAY STANCE
- SUPPORTS BANNING SAME-SEX ADOPTION IN D.C.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.HRC.ORG/ROMNEY

and he does not acknowledge the dignity and respect LGBT families deserve. As a signer of the National Organization for Marriage’s (NOM) “marriage pledge,” Mitt Romney has committed himself to vigorously pursuing a federal marriage amendment – a goal his running mate shares; defending the Defense of Marriage Act; and even setting up a McCarthy-like commission to investigate those who do not support NOM’s anti-LGBT views.

In the House, Ryan voted against hate crimes

families – he voted in favor of banning gay and lesbian couples from adopting in the nation’s capital. He also voted against repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

Learn more about Paul Ryan’s anti-LGBT votes via HRC’s Congressional Scorecards. For more on Mitt Romney’s anti-LGBT positions, visit www.hrc.org/romney.

MORE ONLINE

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Were LGBT people victimized?

What are the lessons for future actions?



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Day 8



“ I'm tired of Congress creating laws that identify me as a less important member of society. It's important to me to stand up for what I believe in so things can

start to change here in Michigan. **”**

- Alex Allen

Day 9

“ The hunger strike is enlightening our communities and our allies that LGBT people do not have the same rights they do. Striking demonstrates exactly how important equality is to me. **”**



- Jeffery Oliver

Day 10

“ I think people need to carefully weigh their vote to ensure they don't support someone trying to deny rights or screw over a close family member. I'm not asking for special rights, I just want the same rights straight people have. **”**



- Jon Piechota

Day 11

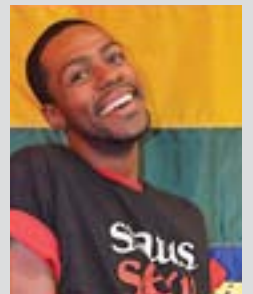
“ All people should be aware about the anti-gay discrimination in this state. Much of this legislation gets passed because we do nothing. Today, I'm doing something! **”**



- Deb Holbrook

Day 12

“ Life in Detroit is hard, yet rich with opportunity. My participation in the Hungry4Equality Campaign is an opportunity to make sure today's youth don't fall prey to empty hope. **”**



- Nkosi Figueroa

Day 13

“ I pay taxes and contribute to society, so I would expect to have the same rights as everyone else. Not in Michigan. Apparently my ability to positively contribute to society aren't as important as who I'm attracted to. Since when does sexual orientation have anything to do with creating a balanced budget? **”**



- Jonathan Laye

Hunger Strike Week Two

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - “Did you hear about the Hunger Strike at Affirmations?”

That question is being asked all over the country, and especially here in Michigan where someone can be fired just for being gay, Michigan families were stripped of domestic partnership benefits, and there is not marriage equality. Gay families are denied second parent adoptions, and there is not hate crimes protection.

Right now the Community Center Network, a coalition of eight LGBT community centers in Michigan are looking for people to step up and take a 24 hour shift of the 100 day strike. Each day from now until election day someone will be sitting in the front window of Affirmations, being televised across the web. The requirement is they stay in their area and they go without food from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. They are able to answer questions, wave at people in the windows, interact with viewers online and take pride in being the face of the equal rights movement.

And they also need people to spread the word. Posting information online and starting conversations with friends, neighbors and co-workers can help educate them about the issues facing LGBT people. Another great person to start a conversation with is your elected official or those who are running for office.

Asking people if they have heard about the strike gives you an opportunity to talk about the issues. “Most people are shocked when they find out that people can be fired for being gay. They get mad when they find out that partners and children had their benefits stripped by the state. People know a little about equality and marriage, but they don’t know the different ways we are discriminated against,” said Johnny Jenkins, one of the organizers of the strike, which is being held at Affirmations.

Getting people informed, and outraged, is just the start. Stepping up and taking part is important as well. Which leads to the next question, “Are you signed up to be a striker?”

Strikers can sign up by contacting Megh Hollowell at Affirmations at 248-398-7105.

Day 14

“ I feel it’s morally wrong that my community is still treated like second class citizens. Pop culture figures like Britney Spears make a mockery out of the so called institution of marriage. Yet, gays and lesbian are morally forbidden to marry based on the laws of the same church that allows this behavior to continue. I ask you - how is that fair and just? ”



- Mark McMillan

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Ugandan physician Paul Semugoma addressing the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. Semugoma reported on the lack of statistics in his country on men who have sex with men. BTL photo: Bob Roehr

The Global View of MSMs & HIV

BY BOB ROEHR

The rate of new HIV infections is coming down in many countries around the world, “but that is not happening among men who have sex with men (MSMs),” Chris Beyrer said at that XIX International AIDS Conference.

“The consistent pattern, in developed and developing countries, in low and middle income countries, in wealthy countries, is of expanding HIV epidemics,” said the Johns Hopkins University epidemiologist.

The factors that account for this are the greater risk of transmission through anal intercourse, regardless of the partner’s sex; a more rapid transmission within the networks of MSMs; stigma and discrimination that limits access to prevention and treatment services; and even when persons have access to healthcare, they are less likely to fully suppress their virus.

“All of those structural barriers allow for continued transmission,” Beyrer said. “We must address those structural and social realities,” as well as develop new biological interventions designed for the needs of men who have sex with men.

Africa

There is a huge denial that MSM even exist, Ugandan physician Paul Semugoma told a plenary session of the conference. “In the fourth decade of the HIV pandemic, we still have countries in the world which do not have HIV statistics for men who have sex with men.”

Even though the rate of HIV infection is higher among MSMs in every country in the world, resources are not targeted to that population because same sex activity remains criminalized. He said, “Less and less gets to the MSMs because of the stigma, because they are criminals.”

And often MSMs are targets of

discrimination. Semugoma used the example of Senegal where in the mid-2000s the epidemic was concentrated among MSMs. Prevention activities were largely targeted to this population. The results of this work were presented at a regional AIDS conference in Africa.

But rather than being praised, it led to the arrest of nine of the outreach workers on charges of promoting homosexuality, and their being jailed for several months. They were finally released, in part because of international pressure.

The Ugandan government has threatened to close a clinic that was recently opened to serve the LGBT community, “simply because they think it is going to promote homosexuality,” Semugoma said.

Kenya still has anti-gay laws on the books, but it has managed to work around them in creating HIV programs for MSMs, he said. “Right now they are miles ahead of us” in Uganda. Other countries, such as Zambia, have decided to do nothing.

Solutions

The resources are not following the continued expanded epidemic, said Australian Don Baxter, cochair of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV.

The largest source of funding is from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. “But it is essentially country driven and many countries have not included MSMs in programs,” he said. The few MSM programs that exist are supported by international funds and are not part of host government activities.

Brazil, South Africa and India “pretty much are paying for their own MSM programs on a scale that is likely to be effective,” while China is making some progress toward that goal Baxter said. “Russia is a complete failure and is refusing to invest money in any of its MSM programs.”

See **Global HIV**, page 16

Mayor Daniels Proposes Marriage Policy for Troy

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

TROY - Mayor Janice Daniels is making headlines again. This time, she is considering putting restrictions on marriage and divorce in the city of Troy with a Community Marriage Policy. She continues to draw attention to herself while facing a possible recall in the Nov. election, which was added to the ballot in July after 8,877 signatures were collected and verified by the Oakland County Director of Elections.

A Troy Community Marriage event was held at the Zion Christian Church in July where Mayor Daniels hosted a meeting with 40 religious, political and civic leaders to discuss her goal of reducing the area's divorce rates and to raise marriage rates.

According to the policy website, local clergy sign a covenant agreeing not to marry any couple who has not had a specified, substantial amount of pre-marital counseling. They also agree to create strong, lasting and satisfying marriages through the use of trained marriage mentor couples.

"I believe that marriage strengthens communities; therefore my involvement in setting the stage for a community marriage initiative is in keeping with the stated goal of mayor as a promoter and defender of the community," said Mayor Daniels in a recent post on her Facebook page. "If we can divert tax dollars from addressing societal challenges to infrastructure improvements (roads, sidewalks, drains, etc.) we will provide a better environment for the private sector to grow businesses and for families to move to Troy."

The policy, established by Mike and Harriet McManus of Potomac, Maryland, is not designed for same-sex couples. "That's a different culture with different issues. I have no competence in that field. I plead ignorance," said McManus, President of the Marriage Savers group. While McManus was able to provide a plethora of statistics and information regarding heterosexual married couples, when asked whether or not same-sex couples would be recognized under this policy, he said "It would not affect them. This policy is meant to restore traditional marriage only."

"The implementation of a 'traditional marriage' policy in Troy would be a thinly veiled

attempt to insult and marginalize same-sex couples and their families. Not only does it send a message to LGBT adults – you are not welcome here – it also tells sexual-minority youth that they cannot aspire to 'happily ever after' like their peers. And that message, of course, can have devastating effects," said Dr. John Corvino, chair of the Wayne State University Philosophy Department and co-author (with Maggie Gallagher) of the new book



Troy Mayor Janice Daniels is facing a recall during the Nov. 6 election.

Debating Same-Sex Marriage.

While the policy has not been introduced to council members yet, they are aware of Mayor Daniels intentions. "I wouldn't support her desire to legislate or develop policies on this issue and I do not agree with her decision to use her position on the council to forward her personal ideologies," said Mayor Pro Tem Maureen McGinnis.

"Mayor Daniels is again mixing her personal ideology with the business of the city of Troy. The city has absolutely no business getting involved with personal issues of marriage. Further, in my opinion, the Mayor has no authorization to represent her views or views of other council members in the name of Troy on a project such as this," said Troy Councilman Jim

Campbell. "Her justification that her policy will save money for the community and it can be used to improve the infrastructure of the city is totally unfounded. Based on her past performance I am sure the policy does not include ALL the people in Troy."

Mayor Daniels has been the center of controversy since December when she posted an anti-gay statement on her Facebook page in June prior to being elected into office in November. In response, the Troy High School Gay-Straight Alliance organized a protest urging Mayor Daniels to step down. Later, she told the GSA students that the homosexual lifestyle is "dangerous" and wrote a lengthy position paper personally attacking city employees and council members. She further upset citizens of Troy after voting against the Troy Transit Center.

