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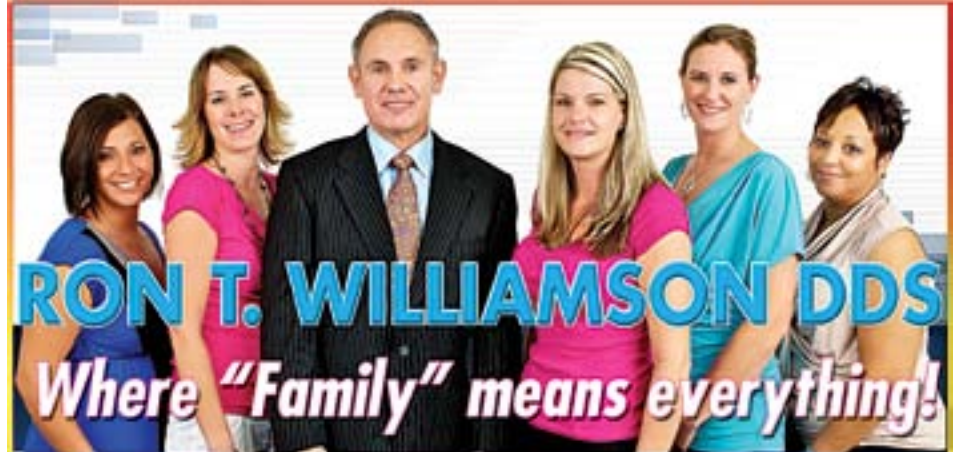
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## ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



### Colbert at the DNC

In this week's issue, Chuck Colbert wrote a review of the Republican National Convention and Romney's speech as they relate to the gay community (pg. 8). Head online this weekend to find Colbert's review of the Democratic Convention and Obama's speech!

Find this article under Michigan News at [www.Pridesource.com](http://www.Pridesource.com)



## Between The Lines Publishers Send Live Updates from DNC to Facebook

If you're not already liking us on Facebook, be sure to search "Between The Lines Newspaper" and follow BTL publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz as they participate in the Democratic National Convention as one of over 500 LGBT delegates invited

this year. Stevenson and Horowitz will be posting updates, photographs and anecdotes throughout the week, directly from the DNC! So don't miss out!

Like "Between The Lines Newspaper" on Facebook and join the conversation!

## ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



### More of Kibibi Blount-Dorn

Head online to PrideSource.com for exclusive photos of our feature story's star, Leadership Project's Kibibi Blount-Dorn, taken by BTL photographer Andrew Potter!

Select the Leadership Project under News at [www.Pridesource.com](http://www.Pridesource.com)

## CALENDAR



### What Are Your Weekend Plans?

Whether you're looking for an awesome concert, seeking a new social circle, choosing a museum to visit or planning your weekend shenanigans, the Pride Source Calendar has something for everyone!

Browse and list events online at [www.Pridesource.com/calendar.html](http://www.Pridesource.com/calendar.html)



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BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

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# Appetite for Change

## Detroit Summer Grad Works to Change Lives Through Food

BY ANDREA POTEET

Kibibi Blount-Dorn loves food.

It's not just its flavors, smells and textures, or even the process of turning ingredients into a meal. For her, it's about food's story from the farm to the table and the people and places it touches along the way.

"In this society and this city, good food is like a niche thing, sort of a fad," she says. "People don't think about it in terms of good food is something everyone has a right to access. It's more like 'Oh, you're one of those foofy vegetarians, and you eat healthy food and the rest of us just eat Doritos and Red Pop every day.'"

As she sips lavender-scented cappuccino in a coffee shop tucked among the sights and smells of foodie mecca Eastern Market, the 31-year-old program manager of the Detroit Food Policy Council talks about her passion for accessible healthy food and her craving for change.

Since accepting the job in February, Blount-Dorn has worked closely with the council's 21 members from 12 community sectors who work on policy areas including food justice, access to healthy food and urban agriculture advocacy. Blount-Dorn is charged with outreach and education for the council as well as planning its events, including its annual Detroit Food Summit, which wrapped up in May and is scheduled for April 11-13 in 2013.

Prior to working with the DFPC, she assisted the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network with several urban gardening projects and earned a Master's of Urban Planning from Wayne State University. While there, she studied with food planning scholar and DFPC member Kami Pothukuchi. She was writing her master's essay on farmer's markets and searching for a community-based planning position in 2009 at the same time the council was forming and the position was being created.

"I was like, 'That's perfect; that's exactly what I want to do,'" she says. "It's good timing, I guess."

She said her favorite part of her "dream job" is meeting people passionate about different aspects of healthy food, from gardening to nutrition education and using her knowledge to enlighten others.

"People who are new to the idea come in and the moment when they get it, that's one of my favorite parts," she says. "It's the moment where they are like, 'Food is something you do every day but it's also this huge system' and the way it operates and shapes your life and the fact that they play a part in it every day ... I love that part."

A Detroit native, she said she also loves working in a job that gives her a close-up look at the city and its residents working for change.

"I think the spirit of organization in Detroit is so

unique," she says. "I feel like organizers in Detroit sort of have this, 'This is our city and whatever we can imagine, we can create it to be.' We don't have to be bound by any of these superstructures, we can build our own."

For Blount-Dorn, that spirit ignited in her as a teenager when she worked with Detroit Summer, a multi-racial, intergenerational volunteer program started by famed Detroit activists James and Grace Lee Boggs in which teens design and realize summer projects, from gardening to mural building.



BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

"It was like that intense face-to-face community interaction," she says. "It gave communities a chance to see young people doing something good, but it also gave young people a chance to feel like they had something to contribute and we could shape our city into what we wanted to see instead of having to do good in school and move out of the city, which was sort of the message a lot of people get in schools."

It also ignited her passion for urban gardening when she saw the myriad of benefits growing from the garden that expanded beyond what ended up on plates.

"My experience in urban gardens was that

gardens were places where people learned things other than just about food and connecting to food," she says. "I feel like community gardens were places where people connected with other people in their neighborhood and actually formed some of those relationships that it seems like we don't make as often in our neighborhoods anymore, where people learn about food but they also learn about natural systems and the ecosystem and the fact that there's this larger world community that they play a part in and there are a lot of intergenerational relationships going on. In gardens I feel like things that were making communities stronger were happening that weren't happening in a lot of other places in the community."

The program also taught her about the power of love, community and ideas, she says.

“My experience in urban gardens was that gardens were places where people learned things other than just about food and connecting to food. I feel like community gardens were places where people connected with other people in their neighborhood and actually formed some of those relationships that we don't make in our neighborhoods anymore.”

"We can't just say, 'This system is bad and we're gonna hate it and bash it,'" she says. "Instead you have to come up with something better and build, it and that's when you have movement."

She said the program taught her lessons about community building and organizing she uses every day at her job, but it also had another benefit. During one of those summers, she met her

partner, Rachel Dorn, the sister of one of the staff members. The two have been together for 10 years and have a 4-year-old son, Sebastian.

For Blount-Dorn, the relationship had an unexpected result. A longtime vegetarian, she was surprised when she learned Dorn was a hunter.

"When we first started going out I was like, 'Well if you really did shoot a deer, I would probably eat it,'" she says. "And for the first five or six years she never got anything when she went out hunting, and after our son was born she started getting a deer every year."

Blount-Dorn says the deer her partner brings

home is the only meat she eats.

"I didn't really support the food industry that was producing meat, the meat that was available in grocery stores," she says. "That was the part I didn't agree with, not necessarily the part about actually eating animals. I sort of feel like this deer lived in the woods for the past eight years and Rachel went and hunted it and she and her dad butchered it in the basement; it's sort of like growing your own vegetable garden."

And the timing of the addition of meat to her diet could not have been better. Their son suffers from a variety of food allergies and subsists mostly on meat. He's also been picking up on some of his mother's teachings, quite to Blount-Dorn's surprise.

"He'll be hanging out with his cousins and saying, 'We shouldn't be drinking that red punch because it's not as healthy for us as water or coconut milk,'" she says. "I'm like, 'Where did you learn that?'"

And for Blount-Dorn, making changes through educating people about what's on their plates is what it's all about.

She said she hopes to continue working to promote healthy food and to make changes within her field, including more access for minorities in every sector of the industry, from farming to food service. The biggest change, however, would be broader access to food education.

"I'd like to see more people know about food systems and food work, what it is and how it benefits the community; at least be aware of where your food comes from," she says.

And as for her job, she said she knows she'll be done when there is no need for it.

"What I'm really working for is for us not to need this job," she says. "I also feel like the work that we do, the dreams that we have, are not so much for my job; it's for the work that we do in the community. So I guess what I dream of for myself are things like being able to be a member of my community and contribute to improving the safety of the food, the education of community members. In those terms, I'm not where I want to be, I want to see myself grow in community work and life work."

# ACLU Asks Federal Judge to Strike Down Family Benefits Ban

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The ACLU recently asked a federal judge on behalf of four Michigan couples to strike down a discriminatory state law that forces employers to cancel family benefits for gay and lesbian employees in committed relationships.

Represented by the ACLU and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, the plaintiffs in the case – Theresa Bassett and Carol Kennedy of Ann Arbor, Ways and Joe Breakey of Ann Arbor, Barbara Ramber and JoLinda Jach of Kalamazoo, Denise Miller and Michelle Johnson of Kalamazoo and Gerardo Ascheri and Doak Bloss of Lansing – attended court in August with more than 60 supporters to state their names, show their faces, and share their stories in front of U.S. District Judge David Lawson.

“It was disheartening, but energizing. We are committed to doing what we can to fight this and remain active in talking about why it’s not fair,” said Bloss. “It’s the state’s prerogative that they can tell employer’s what they can and can’t do. It’s so wrong for the state to dictate to counties and cities and school districts that they can’t provide a benefit that they want to provide.” Bloss said that he and his partner, Ascheri, will take a financial hit, but are able to manage. “We are much more concerned about the people who don’t have the resources. We’re not rich by any means, but we will get by,” he said.

For Ramber, the outcome of this case may significantly change her life. She has glaucoma and arthritis and faces potential blindness if she loses her benefits at the end of the year when her partner Jach’s employer, the City of Kalamazoo, stops offering them. According to the Detroit Free Press, during Ramber’s testimony before Judge Lawson, she said, “I’m scared to death about losing my benefits. And my eyesight? The thought of losing that is terrible. It’s been hard. My son doesn’t understand why this law treats us differently than other families.”

Ways and his partner, Breakey, were surprised how long it took to come before the judge for the first hearing. “I think many individuals are already losing their benefits and the clock is ticking for the rest of us. Our family is happy and healthy. We just got a new puppy and we’re looking forward to going back to school. The only problem is that we feel on guard against a political leadership that has taken the stand, essentially, that our family does not exist,” said Ways. “It’s a strange kind of discrimination to be legislated against in this targeted and mean-spirited way. I feel welcome in my community and we have been supported by friends, family, acquaintances and strangers, really in large numbers. But we also know that the governor, the majority of the house, and the majority of the senate would prefer that we disappear.”

This contradicts the 65 percent of polled Michigan voters that want domestic partner benefits to be extended to gay and lesbian government and university employees. While Gov. Rick Snyder tried to pass the unfair statute off as a cost-cutting measure, Amanda C. Goad,

ACLU staff attorney with the ACLU LGBT and AIDS Projects said “This discriminatory law serves no purpose other than to single out a small minority of people and deprive them of critical protections. The state is unconstitutionally interfering with the benefit plans established by city and county governments, school districts, and community colleges, and that’s hurting hardworking employees and their families.”

According to the Detroit Free Press, state attorney Margaret Nelson defended the law on behalf of the state, arguing it has “a legal right to try to save money and an interest in protecting marriage. The plaintiffs assume that they are similarly situated to married employees. They do not have a legally recognized relationship under Michigan law. Same-sex couples are viewed under state law more like single people, friends or roommates, who also will lose their benefits as a result of the law change.”

Bloss said he felt like he was in a “funk” after listening to the state’s argument. “The President makes you feel like change will happen, but the state of Michigan is actively changing things in the wrong direction.”

That’s why ACLU LGBT Project staff attorney Jay Kaplan said this year’s election is so important. “There are three openings on the Court and depending on the outcome of these elections the majority could change. That is why it so important that voters are informed about the candidates running for the Michigan Supreme Court and their positions on LGBT rights. The lack of awareness of the candidates and their positions has probably contributed to a majority on the Court which has issued a number of decisions hostile to the LGBT community, as well as other minority groups.”

