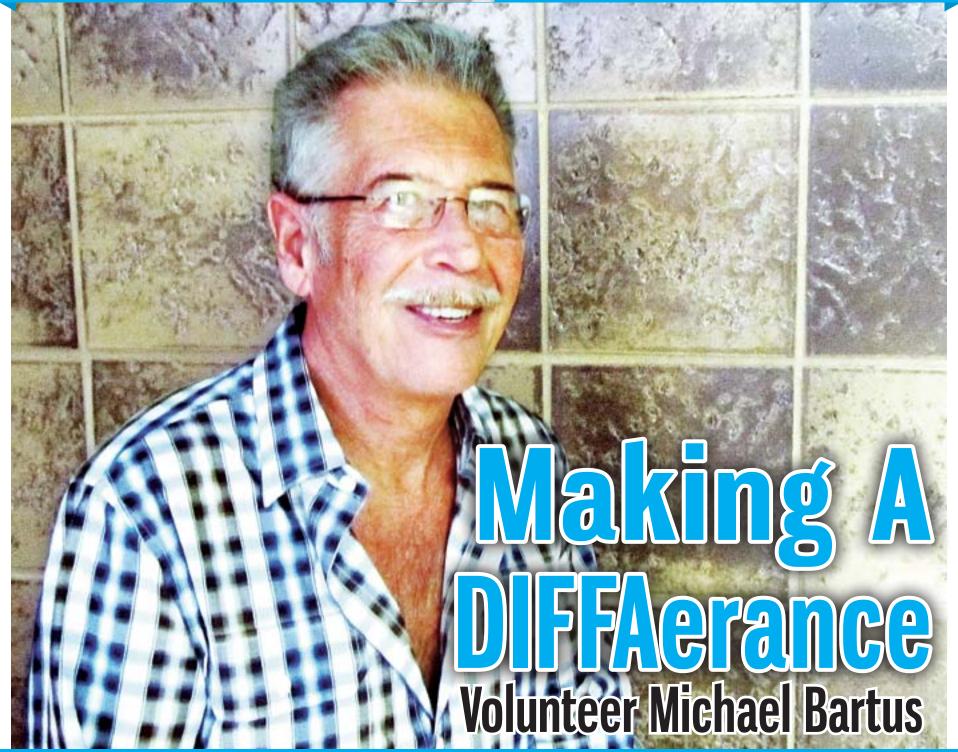


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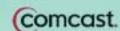
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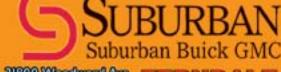


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Armstrong vs. Shirvell

Kristine Copeland: In my opinion, It's a fair verdict and judgment. He shows no remorse or even understanding of his behavior.

Andrea Navar: Boo-yah! Karma bites back.

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As the French maid says, "it isn't easy" to juggle three fiances - but, oh, is it ever funny in "Boeing- Boeing," the latest production of Mason Street Warehouse.

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The Nov. 2012 elections are fast LAHR-PAC and other regional approaching. Here at Between The Lines we are researching the candidates who will be asking for your vote. The 2012 BTL Voters Guide will reflect the work of BTL research along with Equality Michigan PAC,

state PACS. Sign up today and receive information about pro-LGBT candidates at the local and national level.

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BRIEFS

JACKSON, MICH. City Commission Votes to Take Up Non-Discrimination Ordinance

On Aug. 14, the Jackson City Commission voted to take up the issue of adopting an inclusive and equal non-discrimination ordinance. Specifically the ordinance would ban discrimination of people based on a number of factors, including their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In recent months, similar ordinances have passed in Flint, Mount Pleasant, and Muskegon. Last year voters in Traverse City upheld their city's nondiscrimination ordinance

A recent poll by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research shows that 73 percent of likely voters in the 2012 election support efforts to ban discrimination of LGBT people. The same poll showed that while the federal government, Michigan and many other states do not provide such protections, 80 percent of respondents inaccurately believed such protections were already in place on a federal level.

"The evidence is overwhelming that voters believe LGBT people deserve the same legal protections as any other population under threat of discrimination," said Roland Leggett II, director of field organizing for Equality Michigan. "While the anti-LGBT industry continues to fill their coffers by telling their donors distorted versions of history and falsely claiming these are special rights, the reality is voters are tired of their lies and are ready for equal protection for all people in Michigan."

ANN ARBOR, MICH. OUTFest celebration returns to Braun Court

The 18th OUTFest returns to Ann Arbor's history Kerrytown District Saturday, Sept. 29 with a multiplicity of activities and entertainment for the LGBT and allied community of Washtenaw.

This annual celebration begins in the evening at Braun Court, across from the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market. This year's event will spill into both the Braun Court parking lot as well as the block of N. Fourth Ave. between Catherine St. and E. Kingsley.

"What is most vital about celebrations like OUTfest is that people are literally coming out into a community that already supports and affirms who they are," said OUTFest Committee Co-Chair Ashley Schwedt.

The celebration includes music, dancing, entertainers, food (vendors and Braun Court restaurants), a beer tent, the Grassroots stage with local musicians, speakers, representatives of political campaigns, a children's play area, raffles and a NECTO-sponsored Dance Pavilion with DJ Mark Johnson.

Since it's conception, JTCC's OUTFest has been hosted and produced with the assistance " and at times leadership " of \aut\Bar co-owners Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, large supporters of the center. This year, OUTFest has been organized by a number of JTCC volunteers working in collaboration with the center's board of directors.

OUTFest 2012 is 5 p.m. to midnight. This event is free and open to the public, though a small fee is necessary for access to the celebration's beer tent. For more information go to www.JimToyCenter.org or search Facebook for "Jim Toy Community Center".

Volunteers are still needed to help with setup, decorating, check-in, etc. To sign up to volunteer, contact Ashley Schwedt at Aschwedt@umich.edu.

Making a DIFFAerance

MAC Volunteer, Michael Bartus Appointed by Gov. Snyder to Serve Aging LGBT Population

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ANN ARBOR – The first time Michael Bartus really stopped and paid attention to Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) was back in December when they brought Max Fisher in to do a lunchtime presentation about his journey in AIDS activism. "I came to hear him speak, but I left very impressed with MAC, seeing all the people here that cared and learning about what MAC does," Bartus said. "So I decided to get involved."

The 65 year-old Ann Arbor-based activist is now serving on the host committee for DIFFA's Dining by Design Dinner on Sept. 15. And he is also celebrating another activist accomplishment – a recent appointment by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Commission on Services to the Aging.

Bartus had always been a financial supporter of charities and a hard-working advocate for the aging, but after retirement in 2001 he has more time to devote to causes that are important to him, like AIDS prevention, Alzheimer's support, and care for the aging.

"I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Snyder to serve as a member of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging, the state level decision-making body that oversee the work of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. The Commission approves the funding for the 16 Area Agencies on Aging that then support a network of in-home care and nutrition services, among many other forms of assistance. In 2011, the Commission oversaw a budget of \$93 million," he said. He represents the interest of older adults from Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and St. Clair Counties. Prior to the appointment he served three years on the state Advisory Council.

In addition to this appointment he serves on the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, which is actively working toward becoming a SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Eleders) Affiliate. The Coalition has held conferences with community elders to determine their needs. They have implemented a competency training program for agencies that serve older adults, to make sure they are familiar with LGBT issues. They are also working towards creating a certification program, so that people can know what hospitals, home care agencies, assisted living facilities, and other agencies are LGBT open and affirming.

Bartus is nearing old age, and even though he has always been financially successful, the thought of not knowing which care providers are affirming or not is unsettling. "The thing that bothers me the most is relocation should I become widowed and finding a hospitable place. It's not a fear of getting older, but a loss of control of the environment," he said. "There is a point where you cannot function by yourself, even with care. I've always been



I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Snyder to serve as a member of the Michigan

Commission on Services to the Aging, the state level decision-making body that oversee the work of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging.

fortunate enough that I could always take care of what I need, but as I look at services for the aging, I see that being able to pay the rent does not guarantee that I will be safe or welcome."

"I grew up in a neighborhood in Ann Arbor that was largely older people," Bartus said. "My leanings were always in that kind of environment. My parents were very much engaged in giving back to the community. I remember being age four and selling Christmas wrapping paper for U of M scholarships and my father would take me on calls for donations to the Community Chest, which was like a community foundation."

Bartus got his degree in Public Health and an undergrad in Psychology of Aging, and he set out on a life of working on behalf of others. He previously served as director of development at the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute in New York, as director of development for the Visiting Nurse Association Inc. in Oak Park, as director of the Empowerment Zone Care Management program at the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and as a long term care consultant for the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. He's also done work with the Peace Corps and United Way, among other nonprofits.

The upcoming event, DIFFA's Dining by Design Gala Dinner is another way that Bartus is using his expertise and care to help others. Saying that he was "impressed by the work of the organization," Bartus has added MAC to the list of charities that has a place in his heart. Like many older adults in the gay community, Bartus has lost friends to the disease, which still is without a cure. MAC helps to educate people

> about the dangers of unprotected sex and offers testing, counseling, and other programs to assist victims of HIV and AIDS.

> DIFFA is the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. Each year they host a series of upscale fundraisers with immaculatelydesigned themes to attract donations to the cause of fighting AIDS. The Detroit event will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 and will include "awe-inspiring tablescapes" that "will become interactive dining areas where guests - including Bravo's Madison Hildebrand - will enjoy a gourmet dinner prepared by Matt Prentice, A Culinary Experience. The motivational Drum Café will perform during the event's experiential auction that will feature 100 items, including a breath-taking cruise on the Zambezi Queen (in Africa). The

Motor City's own jazz crooner Ben Sharkey will also perform while couture fashions are on display."

There is also a Coctails by Design event on Sept. 13 which will showcase 100 original works of art curated by ArtWorks Detroit, a team of professional artists who are dedicated to the fight against HIV. Prominent Artists including Thom Bohnert, Carl Demeulenaere, Gerhardt Knodel, Yoko Ono, Bill Rauhauser, Clinton Snider, Russell Thaver and Vagner Whitehead - will have artwork featured in thrilling live and silent auctions. Guests will also enjoy scrumptious food prepared by 25 of the hippest local restaurants, La Crema Wines, and EFFEN® Vodka specialty cocktails. Innovative designer tablescapes and room schemes created by Michigan's foremost interior designers will be on display, including an installation created for La Crema by nationally renowned designer Marc Blackwell, and Lincoln's installation designed by architectural giant, Rosetti. Detroit Flyhouse and DJ PowdrBlu will perform.

Tickets (\$100 Cocktails By Design/Artworks Detroit Auction and \$250 Dining By Design Detroit) are available by clicking on the Events tab at www.michiganaidcoalition.org. For more information, contact Shanthi Sivanandham at 248-545-1435, Ext. 105

Armstrong's Harasser Ordered to Pay \$4.5 Million in Damages

Chris Armstrong was willing to drop the lawsuit, which

asked for \$25,000, if Andrew Shirvell would apologize.

The jury found in Armstrong's favor last week in the

amount of \$4.5 million. BTL file photo.

BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

A U.S. District Court jury decided Thursday evening that former Michigan Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell must pay \$4.5 million to gay student leader at the University of Michigan Chris Armstrong for having defamed and harassed him online and on campus.

Shirvell maintained a blog titled "Chris Armstrong Watch," where he accused Armstrong

of pushing a "radical homosexual agenda" as well as a "viciously militant homosexual activist" who "mocked Christians."

After being identified as an anti-gay heckler (with a sign reading "Chris Armstrong = Racist LIAR,") at a rally in support of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's production of "The Laramie Project," Shirvell and his blog received national media attention in May 2010.

Shirvell defended his actions, claiming he was acting within his First Amendment rights, even agreeing to an interview with Anderson Cooper that September.

As media attention escalated and Shirvell refused to accept culpability, Armstrong decided it was necessary to get a lawyer. He hired trial lawyer and the mother of two classmates of Armstrong's, Deborah L. Gordon. She has specialized in employment and civil rights law for over 30 years and was eager to assist Armstrong when she heard of Shirvell's harassment.

"Michigan has no laws protecting LGBT people in employment and discrimination, so this was the first case of this nature that I had handled," explains Gordon. "But the minute I heard of Shirvell's behavior I decided 'this is not going to happen. This won't stand.""

Attorney General Mike Cox fired Shirvell in November 2010 claiming Shirvell used state resources in his campaign against Armstrong and lied to investigators during a disciplinary hearing.

In April 2011, Armstrong and Gordon filed a lawsuit against Shirvell, seeking damages for defamation of character and emotional distress. Armstrong said Shirvell had even followed him, showed up at his home and contacted current and future employers, including at one point calling Nancy Pelosi's office in an attempt to

have Armstrong fired from an internship.