"In the past I have had the pleasure of working with many of the kids at Troy High School through various venues. When all of the uproar started I was very proud and impressed with how many of the students from both Troy and Athens came forth to speak on the issues that had surfaced. I am still proud of them today," said Campbell.

'Homosexual Lifestyle'

More recently, Mayor Daniels was under fire for comparing the dangers of the "homosexual lifestyle" to the dangers of cigarette smoking on Talk Radio 1270 with host Charlie Langton. She faced further criticism for inviting co-author of Michigan's 2004 Anti-Marriage Amendment Gary Glenn to speak at a Troy City Council meeting in June. Glenn, a former Republican candidate for U.S. Senate on an anti-LGBT, Tea Party platform, and the president of the American Family Association's Michigan chapter, supports Mayor Daniels previous anti-LGBT remarks.

"Thank Mayor Daniels for telling the truth about the personal and public health hazards medically and scientifically associated with homosexual behavior," Glenn told the council members, "and for not retreating, retracting, or apologizing."

Many members of the Troy community questioned council meeting procedure following

A look at where Paul Ryan stands on the issues

WASHINGTON (AP) – A look at where Republican running mate Paul Ryan, a congressman from Wisconsin, stands on a selection of issues:

Gay rights

Ryan has voted against allowing same-sex couples to adopt, and opposed repealing the ban on gays serving openly in the armed forces. He has voted twice against hate crimes protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. And he's voted for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Budget

Ryan is the primary author of conservative tax and spending blueprints that Republicans on the House approved over Democratic opposition in 2011 and again in 2012. His plan would transform Medicare into a program in which future seniors would receive government checks that they could use to purchase health insurance. Other elements of the budget plan would cut projected spending for Medicaid, which provides health care for the poor, as well as food stamps, student loans and other social programs that Obama and Democrats have pledged to defend. In all, it projects spending cuts of \$5.3 trillion over a decade, and would cut future projected deficits substantially. It also envisions a far-reaching overhaul of the tax code of the sort Romney has promised.

Medicare

He wants a plan more like a 401(K) that steers future retirees into private insurance plans with fixed payments from government that may or may not cover as much of their costs as does the current program. He would also gradually raise the eligibility age from the current 65 to 67. Ryan would turn Medicaid over to the states.

Guns

Ryan is outdoorsman who has a top rating from gun-rights groups. He voted to protect gun manufacturers and sellers from lawsuits stemming from misuse of the guns. He also voted to shorten gun-purchase waiting period from three days to one.

Abortion

The Catholic congressman is staunchly against abortion rights and backed by several anti-abortion groups. He co-sponsored the Sanctity of Human Life Act and Right to Life Act, which both say life begins at the moment of fertilization. He also co-sponsored a law that prohibits federal financing from being used for any health coverage that includes an abortion.

Social Security

Ryan has said poorer seniors should receive "more targeted assistance than those who have had ample opportunity to save for retirement" as part of the solution to the program's long-term insolvency. He's spoken favorably of proposals to grow benefits for wealthier retirees more slowly than for others. Ryan has also backed the idea, popular with Republican lawmakers, to let future retirees invest a portion of their Social Security contributions privately.

Learn more about Republican VEEP Pick >> www.PrideSource.com

FUNDRAISER

Support the Recall

As a part of their efforts to engage and encourage the Troy community to help remove Mayor Daniels from office, the Recall Janice Daniels Group (www.recalljanicedaniels.org) is hosting a fundraiser on Aug. 19 at Joe Kool's on Big Beaver and John R. Road in Troy at 6 p.m.

See Troy Mayor, page 14

A Fable For 6:30 a.m.



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Once upon a time there was a young man down on his luck. He lost his job in January. In February his boyfriend dumped him. His cat died in March. His wallet was stolen in April. Worse, he turned 30 in May.

June brought summer; but in spite of the sunshine he sat brooding over his misfortunes. In contrast to a cloudless blue sky, he was not a happy camper. And while wrapped up in his Linus blanket of doom and gloom, he was unexpectedly joined by an older gentleman.

"Good day, young friend," said the distinguished personage. "Is it not a lovely, most invigorating day?" he ventured, taking out of his pocket a small bag of bread crumbs to feed sparrows, of which there was an abundance that radiant morning.

The young man sighed, "Yes, it may be a beautiful day, but I can't for the life of me enjoy it." And, sensing the older gentleman to have a sympathetic ear, he told him all the gloomy things that had happened.

"May I offer a friendly tip on living?" coaxed the older gentleman, tossing crumbs to the sparrows, now eagerly crowding around the two bench sitters.

"It's been my experience that whatever one's lot in life one should always say thank you. Indeedly, I begin and end each day with my thank-you meditation."

"Just what might that be?" ventured the young man, skeptical. Curious nonetheless. (Maybe there's some hope for me after all, he mused; and suddenly the June day and the park seemed sunbeams brighter. The birds just a little less annoyingly chirpy.)

"It's simple. The words become a mantra that you repeat over and over until it becomes a part of what's called your inner child. Your subconscious. Your doorway to positive change."

"Tell me more," said the young man, convinced that just maybe here at long last was the magic key to turn his life and his luck around for the promise of far better days ahead. (Oh, my!)

"Just five minutes in the morning before breakfast. Five minutes at night before sleep. But - and this is important! - my young friend. You must be persistent. Dedicated. Determined." "Yes. Yes. What else? Do go on."

"Simple," continued the older gentleman, looking at his pocket watch, getting up to leave. "Just repeat 300 times, morning and night, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! 300 times. The Universe will surely hear you and respond in kind."

Having so instructed the young man in what many believers fancy to be the Long Lost Key to Success, the aged advisor left, adding "Have a Rainbow Day!" vanishing in the twinkling of an eye down the park's less-travelled road.

So encouraged the young man repeated his 300 thanks. Twice daily. Mondays through Sundays. Month after month. Season after season. He didn't get his job back. His lover left town. No one returned his wallet. Predictably he turned 31. But a miracle happened.

One solitary night out of the stary blue he heard a cosmic voice. It said quite audibly. Quite succinctly. Somewhat matter-of-factly. Loud and clear. "You're welcome, Mary! Set your alarm for 6:30!"

Charles@pridesource.com



BREAKING Neubecker home burns

BROWNSTONE TWP. - PFLAG parents Mike and Jan Neubecker's home burned to the ground early in the morning of Aug. 14. Both of them were not injured, but the house is a total loss.

The Neubeckers were awakened at around 5:30 a.m. by a passing motorist who saw the flames and awoke them by blasting his car horn in their driveway. The couple is staying at a Holiday Inn nearby.

► Mayor Daniels

Continued from p. 13

Glenn's appearance and whether or not the council was in support of his statements. "Public comment is open to the public and we cannot prevent people from speaking, even those people who come to our meetings but are not residents of the city. There are rules regarding the manner that you can present your comments in and these rules are restated at the beginning of every public comment session," said McGinnis. "This person (Glenn) got no special treatment and was definitely not given a platform that was any different than any of the other members of the audience that chose to exercise their right to speak for five minutes during the public comment session. The council may very well be taking another look at the rules that govern council meeting procedure and we may make changes in the future that will dictate a time for people to address issues that are on the agenda and a time for people to address items that are not on the agenda."

Just last week, Mayor Daniels posted yet another comment on her Facebook page justifying the behavior of Sterling Heights Councilman Paul Smith, who publicly announced his support for Mayor Daniels. A YouTube video (<http://youtu.be/oN1yPJJLyr7c>) resurfaced last week showing Smith during a 2009 Tea Party

rally in Troy holding signs depicting violent illustrations of the impaled head of President Barack Obama and then-Governor Jennifer Granholm with a noose around her neck.

"He is a man who is not afraid to voice his opinion and vote his conscience, so now because he created and carried a sign that was offensive to many he has been bullied and asked to resign from the city council. Thank God we live in America where the rights of the individual supersede the whim of the majority who happen to hold power at any given time in any given legislative body," said Mayor Daniels.

Members of the council do not share all of the opinions of Mayor Daniels. "Janice Daniels doesn't speak for or represent me. My position is very simple; I want to equally represent all of the citizens, businesses and visitors of Troy. All Council members are elected as non partisans and should act and vote accordingly. We should make our decisions based on what is best for Troy. In my opinion, Janice Daniels is a 'me' person and she believes everything revolves around her and her ideologies to the point of pushing them down everyone's throats. I believe she is a poor example for our city and doesn't represent the face of Troy. I am embarrassed for our city because of her past and present actions and because of that, I am supporting her recall," said Troy Councilman Dane Slater.

"I want to make one thing clear about the city council in Troy. The seven members

elected to the council all have a single vote on any issues. This holds true for the mayor as well, she has but one vote. Secondly, there is no mechanism that the city council has to remove any mayor or appointee to city boards and commissions from their positions. In the case of illegal activity there are other remedies for removal. The city council cannot initiate a recall campaign against anyone. The only thing that can be done by city council is to censure an elected or appointed official. This can only be accomplished by a majority vote from the council. The point of this information is to demonstrate that regardless of the positions of the various council members on the issues revolving around Mayor Daniels, there is nothing that could be done by council to resolve the problem," said Campbell.

"This woman is completely out of control and needs to be stopped. We are looking for help in raising funds to ensure our success. The cost is \$25. We need to send a message that this type of behavior is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated," said Linda Marie Kajma, a volunteer for the group.

"As for my position on the recall of Mayor Janice Daniels, I was not a supporter of Janice Daniels during her campaign and I am not a supporter of Mayor Daniels since her election. Public information will show my signature on the recall petitions as well," said Campbell.

► Equality Picks

Continued from p. 6

as such an extremist that mainstream Republicans might abandon him, leaving the door open for Dr. Taj to capture the seat for the Democrats.

BTL endorsed in five Michigan State House Democratic primaries, and all five of the candidates endorsed by BTL won their elections; incumbents Rashid Tlaib, Dian Slavens, Jon Switalski, Jeff Irwin and write-in candidate Winnie Brinks.