Kaplan explained that it would be difficult to prevail on an LGBT civil rights issue with the current composition of Michigan’s Supreme Court, a 4-3 conservative majority. “At this point in time, bringing an action in federal district court may seem more viable because judges are appointed by the president and are not likely to be as beholden to political parties as our state judges are. However, the viability of success of a federal challenge also depends on the composition of the Court of Appeals in the Sixth Circuit, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, which is the ultimate decider. These judges and justices are appointed by the president and that is why who we vote for president makes a big difference regarding who ends up on the courts. Voters also need to be informed on this issue. A Romney federal bench would be vastly different than an Obama federal bench and this would also have an impact on LGBT rights.”

As for the future of this particular case, Goad said an additional round of briefing was submitted toward the end of August. “We are waiting to receive a decision from Judge Lawson on plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction, as well as defendant’s motion to dismiss.”



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**DETROIT**

**Judge says needs time in unmarried adoption case**

(AP) - A judge says he needs time to decide whether to dismiss a lawsuit that challenges Michigan's ban on adoption by unmarried couples.

The lawsuit is led by two Detroit-area lesbians who are raising three children. State law says that April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse can't adopt them as a couple, an option available only to heterosexual married couples.

DeBoer and Rowse say their civil rights are being violated. Detroit federal Judge Bernard Friedman heard arguments Wednesday.

In a court filing, the state attorney general's office says Friedman should defer to the judgment of Michigan lawmakers and dismiss the case.

**DETROIT**

**Man admits to assaulting gay gas station patron**

(AP) - Federal officials say a 36-year-old Detroit man has admitted to assaulting another man because he believed the victim was gay.

The Justice Department says Everett Avery pleaded guilty Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit to a hate crime.

Authorities say Avery punched Justin Alesna in the face in March 2011 at a Detroit gas station and sustained a fractured eye socket.

Alesna says he was in line to buy cigarettes when a man told him he was standing too close and directed anti-gay slurs toward him. Alesna says he told the man he was gay and was punched twice.

He later posted an Internet video showing his facial injuries from the attack.

Avery's sentencing is Nov. 28. The charge can bring up to 10 years in prison.

**ANN ARBOR**

**U-M Faculty Panel to discuss new controversial book "How to be Gay"**

A panel of three U-M professors will discuss a new book by David Halperin, a W.H. Auden Distinguished University Professor of the History and Theory of Sexuality, titled "How to be Gay" on Sept. 11.

"How to be Gay" contends that gayness is a specific way of being that gay men must learn from one another in order to become who they are. Male homosexuality is a cultural practice, expressive of a unique subjectivity and a distinctive relation to mainstream society. Halperin, maintains that the genius of gay culture resides in some of its most despised features: its aestheticism, snobbery, melodrama, adoration of glamour, caricatures of women, and obsession with mothers. The insights, impertinence and unfazed critical intelligence displayed by gay culture, Halperin argues, have much to offer the heterosexual mainstream.

David Caron, Lisa Disch, Helmet Puff and Halperin himself will discuss the arguments made within the book then turn the discussion over to the general audience. This event is free and open to the public, beginning at 12 p.m. Sept 11 in 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State St at U-M, Ann Arbor. For more information, go online to [irwg.research.umich.edu/events](http://irwg.research.umich.edu/events).

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

# President of GroundSpark Calls for Anti-bullying Curriculum Change

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As back-to-school time approaches, anti-bullying programs and policies are at the top of the agenda in many school districts. "But in our quick fix, short-attention-span culture, shaking a finger is not enough," said Debra Chasnoff, President and Senior Producer with GroundSpark, who draws attention to a new way of combating the issue of bullying. "Just like the much-parodied mantra of the '80s and '90s to 'Just Say No' to drugs, simply saying 'Stop Bullying' will never change deeply entrenched cultural attitudes.

GroundSpark, in San Francisco, Calif., creates visionary films addressing progressive social justice issues and dynamic educational campaigns that move individuals and communities to take action for a more just world. The films are also intended to be used as an educational resource for all grade levels.

The Academy-Award winning documentary filmmaker and activist blogged with The Huffington Post recently that she believes that parents, politicians and educators need to join together and do far more than put up posters saying "No Bullies Allowed" or offer speeches and incomplete policies that don't really do the job. "We need to roll up our sleeves, take some risks, and open up real dialogue in our school communities about these deeply entrenched, and often politically sanctioned, biases."

This starts, according to Chasnoff, by insisting that the curricula in our schools address anti-gay stigma and the pressures to conform to gender norms. "Until politicians of all political stripes stop vilifying the LGBT population. Until all 'people of God' stop telling children they are evil," she said, adding that all kids are affected by anti-gay prejudice and adults have the responsibility to do something about it.

Chasnoff points out that there has been increasing attention to "so-called zero-tolerance policies" and the frequent announcement of new

*“Take the time to have the conversation to find out what’s really going on versus continuing to talk about the fact that bullying is an issue. Let’s change our stance around bias-related name calling in our schools.”*

-Debra Chasnoff

anti-bullying initiatives, but the "harsh" zero-tolerance policies "fail to take on the complex nature of the motives of those who are doing the bullying. They do nothing to develop compassion and respectful understanding of differences among students or staff. What's more, the students primarily disciplined by zero tolerance rules are disproportionately LGBT youth, students of color and students with disabilities, ironically the same groups that are often the most targeted. Criminalizing and expelling students who bully, without looking at the underlying causes of their behavior, only creates more pain in their lives and the lives of others."

Michigan passed legislation PA241, known as "Matt's Law," in December. While school districts in the state are required to implement anti-bullying policies, Chasnoff said, "Many programs and policies stop far short of demanding that our schools adopt curricula that are inclusive and respectful of LGBT people. They fail to make a strong enough case that parents and educators could transform school climates dramatically if they took the courageous step of challenging

behavioral norms for children based on gender. They rarely ask parents to question their own biased attitudes, which they pass down to their children who then turn against their peers."

Parents don't want their child to be bullied nor do they want their child to be a bully or to be a terrified child who witnesses bullying, but some parents don't have the courage to go on the line for it. "Very conservative parents are way more organized and have way more support from national organizations. We need a strong movement of parents who demand it's unconscionable that K-12 students or faculty talk badly about LGBT families and students," she said.

"This is not a whole lot to ask. Talking about gay people with children does not make them gay. Scientific evidence can demonstrate that point," said Chasnoff. "The secretary of state needs to say this. Superintendents need to say this. From bus drivers to cafeteria aids to biology teachers who believe this has nothing to do with them. They need to say here's how we're going to talk about gay people, about community and love. We're not talking about sexual practices any more than when we're talking about heterosexual couples."

And for students filling the hallways and entering classrooms again, Chasnoff offers up some advice. "Promise yourself that you're going to stand up for somebody if you hear derogatory or homophobic, anti-gay language to put someone else down. Tell them that's not cool or that's stupid to say. Find a friend, make a pact. If you ever hear a teacher use it, share it with the principal or have the courage to tell a school counselor that it bothers you."

According to Chasnoff, there is harassment based on weight and harassment based on appearance, but anti-gay harassment is always at the top of the list. "Take the time to have the conversation to find out what's really going on versus continuing to talk about the fact that bullying is an issue. Let's change our stance around bias-related name calling in our schools."

## Detroit Man Pleads Guilty in Hate Crime Case

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - According to the US Department of Justice, 36-year-old Everett Dwayne Avery pled guilty to a Federal Hate Crimes charge, on Aug. 29. Avery was accused of having called a man derogatory names and punching him in the face.

On March 7, 2011 the victim was assaulted by Avery while waiting in line to buy cigarettes at a Detroit gas station. According to reports, the Avery told the victim to back up and called him derogatory gay slurs. The assailant then punched the victim, fracturing his eye socket and causing other facial injuries.

The Detroit Division of the FBI investigated the case and Avery was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Pam Thompson and Trial Attorney Sanjay Patel of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. Avery faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 28, 2012, before Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

"Hate-fueled incidents have no place in a civilized society," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department is committed to using all the tools in our law enforcement arsenal, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes

Prevention Act, to prosecute acts of violence motivated by hate."

"A hate crime is different than a simple assault because it is an attack on not just one individual victim, but an attack on everyone who shares a particular characteristic," said U.S. Attorney Barb McQuade. "By passing (the Prevention Act), Congress made it clear that an attack based on a victim's sexual orientation will not be tolerated in America."

"The FBI is committed to protecting the community from those who are motivated by hate to victimize anyone as the result of their sexual orientation," said Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Robert D. Foley, III.

# Hungry4Equality: Week 5

www.Hungry4Equality.com

## Day 29



“We have so many young voters in our community that don't understand they can be fired from their job or denied housing for

just being gay. If we can continue to call attention to this lack of equality and to educate our friends and families, we're half way there. We must educate ourselves and use our most powerful tool at our disposal: our right to vote”

- Eddie Mulak

## Day 30



“We as a state, should not be divided by our individual beliefs, but instead should be united by the love in our hearts.”

- Tobias Davis

## Day 31



“Becoming involved puts learning into application and action really makes all the difference. Through positive collective action, even one person

is able to join with others as an effective way to help many people. Be the change you want to see in the world, starting with yourself.”

- Jon Johnston

*Corrected Quote for Striker 28, Charlie Erikson: "I'm at a pretty nomadic stage of my life. Even though this hunger strike focuses on changing laws in Michigan, the message is relevant throughout the United States. The more states that offer bread-and-butter rights for LGBT people the merrier. It would be great if we all had the same rights regardless of what states we lived in or traveled to. Participating in the Hunger Strike is the least I could do."*

## Day 32



“I participated in this hunger strike to bring attention to the issues of inequality that impact the LGBT community

in Michigan and to encourage voters to carefully research issues and candidates before voting. Make sure the candidates support your values, and then vote!”

- Michelle Walters

## Day 33



“I think this is great. We need to keep the dialogue going on these issues because when people talk, change comes.”

- Shane Savage

## Day 34



“As we were striking we realized how uncomfortable we felt being confined to one small space - not being able to enjoy the same freedoms that

seem so trivial to others. It's time we started making the Bill Schutte's and Tom McMillan's uncomfortable - have them take time out of their over privileged lives to understand how their discriminatory decision-making has been affecting the LGBT population in Michigan.”

- Sheri Folta and Cass Varner

## Day 35



“If the LGBT community is seen as a minority and make up such a small percent of Michigan's population, then I don't understand why these hall of shame people feel so threatened.”

- Lisa Ross

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## WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND New Zealand passes 1st stage of gay marriage law

(AP) - New Zealand lawmakers have cast a first vote in favor of a gay marriage law that was given impetus by President Barack Obama's public support of the issue.

Wednesday's 78 to 40 vote is the first of three Parliament must take before the bill can become law, a process that typically takes several months. Only a simple majority was needed to ensure a second vote.

Should New Zealand pass the measure into law, it would become the 12th country since 2001 to recognize same-sex marriages. Some U.S. states also recognize such marriages, but the federal government does not. In May, Obama declared his support for same-sex marriage.

Polls indicate about two-thirds of New Zealanders support gay marriage. It also has the support of most of the country's political leaders.

## SAO PAULO

### Brazil government grants gay man 'maternity' leave

(AP) - Brazil's social security agency has for the first time granted a four-month "maternity" leave for a man in a civil union with another man.

Lucimar da Silva asked for the leave two years ago when he and his partner adopted a child.

Brazilian law mandates that companies provide a four-month paid leave from work for a mother and five days paid leave for a father.

Silva argued it would be discriminatory to deny him the longer leave, noting the social security agency has already approved the four-month benefit for same-sex couples in which the partners are women.

An agency statement Thursday says the decision for da Silva does not set a legal precedent. It says all-male couples with adopted children will have to individually petition for the four-month leave.

## NEW YORK

### GLAAD gives CW network high marks for diversity

(AP) - The advocacy group GLAAD has given the CW network high marks among broadcast outlets for its portrayal of gay and lesbian characters. Meanwhile, cable networks Showtime, ABC Family, TNT and HBO all were given a favorable rating by the group.

The number of gay and lesbian images on TV held steady this year. But the range of impressions continued to grow, with those representations increasingly presented in a matter-of-fact manner rather than as curiosities, GLAAD found in its annual Network Responsibility Index. But two-thirds of all gay-and-lesbian-inclusive hours showcased white people, the study found, prompting GLAAD to call for networks to recognize a broader diversity within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

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

# Romney Speech Exempts Gays From Tomorrow's 'Better Future'

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Mitt Romney received a rousing reception as he accepted the Republican Party's presidential nomination Thursday night, making his way through a spirited crowd on the convention floor, approaching the podium to address delegates in the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

The choreography evoked images of the president walking through the aisles of Congress before delivering a State of the Union address. After all, Romney's remarks to GOP Convention delegates were the most important speech in his political career.

And part of the evening's up-close and personal biographical story line was to make him appear utterly presidential.