Nearly a year and a half later, the jury awarded Armstrong with a \$4.5 million civil settlement.

Gordon says the jury was made up of a diverse group of people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, but that they were of a similar mindset: This was defamation, unprotected by freedom of speech.

Currently unemployed, Shirvell told the Associated Press after the ruling, "There's no

way I could possibly ever pay such a judgment."

"I'm just incredibly humbled by what happened today," Armstrong told The Associated Press. "This is truly a victory, not just for myself, but for a lot of other kids out there."

When asked if she predicts Shirvell will appeal, Gordon replied, "Oh yes. (Shirvell) is out there – thinking he is right – so yes he will be appealing and no, he will not be winning. For somebody to think that literally anything you say is protected under the

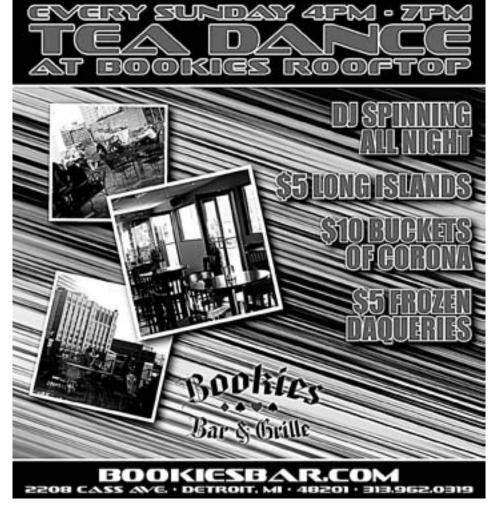
First Amendment – I think somebody missed a couple of classes in law school."

If Armstrong's lawsuit continues to be appealed, it is possible rulings in his favor may set a precedent for future online bullying cases in Michigan; however, Gordon explains that, "for such a groundbreaking ruling, this really is an old-fashioned law in a way. Defamation is extremely old, but in this new cyber world we live in, things are happening differently and a message can be broadcast across the world. Classically daily newspapers would carefully discern free speech from defamation, but with the blogosphere in place there are no checks and balances."

Gordon continued, "I just have to say: I think the University of Michigan was phenomenal and I think they had a wonderfully supportive network and did their very best to help Chris. So he's come out of this okay. But think of the kids that maybe didn't come from a place where their school or family are supportive. It could've been a much more unfortunate result.

"After everything that he has been through, I think this ruling has really restored Chris' faith in people."





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PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Associate Editor

Benjamin Jenkins bj@pridesource.com

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia, curtaincalls@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Production Assistant

Benjamin Jenkins, bj@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

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

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Business Office

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com
Nancy Blankenship

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

Pride Source Media Group

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

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BTL Editorial: Politics Gets Simple

OPINION BY BTL STAFF

-f you have a TV set you have most likely been subjected to the barrage Lof political ads this summer. It is so easy to tune them out and begin thinking that Romney/Ryan and the rest of the Republicans are about the same as Obama/ Biden and the Democrats. That old adage that there is "really no difference between the parties and all politicians are alike" kicking in. But as we approach two weeks of nonstop political coverage of the two major parties' conventions – the Republicans will gather in Tampa starting Aug. 27 and the Democrats in Charlotte the following week – the stark differences between the parties and their candidates has never been more clear – especially on LGBT issues.

On same-sex marriage for instance, the Democrats made history a few weeks ago here in Detroit when the platform committee approved same-sex marriage equality as a goal of the Democratic Party, following President Obama's announcement of his personal support in May. In contrast, presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney believes in amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, and his choice of running mate, Paul Ryan, twice voted in support of the failed Federal Marriage Amendment, in 2004 and 2006.

With Ryan's selection last week, the Republican Party is suffering a widening credibility gap with LGBT voters, women and just about any minority group except that of the very rich. Ryan has voted to ban adoption by gay couples and he voted against the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He also voted against the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr, Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009.

Last year, Ryan joined with Rep. Todd Akin (R-Missouri) as two of the original co-sponsors of the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," a bill which, among other things, introduced the country to the bizarre term "forcible rape." Then just this week, now U.S. Senate candidate Akin created a political firestorm by saying, "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down," an outrageous

affront to all women and any thinking person. Even though Ryan and the rest of the Republican establishment is running from Aikn's remarks, the record is clear. A Romney/Ryan administration would eviscerate a woman's right to choose, as would any Supreme Court justices selected by them.

On LGBT employment issues, Romney told the Log Cabin Republicans in 1994 that he would sponsor ENDA if elected to the U.S. Senate. Then in 2006 he told National Journal that ENDA would "open

These Gay Republican groups have twisted themselves into rhetorical pretzels to endorse the Romney/Ryan ticket. We could waste much space and ink on their delusional positions, but instead we ask you, our readers, to use your common sense. The Democrats and the Obama/Biden ticket stand for equality for LGBT people. The Republicans and Romney/Ryan simply do not. The choice is very simple.

a litigation floodgate and unfairly penalize employers at the hands of activist judges." He dismissed ENDA, saying, "I don't see the need for new or special legislation." Although Ryan voted in favor of ENDA in 2007, just five minutes earlier he voted to use a parliamentary maneuver to kill the bill, prompting openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) to blast him as disingenuous. The bill ultimately died.

Gay Republican groups like the Log Cabin Republicans and GOProud have used Ryan's one procedural vote in 2007 as proof that the Republicans are closeted supporters of LGBT rights. These groups have twisted themselves into rhetorical pretzels to endorse the Romney/Ryan ticket. We could waste much

space and ink on their delusional positions, but instead we ask you, our readers, to use your common sense. The Democrats and the Obama/Biden ticket stand for equality for LGBT people. The Republicans and Romney/Ryan simply do not. The choice is very simple.

And for those who may still be confused

remember that Mitt Romney attended Cranbrook Academy right here in greater Detroit where he terrorized a fellow gay student. Do you really want a bully in the White House?





OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Why I'm gay, no doubt.

There are experiences that are alien to most people: walking on the moon, winning the \$337 million Power Ball lottery, weighing 400 pounds, having implant boobs.

Because my life tends to be introspective, devoid of untoward kink, I'm curious what it's like to experience the unusual, as long as it doesn't ultimately involve attending 12step codependency meetings.

A quick-read paperback, "Esquire Presents: What It Feels Like" (Three Rivers Press) is a collection of accounts of firsthand experiences, physical exceptions, trauma survivals.

After reading these fascinating anecdotes, I got to thinking about my own long-ago, life-threatening cliffhanger that I'd like to boast about because of its genuinely heroic content. It happened when I was 13. But first some "Feels Like" samplings to set the mood.

GRIZZLY ATTACK: "She grabs my left arm, tearing the muscles and tendons, and tosses me in the air. Then she attacks my head as I'm airborne. All I can see is her open mouth. Her teeth are gashing my scalp and ear. I can hear her fangs grinding on my skull. I think, the next bite will kill me."

TORNADO TERROR: "The feel of a twister approaching is exactly the feel of a freight train approaching - that low, ever-louder howl and shuddering ground. I had gone through the trailer wall, been thrown 30 feet up into the tree, and then dropped to the ground, concussed and black and blue."

G-SPOT GOOD FEEL: "I can have sex and orgasm. It's functional in that way. The orgasms are different, though. The male has this orgasm and that's basically it. For a female, it's more of an ongoing thing during the course of intercourse, more like a whole-body experience. As opposed to men - men have sex like dogs." (Arf!)

COMPULSIVE DISORDER: "Washing my hair would take an hour. Washing the front of my forehead, I would scrub it 60 times; it could never be 61. If I did anything an odd number, I'd have to do it all over again, despite how tired I might feel. The pressure to do it was constant and overwhelming. Like a voice saying, 'Do not stop.' Like a locomotive out of control."

Lastly, ME AS HOSTAGE, at Samhat Market, where I deliver groceries: Two guys walk up to the counter, pretend to look at smokes. One thug pulls a gun, yells at grocer Jimmy, "Your money, fast! I'd hate like hell to shoot the kid."

Jimmy fumbles. I'm too stunned to blink. Grocer Moses, eating in the back, tunes in, grabs a gun, fires warning shots, yells Arabic obscenities, and I duck behind a stack of Maxwell House coffee cans. Crooks scatter. Cops arrive. Next day I tell anybody who'll listen: I wasn't a bit scared (just peed my pants a little).

Oh, yes: BOOBS: "My implants aren't hard. They don't feel like basketballs. It's more like water balloons that aren't completely full. When you touch them you can feel the liquid inside, too, which I guess is weird."

In passing, but probably less weird: Bird seed-filled balloons work for enterprising (and cheap) drag queens. Arf! and chirp!

Charles@pridesource.com

Do You Have Any of These Symptoms?

- Small, painless sores (may have gone away without treatment)
- Flu-like symptoms (sweats, fever)
- Unexplained rash on the soles of your feet, palms of your hands or elsewhere on your body
- Swollen glands
- Patchy hairloss

If you have had unprotected sex, you may have syphilis

If you think you may have syphilis, it's important that you **GET TESTED IMMEDIATELY.**

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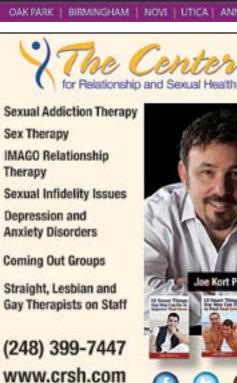
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BRIEFS

WASHINGTON DC GOP Appears Poised to Codify Extremist Values in 2012 Pplatform

Despite the fact that a majority of Americans including increasing numbers within the GOP - support marriage equality, reports indicate that the Republican 2012 platform will not only reject marriage equality, but will push for a federal constitutional amendment banning committed gay and lesbian couples from marrying and stripping rights from legally married same-sex couples; call for a vigorous defense of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA); and continue to imply that, by their very nature, LGBT families are somehow less worthy of the same dignity and respect as other

"The GOP's proposed platform is blatantly out-of-step with not only the majority of our nation, but even with the rank and file of the Republican Party itself," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "The party is poised to send a devastating message to LGBT youth - that they and the families they aspire to one day build are not worthy of the same protections as everyone else."

Recent polling consistently indicates that a majority of Americans support marriage equality. Nationally, a recent CNN/ORC International poll shows 54 percent of Americans support marriage equality. And nearly half of all Republicans under the age of 35 support marriage equality, according to a May NBC News/WSJ poll.

"The draft language extols the virtues of marriage which makes it all the more counterintuitive that it also calls for excluding an entire group of Americans from the institution," said Griffin. "Their call for respect and dignity for all Americans should be matched with a commitment to making all families strong."

The platform language appears to bear more resemblance to the National Organization for Marriage's "marriage vow" than it does to the values held by mainstream Americans. Like the GOP platform, that vow – which Mitt Romney signed – requires candidates pursue a federal marriage amendment and vigorously defend DOMA.

- HRC Press Release

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Campus Pride: UofM makes first-ever national trans-friendly college list

Campus Pride, the nation's leading educational organization for student leaders and campus programs working to create a safe college environment for LGBT students, announced the first-ever national "Top 10 List of Trans-Friendly Colleges & Universities" on Aug. 15.

The list is the result of a partnership with The Advocate and annual data compiled since 2007 in the Campus Pride Index, which takes an in-depth look at LGBT-friendly policies, programs and practices.

The campuses included in Campus Pride's list include (alphabetically): Ithaca College; New York University; Princeton University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Riverside; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; University of Oregon; University of Pennsylvania; and University of Vermont.

For more information, go to CampusPrideBlog.org.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

ALEC Power: How Corporations Are Taking Over Government One Policy at a Time

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

A new study details the way ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, is wining and dining conservative legislators while handing them model legislation to cutand-paste into their bills. The report, ALEC in Michigan, was released last week by Progress Michigan and it looks at the 24-plus members of the highly influential nonprofit and the 20-plus bills that have been introduced in Michigan which have ALEC-like roots. ALEC also has been influential in pushing for corporate-friendly legislation all across the country, with Wisconsin and Arizona being prime examples.

The legislation aims at the end of labor rights. The financial starvation of local and state governments as a way to force consolidation and privatization. Lessened environmental regulations. Less accountability for corporate liability. Corporate control of schools, prisons and other institutions without public input and oversight. Dangerous gun laws. Barriers to voting. Campaign finance laws that give unlimited power to corporate spending.

Zack Pohl, executive director of Progress Michigan, explained the way ALEC works, calling it a "secret bill mill," and stating that elected officials get to "travel to a big glitzy conference to meet behind closed doors." There they are given model bills that the organization, made up of the world's most powerful corporations, would like to see implemented. At ALEC's conferences and other events, corporate members and legislators mingle, campaign contributions are given by corporations to the legislators, and legislators get the model bills to bring back to their states to introduce.