In the all-important non-partisan judge races, Karen McDonald won handily for 6th Circuit Judge in Oakland County with 35 percent of the votes. In November, she will face Dan Christ, the number two vote getter in a runoff election. Christ garnered 22 percent of the votes cast.

In the 22nd Circuit Court in Washtenaw County, BTL endorsed openly lesbian candidate Carol Kuhnke who came in second, and so will therefore advance to a runoff in November against James Fink. Kuhnke's win was overshadowed by the sudden death of her longtime partner,

Mary Lavin, on July 29, just a few days before the election.

Openly gay candidate Ken Ross came in second in the race for the 30th Circuit Court Judge in Ingham County and will face top vote getter Jim Jamo in the November runoff election. BTL had endorsed Ross.

In other election news, BTL editors were pleased that the Detroit Institute of Arts Millage passed. BTL had strongly endorsed the three-county millage increase to support the DIA.

People With HIV Fear Unfair Treatment In Courts

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Nearly half of HIV-positive respondents to a recently released survey on HIV criminalization say they believe they will not receive a fair hearing in the criminal justice system if they ever face charges for failing to disclose their status to sexual partners.

The findings come from the preliminary results of a study released at the International AIDS Conference in Washington DC in late July. The results, researchers say, show HIV criminal laws have created a hostile legal environment for those living with HIV.

Those preliminary results included the responses of 2,076 people living with HIV in the U.S. The responses were collected online during June and July.

The study found that 49 percent said they didn't "trust" they would get a fair hearing if they were charged in criminal court for failing to disclose their HIV-positive status to sex partners, while 30 percent said they were unsure if they would receive a fair hearing. Twenty-one percent of respondents said they trusted the system would provide a fair hearing.

"To me, that's shocking," says Laurel Sprague, lead researcher for the Sero Project, which sponsored the survey. The organization advocates against HIV criminal laws.

"People felt that because stigma against people with HIV is so great, that the minute they walk into a courtroom as a positive person that there is already a bias against them as not reliable or not trustworthy," added Sprague. "And so, even if they are falsely accused, they fear they can still end up in prison."

In addition, the survey found that 29 percent of respondents living with HIV had worried "a few times" about being falsely accused under their state's HIV disclosure laws. Another nine percent said they worried "frequently" about false accusations.

Likely adding to that worry, 48 percent of respondents said it was "not clear" to them what the law prohibited, and 30 percent said it was only "somewhat clear." Sixty-three percent reported they were unsure whether there was a law in their state requiring that they disclose their HIV status to sex partners.

Seventy-three percent of the respondents reported that they were not informed about the existence of criminal laws when they tested positive.

Sprague says the survey shows "tremendous alienation and vulnerability" of people with HIV in relation to the criminal justice system in the U.S.

The CDC reports that 32 states have HIV-specific criminal statutes. In 1990, the Ryan White CARE Act was passed, providing needed cash to help pay for care and treatment of people with HIV. In the law was a provision requiring states to certify that they had a way to prosecute intentional transmission of HIV in order to be eligible for the funds.

The laws were ostensibly passed in order to force people to disclose their status to prevent new infections. But Sprague says the Sero Project survey didn't find the criminal laws were a major factor in disclosure. In an analysis of nearly 200 open-ended responses as to why people with HIV disclosed or did not disclose their status, criminal laws were cited as a reason by only five people, and only one of those people cited the laws as the only reason.

The Sero Project study also indicated that just under half of respondents said it was either "very" or "somewhat" reasonable for people to avoid testing for the virus in order to avoid prosecution. A slightly lower number (about 42 percent) of respondents felt it was reasonable to avoid treatment in order to avoid prosecution.

Adding more evidence to advocates' claims that HIV prosecutions may inhibit testing, the study also found that 25 percent of respondents said at least one person had told them that they did not want to get tested because of a fear of prosecution.

These findings echo the results of a recent Canadian study.

In the wake of a series of high-profile HIV nondisclosure prosecutions, researchers surveyed men who have sex with men in Ottawa, Canada. They found that a significant minority of participants – 17 percent – said the prosecutions had "affected their willingness to get tested for HIV," and nearly 14 percent said the prosecutions "made them afraid to speak with nurses and physicians about their sexual practices."

“People felt that because stigma against people with HIV is so great, that the minute they walk into a courtroom as a positive person that there is already a bias against them as not reliable or not trustworthy. So, even if they are falsely accused, they fear they can still end up in prison.”

—Laurel Sprague, lead researcher for the Sero Project

See HIV Criminalization, page 16



We need 80 backpacks donated with school supplies for youth at the Ruth Ellis Center



Ruth Ellis Center provides short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning youth.

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Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Paul Ryan

Dear Log Cabin Republicans,

We need to talk. It's about your new boyfriend. Look, I know you're all smitten with him and think he's the best thing to happen to you in a long time. But that's only because all of your previous boyfriends have been abusive creeps. I know you think it's different now, that you've

finally found someone special. I'm sorry to tell you, however, that this Paul Ryan guy is a douche canoe, just like the rest of them.

Which makes me think that the problem rests with you. It's a sign of some serious issues when everyone you consider a strong and stable boyfriend doesn't actually think very much of you at all. Sure he may want a quick "endorsement" in a bar parking lot, but you know damn well he's going home to his wife.

So when Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper says, "Congressman Paul Ryan is a strong choice for vice president, and his addition to the GOP ticket will help Republican candidates up and down the ballot," the only way I can manage it making sense in my brain is if I read "up and down" as a sexual innuendo. A really desperate and gross one.

So what does Ryan have that's just so irresistible to you? Oh, that's right. Money.

Cooper continues, "As chairman of the House Budget Committee and author of the Republican 'path to prosperity' that provided the blueprint for serious spending cuts in this Congress, nobody is more qualified to articulate a conservative economic vision to restore the American economy and stimulate job creation."

Ah, yes. Ryan's budget, a.k.a. prosperity porn. We know how stimulating you Log Cabin guys find that sort of thing. But just like I wouldn't call "Lord of the Cock Rings" a serious film, I would hardly call anything about Ryan's budget serious. "Ryan hasn't 'crunched the numbers'; he has just scribbled some stuff down, without checking at all to see if it makes sense," said Paul "GOP Boner Killer" Krugman. "This is just a fantasy, not a serious policy proposal."

But wait, you're going to say. Ryan is sorta kinda pro-gay in that he voted one time for something pro-gay way back in 2007.

And yes, you're right. In that it happened one time in 2007 when Ryan voted for the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. And while you may want to point to an anomaly in Ryan's record in order to prop up your fantasy, I think you should also know that, according to Michelangelo Signorile, Ryan voted in favor of the federal anti-gay marriage amendment, voted against hate crimes legislation, voted against ending "don't ask, don't tell, and favored an anti-gay marriage amendment in Wisconsin. As Gay City News reminds up, Ryan has a big fat zero from the Human Rights Campaign for his time in office. He's also voted in favor of letting faith-based organizations skirt LGBT nondiscrimination measures and wanted to ban same-sex couples in D.C. from adopting.

So when LCR's Copper cites Ryan's "consistent willingness to engage with Log Cabin on a range of issues speaks to his record as a fair-minded policymaker," it sounds a lot like you're in love with him because he's even willing to talk to you at all. And that you either don't know or don't care about his actual record. Because it sure isn't "fair-minded" when it comes to LGBT equality.

I think that LCR's enthusiasm over Ryan is actually a cry for help. May they get it soon.

So what does Ryan have that's just so irresistible to you? Oh, that's right. Money.

► HIV Criminalization

Continued from p. 15

The researchers found that this same group reported receiving less testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, was more likely to engage in higher-risk sexual activities, and had a higher number of recent sexual partners.

The issue of testing is linked to HIV criminalization, advocates argue, because not knowing one is HIV-positive is a defense in most cases.

But lack of testing can have a negative impact on efforts to stop the spread of the virus. In the U.S., an estimated 20 percent of people living with HIV are unaware of their status, and this group is more likely to be the source for new infections.

Laurel Sprague and Trevor Hoppe describe their HIV criminalization studies.

Information released from an analysis of HIV prosecutions in Michigan indicates the fears related to the criminal justice system may not be misplaced.

Trevor Hoppe, a University of Michigan Ph.D. student, is working on a dissertation in which he has evaluated the trial transcripts of 26 HIV prosecution cases in Michigan, and media reports of four other cases. Michigan makes it a felony to know one is HIV-positive and fail to disclose that status before any sexual penetration, "however slight."

The review did not include cases from Detroit and Wayne county — where the majority of the state's HIV cases reside — due to a lack of information available to review, Hoppe said. Hoppe said that one piece of information from his analysis that "surprised" him was the portrayal of HIV as a "death sentence" in courtrooms.

The analysis found that while care and treatment of HIV has changed the course of the disease since the



Laurel Sprague and Trevor Hoppe describe their HIV criminalization studies. BTL photo: Todd Heywood.

disclosure law was enacted in 1988, the courts continue to refer to HIV infection as deadly and a death sentence — often rejecting the medical evidence showing with antiretroviral treatment an HIV-positive person can live a near normal lifespan.

The analysis also found that actual transmission of the virus was alleged in only two of the cases.

He said he found the testimony of health officials in many of the cases were "wild things about HIV they had no business making claims about."

Of the cases reviewed, Hoppe identified 18 cases where references to death for those infected with HIV were used in court, compared with 12 cases that did not feature what he called "analogies of death." The greatest frequency of death analogies came between 2007 and 2010, a decade after antiretroviral medications had transformed HIV into a chronic, manageable health condition.

"You might expect to see that in cases before 1995, before protease inhibitors [drugs that control the virus] were introduced that really radically transformed how HIV was experienced in the sense that there were no effective treatments before them," Hoppe says. "The courtroom has really not been

affected by that shift. It's still a death sentence [to the courts]. Not disclosing is still considered and compared to attempted murder."

Sprague says Hoppe's study bolsters the findings of her survey, calling them "incredibly important."