But Romney's everyman (and women) appeal for a better tomorrow, both inside and outside the convention hall, stopped dead in the water for LGBT Americans.

"Mr. Chairman, delegates. I accept your nomination for President of the United States of America," he said, wasting no time in getting to the point.

"Tonight I am asking you to join me to walk together to a better future," said Romney, sporting a bold red tie with thin blue stripes.

For nearly 40 minutes, in prime time national television, the GOP nominee served up Ronald Reagan, "morning-in-America" style optimism.

"We Americans have always felt a special kinship with the future," said Romney.

He spoke of Mormon faith and family, business and jobs, foreign affairs and the environment, freedom and opportunity, immigration and workforce diversity. Romney's appeal was to the GOP partisans and Tea Party adherents gathered in Florida, as well undecided and independent voters nationwide. Women and Hispanics were especially singled out for inclusion.

And in playing up traditional marriage and family life, Romney said, "My mom and dad gave their kids the greatest gift of all - the gift of unconditional love. They cared deeply about who we would be, and much less about what we would do.

"Unconditional love is a gift that Ann and I have tried to pass on to our sons and now to our grandchildren. All the laws and legislation in the world will never heal this world like the loving hearts and arms of mothers and fathers. If every child could drift to sleep feeling wrapped in the love of their family - and God's love -- this world would be a far more gentle and better place.

"Mom and Dad were married 64 years. And if you wondered what their secret was, you could have asked the local florist - because every day Dad gave Mom a rose, which he put on her bedside table. That's how she found out what happened on the day my father died - she went looking for him because that morning, there was no rose.

Touching the raw nerve of voter dissatisfaction and unsteady economic recovery, Romney made his case for pink slipping the president.

Blunt but not snarky, Romney put it this way:

"For too many Americans, these good days are harder to come by. How many days have you woken up feeling that something really special was happening in America?"

Continuing, he said, "Many of you felt that way on Election Day four years ago. Hope and Change had a powerful appeal. But tonight I'd ask a simple question: 'If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama?' You know there's something wrong with the kind of job he's done as president when the best feeling you had was the day you voted for him."

For Romney, "The President has disappointed America because he hasn't led America in the right direction. He took office without the basic qualification that most Americans have and one that was essential to his task. He had almost no experience working in a business. Jobs to him are about government."

The president just doesn't get it, according to Romney. The name of the game is the free enterprise system, job creation, lower taxes, and less government. "That is why every president since the Great Depression who came before the American people asking for a second term could look back at the last four years and say with satisfaction: 'You are better off today than you were four years ago,'" Romney said. "Except Jimmy Carter. And except this president."

It was a good speech, not a great speech, any number of TV commenters and political pundits said. Still, many LGBT listeners would find cold comfort from what a Romney-Ryan administration has to offer.

For instance, "As president, I will protect the sanctity of life," he told delegates. "I will honor the institution of marriage. And I will guarantee America's first liberty: the freedom of religion."

If there were any dissonance between the family value of unconditional love and less than full equality for LGBT Americans, it seemed lost on Romney.

But the party platform leaves little doubt. While embracing the "principle that all Americans should be treated with respect and dignity," the GOP decries "an activist judiciary" and blames it for "court-ordered redefinition of marriage in several states," which the Republican document calls "an assault on the foundation of our society, challenging the institution which, for thousands of years in virtually every civilization, has been entrusted with the rearing of children of cultural values."

For her part, Ann Romney seemed to stick it same-sex couples.

"I read somewhere that Mitt and I have a 'storybook marriage.' Well, in the storybooks I read, there were never long, long, rainy winter afternoons in a house with five boys screaming at once. And those storybooks never seemed to have chapters called MS or breast cancer," she told delegates on Tuesday evening.

"A storybook marriage? No, not at all. What Mitt Romney and I have is a real marriage," Ann explained.

Oddly enough, Romney made no mention of his non-traditional, polygamous family ties. That would be Miles Park Romney, Mitt's great-grandfather, a devout Mormon, who had five wives while living in polygamous colony in Mexico, according to Boston Globe reporters and authors, Michael Kranish and Scott Helman, in their recent book *The Real Romney*.

Even Log Cabin Republicans felt the sting of exclusion and derision with the gay exception to apple pie and the American dream for all.

"The obsessive exclusion of gay couples, including military and families, from the rights and responsibilities of marriage, combined with bizarre rhetoric about 'hate campaigns' and 'the homosexual rights agenda' are clear signs of desperation among social conservatives who know that public opinion is rapidly turning in favor of equality," stated R. Clarke Cooper, executive director for Log Cabin Republicans.

Attempts to reach Log Cabin Republican and GOProud leadership for post-speech comments were unsuccessful, although GOProud had endorsed Romney before the convention.

But Jerame Davis of National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) offered a partisan perspective.

"Mitt Romney's speech last night capped a bizarre and meandering GOP convention filled with shallow references to 'defending' or honoring' marriage. What didn't make the primetime schedule is the news that this Romney/Ryan ticket represents the most reactionary anti-LGBT platform in politics. Even ever-loyal gay Republicans had to admit defeat in their attempts to moderate the GOP at this year's convention," said Davis in e-mail correspondence.

Continuing, "While Log Cabin Republicans were bragging about their inclusion in the platform drafting process, the GOP was undercutting their work and their message by commissioning the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins to draft the platform's anti-LGBT language. There could be no more clear message that LGBT people, whether they are loyal Republican operatives or average voters, are simply not welcome in the Republican Party," Davis said.

Meanwhile, back on the convention floor, other bizarre --weird or off-kilter -- rhetoric took center stage when Hollywood star Clint Eastwood, aka Dirty Harry, engaged in an imaginary dialogue with an invisible president.

Speaking to an empty chair, make-my-day Eastwood, 82, took Obama to task.

"Mr. President, how do you handle the promises that you made when you were running for election?"

Thousands of stunned OMG tweets ensued.

Continuing, Eastwood pressed the invisible Obama why he had not closed the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "What do you mean, shut up?" Eastwood mumbled. "What do you want me to tell Mr. Romney?" he asked, with an uncomfortable audience.

"I can't tell him that. He can't do that to himself," Eastwood said. "You're getting as bad as Biden."



# Between Ourselves

## Dan McDougall

Dan McDougall is the chair of the Sign Language Studies Program at Madonna University, and the co-founder of TerpTheatre, a company that specializes in stage interpreting. The 47-year-old Ferndale resident has been working with people who are deaf since 1986, and he's done training and consulting across the country.

### 1 How did you become interested in working with the deaf?

When I was 15 years old, I auditioned for a musical in high school at Fraser High called Runaways. I was in choir at the time, and really wanted a role that would highlight my "great voice." The play was about a bunch of teenagers who had run away from home, and each told his or her own story. During auditions, I noticed that this one character – Hubbell – was listed near a lot of the songs. It would say, "Hubbell sings" over and over. Well, I thought,



Photo courtesy of Alan Pinon.

"I'm gonna ask the director if I can have that part – it'll let me show off my voice." Well, I got the part, and it turned out I was reading the script wrong. Hubbell wasn't singing. Hubbell was deaf, and he was using sign language — he was "signing"!

I learned enough sign to do an okay job in the role. The story was that Hubbell was deaf, but born to a hearing family. His parents refused to learn sign language, so he ran away from home. This mirrors real life, in the sense that the vast majority of deaf people have hearing families, and very few of their parents and siblings ever learn sign language.

### 2 Why is it important to learn ASL?

Learning any second language is an admission that the world is larger than you and your own experiences. So, I'm an advocate for that, period. Signed languages require you to give and receive information in a completely different way than in spoken languages. You're using the language center of your brain, but then also the parts of your brain related to vision, space and movement.

What's great about learning ASL is that the language is used here in the U.S. If you learn French, you're going to have a hard time finding a large French-speaking population in the U.S. The language might be a great hobby, but your job prospects with it aren't great here in the U.S. I'm not dogging French, mind you. It's just that when you learn ASL, you can apply it in a variety of jobs throughout the country.

On a less practical side, the deaf community is an unrecognized and amazing culture that we have right here among us. Deaf people are constantly adapting to the hearing community - But hearing people benefit more when we take strides to reach out to the deaf community.

### 3 Does being gay give you any insight into the challenges of other people, including the hearing impaired?

Oh, it's the other way around: I think deaf people gave me insight into being gay. I wasn't exposed to diversity in Fraser, where I grew up. The deaf community – and my studies related to deaf culture – helped lay a foundation for my understanding of diversity and valuing other people. Many people have this "oh, those poor deaf people" perspective. I know some deaf people who can kick hearing people's asses in every part of life. I think deaf people helped me realize that when we pity another person, we are really trying to build-up ourselves.

Because I am a hearing person, deaf people have also helped me to be less concerned about my ego. Oh, I still have an ego, let's not be phony, here. But, I will *never* be the center of the deaf community – I'm a hearing person. I hope I can do good things in the community, but I respect that I'm not the center of the community's focus.


### 4 What are some of the things you do to help students get excited about learning ASL?

There has been a huge growth in interest to learn sign language, especially since the growth of online-based interpreting services. The State of Michigan projects a shortage of interpreters for the next 15 years, so the job prospects are good.

All of the faculty at Madonna University are also people who do other things in the deaf community. Hearing people who have an interest in sign language often have no idea what they will actually do with ASL. Our faculty are involved in linguistics, interpreting and a host of other local activities, and I think that students enjoy seeing their professors in action.

Many students come to us based on one specific exposure they have had to ASL or the deaf community. They often have one objective in mind. I really enjoy watching students become more aware of the rich variety of experiences in the deaf community, and to seeing them broaden their view of their future. It's essential that we also help hearing students understand how to be an important part of the deaf community without being inadvertently oppressive.

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# Feeling the Flames

## How a Frenzy of Right Wing Comments Got Me Thinking...



### Thinking Out Loud

OPINION BY ABBY DEES

When I sat down to write my last column I didn't think I had much to say about anything. So, stumped for fresh ideas, I revived the topic of my previous column - Chick-fil-A - for a status update. It was one of the most tepid pieces I've written.

Imagine my surprise when within hours of its publication my column had stirred the ire of dozens of right-wingers in the comments section, and even ended up on a far-right website. God knows what happened this week that never happened any other week to put me in the cross-hairs of the culture warriors, but my editor emailed me kudos: "You're a hit!" she wrote to a very rattled me.

Let me share some highlights:

"We know how vicious, angry and intolerant you are, Abby. You won't really be able to hide it. Deviant sex is the center of your world. That level of imbalance is crippling." Or,

"What a loser! Abby Dees. This is your LIFE???? Wow. What a waste." Or,

"Pathetic mewling of a pervert."

These more personal attacks don't bother me too much. They don't know me (and in year seven of my relationship I can only wish that any sex were the center of my world...).

Much more maddening was that the comments that tried to argue actual points weren't responsive to my column at all. Most accused me (as representative of all gay people, by the way) of trying to quash the Chick-fil-A founder's free speech rights - when in fact my entire discussion of the uproar over the last month has been critical of such censorship, particularly by the government. To mangle an old quote, I'll fight to the death for your right to say stupid things.

I was also chastised for not discussing things completely unrelated to the subject of my short column, as if by neglecting to, for example, psychically predict that a nutcase was going to open fire at the Family Research Council, I revealed the hypocrisy of the entire LGBT movement and our disdain for humanity, especially if it's registered Republican.

I must then wonder what the point of having a column is, or sharing our thoughts and opinions, if we are utterly unable to hear what anyone else has to say.

Hey, it goes both ways. My critics threw

arguments about the immorality or brutality of the LGBT movement at me as if they'd found the key to unraveling our plan for world domination. For example:

"'Hate' is now defined as anything with which the left disagrees. In the eyes of most leftists, traditional Christians and Jews are no different than Klansmen."

Huh? While such assertions were met with the Internet equivalent of high fives, I'm left scratching my head that anybody could really think this. Is there any hope for real communication between us?

I know - I shouldn't give it a moment's thought. A conservative friend was amused that I'd pissed off a bunch of "skin heads." A gay friend dismissed it all as the wounded howls of scared nitwits facing the reality that the LGBT train has left the station. Most everyone I know clucked about the number of morons there are.

I'd like to believe that my column magnetically attracted an errant pod of

swastika-tattooed mouth breathers - I refer to them as "far-right" out of respect for my conservative friends and family whose politics don't always line up with mine, but with whom

my disagreements are always respectful and cause us both to think with a little more subtlety. My critics can't be "nice" people like that. One even called me out for suggesting that his ilk were "far-right" when they represent so much of America. I know in my gut he's right (about this). Many are indeed nice people, and damn scared about things they don't understand.

