

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Gay Couple Fights
Deportation

Voter Action Town Hall
Talks Nov. Elections

“ I just never
believe anyone when
they say they’re
straight.”

– Ezra Miller



Q + A

Fall Home Guide



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The Art Alive
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10/6-7

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

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(One-Hour Family Performance)

Saturday, October 6, 8 pm

Sunday, October 7, 2 pm

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10/4

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR



10/10

Jerusalem String Quartet

Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 pm

Rackham Auditorium

Program

Shostakovich: Quartet No. 7 in f-sharp minor, Op. 108

Beethoven: Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6

Shostakovich: Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73

Supported by: Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Trust; Presented with support from: Herbert E. and Doris Sloan Endowment Fund; Media Partners: WGTE 91.3 FM and Detroit Jewish News

ums
BE PRESENT

MiVoterGuide.com



Between The Lines Progressive Voters' Guide Website Launches

Last week BTL launched the web edition of a progressive voters' guide titled MiVoterGuide.com, designed to aggregate endorsements from progressive organizations representing LGBTQ equality,

women's rights, labor, and the environment. BTL encourages readers to find out who's endorsing whom and to vote Nov. 6! Find out more at MiVoterGuide.com.



Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Voter Action Town Hall Video

Unable to attend the Voter Action Town Hall Sept. 19? See Crystal Proxmire's video recap on YouTube at youtu.be/jTD33f7jiK4.



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CURTAIN CALLS

The Pillowman And More

Check out Pridesource.com's Theater section for the latest reviews of upcoming Michigan theater, such as "The Pillowman" and "Moonlight and Magnolias".



HUNGRY4EQUALITY

Publisher To Strike Sept. 28

Stop by Hungry4Equality's display in Affirmations' front window Sept. 28 and visit BTL Publisher Susan Horowitz. For more information on Hungry4Equality, go to www.Hungry4Equality.com

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BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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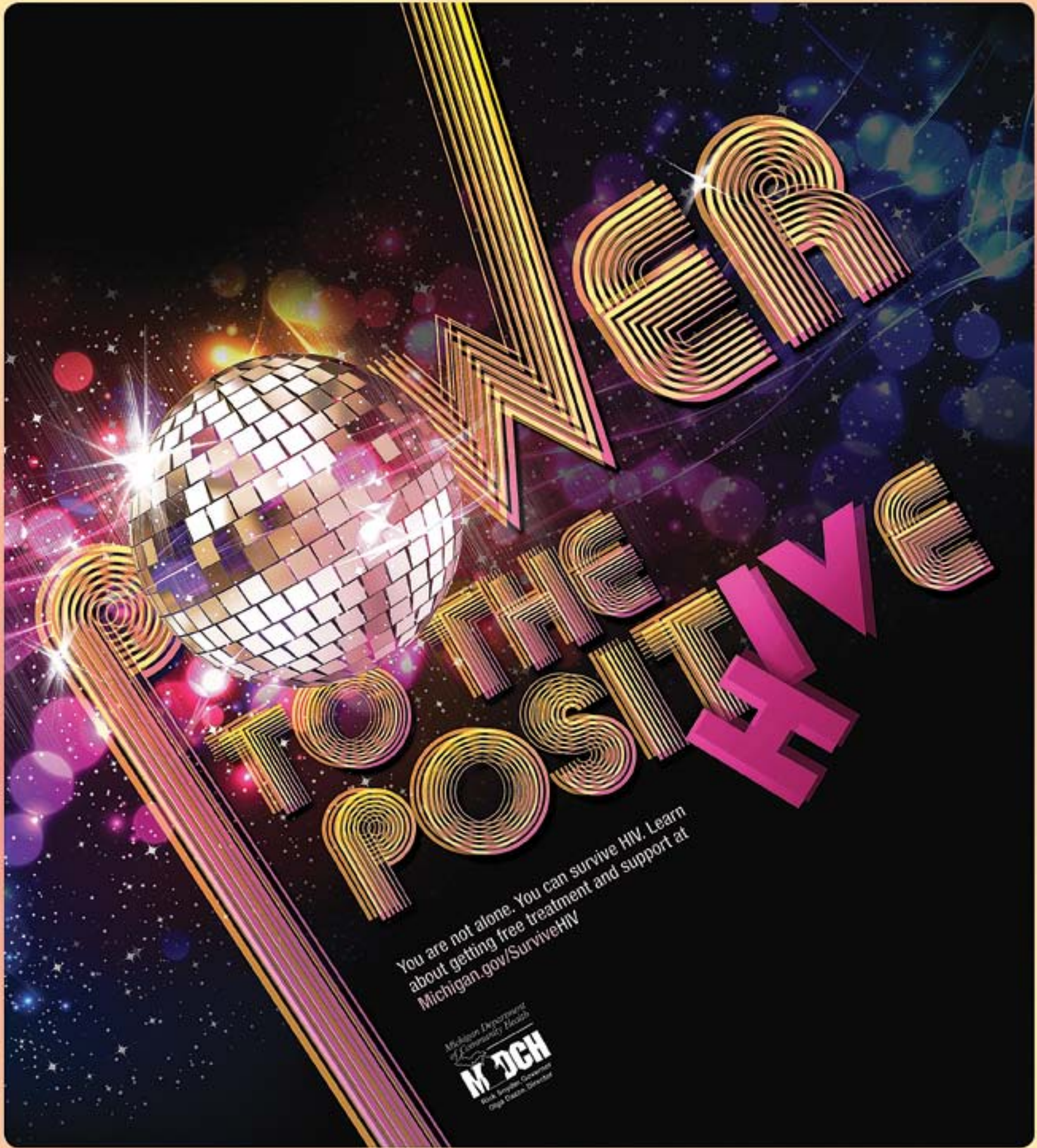
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Michigan Department
of Community Health
M DCH
Wick Annette Conover,
State Director