"These are not unreasonable fears," says Sprague. "It's that actually people living with HIV probably aren't safe, that the legal system probably won't protect them, that the legal system probably won't take into account the advances that have happened since 1996, not to mention the advances in the last couple of years."

Hoppe also identified apparent anomalies in the demographics of defendants in Michigan's HIV cases.

Black men who have sex with women, while representing only 14 percent of people living with HIV in the counties he sampled, accounted for 41 percent of the criminal cases, he found.

"Conversely, white men who have sex with men make up about 15 percent of the defendants I identified, but they make up 39 percent of the HIV-positive people in the area," he says, adding that "more research is needed to better understand that disparity."

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► Global HIV

Continued from p. 12

Projections are for MSM to constitute half of all new infections in Asia by 2020. Most of the countries have achieved a level of economic development that makes them ineligible to receive Global Fund support. Baxter called upon the World Bank to help fill that gap.

Semugoma called for structural changes in laws and society as a crucial component for successfully tackling the epidemic. He said, "We have to end the invisibility (of MSMs) in service delivery and decision making,"

"There are critical issues of funding, of will, and of political leadership that threaten our being able to take advantage of this historic moment" of optimism about curbing the epidemic, said American AIDS advocate Cornelius Baker.

US Black political leaders often have provided leadership in this area, but that has proven to be rarer in socially more conservative regions such as the South. Baker said, "We have to look at the social construct of homophobia."

Global Forum president George Ayala pointed to "vibrant movements" in Nepal and India that have brought about decriminalization of

homosexuality and greater inclusion in society and particularly HIV programs. The situation also is improving in much of South America.

One key element for continued progress will be support for local gay communities, which often exist though they may not be readily visible.

The prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* produced a special issue HIV in Men Who Have Sex with Men that was released immediately prior to the conference. Its content is available for free, though registration is required.

Learn more online: www.thelancet.com/series/hiv-in-men-who-have-sex-with-men



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Best Musical or Opera
Best Performance, Actress – Drama
Best Design – Costumes
Best Original One-Act Comedy
Best Performance, Actor – Musical or
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Best Choreography

Best New Script
Best Touring Production

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Nominations

Best Musical or Opera

Chicago the Musical, Mason Street Warehouse; Kurt Stamm, director
From My Hometown, Meadow Brook Theatre; Travis W. Walter, director
I Pagliacci, Michigan Opera Theatre; Bernard Uzan, director
The Light in the Piazza, The Encore Musical Theatre; Steve DeBruyne, director
Sunset Boulevard, Barn Theatre; Hans Friedrichs, director
Urinetown, Farmers Alley Theatre; Laurel Scheidt, director

Best Performance, Actress – Drama

Penelope Alex, A Streetcar Named Desire, Barn Theatre
Barbara Coven, Next Fall, Performance Network Theatre
Hayley Galbraith, I Remember Mama, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre
Julia Glander, Mary Stuart, Meadow Brook Theatre
Linda Ramsay, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Planet Ant Theatre

Best Design – Costumes

Nina Barlow and Megan Johnson, The Tempest, Water Works Theatre Company
Jerry Belanger and Cal Schwartz, The Tempest, Park Bar
Melanie Schuessler, Tartuffe, Michigan Shakespeare Festival

Best Original One-Act Comedy

M 5, Planet Ant Theatre; Sara Wolf Molnar, director
iMerica - Brand That i Love, Go Comedy! Improv Theater; Tommy LeRoy, director
Montag and Marbles, Go Comedy! Improv Theater; Pete Jacokes, director
The Tim Machine, Go Comedy! Improv Theater; Nancy Edwards, director
Wirelessless, Go Comedy! Improv Theater; Bryan Lark, director

Best Performance, Actor – Musical or Opera

Bernard Balbot, Blood Brothers, Farmers Alley Theatre
Vince Kelley, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, The Ringwald
Corey McKern, The Marriage of Figaro, Michigan Opera Theatre
Antonello Palombi, I Pagliacci, Michigan Opera Theatre
Eric Parker, Sunset Boulevard, Barn Theatre
Jack Sweeney, The Extraordinary Ordinary, Farmers Alley Theatre

Best Choreography

Jill Dion, A Day in Hollywood A Night in the Ukraine, Hilberry Theatre
Angie Kane Ferrante, Spring Awakening, The AKT Theatre Project
Hans Friedrichs, The Great Big Bar Show, Barn Theatre
Jennifer George-Consiglio, From My Hometown, Meadow Brook Theatre
Kathryn S. Williams, Urinetown, Farmers Alley Theatre

Best New Script

Scott Burkell & Paul Loesel, The Extraordinary Ordinary, Farmers Alley Theatre
David MacGregor, Consider the Oyster, The Purple Rose Theatre Company
Sean May & Ryan Parmenter, RoGoCop! The Musical, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Linda Ramsay-Detherage, The Sunday Punch, Planet Ant Theatre
Joseph Zettelmaier, And The Creek Don't Rise, Williamston Theatre
Joseph Zettelmaier, Dead Man's Shoes, Williamston Theatre & Performance Network Theatre

Best Touring Production

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Best Performance, Actress – Comedy

Janet Haley, Tartuffe, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Terry Heck, The Importance of Being Earnest, Tipping Point Theatre
Robin Lewis-Bedz, The Dead Guy, Williamston Theatre
Kate Peckham, And The Creek Don't Rise, Williamston Theatre
Mary Robin Roth, Spreading It Around, Meadow Brook Theatre

Best Design - Lights

Genesis Garza, The Dead Guy, Williamston Theatre
Ted Hatton, A Few Good Men, What A Do Theatre
Ted Hatton, The Last Five Years, What A Do Theatre
Brian Scruggs, The Winter's Tale, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Dana White, A Stone Carver, The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Best Performance – The Bard

Janet Haley, The Winter's Tale, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Kat Hermes, Henry IV, Part 1, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company
Paul Hopper, The Tempest, Water Works Theatre Company
Dave Toomey, Much Ado About Nothing, Hilberry Theatre

Best Performance, Actress – Musical or Opera

Robyn Hurder, Chicago the Musical, Mason Street Warehouse
Melissa Parks, The Marriage of Figaro, Michigan Opera Theatre
Ashlyn Nicole Shawver, The Last Five Years, What A Do Theatre
Annie Wessendarp, Cinderella, Barn Theatre
Kim Zimmer, Sunset Boulevard, Barn Theatre

Best Design - Props

Beth C. Duey, Crimes of the Heart, Tipping Point Theatre
Amy Harpenau, Cinderella, Barn Theatre

Mark Konwinski, Avenue Q, The Box Theater
Diane E. Ulseth, The Whipping Man, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company & Plowshares Theatre Company
Barbie Amann Weisserman, Same Time, Next Year, Two Muses Theatre

Best Teamwork

Josh Campos & Brian Papandrea, Montag and Marbles, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Miriam Henkel-Moellmann & Natalie Sparbeck, Cinderella, Barn Theatre
Yana Levovna & Lisa Lauren Smith, Looking for the Pony, Detroit Repertory Theatre
Caitlyn Macuga, Brian P. Sage, Natividad Salgado, Katie Terpstra, & Kevin Young, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Tipping Point Theatre
Ian Page, Chris Purchis & Michelle Serje, The Dead Guy, Williamston Theatre

Performance of the Century Award

Best Comedy

The Dead Guy, Williamston Theatre; Tony Caselli, director
Escanaba in da Moonlight, The Purple Rose Theatre Company; Guy Sanville, director
The Love List, Tipping Point Theatre; Lynn Lammers, director
The Importance of Being Earnest, Tipping Point Theatre; Julia Glander, director
Tartuffe, Michigan Shakespeare Festival; Robert Kauzlaric, director

Best Performance, Actor - Drama

Council Cargle, The Whipping Man, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company & Plowshares Theatre Company
Robert Grossman, Imagining Madoff, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company
Eric Parker, A Streetcar Named Desire, Barn Theatre
Guy Sanville, A Stone Carver, The Purple Rose Theatre Company
Curt I. Totteland, I Remember Mama, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre

See Nominations, page 22



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The 11th Annual
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Nominations



► Nominations

Continued from p. 20

Best Music Direction

Catherine Walker Adams, Urinetown, Farmers Alley Theatre
Brian E. Buckner, Godspell, The Encore Musical Theatre
Brian E. Buckner, The Last Five Years, The Encore Musical Theatre
Daniel Feyer, From My Hometown, Meadow Brook Theatre
Bill Meyer, A Jazzy Christmas, Plowshares Theatre Company

Best Performance, Actor - Original One-Act Comedy or Solo Performance

Chris DiAngelo, iMerica - Brand That i Love, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Joe Hingelberg, Wirelessness, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Tim Kay, The Tim Machine, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Peter Prouty, Oh, Hell!, The Abreact

Best of The Bard

Cymbeline, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company; Bob Jones, director
Much Ado About Nothing, Hilberry Theatre; Matthew Earnest, director
The Tempest, Park Bar; Jerry Belanger, director
The Tempest, Water Works Theatre; Jeff Thomakos, director
The Winter's Tale, Michigan Shakespeare Festival; Janice Blixt, director



Best Design - Sets

Monika Essen, Red, Performance Network Theatre
Joseph P. Flauto, I Remember Mama, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre
Elisa Limberg, Unlocking Desire, Khoros Inc.
Daniel C. Walker, A Stone Carver, The Purple Rose Theatre Company
Daniel C. Walker, The Usual: A Musical Love Story, Williamston Theatre

Best Ensemble

Dax Anderson, Sarah Galloway, Charles Reynolds & David Schoen, Endgame, The Abreact
Liza Bielby, Steven DeWater, Richard Newman, Dave Sanders & Eleni Zaharopolous, Manifest Destiny! (there was blood on the saddle), The Hinterlands
Dave Davies, Tina Gloss-Finnell & Wayne David Parker, Love List, Tipping Point Theatre
Alexander Elisa, Will Lee Williams & Tyrick Wiltez Jones, From My Hometown, Meadow Brook Theatre
Mark Rademacher & Kevin Young, Red, Performance Network Theatre