Researchers were about to identify 24 Michigan lawmakers, all Republican, who are ALEC members. Two of the Representatives listed are also currently being highlighted in the Hungry4Equality movement in the "Equality Rights Hall of Shame," Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills) and Dave Agema (R- Grandville).

The list of bills McMillin has introduced takes up nearly three pages in the ALEC Michigan report. Among them was HR277, which urged the Governor to withdraw Michigan from the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (which did not pass), anti-union bills HB5025 (would require annual consent to have union dues deducted from payroll checks), and HB5024 (limitations on picketing). HB 4453 would prohibit government agencies from engaging in commercial activity that involves the construction or rehabilitation of public

works infrastructure in competition against private enterprise. The report states that "such legislation forces more tax dollars to be spent on funding private corporations at public expense."

Agema has six pages in the report, including HB 5221 which requires proof of citizenship to

Two of the Representatives listed are also currently being highlighted in the Hungry4Equality movement in the "Equality Rights Hall of Shame." Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills) and Dave Agema (R- Grandville).

register to vote, HB 4409 which sets a 48-month limit on welfare, and HB 4305 which requires state law enforcement agencies to verify immigration status of all adults they stop, arrest or detain. It requires state agencies to verify immigration status for applications for food assistance, and it would require law enforcement agents to transfer undocumented people to the custody of Federal officials. HB 5522, which did not pass, would have eliminated the minimum wage and HB 4454 would limit unions rights to organize and collectively bargain.

The danger isn't just the bills themselves. Investigations into ALEC reveal hundreds of model bills designed to move America in a more conservative, corporate-ruled direction, through an ever-growing machine to get their bills passed. Legislators all over the country are pushing for the same conservative bills. According to ALECExposed.org, "ALEC boasts that it has over 1,000 of these bills introduced by legislative members every year, with one in every five of them enacted into law."

"The public does not want our public officials to practice their cut-and-paste skills to introduce bad legislation," Pohl said. He also expressed dismay at those who support this practice, saying it was "hardly what the founding fathers intended."

There are over 2,000 elected officials who are members of ALEC, and over 300 large corporations including AT&T, AOL, Pfizer, UPS, FedEx, GE, Proctor and Gamble, American Express, Exxon Mobil, Koch Companies, Enron, FrioLay, Phillip Morris, RJ Reynolds, and State Farm Insurance. Of the elected officials, some paid for their membership using money from

ALEC EMPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitals across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporationsincludes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With ALEC EXPOSED, the Center for Medic and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

their tax-payer funded office account. Politicians not listed in the report could still be members without it being public record if they paid for their memberships out of personal funds.

Apart from a detailed 2011 series by The Nation and the release of leaked ALEC documents that are on the ALEC Exposed website, not much public attention was given to the powerful nonprofit which claims not to be involved in lobbying. But the April 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watchman brought attention to Florida's "Stand Your Ground Law," and eventually to ALEC, which created the bill. Over thirty corporations cut ties with ALEC or "temporarily suspended" their membership in the group, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Walmart and GM. Pohl is calling on other companies to join in the un-joining, and for politicians to give up their membership as well.

Learn more about ALEC Exposed at www. alecexposed.org. For the list of companies who are part of ALEC go towww.sourcewatch.orgindex. php?title=ALEC_Corporations.

www.PrideSource.com BTL | August 23, 2012

Hungry4Equality: Week 3

www.Hungry4Equality.com

Day 15



We must be taken seriously as a part of our communities. We need more gay people to come out and make our voices heard. I want to be heard and

listened to and be accepted. You don't have to like me, but give me my rights!

- Carolun Simmons

Day 18

It astonishes me that people can stand by and support people like Tom McMillin. These are people who have gone entirely out of



their way to make sure they are extra good at hating other people. Michigan can't afford to keep these hateful legislators in office anymore. It's now more important than ever to get educated and vote!

- Megh Hollowell

Day 16



I support Hungry4Equality because I believe it's time to expose the people behind the hateful policies creating

a hostile environment for my family and friends.

- Johnny Jenkins

Day 19



Janice Daniels and Tom McMillin are supposed to be representing their constituent bases in the communities they live, yet they continue to

use their power to manipulate the legislation to their advantage - shameful.

- Laura Portrey

Day 17

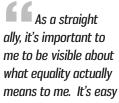


The arrogance of the Michigan legislature moved me to participate. It cost taxpayers more money when their representatives waste time trying to

take rights away from lgbt people. It is wrong that representatives like McMillin are paid to be bigots. Representatives should use all of their time and money to improve this economy for everyone instead of discriminating against the lgbt community.

- Alicia Skillman

The public can visit the Equality Hall of Shame and the strikers at Affirmations in Ferndale. People who want to strike can sign up by contacting Megh Hollowell at Affirmations at 248-398-7105. **Day 20**



enough to say you support equality, but what are you actually doing about it?

- Jimmy Wright

Day 21



If change is going to happen in Michigan, it's going to take all of us. The people on the Hall of Shame have already shown us they can throw their weight around

with hateful legislation. It's about time that people who believe in equal rights start standing up for them!

- Justin Vickers

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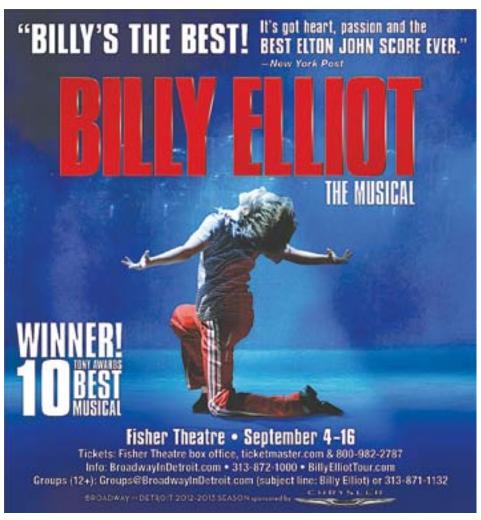
12 - #2 Pencils	1 - Pencil Case	2 - 1"Binders	1 - Agenda Book/
2 - Clue Sticks	10 - Pocket Folders	8 - Subject Dividers	Student Planner
1 - White Glue	2 - Pkg. Lined Paper	1 - Scientific Calculator	1 - Stapler
1 - Pink Eraser	1 - Plog. Plain Paper	1 - Geometry Set	1 - Staple Remover
1 - White Eraser	10 - Blue Pens	1 - Pocket Dictionary	1 - Bottle Correction
1 - Pkg. Washable Felt	3 - Red Pens	1 - Thesaurus	Fluid
Markers	1 - Ruler	1 - Pencil Sharpener	3 - Mechanical Pencils
1 - Pair Scissors	1 - Pkg. Fencil Crayons	3 - Highlighter Pens	I - Pkg Pencil Leads

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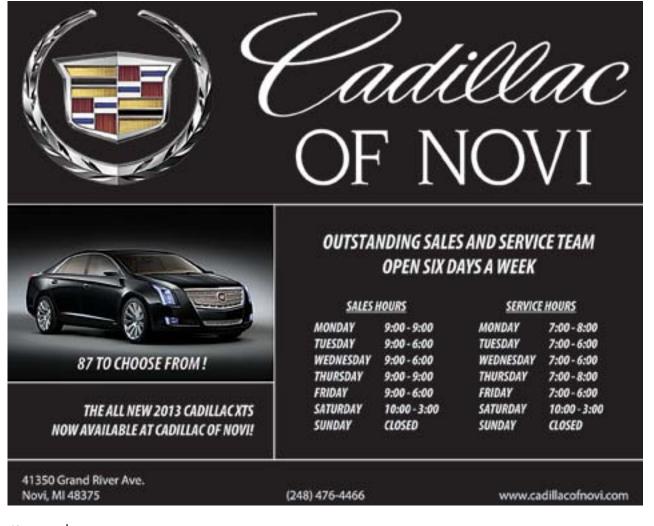


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Ruth Ellis Graduates 20 Interns

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - For the second year in a row Ruth Ellis Center gave LGBT youth the opportunity to work as interns for six weeks out of the summer. The internship program is a partnership between Growing Detroit's Young Talent (funded by DTE), Youth Employment Solutions, University of Michigan School of Public Health (funded by MAC). The program lets youth learn the inner workings of the nonprofit and lets them try their hand at many positions, such as promoting the center, doing peer outreach, and day to day stuff like answering phones and helping people who visit the center. They also work with businesspeople from participating companies to learn how to get ahead in business, and work on leadership training for the youth.

"The Ruth Ellis Center Summer Internship Program is to earn an income while building relationships, experiencing new things and spending time in a positive environment," said youth who made a You Tube video about their experience. "To become more prepared to find, apply for and keep job by improving understanding of professionalism and expectations for the workplace environment."



REC Graduates smile for the camera. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

One of those youth is Toni Williams, who opened up by sharing a "Where I came from" poem with the group. "I am from someone telling me I am not worth living. I am from someone in an abusive relationship." Williams shared plans for the future, stating, "My plans are five years from now is to have my bachelors or my masters for child care development and business."

Tarrik Higgins also took part. "The most important thing I learned is showing up on time and bringing my best to the

internship," he said.

DeJuan LeBlanc was grateful for the training he received. "I would like to say thank you all so much because the LGBTQ community has a very very hard time. We get criticized. We get ridiculed about every single thing. So for you all to come and help us and be safe and feel comfortable around us, that was a blessing."

Learn more about Ruth Ellis Center at www. ruthelliscenter.org. Visit pridesource.com to see a video of this event.

Future Funding of LGBT Ministry Uncertain at United Methodist

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

DETROIT – For the past year George Jonte has been running the United Methodist LGBT Ministry, whose mission is to unite congregations in the region in support of full inclusion. Though progress has been made, Jonte says funding for the mission is at risk.

"This work was originally funded by a very nice grant from the Arcus Foundation which ended in 2011," Jonte said. "In the meantime I managed to get \$10,000 stopgap money to start 2012, but that money ran out some time ago. A \$3,600 emergency fund, mainly through a Buck Dinner grant, is also nearly gone.

"For about three months I have been paid by the church, but there is no line item for it. It's not in their budget, but they believe in the work I'm doing," said Jonte.

The LGBT Ministry has been operating out of Central United Methodist in Detroit, and without grant money to support the \$100,000 a year program, which included Jonte's salary and travel expenses, the church is picking up the costs.

Jonte's only hope right now, apart from some new support, is a potential Arcus Foundation grant that he will find out about in the spring.

"I'm not sure what happens if we don't get the money from Arcus," he said.

Since January 2011, the LGBT Ministry accomplished several things. First Jonte complied a resource library, then he met with leaders from 44 churches, 14 percent of which were predominantly African American. There was a panel discussion of 20 PFLAG parents and also a 14-member advisory committee that met quarterly. Of the 44 churches, 28 agreed to be more welcoming and affirming, 10 started actively using inclusive language in their liturgy and worship, and six wrote formal welcoming statements.

However, a great obstacle stands in the way of inclusion.

In 1972 the UMC General Conference added a very damning phrase to its doctrine stating, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

Jonte explained that momentum is building for inclusion in the church. In 2008

and 2012 proposals to change the language were heard, but rejected.

"The problem is that ours is a global conference," Jonte said. "Churches from the African continent and some from Europe are growing while we (American Churches) are declining in membership. Thus they have more representation and they tend to be more homophobic.

In addition to UMC's efforts, religions across the board are opening up to inclusion, though some more than enthusiastically than others

"We are losing numbers in the 18-35 age range. They have stopped going to church all together or they have moved on to denominations that are more open and affirming," noted Jonte.

Jonte and UMC are part of the Inclusive Justice, a state-wide faith-based coalition which is inclusive of all traditions that advocates for LGBT acceptance in religious communities. To find out more about Inclusive Justice, go to http://inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org.

Historic Gathering to Tackle 'Sex and Justice'

International Meeting to Address Criminalization, Punishment of Sex

ANN ARBOR – The U of M's Institute for Research on Women and Gender will host a conference on "Sex and Justice," Oct. 4-6. The international conference will examine and critique ongoing domestic and international efforts to criminalize and punish sex.

A wide array of trailblazing activists, legal experts, and scholars from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and Cameroon who argue for policy reform on a diverse array of issues will gather for the first time during this three-day historic meeting.

Conference organizer Trevor Hoppe says he organized the event because "hundreds of thousands of people around the world have been locked up, beaten, or killed for having sex. These issues haven't yet received the attention they deserve. Victims and their advocates have been bullied into silence for too long, fearing for our jobs and in some cases our lives. This conference will shatter that silence."