Hungry4Equality: Week 8

www.Hungry4Equality.com

Day 50



“I won't starve today. I won't even really be hungry. But I am starved to have the conversation about perspective and other words like: equality, democracy, freedom, civility, society.”

- Julie Marcos & Jared Volz

Day 51



“Unfortunately, I've been one of those people who has been fired because my boss found out I was gay. It really sucks that even if someone

had advocated for me during that time, it wouldn't have mattered. How sad that the ability to do your job has actually nothing to do with ability. Since when did the fact that I'm gay have anything to do with how well I follow directions?”

- David Worth

Day 52



“My daughter Megh has always been my inspiration. She has shown me what strength, tenacity and courage looks like. I

went to Megh and Karianne's wedding and I have never in my life seen such a peaceful and passionate love as I did that day. I am striking today for my daughter and her wife. I will always be here as an ally of the LGBT community. I will stand up for equality, proud and courageous, just like my daughter.”

- Kathleen Nickerson

Day 53



“A straight man or woman does not have to worry about being fired due to their sexual orientation. This is inequality - period. I hope people realize this when it comes time for people to vote.”

- Mark Green

Day 54



“By now, the hype and excitement surrounding this campaign has died down. This is when it is most important to stand up and stay

strong. We need to make sure people see us, relate to us and know who we are.”

- Deb Holbrook

Day 55



“Striking for equality started off with me wanting to contribute in a small way and bringing awareness of the importance of making

the right choices in this year's upcoming elections. After my experience of sitting in the Affirmations "fishbowl" this past Saturday and having 24 hours of my day focused on the strike it turned from an awareness initiative to being very personal for me.”

- Zip Johnson

Day 56



“There are way more serious things going on in this world that need addressing, yet they still want to target us. The LGBT community deserves

the same rights as everyone else!”

- April McLeod

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Torn Apart, Gay Couple Fights Deportation

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

DETROIT - If Tim Hunter had his way, he would marry Hugo Gallardo Petatan and save him from being deported. "He is very funny, very charming, very good looking, excellent cook. And he's very sociable. He can strike up a conversation with anyone," said the Ypsilanti man.

Now he is doing everything he can to save the 24-year-old Mexican citizen from being sent back to a country that doesn't feel like home.

Petatan was 17 years old when his parents made it safely to North Carolina and sent for him and his older brother. In America, Petatan worked in restaurants to help his family survive, and he reveled in a passion for cooking that he could not have explored in his homeland.

"He is such a great cook, but in Mexico that was considered woman's work so boys weren't allowed in the kitchen. It made him get picked on for being a sissy," Hunter said.

Petatan said that growing up, his classmates would make fun of him and hit him because he did not like girls. There is another memory as well. "Some other neighborhood boys attacked me and burned my penis," he said. He said he was twelve or thirteen when it happened.

Hunter confirms that there is a scar. "He told me it was from a branding instrument or a hot wire," he said.

The young man had kept his sexuality hidden in his youth, but whether prompted by the spirit of American freedom or just by nature of growing up, Petatan finally came out to his father.

"It was hard for my father. It was

really hurtful. My father believes I would be better off dead than to be a homosexual. I told him I would change, and that I would like girls. But it was wrong. I told him I couldn't change and that it was a mistake to say that I could change. He is a discrete person and did not like it," Petatan said. "I left home because it was best for my father, so he would not be so hurt."

Petatan moved in with friends and began dating men. In June 2011, he met Hunter online.

"Tim is really good to me," Petatan said. "He takes care of me and is affectionate, and helps me to do right things like not to drink." In July, Petatan moved in with his newfound partner.