The Jim Posante Community Pride Award

Best Performance, Actress - Original One-Act Comedy or Solo Performance

Suzan M. Jacokes, iMerica - Brand That i Love, Go Comedy! Improv Theater
Cara Trautman, Seance 4, Planet Ant Theatre

Best Design - Sound

Ken Faulk, Next Fall, Performance Network



Theatre
Quintessa Gallinat, Escanaba in da Moonlight, The Purple Rose Theatre Company
Kate Hoppgood, Much Ado About Nothing, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Kate Hoppgood, The Winter's Tale, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
John Purchase, A Few Good Men, What A Do Theatre

Best Performance, Actor - Comedy

Buz Davis, Tartuffe, Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Paul Hopper, Dead Man's Shoes, Williamston Theatre & Performance Network Theatre
Chris Korte, The Dead Guy, Williamston Theatre
Joel Mitchell, Dogman's Last Stand, UDM Theatre Company
David Spencer, The 39 Steps, Mason Street Warehouse

Best Drama

Next Fall, Performance Network Theatre; Ray Schultz, director
Red, Performance Network Theatre; Carla Milarch, director
The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Planet Ant Theatre; Annette Madias, director
A Stone Carver, The Purple Rose Theatre Company; Rhiannon Ragland, director
The Whipping Man, The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company & Plowshares Theatre Company; Gary Anderson, director

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THE MICHIGAN FILM FAIL

New Documentary Reveals Gov. Snyder's Job-Robbing Mistake



Local filmmaker Chris-Teena Constas' documentary looks at the effects of cutting the Michigan film incentive.

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It was destined to make Michigan the movie-making capital of the Midwest. Then, just three years after it was enacted, it was decimated by Gov. Rick Snyder and the boom went bust before it even began in earnest.

"Jane of All Trades: The Rise & Fall of the Michigan Film Incentive," which screens at 8 p.m. Sept. 6 at Royal Oak's Main Art Theatre, explores how Michigan played a key role in the film industry for a few years before falling out of favor with Hollywood thanks to Snyder's efforts.

It all started in 2008, when then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm put forth the Michigan Film Incentive. While several other states had similar programs, Michigan's was the most generous. The state would provide a rebate of up to 42 percent of a production's expenditures. Instantly, filmmakers began flocking to the state. Before 2008, Michigan averaged about five feature films per year. In 2008, there were 31. All told, more than 100 feature films have been made in Michigan since the incentive was put into place, films such as the horror flick "Scream 4," the Drew Barrymore-directed "Whip It" and the action blockbuster "Transformers 3." Whitney Houston's final film, "Sparkle," was also shot here (read interview with co-star Jordin

INFO

Jane Of All Trades

8 p.m. Sept. 6
Main Art Theatre
118 N. Main Street, Royal Oak
>> janeofalltradesthemovie.com

Sparks on page 29).

One of those who took advantage of the opportunities the film industry brought to Michigan was Chris-Teena Constas. The Detroit native had moved to Chicago to work in films as a location manager, her first feature being the Sandra Bullock-Keanu Reeves drama "The Lake House." Once she heard about the incentive, though, she considered it her call to come home.

"I had so much hope," Constas says, recalling the glory days following the announcement about the incentive. "I had a fire that ignited inside of me like I'd never known before. I knew that if I came back I would be able to help people get into the business. Some people took me up on it. Soon, I was buying my first house. I never thought I'd be buying anything in my life and here I am investing in this home and this business and I knew it would take off, and it did. We just saw immediate results."

For a couple years, all went according to plan, and Constas remained highly in demand and constantly working. She began keeping a video journal where she recorded the work she was doing in the industry and how it was helping people discover new careers. Then in 2011, Snyder, arguing that the percentage-based film incentive was leading the state to give back more in rebates than it was taking in, all but killed the incentive when he put a \$25 million cap on it.

In a "where were you when Kennedy died moment," Constas clearly remembers hearing the news.

"I was in Greece visiting my mother," she recalls. "I heard about it and I just could not believe it. There was a rally happening and I thought, 'I have to get back. I have to do something about this.' That's when it hit me: I had all this footage and I could show people what I'd done and what so many others had done in the industry."

"I had never considered myself a filmmaker," Constas continues. "But when the tax incentive got reduced, I was devastated. I saw my peers and people I was surrounded by who were just devastated. We were just hung out to dry. I realized I had captured not just my story but many people's story and I wanted to show people that I can't believe our governor did this."

Constas spoke with and included the stories of people like Cameron, a young intern turned stunt double turned production assistant; Andre, a regular jack of all trades who provided location support; and Kayla who, like Constas, did location scouting and managing. The stories are compelling, as is the evidence Constas offers to prove that Snyder's math is wrong. The film cites a February 2011 report by accounting firm Ernst & Young, which found that the tax incentives resulted in the creation of 2,631 jobs for Michigan residents in 2009 and 3,860 jobs in 2010. The study found that every dollar spent on the film industry returned \$6 in economic activity in the state.

It appears that Snyder may have realized he made a mistake. He raised the cap this year to \$50 million. But insiders say that number is far too low and the damage has been done.


"We've lost the momentum now," says Constas. "I think we've lost a lot of trust with Hollywood and the producers who are putting up the money for these films. When Ohio is approving a movie in five days and it's taking Michigan months, they don't have the time to wait around. We're going to get smaller productions and the problem with that is that we don't get our benefits. We're not going to see any big Hollywood blockbuster films coming here. There's a lot of uncertainty."

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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Best of 2012 (So Far)

Lana Del Rey, 'Born to Die'

She was all anyone could talk about in the beginning of the year, but for all the wrong reasons: Lana Del Rey's two performances on "Saturday Night Live," of singles "Video Games" and "Blue Jeans," were awkward and off-key. Her first album on a major label, though, is a complete triumph that no one has yet eclipsed – a hypnotic pop concoction that felt like a Quentin Tarantino film, exploring love and fame with cynicism and sadness. Call her fake like it matters, but there's no arguing the genius of "Born to Die."



Emeli Sandé, 'Our Version of Events'

Her voice could fight world wars – it's that strong. But even though the artist formally known as Adele (she changed her name for obvious reasons) has the instrument, her mixed-bag material is still very much artist-in-the-making. The songs that do work atone the ones that don't: "Heaven" is a soaring dance anthem, "Suitcase" is a brutal love song that could've come from Tracy Chapman and the retro-soul single "Next to Me" really shows off them pipes. Emeli Sandé is one to watch.



Santigold, 'Master of My Make-Believe'

Santigold has the hooks, hope and hoes on this long-awaited album, a state-of-the-world address that reminds us that "our house is burning down" and that girls can have just as much swagger as the guys (see: "Look at These Hoes"). "Disparate Youth" is a Portishead-sounding daydream, and "The Riot's Gone," produced by hit-maker Greg Kurstin, works as a political or personal statement. Listen up.

year than coming out: a debut that takes the genre back to the Lauryn Hill days of poeticism. His best work is "Lost," "Bad Religion" and "Forrest Gump," but singling out any tracks almost does the album a disservice – the whole thing works so well together. An exploration of social issues, his relationships (with all types) and the effects of fame, "channel ORANGE" shows Ocean to be one of the most refreshing voices of our time.

Mark Ronson for a front-to-back stunner with walloping orchestration, soulful lady singers and some of his slickest songwriting. His dig at modern-day pop stars – the title track – is a highlight, but so is his sentimental "Sometimes You Need," a sweet meditation on the hopefulness found in "a movie star's eyes." Everything about "Out of the Game" is just as magical.

First Aid Kit, 'The Lion's Roar'

If Robyn taught us anything, it's that the Swedes are a special breed. But that's not the only reason sister duo Johanna and Klara Söderberg make such a roar with the follow-up to their 2010 debut: Like the country legends they sing about on "Emmylou," this Americana album has what it takes to go down in history. With lingering melodies and harmonies wrapped so tightly they could only be sung by siblings, First Aid Kit is a neo-folk phenomenon.

Bonnie Raitt, 'Slipstream'

After taking a seven-year hiatus, it's good to have Bonnie back. "Slipstream" doesn't just reaffirm her as the rock goddess she is, but goes a step further and establishes that the world just isn't the same without her brand of soul-blues. From the slide guitar solos, which she's noted for, to the slow ache of "Not Cause I Wanted To," one of the best ballads you'll hear this year, Raitt gives us something to talk about.

Kathleen Edwards, 'Voyageur'

The ballads hurt the most on the alt-country Canadian's heartbreak-fueled fourth album: "A Soft Place to Land" and "House Full of Empty Rooms" are vivid takes on her broken relationship. When she kicks things up on "Change the Sheets," even the surging sound can't hide her glum state. The best part? That Justin Vernon produced it – and not just because he's Bon Iver, but because he's Edwards' new man, taking on the best breakup album of the year. *Her* album. Now that's love.

Frank Ocean, 'channel ORANGE'

The hip-hop prodigy accomplished something even more extraordinary this

Rufus Wainwright, 'Out of the Game'

You know that expression go big or go home? Well, Rufus Wainwright definitely isn't having the home part. His grand L.A.-pop album taps into music mogul

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

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Photo: Sony Pictures

Jordin Sparkles

Singer Talks Acting Debut and How 'Whitney Loved Her Gays'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Whitney Houston's starring role – the last before her tragic death earlier this year – isn't the only reason "Sparkle" has gay written all over it: there's the flamboyant style of the '60s, an all-girl singing group and, well, the movie's name. Seated in a suite at Birmingham's Townsend Hotel, not far from where the film was shot in Detroit, "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks lights up – applauding, even – knowing how many of her gay fans will see her on the big screen in her movie debut.

Sparks' return to Motown in early August was even more appropriate when Aretha Franklin, who sang on the soundtrack for the 1976 original, showed up to walk the red carpet at the Royal Oak Emagine with the remake's star. Even though she lost a nail, the 22-year-old said having the Queen of Soul there was "absolutely incredible."