And they too can't imagine that I am the easy-going person that I am, that my relationship is lovely and ordinary,

and that I really don't have an agenda beyond fairness and respect for difference (yes, even religious difference), nor do my friends, gay or otherwise.

So please tell me, how do we keep this rift from getting ever wider?

Imagine my surprise when within hours of its publication my column had stirred the ire of dozens of right-wingers in the comments section, and even ended up on a far-right website. God knows what happened this week that never happened any other week to put me in the cross-hairs of the culture warriors, but my editor emailed me kudos: "You're a hit!" she wrote to a very rattled me.



## 0 Dem Golden Oldies, Mitt!



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It was once said of George Romney, Michigan governor 1963 to 1969, "There but for the grace of God goes god." The quip was made in response to his photogenic GOP brashness, but there's a grain of theocratic truth to the taunt.

Romney was a Mormon, born into a polygamous family in Mexico, his birth making him ineligible to run for United States president. Son Mitt was born in 1947 and raised in Bloomfield Hills, so there's no obstacle to his presidential bid. Getting elected is another story.

There is, however, concern about Mitt's religion among Christian evangelicals. Mitt they argue is not a true Christian, but member of a cult started by Joseph Smith, Jr., in upstate New York, 1830. (The year Smith translated the Book of Mormon, from golden plates left in his keeping by an angel named Moroni.)

Mark Twain called the Mormon bible "printed chloroform". Many quotes are verbatim from the King James New Testament. Its slant: Jesus visited the Americas after his resurrection, preaching to native populations. (How much lasting good it did is debatable.)

According to Mormon teaching, male priesthood members in good temple-endowment standing will be exalted in the afterlife, and with their wife (or, plural wives) will also become a god over their own planet, as Adam once was on earth, with wife Eve.

An "end times" turf war exists between biblical fundamentalists and the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). The LDS Church is one of the world's fastest growing faiths (6.5 million members; estimated wealth at \$8 billion). With membership predicted to triple in 20 years, it poses a theocratic turf threat to traditional born-again faiths.

Up until the mid-1880s the practice of polygamy was a tenet shared among many Mormon leaders and priesthood Saints. (Smith had 44 wives; President Brigham Young, 55. But who's counting?) And, while anyone practicing polygamy today is excommunicated, an estimated 30,000 persons are actively engaged in plural marriages in Arizona and Mexico.

Jon Krakauer in his eye-opening history, "Under the Banner of Heaven," quotes Mormon President, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator John Taylor (1880): "God is greater than the United States . . . Polygamy is a divine institution. It has been handed down direct from God. No nation on earth can prevent it. The United States cannot abolish it." Utah was granted statehood by abolishing the practice.

Biblical traditionalists fear that Mormon missionaries will continue to steal converts, gain stronger political and economic clout, and - as God's Restoration Church, self-styled - at some future date press for legal resumption of the overt "spiritual blessing" of polygamy as optional to those spiritually inclined to practice it. (So, much for LDS \$20 million, tax-free recent opposition to California same-sex marriage.)

The Mormon Church is homophobic ("masturbation leads to becoming gay"), conservative, aligned with Focus on the Family and the American Family Association in promoting antigay platforms.

Mitt's Church also practices baptism for the dead. Recent proxy baptisms for Holocaust victims got the church in hot baptismal water with Orthodox and Conservative Jews. (Oh, yes! Blacks were excluded - their color the biblical "mark of Cain" - from the LDS priesthood until 1978.) Just a tad, shall we say, Angel Moronic.

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## Creep of the Week

OPINION BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

### Rep. Todd Akin



Okay everybody, I have some really shocking news. I know this is going to really hurt some people, but I can't keep this to myself any longer. Oh, here goes: Being anti-women goes hand in hand with being anti-gay. I thought it best that you hear it from me.

If you hear someone spouting that we need to ban birth control and force women to have babies no matter god damned what, chances are good this is

not a person cool with two dudes marrying each other.

Case in point: Rep. Todd Akin (R-Missouri), who has been getting burned by the media spotlight non-stop since he uttered his woefully ignorant comments about how women don't get pregnant from rape unless it's a "legitimate rape" "the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

Just in case there is any confusion, Akin's statement is not true. It is, however, crazy enough to be defended by notable Republicans including Mike Huckabee (also an opponent of gay rights) who went on the record to say that rape babies are awesome for everyone involved (I'm paraphrasing a little bit).

Wiser Republicans have urged Akin to drop out of the race. But they're not that wise considering that the official party platform contains a radical anti-abortion provision that is in line with Akin's belief that there should be no exceptions for rape or incest.

And not surprisingly, that same Republican Party Platform contains anti-gay language as well, giving a party-wide thumbs up to an anti-gay marriage amendment to the United States Constitution.

No doubt Akin is very pleased with this provision as it echoes Akin's own record.

According to Michelangelo Signorile, "Akin voted for a federal marriage amendment twice, ... voted against repealing "don't ask, don't tell" (twice) and against a federal hate-crimes law to protect LGBT individuals (twice)."

In 2006 Akin gave a speech on the House floor about marriage equality. "From a practical point of view, to preserve our civilization and society, it's important for us to preserve marriage," he said. "Anybody who knows something about the history of the human race knows that there is no civilization which has condoned homosexual marriage widely and openly that has long survived."

I'm not sure what civilizations he's referring to. Akin is, apparently, talking about some kind of mythical place where homos were the norm. Since "anybody who knows something about the history of the human race" is supposed to know all about this homo-collapse phenomenon, I guess I know absolutely nothing. Or maybe he forgot to insert the word "pretend" between "something" and "about."

But there's nothing pretend about the Republican Party's disdain for gays and lesbians. Or women. Akin may be getting all of the attention, but he is but a symptom of the disease. Today's GOP doesn't want the government to be part of your life, unless it's deciding what is "legitimate" in your most personal and private life. They decide what is a "legitimate" rape, what is "legitimate" sex between consenting adults, and what constitutes a "legitimate" marriage.

Akin is a poster boy for a party who believes you are a person deserving of rights only while you're in the womb. After that, fuck off. Actually, wait. Fucking of any kind is probably not considered "legitimate." But then, neither should the Republican Party.

## Temple Emanu-El Welcomes New Members Congregation Hosts Community Picnic in Oak Park



Above: Ruthanne Okun and her adopted son have found warmth and acceptance at Temple Emanu-el. Right: Judy Lewis, a member of the affirming Temple Emanu-el for 30 years, felt welcomed and supported throughout her coming out process.

BY VIVIAN DEGAIN

Temple Emanu-El, a liberal Reform synagogue in Oak Park, is a spiritually-affirming and welcoming community to all people.

Judy Lewis of Southfield, director of the Faith Alliance at Affirmations in Ferndale and former director of Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, said Temple Emanu-El is the first Jewish congregation in the area to proactively and openly support diversity and inclusion.

Lewis, a member for 30 years, said, "Temple Emanu-El has been my congregation, my home, and continues to be a place of renewal and reconnection for me. I feel so welcome each time I am engaged in an activity or event, or in worship."

She spoke to the congregation recently when two friends were honored with an anniversary blessing by the rabbi and congregation.

Rabbi Joseph Klein said, "We are an inclusive neighborhood congregation with a strong emphasis on education, social action, and personally meaningful worship experiences. We are a full-service synagogue with a small congregational feel. We know our members. We are large enough to provide quality professional and lay leadership that responds to the many and diverse needs of today's Jewish families."

Ruthanne Okun of Huntington Woods joined Temple Emanu-El in 1999 with her nontraditional Jewish family.

"As a single parent with an adopted

child who was born in Guatemala, I was seeking a temple that would provide us both with unqualified acceptance. I found that at Temple Emanu-El. Rather than focusing on our differences, we have been respected for our uniqueness and welcomed without reservation into the congregational family. We have encountered many kinds of families who have brought an entirely new and unique dimension to our lives." Her son Daniel became a Bar Mitzvah and recently graduated from Emanu-El's high school.

Lewis shared her personal journey as part of a Shabbat worship message recently delivered to the congregation, "In the 1980s, I had just divorced and acknowledged to myself, my family and friends that I was a lesbian. It was during this very frightening and fragile time that I began attending services at Temple Emanu-El. Each week I would meet new people who seemed open and friendly, and I knew that I would need to come out.

"All the rest, as they say in Jewish circles, is commentary. I was accepted fully. So was my daughter and my life partner. I taught in the religious school, served as youth choir director for 15 years and as co-music director for seven years. I never hid the fact that I was a lesbian and a mom. I'm happy to say that I received lovely affirmations from Rabbi Klein and temple staff."

"Temple Emanu-El became the first Jewish congregation to exhibit at the LGBT Marriage Expo, which was sponsored by Between The Lines Newspaper and



the Marriott Hotel in Livonia," she said. "Temple also exhibited at Motor City Pride. The leadership of our temple has provided me with the opportunity to present workshops to our high school students – and to our lay leaders – on becoming an even more welcoming congregation."

Temple Emanu-El invites prospective members to the Family of Families Congregational Picnic 11 a.m. Sept. 9. for food, games, entertainment and activities. The highlight of the event will be the unveiling of a beautiful mosaic tile collage. Each tile was created by children and members to represent their individuality. The tiles have been designed into a beautiful and massive collage representing Jewish community.

Temple Emanu-El extends a personal invitation to all members of the LGBT community and others to visit the congregation and experience first-hand the warm, welcoming and open atmosphere. Temple Emanu-El is located at 14450 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. 248-967-4020 [www.emanuel-mich.org](http://www.emanuel-mich.org).

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# Sexy, Single & Charitable

## ‘Million Dollar Listings’ Star Comes Out for DIFFA Gala Sept. 15

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

“**S**exy” is probably the best word to describe Madison Hildebrand, star of “Bravo’s Million Dollar Listings: Los Angeles” and real-life realtor. Landing over 120 million dollars in sales in six years is pretty sexy. Sitting pretty on the cover of *Playgirl* wearing just monochrome briefs and a smile is even more so.

On Sept. 15, he’ll be setting another landmark in sexy as the special celebrity guest at the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) and Michigan AIDS Coalition fundraiser, Dining by Design.

Even in the best economy, finding success in real estate is difficult. Pulling off a rocket ride of success in the luxury market of Malibu in

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an economy that, at the time, was firmly in the danger zone, is nearly impossible.

Despite this success, Hildebrand has managed to stay humble. But that doesn’t mean he isn’t proud of the nine-digit, and growing, sales figure.

“That was a few years ago. So, (the number has) climbed a lot, especially this year. It’s been

a really busy year, which is great,” he says.

This year has been busy in more ways than one. Last year’s “Millionaire Matchmaker” date never got a second. His date with “Eating Out: Drama Camp” star Chris Salvatore didn’t work out either. But that doesn’t mean he isn’t still trying.

“I’m dating right now, which is fun,” he says, with a chuckle. “It’s kind of funny: (‘Millionaire Matchmaker’ producer) Patti Stanger actually texted me last night; she’s still hooking me up. It’s a lot harder to date when you’re on reality TV.”

Overall he might be flying high, but Hildebrand recognizes the importance of having a backup plan. In fact, he’s pretty sure he knows what he would do if he had to change careers.

“I would dance,” he said, jokingly.

It’s unlikely that he’ll be cast in “Step Up”

any time soon. So, for the time being, he’s enjoying his life in front of the cameras.

“The most exciting part is that my life is documented on video. So, when I have kids or a family, even my dog’s memorial service is on there,” he says.

Although he seems acutely aware of his success, in many ways, it hasn’t yet set in for the 31-year-old openly gay professional and reality TV star.

“I don’t think it has (set in). I feel like there’s always a new challenge and more to grow and learn every day. So, I’m kind of chasing the carrot every day. I feel successful ’cause I’m happy and balanced. But I still feel like there’s always more to do in life.”

See Madison Hildebrand, page 16

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### ► **Madison Hildebrand**

Continued from p. 15

He may be busy chasing metaphorical root vegetables between closing sales of multi-million dollar homes but he's not too busy to enjoy other, slightly smaller, wins. With over 100,000 followers on Twitter, Hildebrand is firmly in the lead against his "Listings" castmates, Josh Flagg and Josh Altman.

What does Hildebrand have that many others don't? By most accounts, it's Hildebrand's friendly charm and B.A. in advertising from Pepperdine University that have been the keys to his success. That might be true, but it's his allergy to clothing, beach-ready body and killer smile that has caused fans to swoon and helped him stand out from the Bravo reality TV crowd.

In 2008, just two years after starting on "Listings," he was casually lounging and nursing his clothing allergy on the cover of *Playgirl*. In his "Risky Business"-themed spread entitled "Frisky Business," Hildebrand strips down to just a towel and a few beads of sweat. He even dons the iconic bright-white socks, dress shirt and tighty whities, naturally.