Among the numerous issues that will be discussed is the increasing use of criminal law both in the U.S. and internationally to punish HIV-positive people. In 34 U.S. states it is a crime for HIV-positive people to have sex without disclosing their infection, whether or not they put their partners at risk. HIV is not transmitted in most cases, prompting leaders such as U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) to call for reform.

The increasing use of public sex offender registries, which have grown to include over 750,000 Americans in recent years, will also be discussed. George Mason University Prof. Roger Lancaster notes that many of those forced to register are nonviolent, first-time offenders. Like a growing number of policy experts, he believes these registries need to be reformed. "Public registry requirements create a class of unemployable and unhouseable pariahs," he said.

Many of those who bear the brunt of these policies are poor and black, argues Kenyon Farrow of the Praxis Project. Farrow suggests that race and racism are the most pressing issues facing advocates of policy reform. "What kind of man or woman you are; what kind of gay, lesbian, or transgender person you are; and how the state responds to you, largely is still a matter of race," Farrow said.

International efforts to punish sex will also be highlighted. Cameroonian Alice N'Kom will discuss her efforts to fight charges brought against gay men in her country who are accused of being homosexual, including a recent case in which a gay man was convicted for sending text messages to an acquaintance.

Those punished under unfair sex policies will also attend the conference to share their experiences. Melissa Petro was fired from her job as a NYC schoolteacher when she revealed in an online essay that she had engaged in sex work when she was younger. "My speech should have been Constitutionally protected and had I the resources to argue my case it would have been," she said.

For a list of speakers and details on how to register for free online, visit www.sexandjustice2012.com. All events will take place on the fourth floor of the Rackham Graduate School, 915 East Washington. The event is hosted by the U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

www.PrideSource.com August 23, 2012 | BTL 11

Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



William Owens

an we just get one thing clear? If you're black and Christian then the thought of same-sex couples makes you puke and if it doesn't then you are a "Judas" and/or not really black and/or not really Christian.

Barack Obama, that means you. At least it does to William Owens, the leader of the Coalition of African-American Pastors. Owens, who according to a recent Huffington Post article lied about his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, is

pretty pissed with Obama because of the whole marriage equality issue.

In an Aug. 15 interview with right-wing radio darling Janet Mefferd.

In an Aug. 15 interview with right-wing radio darling Janet Mefferd, Owens lamented that Obama had basically flipped off African Americans by not telling gay people to go to hell. Like a real Christian would, obviously.

"He'll take up the cause of the Latinos, he'll take up the cause of the homosexuals, but it's like the African Americans don't exist," Owens lamented, pointing out that Obama likes everyone except for black people which I guess means he's racist against himself. "And he said, 'I'm not the president of the African Americans, I'm the president of America.' What if the white leaders who were in office when the civil rights bill had passed, what if they had said that, 'We're the politicians for the white community'? We wouldn't have gotten a right to vote, we wouldn't have gotten the rights we enjoy today."

"How can a man and a man be a parent to a child? By their nature, they cannot. How can a woman and a woman?"

Got that? Because Obama said that he was a president for all Americans, not just the black ones, it's the same thing as a white politician saying he or she is only a leader for white Americans and if a white version of Obama had been in charge nearly five decades ago then forget about civil rights.

If Owens's logic doesn't hurt your brain then you don't have one. Though I would like to point out that if we follow this logic then we can definitely forget about the black version of Obama ever becoming president, which would make Owens pretty happy since he has vowed that he and the CAAP are going "to take him on even more" now that Obama loves the gays (and, remember, "loves the gays" is synonymous with "hates the blacks").

When Mefferd remarks that gay activists seem to "lack of fear of God" Owens concurs.

"I would say that's the case," he says. "It's like waving your thing in God's face and saying, 'You don't matter.' That's exactly what I think."

Okay, wait, supporting gay rights is like waving your penis in God's face? Is that what he means by "thing"? Because if you ask the majority of Americans, gay or straight, what "waving your thing" means, they're going to think penis.

And why is this marriage business such a BFD to Owens? Because civilization and family and God and blah blah blah... And, of course, for the children. Because Owens cannot wrap his brain around same-sex parents.

Owens says, "How can a man and a man be a parent to a child? By their nature, they cannot. How can a woman and a woman? My little boy takes both of us, he takes the love and tenderness of a mother and he takes the love and whatever the dad gives he needs that, too. So to do different is disloyal, it's not honorable to the child. We cannot say a marriage is right between the same sex."

This is coming from a guy who has claimed that "Homosexuality spreads because somebody (sexually) abused children" and said there's no difference between a same-sex couple marrying and "a man deciding he wants to have sex with a dog." Yeah, this guy is all about being honorable. If he despises Obama, I'll take that as a sign that the president is doing something right.



AP photo: Candidate Mitt Romney watches his VP pick, Paul Ryan on the campaign trail last week

LGBT reactions to Ryan Pick

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The dog days of summer brought the 2012 presidential race into sharper focus, when on Aug. 11, presumptive Republican Party nominee Mitt Romney announced that his choice for running mate would be Representative Paul Ryan, a seven-term congressman from Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District.

LGBT politicos were quick to praise or criticize the pick, depending on their political leanings.

Shortly after 9 a.m. Eastern time, Romney introduced Ryan to an enthusiastic gathering in Norfolk, Virginia, in front of the American flagdraped Navy ship USS Wisconsin, with music from the motion picture Air Force One preceding the announcement and Kid Rock music following immediately afterwards.

"Mitt Romney is a leader with the skills, the background and the character that our country needs at a crucial time in its history," Ryan said in brief remarks that were broadcast live on national television.

"Following four years of failed leadership, the hopes of our country, which have inspired the world, are growing dim; and they need someone to revive them. Governor Romney is the man for this moment; and he and I share one commitment: we will restore the dreams and greatness of this country," Ryan added.

Right away political commentators viewed the Romney-Ryan ticket as a strategic shift for the GOP - away from its emphasis on what Republicans call President Barack Obama's failed economic polices to a focus on contrasting views on the role of government and differing visions for the country's future.

At the heart of the difference for the GOP are bedrock conservative principles, which Ryan's selection underscores.

After all, the 42-year-old Ryan, a Roman Catholic, is best known for both economic and philosophical conservatism. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, for example, Ryan is the chief architect of the 100-page "The Path to Prosperity: A Blueprint for American Renewal," an economic plan that aims to cut federal government spending, prevent tax increases, shrink the deficit, reduce debt, and shrivel the size of government to 20 percent of the economy. At the same time, Ryan's blueprint calls for beefing up national security and the defense budget.

Ryan also has called for repeal of the signature piece of Democratic legislation, the president's Affordable Care Act, along with a proposal to downscale Medicare for future generations.

Back in April, the House of Representatives passed Ryan's budget plan by a vote of 235-195, with only four Republicans voting against it.

Sharp contrast

For LGBT voters with full equality on their minds, moreover, the difference between pro-gay Obama-Biden and anti-gay Romney-Ryan could not be any sharper or more starkly contrasting.

Still, Log Cabin Republicans and GOProud, two Republican partisan national organizations, voiced immediate support for the Republican ticket.

"The selection of Paul Ryan is a bold and inspired pick," Jimmy LaSalvia, GOProud's executive director, said in a statement. "Paul Ryan has been the architect of policies that would benefit all Americans, especially gay Americans."

LaSalvia added, "Paul Ryan is one of the few political leaders anywhere in the country willing to tell the American people the truth about the unprecedented budget crisis we are facing, and - more importantly - willing to put forward bold plans to put this country back on the road to fiscal solvency."

Even before Ryan's selection GOProud had endorsed Romney's candidacy.

Equally upbeat and supportive, Log Cabin Republicans gave its nod to Ryan.

"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

His record includes votes against the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and against a fully-inclusive hate crimes bill - both of which were signed into law by President Obama. As a so-called deficit hawk, Congressman Ryan has been in lockstep with Speaker [John] Boehner's legal defense of DOMA...

- Drew Hammill, press secretary to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

ballot," said R. Clarke Cooper, Log Cabin's executive director.

"As chairman of the House Budget Committee and author of 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," Cooper added.

Repeated attempts seeking comments from local and state gay Republicans were unsuccessful.

But local, state, and national Democrats - gay and straight alike - had plenty on

Ryan LGBT Record

"Congressman Paul Ryan's record on LGBT issues is deeply troubling," said Drew Hammill, press secretary to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco).

"His record includes votes against the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and against a fully-inclusive hate crimes bill - both of which were signed into law by President Obama. As a so-called deficit hawk, Congressman Ryan has been in lockstep with Speaker [John] Boehner's legal defense of DOMA, which continues to burn through hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars," Hammill explained, referring to House Republicans' hiring of attorneys to defend the Defense of Marriage Act after the Justice Department said it would no longer defend the anti-

Based on her Capitol Hill experience, Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-Massachusetts) offered her assessment.

"Congressman Ryan and I served on the House Budget Committee together and I got a firsthand view of his very extreme views," she said in e-mail correspondence.

"For example, Congressman Ryan voted against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which helps women fight for equal pay for equal work. He voted against repealing the discriminatory policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and supports writing discrimination into the Constitution by amending it to ban gay marriage," Tsongas explained

While Massachusetts and a handful of states have led the way on LGBT rights, our nation is still a long way from achieving equality under the law for all Americans,'

Tsongas added. "His views opposing samesex rights, along with his budget that would undermine important domestic programs, would steer this country away from the values of tolerance and equality that I have long championed, and that are so important to our future success.'

Just how bad - or hostile - is Paul Ryan to LGBT issues and gay rights? As one measure, the Human Rights Campaign has consistently given him very low ratings on its congressional scorecards, with four zeroes and one rating of 10 out of 100, that for his 2007 support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which some termed "half-hearted."

HRC's scorecards come out at the end of a two-year session. Consequently, there is yet no rating available for 2011-2012.

Ryan voted twice (in 2004 and 2006) for a federal marriage amendment that would have defined marriage as the union of a man and woman.

Dodging Gay Discussion

While Ryan's voting record is one thing, Romney's vice presidential running mate seemingly downplays his anti-gay track record by shying away even from discussing LGBT issues.

Last February, during an appearance on NBC's Meet the Press, Ryan dodged moderator David Gregory's pressing him about gay marriage.

"Congressman Ryan," asked Gregory, "Do you think this is an issue that's legitimate for the presidential campaign? Do we have to come to a point where the country reconciles different views about this and we have a consistent way of looking at same-sex marriage?'

"Actually, I came on to talk about the debt crisis we have and the budget and I think that's really the driving issue of this, this election," Ryan replied.

"Mm-hmm," said Gregory.

Ryan went on to say, "I don't know why we're spending all this time talking about [same-sex marriage].'

As longtime Massachusetts gay rights activist and South End Don Gorton of Join the Impact observed over the telephone, "Ryan is a sort of new style Republican who grew up with homophobia and gay issues by not talking about them. He would try to bury us in silence."

"That's a great comment," said

Mario Guerrero, president of Stonewall Democrats of Greater Sacramento, an LGBT partisan group, affiliated with National Stonewall Democrats, when told of Gorton's remarks.

Still, Ryan can try "to smother us in with silence when it comes to the media, but the 'smothering silence' is not the case with his voting record," Guerrero added over the phone.

"I don't know how anyone can make the case for LGBT voters" to back Romney-Ryan, said Guerrero.

"If you are not in the 1 percent," said Gorton, "it's a hard argument to make. Romney-Ryan would benefit millionaires."

Log Cabin Republicans, nonetheless, persevere. In an Aug. 13 Daily Caller column, entitled "How Romney-Ryan Can Reach Gay Voters," Cooper argued that Romney "should take a page from his running mate's playbook and support stronger workplace non-discrimination laws."

Cooper went on to chastise Obama for not signing an executive order that would have barred federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT people.

"By vowing to sign an executive order preventing federal contractors from firing people for being LGBT, and joining Paul Ryan in support for ENDA, Romney can draw a favorable contrast between himself and the president."

But Doug Case, president of San Diego Democrats for Equality, an affiliate of National Stonewall Democrats, would have none of it.

"Once again the Log Cabin apologists are trying to spray perfume on a skunk," said Case in an email correspondence, referring to "Cooper's groveling commentary" that "touts Congressman Ryan's one and only pro-LGBT vote [some] years ago."

"The Log Cabin Republicans seem to have lost touch with reality," Case added. "They certainly have lost any sense of credibility. Romney's poor choice has made it clearer than ever that LGBT Americans must mobilize to re-elect President Obama.'

Case also took Ryan to task over his blueprint for renewal. "Ryan's economic plan is a type of reverse-Robin Hood, embracing the failed Republican 'trickledown' policies of the past," said Case. "He wants to create tax breaks for millionaires and pay for it by cutting Head Start, reducing Pell Grants for college students, turning Medicare into a voucher system, and privatizing Social Security.'