About five weeks later, on October 7, 2011, Petatan left a gay bar in Ann Arbor at closing time, admittedly intoxicated. A man riding by on a bicycle accused him of indecent exposure and inappropriate touching after a police officer questioned if everything was okay. Petatan was arrested and, according to Hunter, had an attorney who did not speak Spanish and did not have much time to dedicate to the case. Hunter also said the accuser showed up only for one pretrial meeting, looked uncomfortable, and failed to come to any of the subsequent court dates. Petatan's charge was reduced to misdemeanor indecent exposure and he was given time served, and

handed over to ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) to be detained and deported.

And now he waits. The past six

long common room divided by a clear wall with telephones to talk into. He checked over his shoulders regularly, especially when asked about more personal matters. "If there were other people here who spoke Spanish, I wouldn't be saying these things," he said through an interpreter. He also said that there are others being detained who are struggling to hide their sexuality as well.

When Hunter visits he holds back emotions and affection, particularly if others are around. He said it "breaks his heart" not to be able to give him a hug through the glass.

But Hunter isn't sitting idly by. He fought to get Petatan another lawyer, this one specializing in LGBT deportation cases. The new lawyer had gotten Petatan a stay, meaning that he can remain in detention until a case for asylum can be heard.

Karen Zwick of Hartland Alliance in Chicago is now representing Petatan. She plans to argue that Petatan should be granted political asylum because in Mexico he would face discrimination, hate and violence. "It is a hard case

to make because in Mexico there have been some legislative reforms. Mexico City has granted gay marriage. However, it is still the second most violent place in Latin America for gay people. There are stories of men who are brutally castrated and decapitated. So despite some efforts of the Mexican government it still remains very homophobic on the ground."

She noted that some difficulty exists because the case has already been heard and mistakes had been made due to miscommunication. "Fundamentally, make sure people know immigration hearings are very serious and you need to speak to someone who is familiar with LGBT cases. If you're pulled over immediately seek help," she cautioned other gay and transgender individuals who may face deportation.

ICE deports approximately 300,000 people each year, and their sexual orientation is not tracked.

If sent back to Mexico, Petatan said he will move to a place where there are other gay people and he will try to work in a restaurant. He would like to try and come back to the United States, but if he is deported he must wait a minimum of ten years before applying to return legally. He said he knows that Hunter would not like living in Mexico and that it would be hard for him. Hunter says he'd like to find a way for both of them to move to Canada and get married, although neither has the resources to move.

In hopes of persuading ICE to let Petatan stay in the country, Hunter is holding a rally in front of the ICE building at 333 Mt. Elliot, Detroit on Oct. 3 at noon. A previous rally attracted a dozen people.



Tim Hunter with partner Hugo Gallardo Petatan. Photo courtesy of Tim Hunter.

months he has been held in a large, dome-covered room in Detroit where up to 160 detainees are stacked in bunks three high and confined to their bunks much of the day.

When interviewed he was only able to speak for half an hour, in a

AIDS Walk Michigan: Detroit Raises \$20k

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT - On a sunny, cool Saturday morning, AIDS Walk Michigan - Detroit walkers strutted along behind the awesome and energetic Cass Tech High School Marching Band. The band, in their snappy green and white uniforms, played a fully choreographed show that got the 300 walkers and spectators jammin' along. They were sharp, musically solid and a joy to watch.

After all the dancing and marching,

AIDS Partnership Michigan Executive Director announced that \$20,000 was raised by the event with the Blue Cross Blue Shield team pledging the most at \$6,000. The monies raised will be evenly divided between participating agencies APM, Community Health Awareness Group, the Detroit Department of Health & Wellness Promotion, the Horizon Project of Wayne State University and the Ruth Ellis Center.

The Detroit Walk stepped off on a new route this year, following the path

of the newly constructed Dequinder Cut Greenway, a 1.3 mile beautifully landscaped city park running off the Detroit River, parallel to Atwater St.

"This walk means a lot to the participants," said Murray who heads up AIDS Walk Michigan, the organizing entity for seven AIDS walks across the state over the last two weekends in September. "Some of our walkers are clients at APM, so this is highly personal for them," said Murray.



Upcoming 'Sex & Justice' Conference Looks To Shine Light On Criminalization, Regulation

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

When working towards a more civilized society, sex is one of the topics that tends to get left behind most often. The University of Michigan is trying to change that with the Sex and Justice Conference.

From Oct. 4-6, activists and advocates, legal experts and academics will be coming together to discuss issues surrounding sex and law. The event will consist of several speakers, panels and plenary sessions.

Aside from the wise and edified minds, The Sex and Justice Conference will also provide plenty of amenities, which is the real indicator of a successful conference. U of M's Rackam Building 4th floor Amphitheater offers lots of comfortable seating and there is catered brunch on Saturday.