"That was a fun opportunity that came my way," he said. "I was like, 'Well, when do you get asked to do the cover of *Playgirl*? Why not?' I've always kind of been a rebel. I might look coiffed but I am a rebel, in all ways. I get myself into so many random activities and shooting for *Playgirl* happened to be one of them."

Most recently, he can be seen in a Speedo in Bravo's "Summer by Bravo" promo. But, in the third season

of "Listings," we find him frolicking shirtless and gaily with another similarly tan and fit gentleman by the pool at sunset. It can be frustrating at times but his clothing allergy isn't all bad.

In the episode prior, he was also lounging, shirtless, in a pile of equally shirtless men. This time, his affliction helped to promote the NOH8 campaign. Having come out of the closet on the same episode, the statement was apropos. NOH8 is just one of his many charitable and philanthropic efforts.

Although publicly closeted at the start of his career, Hildebrand has become a LGBT spokesperson within the community. In June he served as the celebrity grand marshal in the 2012 Houston LGBT Pride Parade. He has volunteered his time in an emergency room, with GLAAD and has hosted several charitable events.

September's Dining by Design is up next. The fundraiser is being thrown by DIFFA to benefit the Michigan AIDS Coalition. The two-part event will feature a cocktail party on Sept. 13 and a gala dinner on Sept. 15, which Hildebrand will attend.

For each event, artists create art installations that serve as seating for guests. Aside from some seating requirements, artists have complete creative control over their creations. So, the pieces can range from avant-garde to "oh my god," which is part of the fun.

Although unlikely to be shirtless during the festivities, Hildebrand still will be channeling his powers of persuasion for a good cause. "I'm excited to be a part of what looks like an esteemed group of people and an organization that has a good purpose."

**“I've always kind of been a rebel. I might look coiffed but I am a rebel, in all ways. I get myself into so many random activities and shooting for *Playgirl* happened to be one of them.”**

## Cocktails By Design / ArtWorks Detroit Auction

DIFFA's Cocktails By Design event 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 Yoko Ono, Antonio "Shades" Agee, Thom Bohnert, Carl Demeulenaere and Gerhardt Knodel – will have artwork featured in thrilling live and silent auctions.

Guests will also enjoy delicious food prepared by 25 local restaurants, as well as unique vodka specialty cocktails and La Crema wines. 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. The evening will be hosted by Jon Jordan and DJ'd by PowderBlu.

"Working with the ArtWorks Detroit Committee over the last nine years has been a genuine pleasure for me," said Volunteer and Project Coordinator Monica Mills. "Chair Barbara Bunting has been a driving force, working tirelessly (to connect) artists all over the country for the goal of raising funds for HIV prevention through education. Many other committee members have also given the better part of a decade volunteering for the same effort. Each committee member is truly amazing."

DIFFA's Cocktail By Design is 6 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Joe Dumars Field House, 1120, W. State Fair, in Detroit. Tickets are \$100. For more information, go to <http://michiganaidcoalition.org>.





# When Sex Calls

## Out Director, Rising Star Talk New Comedy, Gay BFFs

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“Does it feel gay to you?” Jamie Travis asks about his directorial debut, “For a Good Time, Call,” as if there was any question that a phone-sex caper with two females engaging in pseudo-lesbian three-ways – and sharing a gay bestie (played by Justin Long) – could be anything less than a 4 on the Kinsey Scale.

“When my agent told me it was a phone sex movie, I was skeptical,” says the Toronto filmmaker, who directed young breakthrough actresses Ari Graynor and Lauren Miller (the wife of Seth Rogen, who has a cameo) – as gal pals Katie and Lauren – saying dirty things and giving dildo demonstrations. “When I started reading the script, I couldn’t put it down. It made me really emotional; it felt like a representation of the girls that I know and love. The thing that drew me to this was not the phone sex at all; it was the notion of telling a sweet friendship story between women that recalled my favorite comedies of the ’80s.”

After all, phone sex isn’t something he’s really worked hard at – except for that one time. “I remember when I was a teenager and friends and I called this date line and I would pick up the phone – and this was just post-puberty – and basically be the transsexual on the call. But no; no one wants to hear my sexy voice. I’ll leave that to Ari and Lauren.”

Known for her standout role in “Nick & Norah’s Infinite Playlist” with a

memorable I’m-drunk-and-want-your-turkey-sandwich scene, Graynor was sent the script eight months before the shoot, which lasted just 16 days. Turns out seeing Graynor so trashed she couldn’t stand up had a really big effect: Miller and Katie Anne Naylor wrote “For a Good Time, Call” with the actress in mind.

“I responded much in the way I did when I read ‘Nick & Norah,’” says Graynor, who also stars alongside Barbra Streisand in the December comedy “The Guilt Trip.” “It’s just very rare nowadays that you see these female characters, especially in comedies, that are so alive and unique and complicated and funny. We all loved the movies of the ’80s with Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin. All those women had character and gumption; they were not your typical beauties. There was a quality about them that was so magnetic that has gotten a little beige over time. I felt so honored that the girls thought of me when they wrote something so smart.” A movie that recalls Bette and Lily? Yes, Jamie, “For a Good Time, Call” feels very gay.

### About the film’s gayness

**Ari Graynor:** This is certainly, like, the gayest movie ever made! (Laughs) What’s fun is that straight men seem to love it, too – and women and the gays, of course – so I feel like we’re winning.

**Jamie Travis:** I’m glad I put my big gay stamp on it. I don’t know if I could make

anything that doesn’t feel gay. I don’t wake up in the morning and say, “I’m gonna make a gay film today.” Even with my short films that feature questionably gay characters and sort of queer preoccupations, I never intend to make gay film but just to make film that I want to make. I think that female friendship is something that gay men in particular are really invested in, so when Jesse (Long’s character) yearns for his friends – his two best friends who hate each other – to be friends, it’s something that most people can relate to.

I hope no one thinks it’s directed by a straight man. My emphasis here so much was to balance the sweetness and the raunch, and the adjective I hear most when people walk out of the film is “sweet.” It makes me feel like I’ve really done my job. I read it as a sweet callback. It’s been getting comparisons to Doris Day films of the ’50s. It’s such a nice compliment that it recalls these other great eras of female-driven filmmaking.

### On gay best friends

**Graynor:** I have a bicoastal contingency. I have my brother-in-life: I’m an only child, but we met 15 years ago and his name is Michael Medico and he’s actually in “For a Good Time, Call”; he’s the gentleman who comes to look at the apartment at the very beginning. I snuck him in there. I have a few in New York, as well.

The thing that’s so great about a gay

See When Sex Calls, page 18

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Ari Graynor, director Jamie Travis and Lauren Miller of "For a Good Time, Call." Photo: Focus Features

### ► When Sex Calls

Continued from p. 17

friend is when you're a woman with a female friend – as beautiful and healthy and supportive as that relationship can be – sometimes there's just the slightest undercurrent of competition, just innately, by both being women. Then with a straight male friend, there can always be sexual tension. But when you have your Jesse, your gay best friend, it takes both of those things out of the equation.

**Travis:** If you look at the movie through Jesse's eyes, he's got a perfect situation going on: The two female archetypes of his life both seem to gravitate toward gay men.

I really wanted to press upon Justin that we're going with a really grounded approach with the character of Jesse; we want this to feel real. For me, I always worry putting a gay character in a movie. Are people going to think it's stereotypical? People may think that and it's not. I see a lot of myself in it. As soon as he heard that, he told me he liked my voice and he wanted to meet with me and have dinner and record me on his iPhone reading lines from the script. I don't want to say he was playing me at all, because that's embarrassing and I don't think that's accurate, but he would definitely follow me on set and mimic my physical behavior. It really was a project for him from a physicality level. He definitely took from my mannerisms and my physicality, which brought so much to it.

Justin is such a huge talent; I can only assume that he likes to take on a challenge, and he did it with such gusto. He was so game. We had originally offered him another role in the script, but he wanted to play the gay character. I never even knew Justin was as good as he was until I saw him

on set. He really is the best improviser. He would invent jokes in the moment and he had such a smart approach in making him as memorable as he is in the movie. I just love him so much.

### Including a lesbian caller

**Travis:** We're a very open-minded bunch who made this film, so from the start, we always knew one of the callers was going to be a woman. Martha MacIsaac is the girl who almost had sex with Michael Cera in "Superbad."

**Graynor:** Part of this movie, and part of Katie, is about being open and nonjudgmental. We're trying to make this a sex-positive film and take the shame out of sexuality that I think people have needlessly. So, bring on the female callers!

### Pluses of having a gay director

**Graynor:** Regardless of Jamie's sexuality or because of it or whatever – it's innately who he is, so it's hard to separate the two – he got this movie. He understood the characters, he understood their relationship, he knew how to elevate the already really incredible material and make it something even more special. I think there could've been that danger of somebody – potentially a straight male or just anyone else – oversexualizing this; they could've thought it was a good idea to put me and Lauren in our bra and panties, having a pillow fight during the three-way scene, or there could've been someone who over-sentimentalized it and made it saccharine. He just really understood the tone. He loves women and has adoration for women, and that really comes across from this.

### The girls' psuedo-lesbianism

**Graynor:** Certainly we're playing with that balance – not about being lesbians, but with this being a romantic comedy subverted to be about friendship and a lot of those dynamics: They don't like each other, then they fall in love; they fight, then they get back together. With the three-way scene, we definitely had our tongues firmly planted in our cheeks, but it was never our intention to suggest a blur in their own sexuality with each other. It was more that female friends form very intimate relationships and female friends touch each other – not like that! – and they're very physical with each other. I sleep in the same bed with my best friends.

### Return of the female buddy comedy

**Travis:** The female buddy comedy has sort of disappeared and, of course, when I was a teenager in the '80s that's all I wanted to watch. I'm sure these scripts have always been circulating in Hollywood, but they're just not being made because they seemed risky. R-rated female comedies made in the '90s didn't make much money. But "Bridesmaids" really opened the door, and I hope there's a whole bunch more female-driven films.

### Going low for dough

**Travis:** I was 17 years old and living in Vancouver, where I grew up, and I worked a day as a mascot at the Capilano Suspension Bridge in this disgustingly smelly, giant beaver costume. I would say dressing up as a beaver to entertain children was the worst way to make money.

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*Sunday, 9/23*

**Lansing/East Lansing**, Valley Court Park, East Lansing

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Sept. 6

LGBT Professionals Network Mixer 6 p.m. Join the Kalamazoo LGBT Professionals Network for their monthly social mixer. Come meet new friends and check out a great nightlife location in Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 266 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kgllrc.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. Crystallr@jimtoycenter.org

### Friday, Sept. 7

**Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m.** Film: Sommore: The Queen Stands Alone. Using her distinctive style of observational humor that grabbed attention during The Queens of Comedy tour, funny woman Sommore hits the stage again to share her urban perspective on everything from love and sex to living in rough economic times. Standup Comedy 2007, 90 minutes. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

**S.P.I.C.E. 7:30 p.m.** S.P.I.C.E. works to empower and enhance the lives of women of color in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning community in Metropolitan Detroit, by eradicating the health, social and educational barriers facing them. Meetings are on the first Friday of every month. S.P.I.C.E., 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### Saturday, Sept. 8

**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. Thetnetwork@grlgbt.org GRlgbt.org

### Sunday, Sept. 9

**GLSEN Southeast Michigan Lifesaver Luncheon 1 a.m.** GLSEN Southeast

Michigan works to address bullying in schools by anti-LGBT bias trainings of school staff and connection of Gay Straight Alliance clubs in Junior High and High Schools in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb County. GLSEN Southeast Michigan, One Riverbank Road Belle Isle, Detroit. 248-716-0106. GLSENsemi@gmail.com Glsen.org/southeastmichigan

**Fall Fab Fest 1 p.m.** In September, Kalamazoo will welcome over 40,000 students at various colleges and universities. Fall Fab Fest will serve as the only Fall welcome event specifically supporting and welcoming LGBT and ally students. Western Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. 269-387-2123. LGBT-Coordinator@wmich.edu

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

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

**The Conversation Station 5 p.m.** Weekly discussion group for LGBTQ 25 and over. Week's topic: What was the worst mistake you ever made? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

### Monday, Sept. 10

**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

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

### Tuesday, Sept. 11

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

### Wednesday, Sept. 12

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

**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

### Thursday, Sept. 13

**Dining by Design-Cocktails and Artworks 6 p.m.** DINING BY DESIGN is a one-of-a-kind, spectacular event that showcases local talent in the design, artistic and architectural community, who are then paired with Table Sponsors or hosts to create three-dimensional dining installations that are works of art and wild beyond imagination. DIFFA, 1120 W. State Fair Ave., Detroit. 248-545-1435 Ext. 10. DIFFA.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. Kgllrc.org