About the finger fiasco: "I was freaking out because I looked at the picture of Aretha and me and the nail is gone." That's not a problem today, however. "I made sure I glued these suckers on like nobody's business!"

Ever so bubbly, Sparks also chatted about Whitney's mutual adoration for the gay community, addressed "mean" rumors of her anti-gay upbringing and recalled her first time at a drag club.

What are some of your favorite parts of Motown in the '60s?

I'd already grown up listening to (Motown music) because my grandparents introduced it to me when I was really young. I listened to Diana Ross and The Temptations and all of them, so being here, knowing that's where

Motown started, you could feel the energy. I loved singing the music that was like that. And the clothes, come on now! The clothes, the makeup and the hair – it was so much fun to transform into that every single day.

Which outfit do you wish you could've taken with you after "Sparkle" wrapped?

The outfit when I walk into Columbia Records: the hot pink dress with the white stripes on it, when I walk into (label head) Larry Robinson's office. It was my favorite one. It fit so good!

What was it like spending your 21st birthday at a drag club in Dallas?

It was the best thing ever. It was my first time, and I was just beside myself because I had never seen a drag show live before. I was just so amazed at how they transform and lip-sync to a T. So much fun! They were doing these tiny tube shots and my hairdresser and his partner were there and we were just having a blast. All of us had a great time. I can't wait to go back.

Do you hope there will be a "Sparkle" drag queen?

I'm waiting for it! I'm waiting on them to come out in a red dress like that (points to movie poster) with their hair down, singing to my songs. I can't wait. And hey, Halloween is coming up, too!

What is your fondest memory of being here in Detroit with Whitney?

For me as a singer, growing up and loving her and listening to her so much, the whole experience was amazing. But also,

she was just so open and wanted to get to know us. That was very unexpected.

Was there a specific scene she guided you through?

She was there for a lot of the songs when she didn't need to be there, which was really sweet. One thing she did say was, "Believe in the gift that you have; believe in your talent," because there were times when I was really unsure since I'd never done a movie before. She was like, "Mama's here, it's OK." And she used to call us her babies. When you see us up on that screen and we're telling each other that we love each other, it's genuine. We got to know her and we cherished her. We loved her.

You grew up in Arizona and now you're a part of Hollywood. How did your gay circle change when you made the move?

I didn't know as many (gay people), but I did drama club, and the head of my drama club in the ninth grade – his name was Eric and on the weekends he was Sapphire St. Regis, and he was so amazing! He was the president of the drama club, and so talented and so fun. Then I did community theater, and that introduced me to more. I have some (gay) family members as well, so I've always been used to it.

The rumors of you growing up in a Christian family that wasn't very accepting of gay people are just nonsense, then.

That's all stuff that people write. I grew up in a Christian family, but I have cousins and I have tons of friends (who are gay).

See Jordin Sparks, page 30

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Jordin Sparks and Whitney Houston star in "Sparkle," which was shot in Detroit. Photo: Sony Pictures

► Jordin Sparks

Continued from p. 29

Some of my closest friends are actually gay, and some of my band members are, as well. So, for me, I'm just like, whatever! Those are just mean things that people say.

Your boyfriend, Jason Derulo, has a following in the gay community for many reasons. One of those is an It Gets Better video he filmed. Have you thought about getting involved in anything like that?

I would love to. You see people being so hateful toward other people, and I wasn't raised like that. I was raised to love everybody, and some of the funnest times I have had are with my gay friends. So, for me, I am all for it and I would love to do something like that.

Did you make anything of how closely related the name "Sparkle" is to "Glitter," Mariah Carey's infamous film?

If you haven't seen the original "Sparkle" you kind of assume it's a sequel: "Glitter," "Sparkle," sprinkles, fairy dust – they all go together! I hadn't realized it was such a cult classic. I had no idea until I got the part and then I had people coming up to me going, "You better not mess it up." "Is this song on the soundtrack?" But I love Mariah Carey and I hear "Glitter" and I'm like, "I love Mariah!" I think "Sparkle" is definitely very different than "Glitter." (Laughs)

The song "Celebrate" with Whitney Houston could work as a gay anthem. What do you think about that?

Whitney and I didn't get to do it in the studio together because our schedules didn't allow it, but when I recorded my part, I heard her as I was recording and she sounded so happy. Whitney loved her gays. She absolutely loved them. For me, being one of the last songs she did – a song just about loving each other and celebrating each other and it just being so encouraging and uplifting – I think it's one of the best gifts she could've left. I feel like that song is one of the best gifts she could've left for the younger generations who are going to discover her music and discover her – and also for the people who still love her.

Did Whitney talk about her gay fans on set?

No, but her family would tell us. They'd be like, "She loves her gays, honey," and there have been a few other reporters who have interviewed her before and she absolutely represented. Hello! How can you not? I will say, I have Googled "drag queens singing Jordin Sparks." I just love it so much. I think it's the best thing ever. I love watching them sing and sometimes I'm like, "They look better than I do! What is going on here?"

When did you first become aware of your gay fan base?

In the very beginning during meet-and-greets after concerts. There was just a huge array of people: all different races, orientations and ages. I just remember because I didn't think boys would like my music, but I have some straight male fans who love my music and then I have my gay fans who love my music.

More gay than straight?

Yes. Very much so! It's actually really surprising when I have a straight male fan that's like, "Yeah, I love your music." And I'm like, "Really?"

What's coming up for you? A new album?

I'm putting out a new album. I'm working on it now. I've got about seven songs that I'm really feeling strongly about. "Sparkle" is actually giving me the opportunity to do something stylistically different than I did before, so it's going to be a little more R&B. Early Mariah, early Whitney is what I'm going for. That's what I grew up on.

I'm already filming my next film. It's called "The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete," and Alicia Keys is executive producing and Jennifer Hudson is actually in it. It's an indie drama and I don't sing. I just play an Afro-Latina from the Bronx and I just get to be the character. I'm excited to see how that goes.

Not as glamorous as your role as Sparkle?

Oh, she's glamorous! The other day I had my hair pulled back in twists, almost like cornrows, and then my hair was on the side in a huge, curly side ponytail. Then the lashes! And my nails were crazy. She thinks she's so fabulous.

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For more information about It's Not Over contact
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Editor's Pick

What if Cookie Monster were addicted to more than just double stuffed Oreos? Are the rumors about Bert & Ernie really true? Can puppets actually do everything humans do, including THAT? You will find the answer to these questions and more when you take a trip down "Avenue Q" at the Farmington Players Barn and follow the witty characters on their mission to prove "there is life outside your apartment."

"Avenue Q" is edgy, sassy and an exciting change in the Barn's typical lineup. If you think it's sizzling outside these days, wait until you see the cast burning up the stage in one of the hottest musicals to hit Broadway. It serves as a hilarious, thought-provoking satire of the popular children's TV show, poking fun at the contrasts between childhood and adulthood, fantasy versus reality.

The production runs through Saturday, Aug. 25. Tickets are available by calling 248-553-2955.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 16

KGLRC Youth Group 7 p.m. Helping young people 13-18 trying to come to terms with their sexuality in a sometimes-unaccepting society. Meets every Thursday. To attend, call or e-mail the resource center. 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. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Aug. 17

50 and Better Friday Group 7 p.m. Designed for those 50 and better looking for an excuse to get out of the house. Goes out every other week or so for miniature golf, a movie, or other activity, per vote. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. PhoenixChurch.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. GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Aug. 20

Mysterious, Marvelous Monday 6 p.m. 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. Gailwolffkoff@gmail.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

Tuesday, Aug. 21

LGBT Grief Group 6:30 p.m. It is often helpful especially if you have lost a partner to talk to people who are supportive and understanding, as many outside the LGBT

community do not fully recognize the grief that comes from losing a partner. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

PFLAG Family Reunion Meeting 6:30 p.m. Third Tuesday of every month at the Fellowship Chapel. PFLAG Family Reunion, 7707 W. Outer Dr., Detroit. 313-286-8572.

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

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 7:45 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Jimtoycenter.org

Wednesday, Aug. 22

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

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. 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

Newly Single Support Group 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk - or listen - to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Thursday, Aug. 23

Euclre Tournament - Benefit for Out Loud Chorus 7 p.m. Entry: \$10. Cash prizes awarded. No partner necessary, all levels of ability welcome. Food and beverage service available. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 S. Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor. 734-652-0801. OutLoudChorus@gmail.com Olconline.org

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

Sunday, Aug. 26

Good Ol' BBQ Cookout 2 p.m. Food, fellowship, and fun. Stop by and get a carry-out plate if you can't stay. Donations: \$25+. Checks made payable to "Ruth Ellis Center." Kalimah Johnson is performing spoken word and there will be other surprises. Dress casual and cool. Kofi Adoma, 255 Worcester Pl., Detroit.

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Farmington Hills "Mass Transit" This talented, 9-piece horn-based group will rock the park with a selection of favorite music and vocals from the pat, including pieces from Motown, Chicago, Earth Wind & Fire, along with contemporary rock as well. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 16. FHgov.com

Kerrytown District Association "6th Annual Nashbash" Kathy Hussey headlines the festival featuring a roster of first-class national and local performers in an intimate neighborhood atmosphere, making Kerrytown the place to be. Ann Arbor Farmers Market, 315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. Aug. 16. 734-769-2999. Kerrytown.com

Morels Steve Acho is performing at Morels owned by Jim Asmar and renowned chef Matt Prentice. Tickets: \$60. Morels, 32729 Northwestern Hwy, Farmington Hills. 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23.

Olympia Entertainment "Gipsy Kings" The Gipsy Kings, known for hypnotizing the world with the infectious sound of their flamenco guitars. Tickets: \$20-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

'Burn This' Casts Heat and Light

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

Lanford Wilson, who died just last year, wrote some two dozen plays, encapsulated the fever of off-Broadway in the 1960s, then captured Broadway with his characters, both straight and gay. He was nominated for three Tony Awards, won a Drama Desk Award and an Obie, as well as the Pulitzer. More graphic and more "out" than Tennessee Williams, he brought the gay sensibility – without Williams' filigree and disguises – closer to the mainstream, and was a bridge between Williams and Edward Albee.