The Sex and Justice Conference is being funded in cooperation with several U of M departments and programs. It is free and open to the public, but registration is required at their website sexandjustice2012.com.

Confirmed speakers include Bill Dobbs of Occupy Wall Street, Sienna Baskin of the Sex Workers project at the Urban Justice Center and Amber Hollibaugh of Queers for Economic Justice.

Although the topics of sex and justice are as vast as can be imagined, the Sex and Justice conference will focus on three core issues: criminalization of HIV, sex work, and the ongoing use of sex offender registries in the U.S.

According to Trevor Hoppe, Sex and Justice conference organizer, the event will facilitate, "thinking about how sex becomes the site of regulation and punishment, why that is and what we can do resist and change that."

Notably missing from the list is the battle for LGBT rights, specifically gay marriage. It wasn't an oversight, but a conscious effort to give a spotlight to incredibly important – yet lesser discussed – issues. It is also indicative of the changes the LGBT movement has

gone through since The Stonewall Riots in 1969.

"The LGBT movement stopped being a place where you could talk about sex and the regulation of sex," Hoppe said. "I think that's fine. I'm tired of criticizing the LGBT rights movement for that fact. They have a specific set of issues, namely, these days, marriage.



Visit sexandjustice2012.com to register for this free event.

“The LGBT rights movement roots are in desire and fighting for people’s rights to pleasure, sexual pleasure. Some of that has been forgotten with wedding cakes, picket fences.”

-Activist and presenter William Dobbs

Sex doesn't fit neatly in that agenda. So, I think there is a real need for sex to become its own axis of thinking and activism.”

“That is what I hope this conference makes clear to people, is that there is something specific to sex that's not just about gays and lesbians. ...There are a variety of issues that, I think, face similar kinds of issues and they all deal with how the state thinks about, regulates and

controls and punishes, ultimately, sex.”

Although some – even those who are aware of the issues – might think that this conference is unnecessary, Hoppe insists that it is vital to America's health.

“I think it's pretty clear that you can't have a healthy society that is unjust,” he said.

“I think it becomes clear that you can't really achieve the kinds of goals you would be working for if you were interested in promoting sexual health without addressing the issues of justice, without thinking about justice. Justice is this framework that, I think, is a necessary sort of condition for health to really be achieved.”

Awareness seems to be the main goal of this conference. Sienna Baskin, who will be

taking part in a panel on using legal tools to pursue justice on issues surrounding sex, is, like Hoppe, hoping that the conference will open people's eyes to the reality of sex work.

“I'm hoping that people understand a little bit of the realities that face sex workers,” she said. “The conference is about more than just sex workers... but, I think, the struggles for sex workers aren't widely understood.”

Bill Dobbs, who works for Occupy Wall Street as a part of their media team, simply hopes that people will become, “inspired to go out and organize around sexual freedom and other issues.”

“The LGBT rights movement roots are in desire and fighting for people's rights to pleasure, sexual pleasure. Some of that has been forgotten with wedding cakes, picket fences. But what about the oldest profession in the world? What about a large number of people who get tripped up by the law because the age of consent in this country is often significantly higher than it is in, say, Europe. Nearly 750,000 people now have a scarlet letter, they're on sex offender registries,” said Dobbs. “I think this conference looks to be a terrific gathering,” he said.

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Voter Action Town Hall Lays Out Issues for LGBT Citizens

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Will you go down on the ballot? That's the main concern of the panelists at the Voter Action Town Hall at Affirmations Sept. 19. The event had representatives from several of the Unity Michigan partners sharing information about the ways the LGBT community could be impacted by the coming elections, including the tendency for people to vote a straight party ticket without looking further for the non-partisan races.

The non-partisan races are at the bottom or on the back of most ballots, and they aren't included by a straight-party vote. The concept was best encapsulated in the recent West Wing promotion about the democratic crisis that occurs when voters ignore those races. See the West Wing video at www.PrideSourceVotes.com.

Go Down on the Ballot

Michigan is one of 16 states in which Supreme Court Justices are elected by the people in non-partisan elections. The Supreme Court, referred to as the "court of last resort," renders decisions that can have enormous repercussions for the people of Michigan.

For example, The Michigan Supreme Court in 2010 ruled that the it is unconstitutional for public employers, like cities, the state itself

“For many years some of the same people have been at the court who have issued decisions that negatively impacted us. They run and they get re-elected for eight-year terms. That's a long time to make decisions that can affect everyone's rights and civil rights for many many years to come.”

-Jay Kaplan

and state universities, to extend health insurance to the same-sex partners of their employees. The Justices ruled in a contentious, 4 to 3 decision that extending health benefits violated the anti-marriage constitutional amendment of 2004.