### Friday, Sept. 14

**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

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

**Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m.** Film: Tea with Mussolini; Based on director Franco Zeffirelli's childhood in 1930s Italy, this film follows a group of Englishwomen living in Italy who believe that fascist leader Benito Mussolini will protect them from war's gathering storm clouds. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### Saturday, Sept. 15

**AIDS Walk Michigan-Central Michigan 9 a.m.** The annual AIDS Walk helps to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and simultaneously it helps to raise funds for local AIDS services. For many, these services are a lifeline to food, housing, transportation and support services that are designed for people and families living with HIV and AIDS. AIDS Walk Michigan, Island Park, Mt. Pleasant. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

**Dining by Design-Gala Dinner 6 p.m.** Dinner and appetizers provided by Matt Prentice Restaurant Group, live entertainment, valet parking, and silent auction. Raising funds for HIV/AIDS services and education organizations. DIFFA, 1120 W. State Fair Ave., Detroit. 248-545-1435 Ext. 10. DIFFA.org

### Sunday, Sept. 16

**AIDS Walk Detroit 8 a.m.** Help us raise \$200,000 for AIDS Walk Detroit in 2012 by signing up to walk today. You can register to walk, volunteer, or become a sponsor online or by calling. AIDS Walk Detroit, 316 E. 11 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. 248-399-WALK. AIDSWalkDetroit.org

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

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

**The Conversation Station 5 p.m.** Weekly discussion group for LGBTQ 25 and over. Week's topic: Who was your first crush? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

## MUSIC & MORE

### COMEDY

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Jon Fisch"** Jon Fisch was recently featured in Maxim Magazine and is the host of the widely popular podcast, "In the Tank." A prolific monologist with universal appeal, Jon focuses on the idiosyncrasies of city living. Tickets: \$10-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 7-Sept. 8. 734-996-9080. AnnArborArtCenter.org

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Dwayne Gill"** A Marine, A Cop and A Comic-Dwayne Gill is a triple threat! Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 14-Sept. 15. 734-996-9080. AACComedy.com

**Ford Community PAC "Paula Poundstone"** Poundstone, of from NPRs news quiz show, Wait Wait Dont Tell Me. Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paulas ability to create humor on the spot has become the stuff of legend. Ford Community PAC, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14. 313-943-2354. Dearborntheater.com



Paula Poundstone in Dearborn

**Olympia Entertainment "Clucked up Comedy"** The Clucked Up Comedy series brings "Saturday Night Sizzle-The Hot 'Chicks' of Comedy" to Detroit's intimate City Theatre starring Vanessa Fraction, Ashima Franklin and Tiffany Haddish. Tickets \$23. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 15. 313-471-3200. Olympiaentertainment.com

**The Fillmore Detroit "Gabriel Iglesias"** Comedy Central Live. Tickets: \$42. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 14. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

### CONCERTS

**Intersection "Dirty Dozen Brass Band"** Tickets: \$17-20. Intersection, 133 Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. Sept. 6. 616-451-8232. SectionLive.com

**Intersection "The Twin Cats"** Tickets: \$10. Intersection, 133 Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids. 8 p.m. Sept. 7. 616-451-8232. SectionLive.com

**Kerrytown Concert House "Alex Levine Quartet"** Guitarist Alex Levine recently completed a degree in jazz studies at the University of Michigan, and formed a quartet as a vehicle for performing his original music. The quartet, Alex Levine (guitar), Marcus Elliot (saxophone), Ben Roston (bass), and Julian Allen (drums), has collaborated in a multitude of situations, including as sidemen for top jazz musicians in the region, in Ann Arbor hip-hop band "Tree City and the Contra Band", as modern dance accompanists, studio session musicians, and most recently in the production of Ben Rolston's debut album, Fables. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 7. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Olympia Entertainment "Verizon's How Sweet The Sound"** Verizon's How Sweet The Sound Gospel Celebration, the country's premiere and most prestigious gospel music experience, returns to Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. Tickets: \$10-20. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Olympia Entertainment "Marsha Ambrosius"** Tickets: \$33-45. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

**The Ark "Glen Hansard and Iron & Wine"** Hansard, best known for his work with The Frames, The Swell Season and in the feature film Once, for which he won

an Academy Award and Iron & Wine's Sam Beam perform together at Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 15. 800-745-3000. TheArk.org

**The Fillmore Detroit "Metric"** Tickets: \$32-39. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 8. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

**The Fillmore Detroit "Tyga"** With special guest Kirko Bangz. Tickets: \$25-45. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Sept. 15. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

**The Palace "An Evening with Smokey Robinson"** Performing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Tickets: \$25-85. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 8 p.m. Sept. 15. 248-377-0100. ThePalace.net

**The Palace "Mary J Blige and D'Angelo"** The Liberation Tour. Tickets: \$56-126. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Sept. 14. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

**Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University "Sheryl Crow"** Free-spirited, fearless and fierce, Sheryl Crow has garnered nine Grammys; performed duets with musical luminaries such as Sting and Mick Jagger; released seven studio albums which sold more than 35 million records worldwide; is a cancer survivor and passionate humanitarian; and has even performed for President Obama. Tickets: \$38-78. Cobb Great Hall, 1 Wharton Center Dr., East Lansing. 7 p.m. Sept. 9. 517-432-2000. WhartonCenter.com

### OTHER

**Kerrytown Concert House "Quartet San Francisco"** Non-traditional in their delivery, QSF redefines the sound of chamber music. "When the music says swing, we swing. When the music says groove, we groove." Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

**People for Palmer Park "Raise the Roof Benefit"** Help restore Palmer Parks historic log cabin, built in 1885 for Senator Thomas Palmer and his wife Lizzie Merrill Palmer. Palmer Park, Palmer Park, Detroit. 4 a.m. Sept. 8. 313-757-2751. Peopleforpalmerpark.org/2012/06/05/log-cabin-day/

**Preservation Detroit "The Architecture of Cyril Schley and Walter Lentz"** Latest bus tour of Detroit's lesser-known, yet utterly fantastic architects, featuring the architecture of Cyril Schley and Walter Lentz. Cliff Bells, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit. 10 a.m. Sept. 15. Preservationdetroit.org/2012/08/13/the-architecture-of-schley-and-lentz-saturday-september-15-2012/

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**A Man For All Seasons** \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Sep. 7 - 16. 248-644-2075. Birminghamvillageplayers.com

**Anything Goes** \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sep. 13 - 16. 734-971-2228. A2CT.org

**Hollywood and Hyde** Free reading; donations accepted. Emergent Arts Theatre Company at Wolverine State Brewing Company Tap Room, 2019 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor. Sep. 9 - 16. 734-985-0875. emergentarts.com

**Legally Blonde - The Musical** \$18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Sep. 7 - 30. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org

Continued on page 24



## Editor's Pick

Free-spirited, fearless and fierce, Sheryl Crow has garnered nine Grammys; performed duets with musical luminaries such as Sting and Mick Jagger; released seven studio albums which sold more than 35 million records worldwide; is a cancer survivor and passionate humanitarian; and has even performed for President Obama! Now Sheryl Crow is coming to mid-Michigan and will be performing at Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall.

Sheryl Crow began her career as a music teacher for an elementary school while singing in bands on the weekends. After meeting musician and producer Jay Oliver, Crow entered the world of advertisement by singing jingles for various companies. She eventually began work as a backup singer and toured with Michael Jackson in his Bad World Tour from 1987-1989, slowly working on her own music all the while and performing with various established artists including Stevie Wonder, Belinda Carlisle and Don Henley.

Crow performs at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall in Lansing. Tickets are on sale now online at [www.Whartoncenter.com](http://www.Whartoncenter.com) or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

# Out of Town

## Eight Essentials for an Alaska Adventure

BY ANDREW COLLINS

I spent 15 days touring Alaska (travelalaska.com) with a friend earlier this summer, my second extended trip to the country's largest state in the past three years. My previous trip included a memorable Holland America Line (hollandamerica.com) cruise through the Inside Passage, followed by a four-day land trip north through Anchorage and Talkeetna. On this most recent adventure, I overnighted in eight different towns, from Juneau and Skagway in the southeast to Fairbanks in the east-central section of the state.

Even having jumped around the state a bit, I've only just scratched the surface in terms of getting to know this state nearly four times the size of California. But I have at least come up with a good list of must-see activities or places I strongly recommend experiencing. Here, in no particular order, are eight essential Alaska highlights.

### Drink your share of Alaska craft beer

What Alaska lacks in gay nightlife, it more than makes up for in quirky, offbeat bars with diverse, generally gay-friendly followings. Some of the best of these hangouts are craft-beer pubs, of which Anchorage has the greatest number. A few blocks apart in the city's downtown, Glacier Brew House and Humpy's both serve first-rate beer and great food, and in Midtown, the Bear Tooth Theatrepub and Grill, and nearby Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria are popular with the gay community and serve outstanding food and distinctive beers.

In Juneau, the venerable Alaska Brewing Co. is one of the foremost craft-beer makers in the country, and although there's no brewpub on site, you can stop by for a tour and tastings, and the company's beer is widely available at bars all over Alaska. Also in southeast Alaska, the funky and friendly Skagway Brewing Co. is a great place to sip Spruce Tip Blonde (a locally distinctive beer flavored with hand-picked Sitka spruce tips) and munch on tasty bar food. Fairbanks is home to another terrific brewpub, the Silver Gulch, which is as well-regarded for its malty Pick Axe Porter as for such delicious fare as beer-braised pork ribs and IPA fish-and-chips.

### Take the bus into Denali

Visitors to Alaska's iconic national park, Denali, are sometimes overwhelmed by the sheer immensity of this 6-million-acre



Mt. McKinley is the highest peak in North America. Photo: Andrew Collins

wilderness crowned by North America's highest peak, Mount McKinley (20,320 feet). The park is ideally explored over the course of a few days, but even with one full day, it's possible to cover a remarkable amount of ground. There's one road into the park, and beyond the first 15 miles, only official park school buses are permitted.

Options for touring the park by bus include guided tours and more flexible and less expensive "hop-on/hop-off" shuttles. A practical one-day strategy is taking a shuttle bus to the stunning and relatively new Eielson Visitor Center, which is 66 miles into the park and access two short but very scenic hikes with Denali peak views. The trip here takes a minimum of eight hours round-trip, but the ride itself is part of the fun - guides frequently comment on the scenery and stop to allow passengers to snap photos of wildlife, which can include caribou, Dall sheep, golden eagles, moose, wolves, and grizzly bears.

### Explore the Kenai Peninsula

With relatively easy access to Anchorage, a slew of engaging towns and attractions, and rugged, spectacular scenery that takes in everything from massive glaciers to icy fjords to dense forests, this peninsula about half the size of South Carolina is ideal for road-tripping. The top towns for visitors are the artsy and progressive fishing town of Homer (the farthest from Anchorage, at 220 miles); scenic Seward, the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park; and secluded Whittier, situated at the end of Passage Canal, which links to Prince William Sound. You can also forego driving and take the Alaska Scenic Railroad from Anchorage to Seward or Whittier, enjoying

some close-up glacier views along the way.

On your way to the peninsula, consider tacking on a night or two in tiny Girdwood, just 40 miles from Anchorage, spending the night at the elegant Alyeska Resort (alyeskaresort.com). This upscale hotel and ski resort has beautiful rooms, a full spa, and one of the top destination restaurants in the state, Seven Glaciers, which is reached via aerial tram. From Girdwood, it's a short drive to one of the peninsula's most fascinating attractions, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center - others must include the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, and the Alaska Islands & Oceans Visitor Center in Homer.

If you'd prefer an all-inclusive touring approach to the Kenai Peninsula, with some incredible outdoor recreational opportunities, book a trip with Alaska Wildland Adventures (alaskawildland.com), which has three one-of-a-kind accommodations on the peninsula, the Kenai Riverside Lodge, Kenai Backcountry Lodge, and Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. AWA's trips include everything from adrenaline-pumping white-water rafting and sea-kayaking to more easygoing hikes, float trips, and fishing outings. These tours are ideal for families or groups of friends traveling together.

### Trek on a glacier

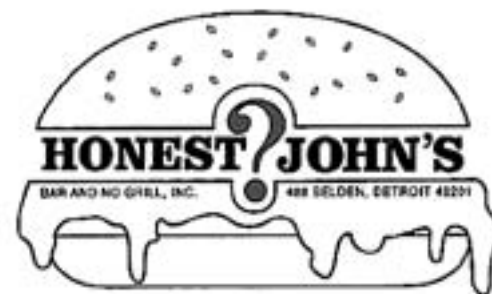
Opportunities to view these glaciers abound from Juneau north into Denali National Park. One of the most amazing ways to experience one of these hulking masses of slow-moving ice is to hike directly onto one. In the historic gold-rush town of Skagway, at the northern end of the Inside Passage, Packer Expeditions (packerexpeditions.com) offers wilderness and snowshoe hikes onto Laughton Glacier. These full-day adventures involve riding the historic White Pass & Yukon Route Railway to a mountain trailhead, and then trekking about 4 miles through verdant woodland and then onto the glacier.