Longtime gay-rights activist and LGBT community leader Barbara Hoffman of Boston's South End, said, Ryan's "intent to massacre Medicare is likely to horrify the elderly.'

"I am optimist that he is a bad enough choice that it increases Obama's chance for re-election," added Hoffman who serves on Boston's Ward Four Democratic Committee.

For his part, Jerame Davis, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, called Cooper's opinion piece "contemptible."











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Fall Pet Issue

INSIDE
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PET EVENTS



BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LANSING - While the state of Michigan has a long way to go in some areas, we are in the forefront of becoming the first no-kill state with 11 no-kill communities, more than any other state, according to the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance.

"It's the goal of our organization and our conference to get to that goal," said Pet Fund board member Christie Keith about Michigan's 2012 No-Kill Conference (www.michiganpetfund.org) to be held on Sept. 20 at the Lansing Radisson Hotel on 111 North Grand and on Sept. 21 at the Lansing Center on 333 E. Michigan Avenue.

The volunteer, not-for-profit organization plans to introduce a new way of thinking and doing things at their second annual gathering. This 21st century approach includes a formula that when implemented will save 90,000 or more of Michigan's homeless, healthy and treatable cats and dogs. The purpose of the no-kill conference is to share the formula, identify and share resources, showcase those successfully using the formula, provide opportunity for networking and establishing collaborations, and take a step closer to making Michigan a no-kill state.

"We will be giving awards to ten of Michigan's no-kill communities at our conference, as well as acknowledging many other achievements in the last year toward reaching that goal. We'll also be presenting some exciting data on

progress in the state at that time," said Keith.

"The no-kill movement isn't about individual shelters becoming 'no-kill.' It is about no kill communities. The definition of a no-kill community is one in which all healthy and treatable homeless pets are adopted into new homes rather than killed. For purposes of public policy, that is considered to mean that at least 90 percent of a community's homeless pets are saved. Because that's an 'unspinnable' figure it's simply the percentage of the total number of pets taken into a community's shelter - it isn't dependent on varying definitions or standards of 'treatable' or 'healthy,' and doesn't rely on highly manipulatible terms like 'adoptable," said Keith. "However, there are many communities all across the United States that save more than 90 percent, so it's likely as we progress in our movement that figure will be revised upward."

The term no-kill is not to be mistaken with euthanasia, which Keith said "is the merciful taking of life of a hopelessly ill pet, the kind of act a loving pet owner shows when a pet's suffering can't be helped anymore. Population control killing is not euthanasia, as there is nothing merciful about it. It's a public policy failure and an illustration that the community's sheltering organizations have not yet adopted the programs and policies that make it unnecessary."

Municipal decision makers, shelter staff and volunteers, rescue organizations, veterinarians,

animal control officers, and animal lovers and advocates are encouraged to attend the conference to participate in a variety of sessions, including Rescue Certification Training, Veterinarian-focused sessions, No Kill 101, How to Remove "Hard to Place" From Pit Bull Adoptions, Reducing Shelter Intake, Innovation in Animal Welfare, and Compassion Fatigue of the Animal Sheltering and Rescue Workers, among others. The No-Kill Advocacy Center's (http://www.nokilladvocacycenter. org/shelter-reform/) founder, Nathan Winogard, will speak at the conference also.

"There is quite simply no possibility Michigan will not become a no-kill state. The only real question is how long it will take us. If we organize and unite to reach the goal, we will be the first no-kill state," said Keith. "If we delay, we'll be one of many. But the era of killing pets for no reason but the fact that they are homeless is over. In a recent Associated Press poll, 71 percent of Americans polled said that they believed shelters should not be allowed to kill healthy or treatable pets, and even the 29 percent who said they should be allowed to do so said it should only be 'sometimes."

Whether animal lovers attend the conference or not, Keith said the most important thing they can do is demand more of their municipal agencies and private shelters alike. "Since we know that communities can save all their healthy and treatable pets, and we know how (which will be discussed more in-depth during the conference), there really is no excuse not to - although poorly managed public and private shelters seem to have no shortage of such excuses."

Two decades ago, the concept of a No Kill community was little more than a dream, said the No-Kill Advocacy Center in a statement on their website. "Today, it is a reality in many cities and counties nationwide and the numbers continue to grow. And the first step is a decision, a commitment to reject the kill-oriented failures of the past. No-Kill starts as an act of will. The next step involves putting in place the infrastructure to save lives."

INFO

Registration (includes the Welcome and Opening session on Thursday, plus discussion of Michigan's current animal-related legislation and breakout sessions with three expert speakers):

\$90 per person

\$30 per person for the award banquet

\$50 per student (school name and student ID number must be provided on the registration form and student ID presented at conference check-in)

Groups of $\bar{5}$ or more are eligible for a 10% discount. All members of the group must be entered at the same time.

www.PrideSource.com August 23, 2012 | BTL 15

Fur Trading Company is the New Pet Connection

FALL PET ISSUE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Andrea Johns is no stranger to helping displaced animals find homes. As a former organizer for Fido Does Ferndale and a volunteer for the now dis-banded Waggs & Wishes she's helped make dozens of pet connections. Now, in the absence of a Ferndale shelter or rescue group, she and pal Rachel Heller are making things happen with their new pet connecter group, Ferndale Fur Trading Company.

"The Ferndale Fur Trading Company was started because the citizens began expressing a need for a rescue group in town," Johns said. "We saw an opportunity to bring these folks together in a citywide effort to help pets find homes and to help citizens find pets! Because we two have so many human connections in Ferndale, and so many friends in the rescue community, we decided we could best be used to bring the two together through fun events, networking and creating visibility for the animals.

"There is also a forgotten community of individuals who take in and foster strays on their own. The Ferndale Fur Trading Company is a resource and outlet for them as well." Johns works at Dino's Lounge and Heller often helps her friends at the Rust Belt Market, giving them



Andrea Johns is co-founder of Ferndale Fur Trading Co. seen here kissing Otis. BTL photo: Crystal A. Proxmire.

plenty of potential pet parents to network with.

The group is not an adoption agency, simply a network through which to promote pet adoptions.

Aside from the founders, FFTC has a small group of about 20 people who are lending a hand. "The beauty of the group is simplicity," Johns

said. "Volunteers can put in as much or as little time as they want, and will be given projects to help with fundraising and events, or we will get them in contact with rescue groups if they want to work directly with animals, walking, cleaning and socializing.

"Our long-term goal is to create a 'Visibility Team,' a core group of volunteers who can pick up dogs from shelters or fosters and walk them around Ferndale, meeting folks and socializing them. We would also like to eventually start a Petfinder page and official website to promote the animals that individuals are rescuing and fostering. Then, of course, adoption events, fundraisers for special causes and community awareness events."

Because the group is so new, there are several things that need attention. Johns said everyone is welcomed and needed.

"Anyone with special talents... grooming, training, web and graphic design, photography, etc. will be greatly appreciated and used. Anyone who is just curious can meet with us to plan and brainstorm. Members of different rescue groups are encouraged to contact us, so we can find a way to help. This is so new, and the possibilities are endless if we gather a large enough army."

They held a Pitt Stop Fundraiser on Aug. 19 to raise money to give the organization a good start. They raised \$629.51, which will be used towards acquiring their tax ID, and the remainder will ensure that at least six dogs or cats will be spayed, neutered and vetted. The event filled the alley behind Dino's Lounge and attracted dog owners and supporters.

See Fur Trading, page 23



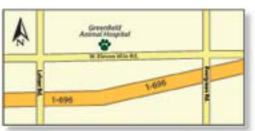






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Oswald and Cadbury, Bunnies on a Mission

FALL PET ISSUE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Oswald and Cadbury are grey Flemish Bunnies on a mission. The super soft and extra friendly rabbits ride around the Ferndale area in a double baby carriage pushed by animalloving activist Julie Miron of Ferndale. Miron hosts rescue bunnies, mainly from the Michigan Anti Cruelty Shelter in Detroit where she also volunteers. And she takes Oswald and Cadbury around to help introduce bunny love and proper care to the people they meet.

"We can go anywhere and it makes people smile," Miron said. "Earlier today someone stopped us on the street and said 'thank you, I was having a bad day and this made a difference.""

The pair even has their own Facebook Page where fans can follow them on their adventures. And they've been selected to be in the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary 2013 calendar.

Miron said that many rabbits that end up in rescues were purchased to be children's pets for Easter that they didn't want to take care of. "Rabbits are a lot of work, it's a commitment. They can live 7-10 years and you can't just put them in a cage outside. They require a lot of care." She said that bunnies can easily die from either heat or cold, and that anything over 84



Oswald and Cadbury. BTL photo by Crystal A. Proxmire

degrees is too much for them. "People should read a couple books and talk to rescues before they get one," she said.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals gives information to consider

before adopting a bunny, including a breakdown of the expenses and the special health concerns the creatures may have.

They caution that "rabbits are physically delicate and fragile, and require specialized

veterinary care. It's true that children are naturally energetic and loving, but 'loving' to a small child means holding, cuddling, or carrying an animal around - precisely the things that frighten most rabbits. Rabbits can't cry out when distressed. Instead, they may start to scratch or bite to protect themselves from well-meaning children. Thousands are abandoned at animal shelters every year for this reason. Many rabbits are also dropped accidentally by children, resulting in broken legs and backs. While a rabbit may be a great pet for your family, an adult should be the primary caretaker."

They also have strong urges to dig, chew and bite. That's why bunnies need plenty of toys like cardboard, old phone books or chew sticks from the pet store. If left free to roam the house, a bunny will chew on things, including electrical cords. So while they do need to be allowed to roam for exercise, they should be monitored as well

Find out more about bunny care at http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/small-pet-care/general-rabbit-care.aspx. For information about adopting a bunny contact the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society through http://www.macsshelter.org/default.htm or The Great Lakes Animal Sanctuary through http://www.rabbitsanctuary.org/.

And if you want to be friends with Oswald and Cadbury on Facebook go to https://www.facebook.com/OswaldAndCadburyBunny.







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Upcoming Pet Events

FALL PET

Humane Society of South Central Michigan Benefit

Aug. 25

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration fee: \$25

(269) 963-1796 or jgilbert@hs-scm.org

Featured events: Dog walk (registration begins at 9 a.m.), vendor booths, dog fashion show and costume contest, microchip your pet for \$20, Pet adoption

Bark-A-Bout's First Annual Field Day

Aug. 25

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

14660 23 Mile Rd. in Shelby Township

(586) 566-8900 or frontdesk@barkabout.net

Featured events: Air Digs Dock Diving Competition, CGC and Therapy Dog Tests, Demonstrations from Leader Dog for the Blind and Macomb County Sheriff Department



Last Day Dog Rescue Pet Extravaganza

Aug. 25

12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

35725 Warren Rd. in Westland ourlastdaydogs@gmail.com

Drinking with Dogs

Aug. 28

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rosie O'Grady's 279 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale (313) 831-3647 or visit www.caninetofivedetroit.com

Every third Tuesday, Canine to Five selects various Detroit establishments with outdoor seating areas to enjoy an adult beverage while socializing your loyal pooch

Pinckney Dogfest Sept. 8 (Rain date Sept. 28)

10 a.m. (gates open at 9:30 a.m.) to 3 p.m.

11211 Dexter Pinckney Rd. in Pinckney

(734) 878-1928

\$10 per vehicle or \$5 with an on-site dog food donation to the Gleaners Pet Pantry.

Featured events: Disc Dogs of Michigan, Tidbit Catching Contest, Dog Singing Contest, Dog Tricks Contest, Triathalon Race, Dog Dress-

Bully Splash Bash Sept. 16

(Celebrate bully breed friends and their families to support the Recycl-A-Bullz advocacy program)

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Currey's Family Pet Care 6261 Hannan Rd. in Romulus (313) 943-2697 or Ithomas@ dearbornanimals.org to register Featured events: Dock Diving, Weight Pulling, K9 Fun Run, Agility, and Canine Good Citizen Testing

Drinking with Dogs

Sept. 18

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fountain Bistro

800 Woodward at Campus Martius Park in Detroit

(313) 831-3647 or visit www.caninetofivedetroit.com

Every third Tuesday, Canine to Five selects various metro Detroit establishments with outdoor seating areas to enjoy an adult beverage while socializing your loyal pooch.

9th Annual All American Pet Expo and Mega Pet Adoption

Sept. 21

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sept. 22

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sept. 23

See Pet Events, page 23

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► Fur Trading

Continued from p. 16

Several pooches took part in the doggie kissing booth, while some just spent the evening lounging

about or sniffing out other dogs while their owners sipped adult beverages in the alleyway dining area.