“Michigan has one of the broadest prohibitions of relationship recognition in the country. And we're the only state where that was manufactured through the court system,” said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU Michigan LGBT Project.

“For many years some of the same people have been at the court who have issued decisions that negatively impacted us,” said Kaplan. “They run and they get re-elected for eight-year

terms. That's a long time to be on the court and to make decisions that can affect everyone in terms of rights and civil rights for many many years to come,” he said.

Court cases on domestic partner benefits and second parent adoptions can set legal precedent. Conservative interpretations of the law in individual cases can be hard to reverse once made, so the power of State Supreme Court Justices is heavy.

The Michigan Supreme Court has three openings, and there are ten individuals running for those positions. On the ballot you will only see their name. But voter guides, such as the one at [PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com), let voters know which parties originally nominated the candidates to be Judges. For example, Shelia Johnson, Bridget Mary McCormack, and Connie Marie Kelley were all nominated by Democrats. The three women are running on a slate they call “The Supremes,” and are strongly endorsed by Between The Lines among other progressive organizations. See more on the three candidates at <http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=55128>.

Six Ballot Initiatives

Robert Nothoff of Michigan Voice explained that voters have six different ballot proposals to vote on

See Town Hall, page 14



West Wing Cast Promotes BTL's Progressive Voters' Guide

Seeks To Reduce Voter Drop-Off In Judicial Elections Such As State Supreme Court

Cast members of the award-winning television series, *The West Wing*, have come together to film a web video encouraging registered voters to cast votes in the non-partisan section of the General Election ballot Nov. 6.

The video's final panel directs viewers to *Between The Lines'* online Progressive Voters' Guide at www.MiVoterGuide.com, a comprehensive guide that includes the endorsements of up to 20 progressive political groups in Michigan, including LGBT groups, women's rights organizations, labor groups and environmental protection organizations. Voters can simply enter their zip code and then see endorsements in all the races that will appear on their ballots, including federal, state, local candidate races and ballot initiatives.

If voters vote “straight ticket” for one party, it will NOT include the non-partisan section of the ballot, which includes judicial candidates like Bridget Mary McCormack who is running for an eight-year term on the Michigan Supreme Court. Bridget Mary McCormack is the older sister of *West Wing* cast member Mary McCormack, who played National Security Advisor Kate Harper on the popular television series and who is among those featured in the video entitled, “Walk-and-Talk the Vote.”

Among the other cast members featured in the web video are Martin Sheen, Alison Janney, Lily Tomlin, Bradley Whitford, Richard Schiff, Janel Maloney, Joshua Malina and Melissa Fitzgerald.

While members of *The West Wing* have come together to promote other public service messages like the health benefits of walking, it marks the first time so many of the former cast members have come together on a project of this kind.

The web video storyline begins with National Security Advisory Kate Harper, played by Mary McCormack, announcing the nation is facing a crisis because too many people fail to vote the non-partisan section of their ballot. Using the ‘walk and talk’ trademark feature of the original show, the staff goes to the President, played by Martin Sheen, to argue something must be done because state supreme courts rule on issues that affect millions of Americans.

Michigan statistics confirm that voter drop-off regularly occurs in non-partisan Supreme Court voting. Between 2004 and 2010, the drop-off rate in Supreme Court voting ranged from 24.8 percent to 38.8 percent. In 2010, the drop-off rate was 27.1 percent.

Candidates for the State Supreme Court appear in the non-partisan section of the ballot in Michigan and the following states: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.



Affirmations Johnny Jenkins introduces Unity Michigan partners who helped attendees understand the importance of voting in the non-partisan part of the ballot on Nov. 6. You can watch video clips of the town hall event online at www.pridesource.com

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NATIONAL GAY
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Nothing average about it

Reflecting On 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Repeal



Viewpoint

OPINION BY BRIAN STONE

This past week is a reminder that President Obama fights for all Americans. On the first anniversary of the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” gay servicemembers like me - and all Americans - have plenty to be grateful for.

In January 2010 I was stationed in Japan, serving in the U.S. Navy. I was celebrating my 23rd birthday with my boyfriend at a restaurant in Tokyo. During one of the best meals of my life, the lights in the restaurant went out. A bright spotlight shone down on me. I was suddenly aware that I was in the center of the restaurant. Every eye was staring at me. A voice shouted from speakers high above.

“Everyone, please join us in singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Brian here, who is bravely serving in the Navy and celebrating with his boyfriend.”

Everyone in the restaurant - Japanese and Americans - clapped, sang, and cheered as I blew out a cake covered in sparklers. It was one of the happiest, most romantic evenings of my life. It was also the most terrifying: What if someone in the military reported me? What if someone took a video and another servicemember saw it and reported it? My career would have been over.