In Juneau, Above & Beyond Alaska (beyondak.com) has developed an amazing glacier trek on which you'll hike 3.5 miles through rainforest alongside Mendenhall Lake, then don crampons and ice axes and walk for more than an hour atop Mendenhall Glacier. If conditions permit, you may also hike inside one of the surreal, blue-walled ice cave that have formed beneath the glacier.

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## Editor's Pick

"A Man For All Seasons," the opening play of the Village Players' 90th season, examines a man's struggle to balance his life between politics and conscience. This Tony Award-winning drama details the end of the life of Thomas More, the man who held his country's highest political office. He wanted to remain loyal to the king and at the same time to his conviction of conscience.

As director Dale Feldpausch says, "What attracted me to this play is the idea of a man staying absolutely true to himself in the face of enormous pressure, and at the risk of losing everything. How refreshing it would be, in our time, to have statesmen who did not change their stances based on the latest focus group findings or survey results."

Performances are at 8 p.m. Sept. 7, 8, 14, 15 and 2 p.m. Sept. 9 and 16 at the Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham. For tickets, call 248-644-2075.

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

**My Fair Lady** \$16-18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Sep. 14 - 23. 734-394-5460. SpotlightPlayersMI.org

**Spring Awakening** \$18-20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 13 - 23. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**Vigil** \$15. LCC Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 Grand Avenue, Room 168, Lansing. Sep. 14 - 23. 517-372-0945. lcc.edu/showinfo

### PROFESSIONAL

**"8" The Play** A staged reading. \$35 to benefit the American Federation of Equal Right. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 4 p.m. Sep. 9. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

**A Little Work** \$18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, Bloomfield. Sep. 6 - 30. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

**Avenue Q** Free, but reservations recommended. NightBlue at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 6. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Billy Elliot The Musical** \$39-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 4 - 16. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

**Deathtrap** Previews Sept. 6-7. \$29-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Sep. 6 - Oct. 7. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Extroverted Olive Oil** \$10. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sep. 14 - 15. 269-599-7390. crawlspacetheatre.com

**God of Carnage** \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Sep. 7 - Oct. 6. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

**Opera at The Acorn** \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 15. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Shopping & F\*\*\*ing** \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 8 - 24. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

**The Language of Birds** \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Sep. 7 - 9. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**The Rocky Horror Show** \$17.50-22.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Sep. 7 - 8. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

## ART'N'AROUND

**Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History** "The Chris Webber Collection" Chris Webber, Detroit native, National Basketball Association All-Star player (retired) and NBA announcer, collects rare artifacts that illuminate the lives and legacies of African American greats such as Phillis Wheatley, the first African American author; 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. TheWright.org

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

**Epiphany Studios** "Epiphany Glass Open House" Epiphany studio opens its state of the art hot glass studio to the public the first Thursday of every month. See the working studio of glass artist April Wagner and her latest work. Glass blowing demonstrations throughout the evening by the artist and her assistants. Light refreshments will be served. Epiphany Glass Studio, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. July 5-Nov. 1. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

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

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Vision in a Cornfield" Based on an unexpected encounter shared by artists Mike Kelley and Cary Loren, which took place in a cornfield in Wixom, Michigan. It is also a reunion and re-imagining of an unsanctioned art project in the streets of Detroit by the members of the 30-year-old collective, Ogun, named after the Yoruba deity of iron, hunting, politics and war. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Anri Sala" Exhibition of two films, Dammi i Colori and Long Sorrow, by the Albanian-born Sala, who lives and works in Berlin, Germany. The films are artistic metaphors and social documents. They are portraits of communities in crisis and reflections of the human condition. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

**Riverside Arts Center** "The Pieces Fall Together" The Chelsea Painters are doing a theme exhibit called "The Pieces Fall Together." They will also be doing book signings at their art reception. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sept. 6-Sept. 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.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-Oct. 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** "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. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



# Mason Street Warehouse Brings '8' The Play to West Michigan

**SAUGATUCK** – The Saugatuck Center for the Arts' Mason Street Warehouse brings the critically acclaimed "8" The Play to West Michigan at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9.

"8" The Play is Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black's newest work, demystifying the debate around marriage equality by chronicling the landmark California trial of Perry v. Schwarzenegger. "This is a fantastic opportunity to expand our theater season," says SCA executive director Kristin Armstrong. "We know West Michigan audiences are interested in professional theater year-round, and we are thrilled to take advantage of exciting possibilities like this."

Using the actual court transcripts from the landmark federal trial of California's Prop. 8 and first-hand interviews, "8" shows both sides of the debate in a moving 90-minute play. A performance

of "8" this past spring in Los Angeles with a star-studded cast generated national buzz and media attention. "8" has been performed in Michigan in east-side theaters; MSW's performance will be West Michigan's first opportunity to experience the play.

"We are honored to bring this very important piece to the SCA," shares artistic director Kurt Stamm, who will direct "8." "We've wanted to do staged readings for years, and this is an ideal opportunity. The quality of this play is so high and the content so timely that we wanted to bring it to the West Michigan community."

Stamm will bring together a 21-member cast of local and national theater professionals to perform the play, including WGVU's Shelley Irwin and various Mason Street Warehouse alumni who will return to Saugatuck for the one-time-only performance.



A talkback with the cast, director, and experts will be held following the performance. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to the American Federation for Equal Rights.

Tickets for the staged reading are \$35 each and may be purchased at [www.sc4a.org](http://www.sc4a.org) or by calling 269-857-2399.

## 'Shopping & F\*\*\*ing' Makes Detroit-Area Premiere

**FERNDALE** – The Ringwald opens its sixth season with the Detroit debut of Mark Ravenhill's gritty and controversial "Shopping & F\*\*\*ing." The first show in a season all about Family, Shopping & F\*\*\*ing, opens Saturday, Sept. 8 and will play Saturdays-Mondays for an exclusive three-week run at The Ringwald Theatre in downtown Ferndale.

"Shopping & F\*\*\*ing" follows a crowd of drifters and sex traders in a seedy area of London. Five main characters comprise an unlikely family at whose center is an ever-changing love triangle of petty criminals. It is a gritty, grimy urban society, a microcosm of drugs, shoplifting, prostitution and sexual adventure. The characters have shunned morality and conduct hedonistic and destructive lives in this shocking, humorous, nihilistic play that examines a completely corrupted society.

Please note: "Shopping & F\*\*\*ing" contains nudity, violence, and adult situations.

This groundbreaking drama was Mark Ravenhill's first full-length play and part of a movement in the 1990s of "in-ya-face" British theater that dealt frankly with issues of sex and violence and pointedly challenged societal values.

"Shopping & F\*\*\*ing" opens Saturday, Sept. 8 and plays through Monday, Sept. 24.



(Clockwise from upper left) Robbie (Robbie Dwight), Mark (Matthew Turner Shelton), Gary (Bailey Boudreau), and Lulu (Zee Bricker) spend the day "Shopping & F\*\*\*ing" at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre. Photo: Joe Plambeck.

performance times are 8 p.m. Saturday and Monday nights and 3 p.m. Sunday matinees. A talkback will take place after the Sunday, Sept. 16 performance.

Ticket prices are \$20 for Saturday performances, \$15 for Sunday shows, and Monday nights are half off the Saturday ticket price at only \$10 a ticket. Tickets

can be purchased at [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com) or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or Visa/Mastercard.

The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Ave. in the Times Square of Ferndale.

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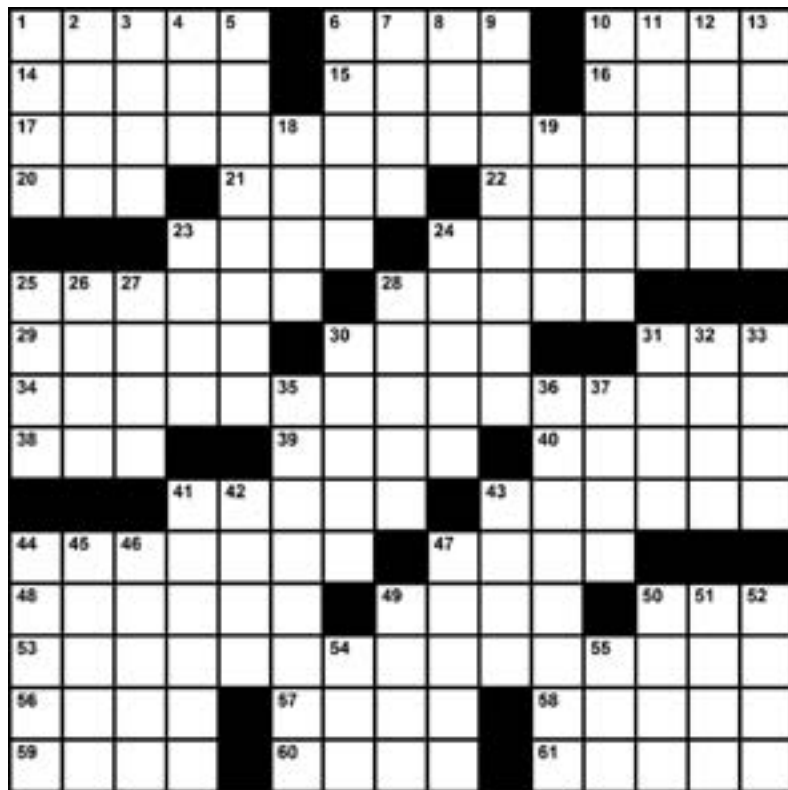
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# Gay-Straight Alliance



## Across

- 1 "Gay \_\_\_ Sutra"
- 5 Prickteasers
- 10 Alpert of "Mame" fame
- 14 Aladdin or Scheherazade
- 15 In-your-face
- 16 Words said near crystal balls
- 17 Cans, in the UK
- 18 Word to someone stroking your tummy
- 19 Mane location
- 20 Start of a Gore Vidal quote
- 23 Fill with bullets
- 24 Sauna bath sites
- 25 Hard woody nut
- 27 Sal Mineo's role in "Rebel Without a Cause"
- 30 More of the quote
- 34 Prefix with Stein?
- 35 Singer Freddie
- 36 Disencumber
- 38 Shankar of sitar
- 40 Subjects of James IV
- 41 "Move your butt!"
- 42 Makes a wet blanket
- 44 Cups and such
- 45 More of the quote
- 51 More of the quote

53 Saikaku's "Gay Tales of the \_\_\_"

- 54 End of the quote
- 57 Picks out, with "for"
- 59 Traffic cop's tool
- 60 Men-only affair
- 61 Circus sideshow oddity
- 62 Insurance worker
- 63 Wang in fashion
- 64 "I Shot \_\_\_ Warhol"
- 65 Dry runs
- 66 Treated as a sexual object

## Down

- 1 "Cabaret"'s Kit-\_\_\_ Klub
- 2 Opera queen's delight
- 3 Author Thomas
- 4 When repeated, a Faulkner title
- 5 They shoot off hot stuff
- 6 Circumvent
- 7 Output from small pussies
- 8 Part of the media
- 9 G-string wearers
- 10 Doesn't quite tell
- 11 Actor Morales
- 12 Muscle Mary stat
- 13 Spelling contest
- 21 "Air Music" composer Ned

- 22 Full of four-letter words
- 25 Ang Lee, for one
- 26 Screwed up
- 28 Gives a pink slip to
- 29 Hunter that comes out at night
- 31 Atomic energy org.
- 32 "The Name of the Rose" writer
- 33 On the other hand
- 34 Hesitation sounds
- 37 Orientation determiner, some say
- 39 WWII battle site, for short
- 41 Half of a ballroom dance
- 43 Sinking ship's call
- 44 X at a frat party
- 46 Purity unit
- 47 It may be spitting
- 48 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 49 Randolph Scott's companion Cary
- 50 Petite pies
- 51 Eastern discipline
- 52 What you do at the other end
- 55 Internally pink
- 56 "My stars!"
- 58 Shade of blue
- 60 Sex Crimes division, to B.D. Wong

Solution on pg. 28



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bitter girl



# Horoscopes

## Scale it back, Gemini!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Venus enters Leo while in hard aspect to Sun and Jupiter. Yes, there can be too much charm, sweetness and light. Most of the other planets want to get to work. Scale back from saccharine to diplomatic and you can do anything.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** If malaise hits, focus on what's bothering you and get into action. Your voice is even louder and more forceful than usual. If you feel a need to yell at others, talk gently – at least first – with a trusted friend.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Playful flirtations are likely to overstep bounds. Scale it back just a little bit! Optimistic financial plans are way too much. If it looks too good to be true, it is. Get solid, reliable advice before putting your money anywhere.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Keep your hands busy, ears open and mouth shut – except for lovemaking. Sex is great, but verbal intercourse can get contentious. Housecleaning is the most productive and second best way of working off that energy.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Indulge yourself with a massage, a day at a spa, a long leisurely visit at a museum or a scenic hike. The company of a very close, trusted friend is ideal; don't settle for anyone less. Solitude is good for the soul, too.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Venus brings you even more charm and gorgeousness entering your sign on the 6th. She's pretty amped up, so be careful not to overdo it. Those friends who are encouraging you, are they laughing with you or at you?