Yvette Beausoleil is a Ferndale resident who understands the passion that goes into rescue work and animal care. She found her dog, Sir Silly, five years ago on a cold night wandering around the lawn of Ferndale High School.

"It was about 1:30 in the morning and my friend and I were coming home from an evening out when we saw this sad dog out in

the cold. And you know, dogs pick you. He came over to the truck and looked up at me. turning his head back and forth because of all the hair that was shaggy over his eyes, and I knew. It was no thought about getting him into the truck," Beasoleil said.

Blake Scheer of Ferndale with Olive

She took the dog home to keep on the enclosed porch for the night, except that she and her friend were a little lively still from their night of drinking. So they brought the dog in

the back yard and giggled over what to name him. The dog played along with them, happy to have found a home. And finally their laughter and goofy name contest got so loud that the Ferndale Police showed up saying a neighbor had complained.

"Everything about this dog and this night was so silly, that the name just stuck. We called him Sir Silly because of it," she said. The next day she called the City of Warren, where the dog's tag was registered, and she called the owner several times. It took three months for the owner to call her back, admitting that Sir Silly was supposed to have been training to be a hunting dog but he got away. He told her that he was "over it," and that she could keep him if she wanted. And she did.

"I know how much work and money it takes to care

for animals, and how when you love an animal you'll sacrifice anything to care for it. That's why I love what Andrea and Rachel are doing, and why I came out to support," Beasoleil said.

To look for pets that are available, or to find out more about FFTC, check them out on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ TheFerndaleFurTradingCompany.

► Events

Continued from p. 20

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission:

Adults \$11, Seniors (60 and over) \$9, \$7 for children ages 5-12, free for children under four

Suburban Collection Showplace 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi

www.novipetexpo.com

Featured events: Dock Diving Competitions and Demos, Dog World. Bird World, Cat World, and Horse World, Reptile World, Meet the Breeds, and a Dress Up Your Pet contest

Bark for Life of Canton Sept. 22

(To benefit American Cancer Society) 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission: \$20 for first dog. \$5 for each additional dog

Save \$5 and register in advance at www.relayforlife.org/cantonmi

Heritage Park 46202 Heritage Park Rd. in Canton (734) 340-4269 or bflcanton@gmail.com

Last Day Dog Rescue and Plymouth Whalers **Fundraiser**

Sept. 29

Compuware Arena 14900 N. Beck Rd. in Plymouth

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 (use promo code savedogs when ordering)

www.plymouthwhalers.com

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Rescue of Michigan

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or morna_merkler@hotmail.com

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Oct. 6

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vet and food bills.

Oct. 7

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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March for Animals

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Last Day Dog Rescue Dinner and Drinks for the Dogs presents Aussie Fun Day Nov. 16

Hart Plaza

1 Hart Plaza in Detroit

Second location added:

(248) 283-1000, ext. 149 or visit

www.michiganhumane.org/MEGA

Kensington Metropark 2240 W. Buno Rd. in Milford

5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Admission: \$5

Walker's Speak Easy 8701 N. Beech Daly in Dearborn Heights (313) 274-9645 or lilkris888@hotmail.com

Featured events: Spaghetti dinner for a donation of your choice, raffles, drink specials, DJ and dancing

Last Day Dog Rescue Millionaire Party Poker Fundraiser

Dec. 4-7

3 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Snookers Pool and Pub Poker Room 45100 Northpointe Blvd. in Utica (810) 523-8896 or groe6574@yahoo.com

Featured events: No limit Texas Hold 'Em cash games, tournaments, and Black Jack. See nolimitcharitypoker. com for more information.

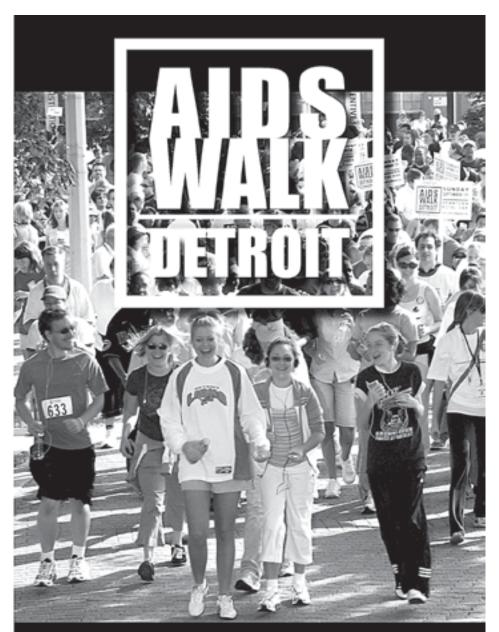






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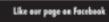








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Time: 4 p.m. - Midnight Date: September 29

Location: Braun Court, Ann Arbor **Contact:** www.JimToyCenter.com







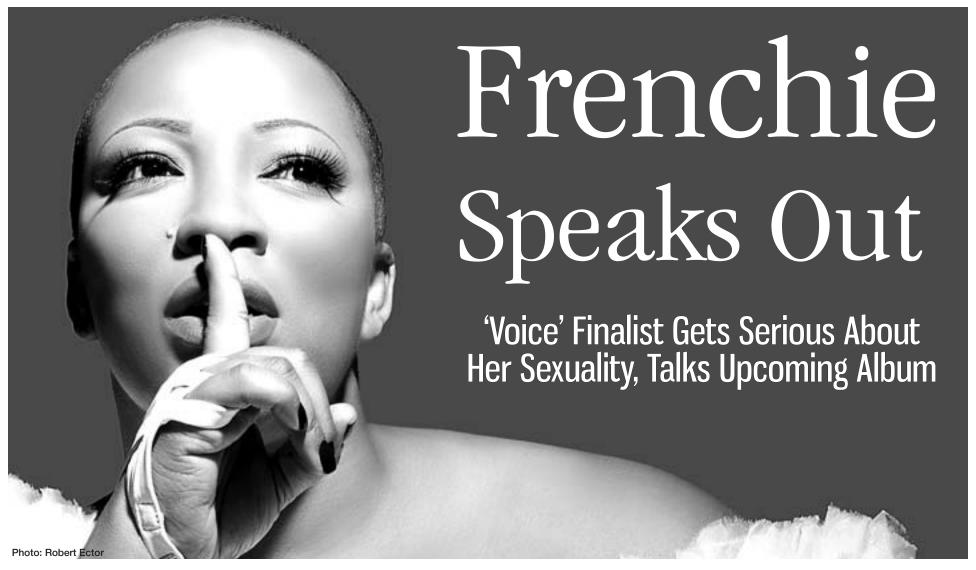








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BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Precycling happens for a reason in the life of Frenchie Davis.

Ten years after getting disqualified from "American Idol" for her Internet porn past, she became a finalist on "The Voice," sang with Christina Aguilera and releases her debut album later this year.

In our interview, she put it all out there again: Davis addressed the stigma of being bisexual *and* black, how she doesn't regret the "Idol" ordeal and why her upcoming album – and entire solo career – almost didn't happen.

Before you came out publicly in a recent interview, how out were you in your own life?

I first told my mom that I was attracted to boys and girls when I was 16 years old. A lot of my friends and family weren't really surprised to hear that I had "come out," because all I did was answer a question honestly in an interview and it ended up becoming a headline.

I didn't plan to come out. I fell in love with someone who I think I could be with forever, and I'm used to, in casual conversation, talking about my partner. That's what ended up happening in the interview and what ended up being my coming out. It wasn't something that I had planned. It wasn't something I was being secretive about, either. I've performed at so many HRC and GLAAD events and gay Prides

- and made out with so many girls in college. I don't think it was a secret to anybody! (Laughs)

Was performing "I Kissed a Girl" on "The Voice" your way of hinting at your homosexuality?

You know what's crazy? I didn't even plan to do that. They came to me and said, "You're singing 'I Kissed a Girl' and I'm like, 'OK. Well, let's go with this."

You just got involved with the It Gets Better campaign. Why was that important for you to be a part of?

The most important thing to me outside of music is inspiring young people. The more we adults continue to send out the message to young people that it's OK to be you, we're all, in a small way, contributing to making the world a little better. That's just my philosophy. Any opportunity that presents itself to send that message to young people, I'm all for it.

For you, how did it get better?

My mother was very accepting and understanding, but I actually didn't tell my father right away. I think he definitely knew because he came to visit my dorm room and was like, "Wow, you've got a lot of pictures of half-naked girls on your wall." (Laughs)

You were just idolizing those girls ... right?

Yeah, just idolizing them - sure. And thinking they

were hot. My dad read so much into it, and it's been really interesting seeing my dad embrace all of this – that has been the most heartwarming part of it. I mean, my father and I never really talked about it. My mother knew; she met whatever girls and guys I dated in high school. But with my dad, we never really talked about it until he met my partner and was like, "You look happy. I like her."

My dad is super conservative and Republican. Black Republican, I know. Don't even get me started. He was the one I was afraid to tell. When it all ended up being in the headlines, he was afraid that me being open and honest about who I am would affect my career negatively or negatively affect the way people look at me. You know, he's my dad; he just wants to protect me. It really meant so much to me when (my coming out was) all in the headlines and my dad called me and was like, "I just want to call and say I'm really proud of you."

Moments like that have reminded me that it indeed does get better. There were times where it was hard, like in high school. And not even having to do with being bisexual, but being a big girl, too. People called me fat; they called me a dyke and all those things. I know what it feels like to not fit into the mold of what society thinks you're supposed to be.

Bisexuality in the gay community is looked at as taboo or "just a phase." Have you felt stigmatized because of it?

It absolutely is something I've had to fight. For a long time that's why I dated mostly men, because when I would meet a woman that I was into – a lesbian – she would be turned off by the fact that I was bisexual.

And men aren't so much turned off by that.

(Laughs) Men are totally opposite! For a long time I felt like it was just easier to identify with being straight; it seemed easier to date guys because lesbians seemed so turned off by the bisexual thing. So I've experienced criticism and people looking down on it in the straight community *and* in the gay community.

I didn't plan to come out, but I'm really thankful that everything unfolded the way it did because no, I'm not straight; none of the guys I've been with made me straight, just like being madly in love with my partner right now doesn't make me a lesbian. I'm a bisexual woman and it is what it is. I have enjoyed men thoroughly, and I can say the same thing about women. People who don't think that it's real, maybe that's the reality in which they exist, but that's not my reality.

How does being black and bisexual change things?

I honestly thought that we were a lot farther, and then I did an interview with the Tom Joyner Morning Show and was completely taken aback by the way that went. The interview ended

See Frenchie Davis, page 26







► Frenchie Davis

Continued from p. 25

with a guy shouting, "Let a man into the bedroom!" That's how disrespectful it was. It was bad. It really broke my heart, because I know what it's like to be black in America and I know what it's like to be a woman in America, and to be treated with disdain and disrespect by members of my own community was hurtful. It hurt me to the core.

You know, at the end of the day when the stage lights are turned off and the audiences go home, you have to be able to look at yourself in the mirror. When I leave this earth, I want to know that I was on the right side of history. Things won't change unless people like me say, "No, I'm not going to allow society to bully me into lying about who I am."

Christina Aguilera's diva behavior makes a lot of headlines. What is she really like, and what surprised you most about working with her on "The Voice"?

(Hesitates) I'm never going to bad talk her, publicly. I'm just never gonna do it. But I will say this: I was pleasantly surprised by how amazing her ear is. Her ear is on point. Even when she's not trying, that instrument is right. She definitely is a pop diva for a reason.

She has a reason to be a little catty, is what you're saying.

No! I'm not saying that! That's what you got out of that? (Laughs)

What do you remember most from performing at drag clubs and gay bars?

All the makeup tips I picked up. All the wardrobe tricks I've learned. My friends from back then. I don't miss the struggling part! (Laughs) But even then maybe – those days of being in that grind and me and my college friends not being able to afford to fly home for the holidays, so we all put our money together to go grocery shopping and I cooked a big holiday dinner for everyone. Then it was, "Well, let me go sing with the gay boys tonight so I can make a couple of dollars real quick" – because you know the gay boys tip at the drag bar! (Laughs)

You were among a bunch of other drag queens. Did anyone ever mistake you for one?

They didn't. I think that's why I made so many tips, because I was the only real girl and I was the only performer not lip-syncing. So I'm really thankful for that. I still keep in touch with a lot of drag queens in D.C. The gay community in D.C. is really what started this whole performing at gay Prides and all that. It's been an amazing journey.

After performing on reality shows and doing "Rent" on Broadway, how does it feel to be



releasing your debut single and album?