I waited in numb terror for months to be called into a room and told I was being discharged for simply being gay. But I was lucky; it never happened. And because of President Obama, no American servicemember has to hide whom they love to serve the country they love.

When the repeal came on Sept. 20, 2011, it meant that the military valued how well we did our job, not whom we dated. It meant that we could have dinner with a loved one in peace.

And it was actually a non-event for most service members. As a recently published study from UCLA’s Palm Center concluded, the repeal has not had any overall negative impact on military readiness or its component dimensions. It shows, as President Obama says, that “we are not a nation that says, ‘don’t ask, don’t tell.’ We are a nation that says, ‘Out of many, we are one.’”

As I look back to one year ago, I have to ask myself about what our country will look like a year from now. And it’s not just on issues of equality for all; it’s about our economic security, too.

I’m now a veteran living in Dearborn. I’m pursuing a degree in communications at a community college and hope to someday work for Ford, just like my dad. Because of President

Obama, that prospect seems realer every day. He’s making sure veterans like me are getting benefits we’ve earned to get an education and help finding a good job.

He’s connecting our community colleges with the needs of industries, so that we have the skills for high-growth jobs in manufacturing and clean energy. And there’s that bet he placed on the American worker who is now stamping “Made in Detroit” on the best cars in the world.

Yet not everyone is as proud of the progress we’ve built. Just this week Mitt Romney wrote off half the country when he said he doesn’t care about the “47 percent” in this country. The majority of those Americans he dismissed are working families, including people serving in our military.

My gay shipmates, who do everything from gather military intelligence to manage our secure information technology networks, no longer have to hide who they are in order

to continue to serve in the Navy. But unlike President Obama, Mitt Romney would have kept “don’t ask, don’t tell” in place. Would he

On this anniversary, all Americans have plenty to be proud of and reflect on. But we also have so much more to lose, because progress is never certain but easily reversed if we don’t keep moving forward.

also follow through and cut the college grants that President Obama expanded? Would he give millionaires and billionaires a tax cut by raising taxes on the middle class? Would auto jobs in Michigan disappear again because Mitt Romney bets against American workers despite being the son of a Michigan auto man? These are all terrifying questions with frightening answers if we don’t do our part to protect the progress we’ve made.

On this anniversary, all Americans have plenty to be proud of and reflect on. But we also have so much more to lose, because progress is never certain but easily reversed if we don’t keep moving forward.

Register to vote at gottavote.com. Organize your friends and fellow veterans.



Letter: Neubeckers Respond To House Fire Help

Hello BTL Readers,

A letter of thanks from us had been long overdue! The fire in our home last month has been a stressful experience for with a whirlwind of activity as we worked to recover some business equipment, search for photos and jewelry and tread through a flooded basement to recover things. We were lucky enough to be awakened at 5:30 a.m. that morning to get out of the house before the smoke entered our home.

We have been living in a hotel and now are in temporary housing until we can find another home. We are back to a new kind of normal but that was due to the help of so many who reached out to us. We were able to host the September PFLAG meeting and attend the PFLAG Regional Conference because of your generosity.

The outpouring of support from BTL readers and the LGBT community was amazing and overwhelming. Although we had insurance on our home, we didn't on the business equipment which was lost along with most of our personal possessions.

We were lucky enough to have our photos and some of our memorabilia recovered but we lost our treasured awards from Affirmations, Triangle Foundation, Pride Awards, PFLAG, and HRC. Although these awards meant so much to us, we take pride in knowing the work we did for equality that gained the recognition they symbolize is not lost and continues to make a difference. We will continue to do that work so that our son, Lee, and his spouse David and their children Braiden and Michael will not face discrimination or hatred because of who they are.

Thank you so much all who expressed their sympathy, sent a card, made a donation, Facebooked, texted, emailed or called (it was impossible to keep up with the messages and emails without a



Mike and Jan Neubecker's (right) home was destroyed in a fire in Aug. 2012.

computer). Knowing that so many care for us touches our hearts deeply. We would also like to thank Pride Source Group who shared the news of our fire and helped orchestrate this show of support for us and Level One Bank in Ferndale by setting up a no fee deposit account for the Neubecker Fire Fund.

Many have contributed funds to help us through this rough patch and we are grateful. We promise that once we get back in a home and get the business rolling at full speed again we will find a way to give back to the community the generosity we have received.

With eternal gratitude,
Mike and Jan Neubecker

Editor's Note:

Donations can be sent to The Neubecker Fire Fund, c/o John McQuiggin, Bank



Manager, Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220. Mike also lost his business in the fire, so they have no source of income for a while. Health insurance alone costs over \$2,000 per month, in part because of Jan's cancer and other health challenges. These two are community heroes - let's all step up and help them in their time of need. They have always been there for us.