Performance Network has staged this play about heterosexual obsession while still embracing the gay sensibility: "Burn This" begins after the death of Robbie, a gay man and dancer, who lived with his sometime dance partner, Anna, and Larry, a gay man who works in advertising. Robbie's brother, Pale, intrudes with his steamy, needy, grief stricken, cocaine powered presence in the New York loft the three shared.

He becomes, for us, the dead brother's doppelganger, representing his queer-hating New Jersey family, the coarseness of a man running a restaurant connected to the mob and a sexual harbinger of the conflict for Anna who loved the dead Robbie but could not love him sexually.

Meanwhile, Burton, a successful movie writer of science fiction in a long-term relationship with

REVIEW

Burn This

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Sept. 2. 140 minutes. \$27-\$34. 734-663-0681.

>> www.performancenetwork.org

Anna, is in for a bumpy night over the next few months. The time is 1987, and the play ends in 1988 following a helluva New Year's Eve.

In the last decade or so, The Purple Rose Theatre has paid homage to Wilson's great works, first in a revival of the splendid "The Hot I Baltimore," followed by two world premieres. It is good to see another in Wilson's oeuvre. ("Fifth of July," which helped launch Jeff Daniels' career, is available on video along with three other adaptations of Wilson plays.)

Director Ray Schultz has, like a launched missile, sought the heat in the script, and the first act, while well staged, lacks modulation: Everyone seems directed at a feverish pitch, and Anna, played by Quetta Carpenter, is pushed almost to shrewishness. As Pale, Darrell Glasgow, has a punishing monologue, and he too goes beyond the speed limit – though his sheer physical energy is laudable. Overheard in the lobby, one theatergoer to another, "There was too much shouting in that play."

In Act Two, the pitch is lower and all four



Quetta Carpenter and Darrell Glasgow in "Burn This" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Sean Carter

actors achieve a delicate balance. Kevin Young gives the wisecracking gay man performance without some of the affectations that mar mainstream depictions, and Jon Bennett plays the passionate playwright and banished lover with a stolid panache.

Here the actors and Wilson blend beautifully. Bennett's brief story about his sexual encounter with another man one snowy evening is a gem. Larry, with embellishments, goes and tells it on the mountain. Bennett's dispassionate involvement and Larry's hyperbolic version are the yin and yang of Wilson.

Both Carpenter and Glasgow bring flesh tones to their performances, intensity without raucousness, tenderness without overplaying, and the relaxation works, as each gives in to their neediness.

Monika Essen's 1987 loft/ballet studio is well produced, and Suzanne Young's costumes are apt. Mary Cole's lighting design is perhaps a bit too cool. Rather loud pop music – probably germane to the era – is played, also somewhat loudly, during scene changes, and Joseph Zettlemaier contributes well staged fight scenes: Oh, yes, they do come to blows as well as blow jobs.

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. Soundboarddetroit.com

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 Anders Osborne. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 23. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Majestic The Orpheum Bell. Tickets: \$5. The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 23. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.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. Tickets: \$25. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

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

Zumba Fitness with Chandra Floyd De-stress into shape with this calorie scorching, exhilarating 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

FESTIVALS

Renegade Theatre Festival 2012 Three nights and one afternoon of free theater at multiple venues throughout

Old Town Lansing. Free. Aug. 16 - 18. renegadetheatrefestival.org

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Avenue Q Contains adult themes. \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Fiddler on the Roof \$5-12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden Road, Warren. Through Aug. 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 Croswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through Aug. 19. 517-264-SHOW. Croswell.org

PROFESSIONAL

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's Rose Theater, 300 E. Crystal Lake Rd., Twin Lake. 2 p.m. Aug. 26. 800-889-9258. bluelake.org

Antony and Cleopatra \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Through Aug. 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

Boeing-Boeing \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 17 - Sep. 2. 269-857-2399. sc4a.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 \$27-34. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 2. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

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

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

Nymph Errant \$10-\$27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 18. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

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. acorntheater.com

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

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. acorntheater.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Janet Kohler Pastels" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. July 1 - Aug. 31. 734-995-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "The Chris Webber Collection" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1 - Sep. 30. 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 "Abstract Expressionism" 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

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

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

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/

Preservation Detroit "Historic Theatre District Tour" Tour departs from the Madison Avenue Lobby of the Detroit Opera House. Registration is online and must be pre-paid. Tickets: \$45 per person. Tours depart every half-hour after 9 a.m. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Aug. 25 - Aug. 25. Preservationdetroit.org

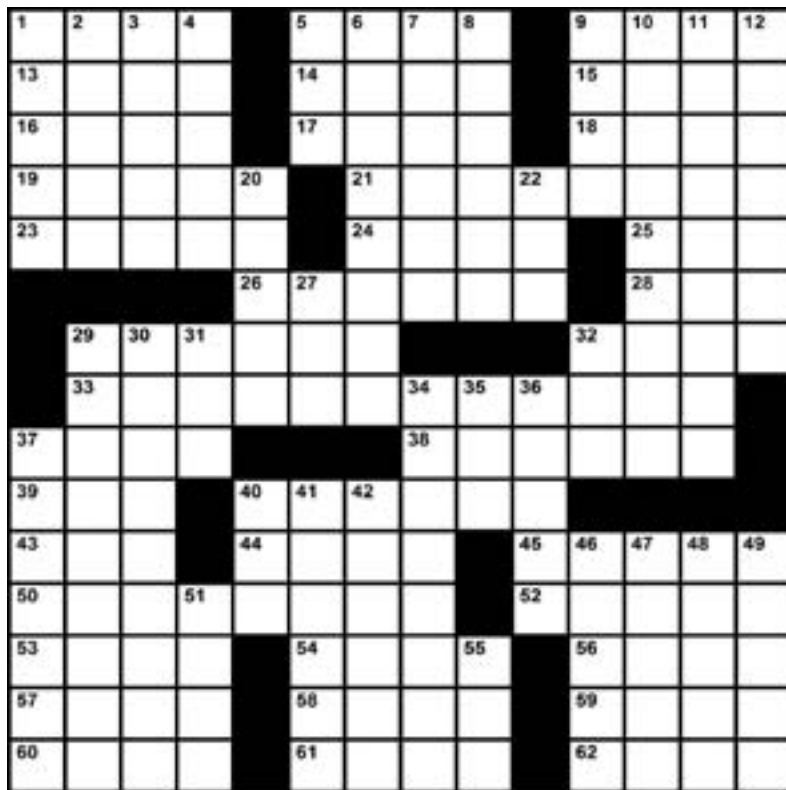
The Detroit Institute of Art "Picasso and Matisse" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11 - Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries" The Seoul-based art collaborative, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 11 - Dec. 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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Magic Carpet Ride



Across

- 1 AZT, e.g.
 5 Roadies' burdens
 9 Performed like a top
 13 Rock's longtime companion
 14 Man in a skirt, perhaps
 15 Coastal raptor
 16 Nick was his master
 17 160 rods
 18 Prefix meaning "middle"
 19 With 21-Across and 33-Across, Ride up in the sky
 21 See 19-Across
 23 "Look but don't touch" type
 24 It was gauche, for Debussy
 25 Mont. neighbor
 26 What some did at Stonewall
 28 Summer setting in Ore.
 29 Encourage
 32 Tendency to get pissed
 33 See 19-Across
 37 Prefix with physics
 38 Mounts the soapbox
 39 "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" mountain
 40 Beat up on
 43 "Xanadu" band, for short
 44 Narrow walk

- 45 "The Seven-Year Itch" costar with Monroe
 50 Challenger (vehicle of 52-Across) and others
 52 Late NASA astronaut Ride
 53 Six years for a senator
 54 Many miles away
 56 Peter the Great, for one
 57 Internally pink
 58 Stable female
 59 Prisoners do it
 60 Ruler of Valhalla
 61 Makes tats
 62 Salty bodies

Down

- 1 NFL source of young tight ends
 2 LGBT rights activist O'Donnell
 3 Too-too
 4 "The ___ Menagerie"
 5 Turkish title of honor
 6 Feather, to Yankee Doodle
 7 Learner's license
 8 Slob's napkin
 9 Sweet opening?
 10 Situation of peril
 11 Loosens a strap on a stallion

- 12 Nursery denizen
 20 Nero's land
 22 Dreaded ink color
 27 Saturn model
 29 Part of a full erection?
 30 "Jeopardy!" category
 31 Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"
 32 Club for swingers
 34 Where to find lions and tigers in pairs
 35 Hindu title of respect
 36 Reacts to a scare, perhaps
 37 Copland, for example
 40 Quick on the uptake
 41 Meat stuffed in a hero, perhaps
 42 Edberg of tennis
 46 Number of bulbs
 47 Borden bovine
 48 Andean pack animal
 49 Ancient Greeks plucked them
 51 Some Feds
 55 Hi-___ monitor

Solution on pg 36



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Horoscopes

Think ahead, Capricorn!

BY JACK FERTIG

Aspects between Sun, Venus, and Pluto warn that efforts to charm and unite may be manipulative. Mars aligning with Saturn in Libra challenges us to examine the hard work and truth of relationships.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Try to be gentle with your partner. Remember you're on the same team. If resentments come up, look at your own underlying worries. A playful slap at authority will be taken much harder than it was intended.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Sweetness and charm can be powerful and revolutionary; infiltration and subversion are more effective than a frontal attack. Seduce people to your side. Build your network and get in the back door. Be ready to improvise. With time and patience you can succeed.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Setting limits is necessary, but will probably anger some people. A conciliatory tone may be necessary, but don't let that open the door to compromise. You can be firm and gentle, although it will take some work and creativity.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): New financial ventures can prove very successful, but don't trust anything that doesn't promise lot of hard work. Nothing will come easily. Your mate's criticism is more trustworthy than his or her praise. Either way, appreciate that your baby means well.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Fumbling, confused seductions can work out well. Keep your sense of humor and don't get thrown off your game. At work maintain some humility and listen more than you speak so you can make big changes. Ego and assertion can wreck it all.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You're probably worrying too much about your job. Ignore rumors and be as productive as you can. Sexual experimentation can work off the tension, but with new techniques come new safety concerns. Be careful!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Consolidating your authority can mean shifting alliances. Try to make new friends without alienating older ones. The less you like advice from your partner, the more you should listen to it. You may not have to agree; just listen and consider it!