It's amazing how the universe works. There was a time when I just thought, "I don't want to feel unfulfilled and bitter, so maybe I should give up on the recording thing and be really thankful that I'm a Broadway star and just do the theater thing." There was a moment where I had given up on this, and then I'm singing at a gay club and the casting director for "The Voice" is in the audience having drinks and then I'm on "The Voice" and this whole other window of opportunity opens up that I never even expected.

What can we expect from the upcoming album and your debut single?

It's gonna be dance-pop and the first single is called "Love's Got a Hold on Me," and it was written by Janice Robinson and I'm really excited about it. I shot a video for it with Brian Friedman as the co-director and choreographer. A lot of people know Brian from his work with Britney Spears and he's a creative director for "X Factor." Brian jumped on board because he believed in me enough to be like, "Yeah, I'm gonna bring in the dancers and make it fierce for you."

Is the whole album dance-pop or just the single?

The single is dance-pop and most of the album will be dance music. But, of course, I'm gonna throw in a power ballad or two! I have to. Knowing me and my gay boys, there will probably be dance remixes of even the ballads. (Laughs)

Are you going to get Christina on the album?

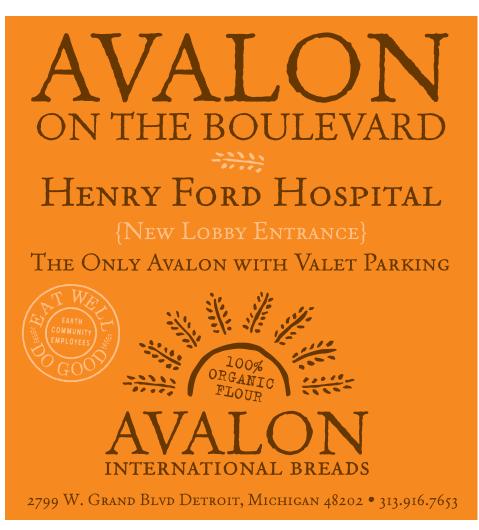
I'd love to do that, if she'll do it.

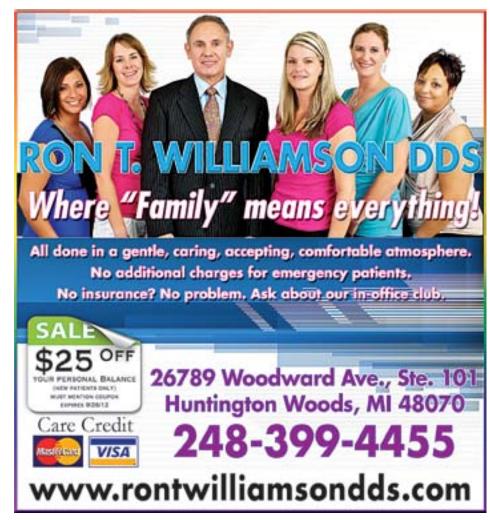
Is there pressure to stay in the closet on shows like "American Idol" or "The Voice"?

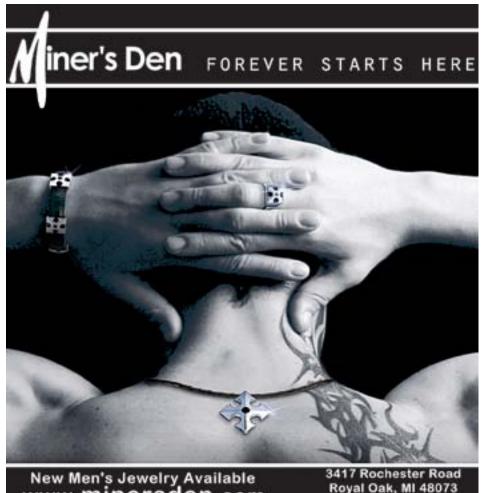
Not at all. I didn't feel any pressure to not be out when I was on those shows. In all honesty, some of the people who've been most successful on those shows have been members of the LGBT community. Look at Adam Lambert - and America loved Beverly (McClellan) and loved Vicci (Martinez), so I didn't feel any pressure at all. I can't really speak for "Idol" because I didn't stay on the show long enough to really have a fair comparison between "Idol" and "The Voice," but I can speak from my experience on "The Voice," and I can say that they were very welcoming to LGBT contestants. I don't think anyone there felt pressure to not be open about who they are. And that was an amazing experience. Who would've thought 10 years after being on "Idol" that I'd be singing "Lady Marmalade" on national TV with Christina Aguilera?

So you're glad things worked out the way they did? No hard feelings against "Idol"?

You can't waste your time on regrets, because they're just the past crippling you in the present. If there was a button we could push to change the past then that would be a different conversation, but that button doesn't exist so you have to walk away with all the lessons that you could've possibly learned and move forward and try to be better in the future. I wouldn't change a thing. I'm really thankful for the woman that I'm evolving into, and I'm really thankful for all the good in my life. Had something back then happened differently, who knows where I would've been today.







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Movin' On Up

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Across

- 1 Fruit cover
- 5 Has sex on a carpet?
- 10 Nuts and bolts
- 14 Obsidian source
- 15 Earhart, for one
- 16 "Serpico" author Peter
- 17 Ghostbusters role
- 18 Able to bend over
- 19 Large earthenware jar
- 20 Groundbreaking sitcom of the '70s
- 23 Removes, as a foreskin
- 24 Just make, with "out"
- 25 Mail order abbr.
- 27 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 28 Make a blunder
- 30 Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde 2"
- 32 "Y" wearer
- 33 One you may see in a shower
- 34 Spinoff of 20-Across
- 39 One with a gifted tongue
- 40 Fleur-de-
- 41 Jacobi of "I, Claudius"
- 42 Low boggy land
- 43 Religious pamphlet
- 48 Sonny, to Chaz
- 49 Stud site
- 51 Club head?

- 52 He played George in 20-Across and 34-Across
- 56 In two parts
- 57 Like a Peru native at a public lavatory?
- 58 Dark greenish blue
- 59 They're performing, in "Fame"
- 60 Traps for suckers
- 61 "Render therefore ____ Caesar ..."
- 62 High place with a flat top
- 63 Hung beast of a simile
- 64 Use a keyhole, perhaps

Down

- 1 Tickle pink
- 2 Two under scores for Sheehan
- 3 Become men, perhaps
- 4 Poet Sidney
- 5 Fop's footwear
- 6 Cole Porter's "Ridin' _
- 7 What you could get caught in
- 8 Swinger who tries to put it in the hole with few strokes
- 9 Prime piece of meat
- 10 Mine, in Montreal
- 11 Hammer that requires testicles for its user?
- 12 Belafonte tunes
- 13 9-digit ID org.

- 21 Heston was its pres.
- 22 Mothers, to Verlaine
- 26 Article written by Arnold
- 28 One who wears very little clothing
- 29 Biathlon need
- 31 War zone, in brief
- 32 Musket attachment
- 33 Mr. Williams, as Doubtfire
- 34 Pirates go after it
- 35 Condoms for erections?
- 36 Sorbonne summer
- 37 "The Dark Knight" role from **Brokeback Mountain?**
- 38 A as in Austria
- 39 Queer
- 42 James of "Milk"
- 43 Curry of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"
- 44 Try to get one's strength back
- 45 Actress Dahl
- 46 Dream up
- 47 AIDS activist Elizabeth
- 50 Group that won't pose for nude photos
- 51 Be aware of
- 53 "Lohengrin" soprano
- 54 Home st. of Maupin
- 55 Broadway scenery chewers
- 56 Dyke's latex

Solution on pg 32



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Horoscopes

Turn up the charm, Gemini!

BY JACK FERTIG

The Sun entering Virgo and Mars coming home to Scorpio push us to work. Both aspect Neptune so focus may be hard to achieve. Mediation helps. Venus, Mercury and Jupiter offer opportunity through conviviality. Mix work with pleasure and you can get way ahead.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Life has been too intense lately and nobody who knows would blame you for letting off steam, but most don't know. Try to pour that energy into work or exercise. Puttering around your home will also help keep your mouth out of trouble.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Share good news unless it involves money. Friends are too likely to exploit your good nature. Stash that cash where it will be safe and collect a bit of interest. Your own charms should be enough to hold your pals' interest.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Flirtation (in the right places), affability and your best manners will open doors for you. Turn up the charm. Think ahead about what doors you want open. Social temptations can be a real distraction from big opportunities.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Daydreams can be a serious diversion from work that needs to be done. That would just feed your worries and undermine your health. No, you can't do everything so do what's most important.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Keep your energy from being wasted through your mouth and you can accomplish a lot. Prioritize home, family and community in that order. If there's a more economical way to do anything you can find it.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Trust your instincts to do and say the right thing. You can hardly go wrong. Friends and authority figures will prove helpful. Don't waste this gift but be very mindful of your long-range goals, professional and otherwise.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Friends can help promote you, but be clear about what you want. Being too nice can encourage disastrous dysfunction. Opportunities for advancement and the chance to quietly accomplish a lot may pull you in different directions. Balancing both could take some juggling.

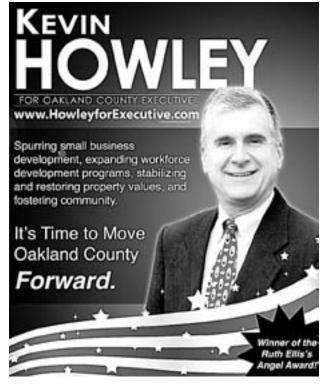
SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your ruler Mars, coming home to your sign, boosts your energy. It may be hard to focus at first. Accept guidance, even criticism from your friends. Blowing off some steam in the bedroom can actually help.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Take a chance on love, or even just sex. New opportunities await for a grand romance, or new thrills with your old love. Breaking appointments with platonic friends can cause trouble. Reschedule with respect.

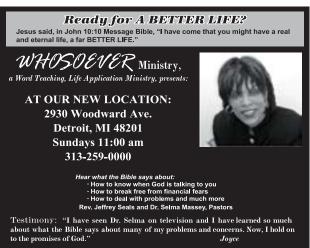
CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): With recent pressures abating you may feel a bit adrift. Your partner can help provide direction and focus. Your natural instinct for work and accomplishment will also point you in the right direction.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): New ideas may show where you need to step back a bit, take a broader view and find opportunity. New connections at work can prove helpful. Balancing cooperation with subtle individual initiatives can challenge your integrity and new friendships. Some wit is necessary; too much is disastrous.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Nobody lives up to your ideals, but neither do you. Don't blame them for not keeping your universe perfect. Your helpful suggestions are taken more as annoying criticism. Keep the focus on quiet, meditative self-improvement and you will be much admired.











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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 23

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

Euchre 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

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

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@imtoventer.org

Friday, Aug. 24

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

Saturday, Aug. 25

French Tea Luncheon 1 p.m. Admission: \$32. The tea company will be holding a tea in the lush atrium of Henry Ford Hospital. The food for this particular luncheon will be very refined and extremely authentic many of the recipes are from French cookbooks directly from Paris. Great Lakes Tea and Spice Luncheon, 6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-798-0052. Sally@dtskiosk.com Gitskiosk.com

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

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.

The Conversation Station 5 p.m. Weekly discussion group for LGBT0A 25 and over. Week's topic: Is torture a moral evil? Is it wrong to torture someone to get information that would save live(s)? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. Marcil.Williams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Aug. 27

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

BC Pride Dinner 6:30 p.m. Celebrating the third anniversary of BC Pride's first meeting. Meeting in the center of Ale House, please RSVP BC Pride, 1600 Avenue A, Springfield. 269-420-8170. LarryMDillon@aol.com PFLAG Battle Creek 7 p.m. Meets monthly at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Affiliated with BC Pride. PFLAG Battle Creek, 16 E. Van Buren, Battle Creek.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous

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

Tuesday, Aug. 28

LanSINGout KickOff Rehearsal 7 p.m. All singers with male sounding voices are welcome to attend. If this is your first time signing with us, you'll have the opportunity for an informal voice check with the Artistic Director. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. 517-490-1746. Info@ lansingout.org Lansingout.org

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

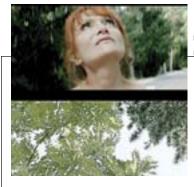
Transgender Resource Group 7 p.m. All ages, sexual and gender identities are members. Allies are welcome too. This is a support and social group, with an emphasis on advocacy and education. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org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

Women's Group 7 p.m. This group focuses on networking, socializing, and discussion of issues relevant to lesbian and bisexual women. Additional activities occasionally planned. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

Wednesday, Aug. 29

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

Newly Single Support Group 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk - or



Editor's Pick

Visitors of the University of Michigan Museum of Art encountering Danish artist Jesper Just's "This Nameless Spectacle" will find themselves captivated in stages, as the experience of viewing it unfolds over time. Just works exclusively in film, shooting on a variety of stock including 8 mm and 35 mm and working closely with different musicians to create prominent soundtracks for each film.