Horizons Project's 'Who's That Girl' Campaign Seeks To Inform About AIDS And Trans Women

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – About 50 people showed up Sept. 21 for the launch of Who's That Girl, a media project presented by the Horizons Project and supported by the Michigan Department of Community Health's Health Disparities Reduction Minority Health Section. The project, which includes images of four young transgender women, is a marketing effort to change media and societal perceptions of the transgender community.

"The purpose of the campaign is to provide understanding about HIV, especially in the trans community," said

Bre' Campbell, the project's coordinator. "A lot of times, when AIDS messages are put out they do not include trans women."

All of the women in featured in the campaign are under the age of 25 and active in the community. Campbell said they illustrate that "regardless of what society thinks about trans women, they are smart, they are successful, they are educated and they are loved."

The Horizons Project launched the campaign at a reception at Wayne State University's Student Center. About 50 people attended, and after they ate and had an opportunity to view the images, they were witness to a very informative panel

discussion featuring the four women who comprise the campaign.

"If you look at the photos, it shows that even though we are in some ways different, we are still human and can still blend in," said Sahray Arnold. "Even though we're not all the same, we're all the same inside and we're all of value."

Mia Cole said she believes society at large is misinformed about trans women and only knows what they see on trash TV.

"Everyone thinks transgender women are what you see on Jerry Springer and that's not it," she said. "We don't walk

See Horizons, page 14

PC, As In Polished Correctly



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

The magic two-way mirror that Alice passed through long ago – recounted by Lewis Carroll in his story of wrong-sided wonderment, "Alice Through The Looking Glass" – sold recently on e-Bay.

Alice's mirror went for five times the Mother Teresa cinnamon scone face; seven times the Elvis Presley's barber clippings; three times more than Queen Victoria's sized XXL monogrammed cotton bloomers.

High bidders were Big Apple Tradeoffs, a coalition of gay investors who claimed – perhaps more in jest than actual proof – they were descendants of the Red Queen of "Off with their heads!" fame.

They said their crimson ancestor once owned the mirror, amusing herself by pushing through its transparent surface anyone who annoyed her during Wimbledon croquet matches by cheating with steroid pumped, pink lawn flamingos.

("It's much more fun than lopping off heads or banishing the flummoxed creatures into exile," chortled the Red Queen, one Whitsome Sunday to the stone deaf Archbishop of Canterbury.)

The mansion on the outskirts of Dale-in-the-Dinkleberry, London, that housed the mirror for decades, among many other quaint and randomly self-rearranging objet d'arts, was razed two years ago (after a rather notorious drag ball featured a red-faced streaking prince).

Fittingly, Alice's mirror floated across the Atlantic on the QE II, arriving in harbor without fracture, fanfare, or publicity – 'tho someone who name-tagged himself The Mad Hatter kept pestering returning Olympic Swim Team members to join him for aromatic teas and Alice B. Toklas crumpets.

Investors who met the arriving luxury ship at dockside – waving rainbow flags and blowing tin hornies – planned to take the mirror for a festive, and, to be sure, money making unveiling at Fire Island.

It occurred out of the blue (as past tense things do with gay men) that no one had given the mirror a trial run. No one had a clue as to what, if anything, might lie in wait on its other side. (How trustworthy was Carroll who liked to photograph little girls naked?)

Unfortunately, not one of the investors wanted to volunteer. They pondered long and hard, deciding to opt out for Happy Hour, leaving the mirror temporarily unattended. And so it came to pass that a muscle-bound gym buff cruising by got curiouser and curiouser.

Enchanted with what he saw reflected, he looked both ways, then lovingly kissed his suntanned image. And, just as suddenly, he got sucked across. And stuck.

As the investors drank themselves silly, others passed by the mirror. They too quickly found themselves suctioned in. There was a acolyte-diddling priest. Six Log Cabin Republicans. A TV evangelist out highjacking sinners. A drag queen who nonstop lip-synched 500 Madonna songs. And, a wide-stance politician whose career got stalled.

Over the next few days, little by little, it became apparent to the Tradeoffs, now stone sober, that the mirror was willy-nilly nabbing and nobody was returning. A bad investment, the investors agreed.

Moral: If you fall in love with your own image while passing a two-way magic mirror while assuming no one's looking, don't be surprised if you get sucked into a no-brainer otherside that's not quite PC. Better still, don't vote Republican. You won't escape alive.)

Charles@pridesource.com

Bryan Fischer



Hey, did you know that September 23 was “Bisexual Visibility Day”? I, personally, did not. So if you did nothing to celebrate, perhaps you can be forgiven since this bisexual day only exists, in official capacity anyway, in Berkeley, California. The day was intended to “recognize and celebrate bisexuality history, bisexual community and culture, and the bisexual people in their lives,” according to City Council Member Kriss Worthington.