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Worrying too much about the competition will just undermine your work and your mental health. Simply do your best and take enough time to rest so that you can do your best. Stay focused and your dedication will earn you praise.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Rather than speaking out on issues that matter to you, try researching them. Resist social lures. Take time out to focus on yourself, to meditate. In your earliest memories, what do you remember your parents wanting of you? How does that influence you now?

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Pressure to succeed can be overwhelming. Remember to relax; think ahead. Does sex really get you more in balance or is it a distraction that undermines your efforts? Some time off might help. Your partner should understand. Breathe. Think. Prioritize.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Everyone wants an argument so you should be in heaven, but where is your feistiness coming from – an eagerness to play, or some deep-seated worries? Remember you have nothing to prove, and there's a time and a place for everything.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Sexual frustration could push you to ask yourself hard questions about your habits and your priorities. Don't blame others. Assess your needs and priorities and look at changes, perhaps big ones, you need to make.



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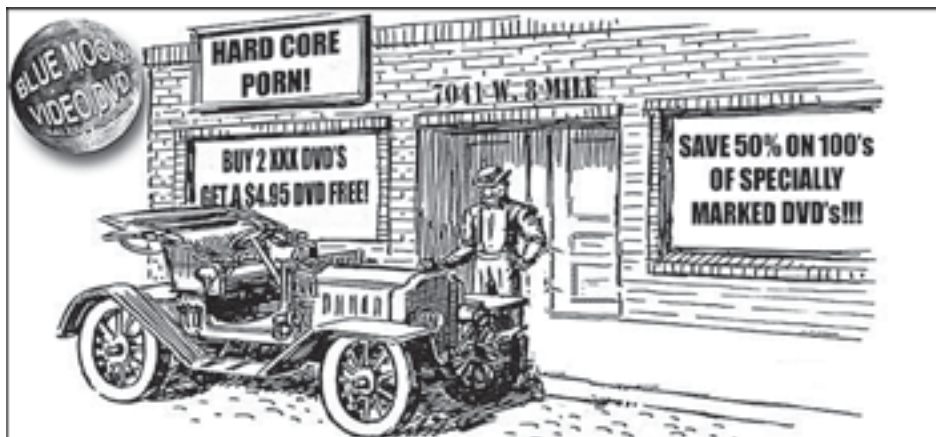


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LGBT AA MEETINGS**

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

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Cocktail Chatter

The Sidecar

BY ED SIKOV

All the housemates – Craig, Sal, Sean and Sal’s friend Colton – arrived at the same time, having ended up on the same ferry, as I was putting together the makings of le cocktail du weekend: the Sidecar. One bottle of brandy and one of Cointreau were lined up along with a mid-century pitcher I’d picked up at a flea market for a song (the rights for which were evidently owned by the Beatles, given how much I’d paid for the damn thing). In my hand was a red plastic reamer, and I was reaming lemons.

Craig was the first to comment. “You told me you hated rimming!”

“Here it starts,” I said under my breath. “And it’s not going to stop for a very long time.”

“He told me once in confidence – um, well, forget that part; it’s only our housemates, dear one, and they won’t tell a soul! (They were all shaking their heads no – violently – and grinning.) “The one sex act he refuses to perform on *anyone* is rimming. Poor Dan has never been rimmed.”

Dan was in the living room reading “The Economist” but evidently following the conversation closely because he immediately exclaimed, “I have, too! Just not by *him*. He wouldn’t do it if our marriage depended on it, which come to think of it, it just might. I’m unfulfilled.”

“Stop braying, Martha,” I said, hoping to change the subject.

“I don’t bray, George,” he responded.

“Flores para los muertos! Flores!” I said softly, seeing myself as one of los muertos in question.

“He’s just too much of a priss,” Dan continued, utterly oblivious to my humiliation. “I’d have to soak my ass in Clorox for a week before he’d even consider it, and even then I’d have to cover the whole thing in Saran wrap.”

“I knew it!” Sean shouted triumphantly. “Mr. Ed is exactly the type of overly fastidious and basically selfish gay guy who won’t put his Listerined mouth anywhere near anybody’s bung hole, thereby denying his innumerable partners one of the greatest physical pleasures the

human body can produce. I told you so! I’ve said it a million times.” To whom, I wondered? BBC World News? NPR’s “All Things Considered?” Was Terry truly Gross?

With the imaginary taste of ass on my tongue, I spat, “Now that we’ve played Humiliate the Host, and before we are forced to move on to Get the Guests, does anybody want to know what drink I’m making?” In unison they all cried, “No!” They drank them anyway. One by one they told in excruciating detail about the first time they were rimmed; the first time they rimmed another guy; the best rim job they ever had; the smoothest ass they ever rimmed; the hairiest; and on and on. Sean told a story so foul that I will not repeat it here, other than to say that I wanted to throw up at the end.

Sidecars are not only delicious but easy to make (if, unlike me, you use bottled lemon juice instead of – I’m sorry – reaming fresh lemons through a strainer and into a measuring cup). But I must say that the endless discussion of sticking your tongue in somebody’s anus and the equally endless references to my aversion to the practice completely destroyed any desire I had to prepare dinner for these awful, awful people, my so-called friends and – oh good Lord – my husband. So when Craig emerged from his rectal reverie and asked, “Hey, why aren’t you cooking anything?” I stood up and announced, “Not my problem. Hey, I know! Go to the meat market and buy a rump roast and lick it till it’s done!” I stomped off and, as my housemates and husband looked on in shock, I slammed the door behind me as I left the house and took myself out for dinner. I got myself hammered, picked up a muscular stud on the boardwalk, took him to the deserted beach and let him do what he wanted to me. Take a wild guess what it was.

The Sidecar

(makes one drink)
1.5 oz. brandy
.75 oz. Cointreau
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Pour all ingredients into a shaker filled with ice and shake hard; strain into a chilled cocktail glass and think about worthier body parts that you enjoy playing with. And don’t invite your friends.



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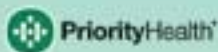
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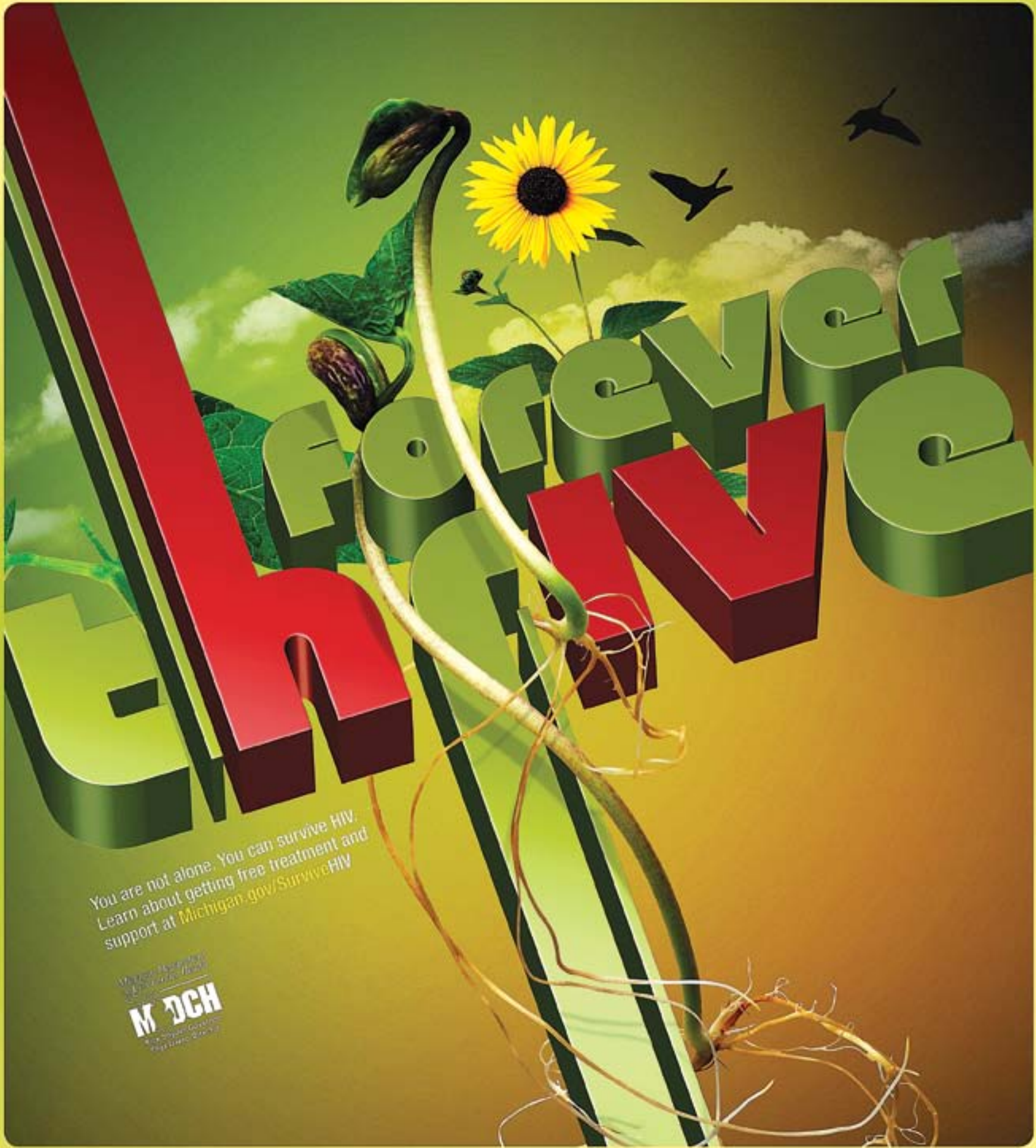
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