In this breathtaking film installation, as in much of his work, Just situates the viewer in his signature landscape

of beauty, provocation and a general uneasiness that is as seductive as it is ominous. The storyline is at once deceptively simple and perplexing: a wheelchair-bound protagonist travels through a neighborhood in the outskirts of Paris to her apartment, while a young male character appears to follow her. Once home, she is able to leave her wheelchair but is overcome by a powerful seizure.

Jesper Just: This Nameless Spectacle is on display until Dec. 9 at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, 515 S. State St., in Ann Arbor. For more information, go to UMMA.Umich.edu. Support for this exhibition is provided by the University of Michigan Office of the Provost.

listen - to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

God Rocks in the Stream 7 p.m. Support group for LGBT or allied Christians feeling unheard. Offering the spiritual and emotional support of like-minded individuals. Meets last Wednesday of every month. Gays in Faith Together, 207 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids. GaysinFaithTogether.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

Saturday, Sept. 1

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

Sunday, Sept. 2

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

The Conversation Station 5 p.m. Weekly discussion group for LGBTQA 25 and over. Week's topic: Who or what amazes you? Get Out And Livel, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. Marcil.Williams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

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

Monday, Sept. 3

LGBT Roundtable 7 a.m. The LGBT Roundtable is a group of LGBT and ally organization which get together to take about LGBT issues in Western Michigan. The LGBT Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Thenetwork@ grlgbt.org

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

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Farmington Hills Department Cultural Arts "Farmington Community Chorus" Over 80 members, performing a mix of pop, jazz & classical vocals, accompanied by fine musicianship and solos. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 23. FHGov.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. Steveacho.ticketleap.com/steve-acho---dinner-show-at-morels

Olympia Entertainment 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

Olympia Entertainment "The Big Show at the Joe" Starring Young Jeezy, T.I., Wake Flocka Flame, B.o.B., Cash Out and LoveRance. Tickets: \$48-128. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 1. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark Bill Kirchen; Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 31. 734-761-1800. The Ark.org

The Ark Mark O'Connor; Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Blue Highway; Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 26, 734-761-1800. The Ark.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 Ark Studebaker John & The Hawks; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 29. 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

The Majestic The Atlas Moth; Hailing from Chicago, The Atlas Moth takes their bluesy hometown roots and combines that with New Orleans style sludge, riffy death metal and 60s psychedelic. Tickets: \$10. The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 1. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

OTHER

Preservation Detroit "2012 Preservation Detroit Theatre Tour" One of Michigan's most unique tours. Includes box lunch at the Detroit Opera House. Allow 4.5 hours for this tour, rain or shine. Tickets: \$45 per person. Detroit Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 9 a.m. Aug. 25. Preservationdetroit.org

Zumba Fitness with Chandra Floyd
"Zumba Fitness in Midtown Detroit"
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and international music. Admission:
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111 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 25 - Sept.
26. 313-587-6203. Facebook.com/

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Avenue Q Contains adult themes. \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 248-553-2955. www.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. www.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. www. a2ct.org

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers \$25-28. The Croswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through Aug. 19. 517-264-SHOW. www.Croswell.org

The Other Place \$15. Redbud Productions at Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 17 - 18. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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. www.bluelake.org

Antony and Cleopatra \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Through Aug. 19. www. 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. www.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. www. sc4a.org

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

Burn This \$27-34. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 2. 734-663-0681. www. performancenetwork.org

Get Back! Cast of Beatlemania \$24.50 reserved pavilion; \$15 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 800-745 3000. www.palacenet.com

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

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

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

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

Red, White and Tuna \$20-25.
Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St.,
Williamston. Through Aug. 19. 517-6557469. www.WilliamstonTheatre.org

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

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

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



Editor's Pick

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit will host the Stephen Gottlieb Festival of the Arts Aug. 28-Sept. 2, with a program of concerts, lectures, hands-on art projects, family events, exhibits and films.

Bebe Neuwirth will star in "Stories with Piano" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1 at The Berman. In this one-woman masterpiece, Neuwirth will perform music by some of

the greatest songwriters of all time, including Kurt Weill-Brecht and Stephen Sondheim. Neuwirth is known for her Tony Award-winning appearances in "Sweet Charity" and "Chicago," as well as playing Dr. Lilith Sternin on the television series "Cheers" and "Frasier." Tickets are \$46 for JCC members and \$56 for non-members.

On Sunday, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. the Festival hosts Broadway in HD, a film presentation of Stephen Sondheim's "Company," at The Berman. The all-star cast includes Neil Patrick Harris, Patti LuPone and Stephen Colbert.

For tickets, call 248-661-1900. The Berman is located at 6600 W. Maple Road in West Bloomfield.

ART'N'AROUND

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

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

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "The Chris Webber Collection" Chris Webber, Detroit native, National Baskethall Association All-Star player (retired) and NBA announcer. collects rare artifacts that illuminate the lives and legacies of African American greats such as Phillis Wheatley, the first African American author; Rosa Parks, mother of the modern civil rights movement: civil rights leader. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and many others. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1 - Sept. 30. 313-494-5853. The Wright.org

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "Great American Artists - Part II: The Branches" Exhibition of new figurative works by artists Christopher Batten, Endia Beal, Halima Cassells, Alonzo Edwards, Sydney James, Gregory Johnson, Richard Lewis, Mario Moore, Sabrina Nelson and Senghor Reid. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 3 - Sept. 1. 313-494-5853. The Wright.org

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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Cities in Transition" This suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs explores the many ways art, design, and history shapes our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use brings both challenges and opportunities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 1 - Aug. 26. 616-831-2904. Artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. "Elliot Erwitt: Dog Dogs" This exhibition leaves little question about Erwitt's love of man's best friend. Erwitt proves that our close relationship with dogs is due to mutual resemblance and emotion. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. July 7 - Sept. 23. 269-349-7775. Klarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "All Girls, No Boys" A group of women artists who meet regularly to critique each others' works, organize art shows, and, above all, support each other in their artistic endeavors. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Sept. 1 - Sept. 30. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" The MSU Museum revisits the publication of the landmark book, Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1 - Nov. 30. Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/527

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Patti Smith: Camera Solo" This is the first American museum exhibition to focus on the photography of artist, poet, and performer Patti Smith. Smith's photographs are infused with personal meaning and highlight the rich relationships between art, architecture, poetry and the everyday. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 1 - Sept. 2. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Picasso and Matisse" Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and Henri Matisse (1869-1954) were groundbreaking visionaries who constantly experimented with techniques and materials. This exhibition features almost all of the works by Picasso and Matisse in

the museum's prints and drawings collections. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11 -0ct. 29. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Gallery Project "Quantified Self" Artists examine the quantified self from two unique perspectives: one, how information about individuals is collected, stored, processed, and used by these individuals and communicated to others; and two how entities collect information about individuals and groups for commercial and other purposes. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 30 - Oct. 7. 734-997-7102. TheGalleryProject.com

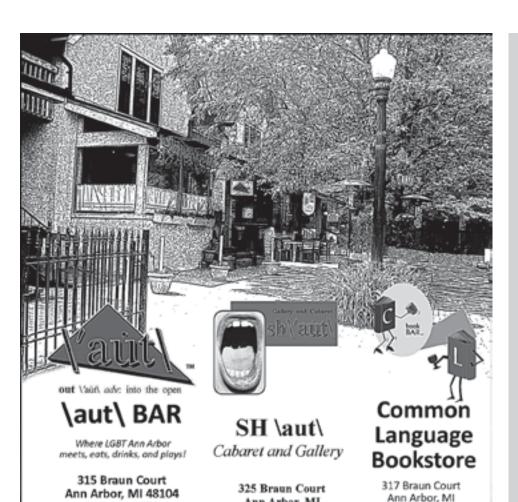
University of Michigan Museum of Art "Flip Your Field: Abstract Art from the Collection" Entitled Flip Your Field, this series asks these guest curators to consider artwork outside their field of specialization from UMMA's renowned collections to challenge their own thinking as well as that of UMMA's audiences. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. June 9 - Sept. 2. 734-647-0524. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Jesper Just: " Visitors of the University of Michigan Museum of Art encountering Danish artist Jesper Just's "This Nameless Spectacle" will find themselves captivated in stages, as the experience of viewing it unfolds over time. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - Dec. 9. 734-763-4186.

umma.umich.edu

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

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



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Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMNTS 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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Detroit's most original event, involving members of our fabulous design community Cocktails by Design/Artworks for Life - Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012 Dining by Design - Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012 DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS Benefits Michigan AIDS Coalition www. michiganaidscoalition.org - click on DIFFA Dining by Design Located at Joe Dumar's Field House, Detroit (in State Fair Grounds) For information, contact Monica Mills at (248) 545-1435, ext. 117, or mmills@michiganaidscoalition.org

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Solution to puzzle from page 28 SHAGS PILOT EGON AGILE OLLA ALLINTHEFAMILY EKEPPD SEVERS ESERAEERREESE ELIMETEOR THEJEFFERSONS O R A T O R L I S D E R E K F E N T T R A C T DADEAR SIERRA SHERMANHEMSLEY DUAL INCAN TEAL ARTS SCAMS UNTO MESA HORSE PEER

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jodie Foster gets married to the mob

The next time you see Jodie Foster in front of the camera it'll be in "District 9" director Neill Blomkamp's 2013 sci-fi epic "Elysium" with Matt Damon. And though her own directorial career has hit its share of potholes lately with the disastrously received (and, frankly, fairly underrated) "The Beaver," Foster has a new direction: television. She will executive produce and direct a female-fronted mafia drama for Showtime titled "Angie's Body." Written by Rob Fresco ("Heroes," "Jericho"), all the available information indicates that this is "The Sopranos" if they were run by Carmela instead of Tony. Now, that may sound gimmicky, but in a post-"Sopranos" world, we need something entertainingly mafia-based and right now the best we've got is "Mob Wives." Now if Foster will just tell us for sure if she's the star of the show and we'll be all in.

Hugh Jackman joins Lee Daniels MLK drama

"Precious" director Lee Daniels had a couple of period Civil Rights Movement dramas in the hopper, "Selma" and "The Butler," as his follow-up to the Oscar-winning film. But then he made "The Paperboy" with Zac Efron and Nicole Kidman instead. (The one where, yes, really, she urinates on him and apparently it's completely unhinged and they hated it at Cannes – coming soon to a theater near you.) So now it's back to the drawing board of the 1960s, this time with a different story called "Orders to Kill," starring Hugh Jackman as controversial attorney William Pepper, a man who argued for decades that James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wasn't the man behind the crime (his belief: the United States government did it). Hopefully it'll all come together and be received enthusiastically in the wake of "The Paperboy"'s eventual success. Lee Daniels did not just pay us to say that. Promise.

Finally, a David Sedaris movie

David Sedaris has, over the past 20 years, turned into one of America's most beloved humorists (though he's spent most of that time living in Europe – look, the food really is a lot better in France). So you'd think that in all that time somebody somewhere could have gotten one of the author's hilarious, first-person stories shaped into a decent script with some funding. This, however, has not taken place, mostly because the author himself is legendary for saying no. Until now. "C.O.G.," based on a story from Sedaris's best-selling collection "Naked" (about his time working as an applepicker in Oregon), will begin production in October with young filmmaker Kyle Patrick



Jodie Foster. Photo: Myles Aronowitz

Alvarez behind the camera. Alvarez already won the "Someone To Watch" Independent Spirit Award for his 2009 film "Easier With Practice" and his dogged determination to win over the reluctant author paid off with Sedaris's blessing and cooperation. Now, who'll play his sister Amy?

'Such Good People' casts such a lot of gay people

This might sound more like the casting of the latest round of "Hollywood Squares," the all-homosexual version, but it's not. It's something a little more mysterious than that. It's a film called "Such Good People" and it's being billed as "a gay screwball comedy." It has its own Facebook page and Twitter account, both of which just went up this month. And it has a cast of almost exclusively lesbian and gay names: Michael Urie ("Ugly Betty"), Lance Bass, Sandra Bernhard, Bree Turner ("Grimm"), stand-up comic Alec Mapa, Jon Polito ("The Big Lebowski"), Drew Droege (aka the internet's own "Chloe Sevigny"), Mitch Silpa ("Flight Attendant Steve" from "Bridesmaids") and Randy Harrison ("Queer as Folk"). What else is it about? Nobody knows; that's why it's kind of mysterious. So if you want to pretend you're the Sherlock Holmes of film production and spy on the process unfolding in real time, just go link up to the movie on social media. You'll know everything before the official press releases get underway.

Romeo San Vicente's whole life is a gay screwball comedy. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.





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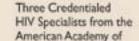


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