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Friends mean well. Bless their hearts, if not their brains. Criticizing them will backfire and their ideas could prove springboards to better ones. You need an outlet; save your kvetching for a very trusted and patient friend.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Enjoy the fruits of your labor, but be careful not to over-indulge. Too much partying could make you sick, or bring latent problems to the surface. If friends offer health advice, the less you like it, the more you should listen.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Too much individual initiative can be your downfall, but with forethought, intuition and advice from friends, you can do almost anything – within reason. If you're not entirely happy where you're working, get résumés to wherever you'd rather be.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Stay way back from the line between flirtation and sexual harassment. You're a little too frisky. In the right time and place, that can work for you spectacularly, but elsewhere it could undermine your professional reputation.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Your drive is strong enough to achieve nearly anything. Keep your mind focused on necessary work and away from arguments, especially at home. Sex may not solve any problems, but it can help you endure them.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Your mouth is the magic door to trouble. Think ahead, listen attentively and be very careful about the right time and place to get down and dirty. Remember what you must never, ever do in your own back yard!

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Trying to be helpful around the house can cause trouble with your partner or roommates. Talk, and match actions to words. An argument with a friend can bruise your ego, but brave it and clear the air.

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

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## Solution to puzzle from page 26

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# Decisions, decisions



## Dear Jody

OPINION BY JODY VALLEY

**Q:** I recently met a wonderful woman, “Karen.” We met at a friend’s party. For both of us it was love at first sight. I’ve never had this happen before. When I saw her I knew she was the one I wanted to spend my life with.

The party was on Friday night and we ended up spending the whole weekend together, and other than a few work-related phone calls, we totally focused on each other. It was like the best weekend I’ve ever had. She made me feel so loved and cherished. She seemed to know, before I did, what I wanted and needed.

When we met she was getting ready to go on a business trip to Hawaii. She asked me to go with her, so I arranged to get the time off work (my job is pretty flexible). Anyway, Hawaii was wonderful. Karen had to work some long days, but I spent my time on the beach relaxing, reading and soaking up the atmosphere. When we were together we went to wonderful restaurants that I could never have afforded. She bought me whatever caught my eye, and we spent a lot of time making love. It was a dream vacation.

On the way home we made the decision to move in together. My place was too small, so I moved in with her. Since we’ve gotten back, Karen has been really busy at work with a big project. She didn’t have time to help me move so she hired a moving company to pack, move and unpack my stuff. I didn’t have that much because I got rid of most of my furniture and household items, since hers is much nicer.

I’ve been living with Karen now for four months, but I don’t see her much. She has long hours and, even at home, she has to work; she’s on the computer or phone or texting. We really don’t have much time to do things together, but when we do, it’s just like when we first met; that is, she is loving and attentive. (I do get tired of the constant work-related interruptions but I know Karen can’t help it.)

Karen has asked me to quit my job so I can be there when she’s home. With her income I don’t need to work, because I have more money than I have ever had in my life, and it’s quite enough. My job is working with homeless people. I love my work and even though I don’t make much money, I feel like what I do is important. Karen says that we could give a big donation to the organization that I work for and that would do as much – or more – for the homeless than my working there. She’s probably right, because our agency now receives less in donations and funding.

My quandary is whether or not to give up my job. I want to be here for Karen and, like I said, the organization could certainly use the money, but I don’t know whether I want to be home all day with nothing to do. Karen suggested volunteer work, as long as it was flexible, so I’d be home when she was off.

What should I do?

*Could Be A Kept Woman*

**A:** Everything has happened very quickly for you and Karen. You both really haven’t had much time to get to know each other. You are still in the honeymoon stage. You complain a lot about her lack of time for your relationship with her. You seem to be aware of the importance of her job to her and how it takes precedence in her life, but you can’t understand, at this time, how it will feel in the long run.

For now, I suggest you don’t burn any bridges and continue to work. You need to consider how you would feel – over a longer period of time – about giving up the work that you love, being financially dependent on Karen, and living with someone who has little time for a relationship.

As I said, this has all happened so fast. Take time to focus on your career and what you want out of life before you make any big changes.

*A special note from Jody: This will be my last column. I’ve appreciated your many letters and comments, as well as the support from Between The Lines. In the last few years, I’ve been busy writing an LGBTQ mystery/suspense novel. It will be published by Bella Books in the fall of 2013. Presently, I’m hard at work writing the sequel to that book. Please visit me on Facebook: Jody Valley/Author.*



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## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Robert Pattinson or Naomi Watts: Which is 'Queen of The Desert'?

Post-"Twilight," Robert Pattinson's career heat is leading him in some unexpected directions. Instead of continuing to cash in with above-the-title treatment in big budget Hollywood junk, the young actor has, instead, chosen to work with acclaimed filmmakers like David Cronenberg, for whom he's currently starring in the very strange arthouse hit "Cosmopolis." Now the former teen vampire has been cast by legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog ("Cave of Forgotten Dreams") for "Queen of The Desert," Herzog's biopic about Gertrude Bell. Naomi Watts will take the role of the famous adventurer and spy often known as "the female Lawrence of Arabia," while Pattinson will play Mr. Of Arabia himself, T.E. Lawrence (made film-famous by young Peter O'Toole). Lawrence's sexuality has long been the subject of debate and Bell was unmarried for life in a time when women were discouraged from that sort of thing. Queer historians, start your speculations.



Robert Pattinson. Photo: Paul Smith / Featureflash

This, then, makes Chloe Sevigny's every career move important. And it's why we're pleased to announce her arrival in "Portlandia," the IFC "sitcom" starring Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein about people in Portland, Oregon. Or maybe it's really a satire of the media's perception of the entire city of Portland? Whatever, we just hope that in at least one upcoming episode of the new season Sevigny will play a gay male comic making Internet videos about a hipster alt-starlet. Tail, eat yourself!

### Gus Van Sant takes Matt Damon to the 'Promised Land'

That untitled, in-development "Capra-esque" movie Matt Damon co-wrote with John Krasinski, the one they're also starring in together and that Damon was going to direct but then gave up to longtime collaborator Gus Van Sant? Remember that one? It has a name now: "Promised Land." Based on a story by Dave Eggers, author of the acclaimed memoir "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," it's about a shake-up in the lives and values of two greedy rival Wall Street types. (And are there any who aren't awful, or do we just not hear about them because they're busy building Habitat for Humanity houses on the weekend?) And Focus Features is getting behind the film, which also stars Academy Award-winner Frances McDormand, for a sizeable Oscar push with a late December release and rollout into awards season. If the film is halfway decent and they play their cards right, it could be Van Sant and Damon's next "Good Will Hunting." And who wouldn't like them apples?

### 'Tootsie' takes the stage, Hayes joins 'Smash'

In what appears to be a now firmly entrenched trend of taking popular films and turning them into Broadway musicals, Sony Pictures has struck a five-year deal with Tony Award-winning producer Scott Sanders to transform Sony titles into stage-bound tourist pleasers. First up? "Tootsie," the sweetly funny straight-man-in-a-dress comedy that starred Dustin Hoffman way back in 1982. No other details besides its potential existence are forthcoming, so you may now safely return to considering the future of your new TV-about-Broadway addiction, "Smash." Sean Hayes is joining the cast for the upcoming season as a TV actor making his Broadway debut, something Hayes himself parlayed into a Tony nomination for the revival of "Promises, Promises." As this character he will make Debra Messing's life a living hell, so déjà vu on that one, too, while adding fresh blood to an already beefed up second season cast that includes Jennifer Hudson, Daniel Sunjata ("Take Me Out") and Jeremy Jordan ("Newsies"). Hollywood is going to make Broadway a serious thing again or die trying.

### Chloe Sevigny moves to 'Portlandia'

Played an HIV-positive teenager? Check. A young woman in love with a transgender man? Check. A nun? A sister-wife? A transgender female assassin? Check, check, check. But to call yourself a true gay icon you really need to have comedian Drew Droege make crazy Internet videos starring as you in conceptual drag while satirizing the media's perception of your personal life. Oh wait, check on that one, too.

Romeo San Vicente will call you. Maybe. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).



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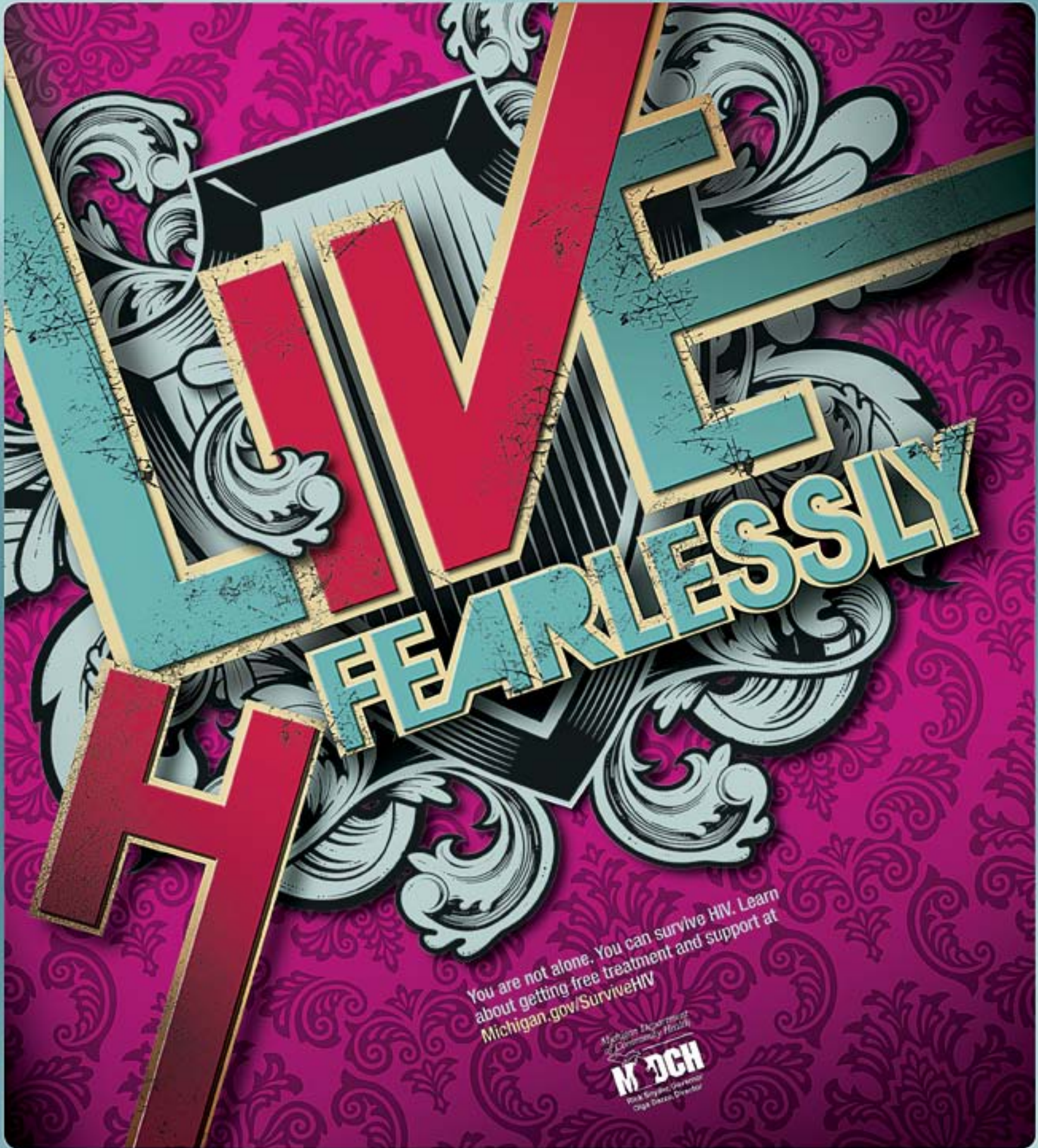
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