Sounds okay, yes? No big deal. Just a nod and a hat-tip to the bisexuals.

Or is it? Well, if you're Bryan Fischer (and I hope that for your sake you are not because, wow, what a sad, sad man. But if you are then, well, thanks for reading, I guess) you see bisexual day as a portent to something much more sinister. And so Fischer Tweeted, “Berkeley hosts first ‘Bisexual Pride Day.’ What’s next? ‘Pedophile Pride Day?’ ‘Bestiality Pride Day?’” Ha ha. Get it? Because a sexual relationship between consenting adults is totally the same thing as sex with a toddler or a Pomeranian.

Not content to merely Tweet about the bisexual pride scourge, Fischer took to his radio show to further complain about how low we've sunk as a country that we would actually treat bisexuals like human beings.

“Now we've been dealing with gay pride days here in America,” Fischer jeered. “Now for the very first time there's a city, Berkeley, California, that is gonna host a bisexual pride day and then you start wondering well what comes next?”

Oh, we know what comes next. At least what comes next in Fischer's alternate reality universe.

“Is there going to be a transgender pride day?” he asks. “Will there be an incest pride day? Will there be a pedophilia pride day? Will there be a bestiality pride day? What's coming?”

First of all, a transgender pride day would hardly be ridiculous considering how maligned the transgender community is. Talk about people who all too often aren't treated like human beings. If you need proof just Google Transgender Day of Remembrance, which isn't the same as a pride day. It's a hell of a lot more sad. Be sure to have tissues handy.

As for equating gays, lesbians, and bisexuals with incest, pedophilia, and bestiality, these are cheap shots being made in lieu of any actual substantial argument. People like Fischer think of LGBT humans as little more than acts of sexual aberrations, something that is getting harder and harder to do as more and more people come out and demand human rights.

Fischer continues his doomsday scenario: “Look, once you cross the threshold of one man and one woman there is no place to stop. Once you decide to treat homosexual behavior, which is sexually aberrant behavior, as normal, and as a normal alternative to heterosexual behavior, there simply is no place to stop.”

Really, Fischer? Really? Is that really a claim that you want to make? Because there are plenty of reasonable people, even people who don't support marriage equality, who can see the difference between a two men who are in loved with each other and, say, a guy who keeps children prisoner in his basement as sex slaves or that dude who kills ladies to wear their skin in Silence of the Lambs. To deny that there is a huge and unbridgeable chasm there makes you, Fischer, look totally insane.

Historic Nine Gay-Related Cases Seek Review By U.S. Supreme Court

BY LISA KEEN

Perhaps the most historic U.S. Supreme Court session ever for the LGBT community gets underway officially Oct. 1, with a record nine gay-related cases seeking review, all involving same-sex marriage.

Two of the nine cases include high-profile landmark decisions in federal appeals courts - one declaring the California ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, the other holding the core section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to be unconstitutional. Whether the court refuses to hear the appeals or takes them, the result will set up another landmark in the LGBT civil rights struggle.

Seven of the nine cases revolve around challenges to DOMA, one concerns Proposition 8, and the ninth is an attempt by the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM) to circumvent campaign reporting laws when it spends money to push anti-gay initiatives.

The DOMA seven

Of the seven petitions seeking appeal on DOMA-related challenges, four come from the New England states, two from western states, and one from New York.

The Massachusetts Cases - Three of the four petitions in New England arrive from Massachusetts and the First Circuit and involve two cases that have been winding their way through the courts since March 2009. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) filed one of the lawsuits, while the Massachusetts Attorney General's office filed the other. Both sought to strike down the core provision of DOMA - Section 3 - that bars the federal government to recognize same-sex spouses for any federal purpose.

OPM v. Gill and Health and Human Services v. Commonwealth are the preeminent legal challenges to DOMA. Gill was filed by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the legal team which won the landmark 2003 decision for same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

Golinski v. OPM - Another important DOMA challenge pending before the Supreme Court for this session is Golinski v. OPM, brought by Lambda Legal Defense. It tests DOMA's ability to deny a gay federal employee the same benefits enjoyed by straight federal employees.

The federal employee in this case is attorney Karen Golinski, who is employed as an attorney by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and sought health insurance coverage for her same-sex

spouse. U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said the legislative history of DOMA is “replete with expressed animus toward gay men and lesbians,” but he said he was “persuaded that something short of animus may have motivated DOMA's passage.” White's February 2012 ruling said Congress failed to justify its disparate treatment of gays and lesbians, whether one used rational or heightened judicial review. The Ninth Circuit declined to hear BLAG's appeal, so BLAG took its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Windsor v. U.S. - The Windsor case, filed by the ACLU, challenges Section 3 of DOMA, but, unlike the previous three cases, Windsor has not gone through a federal appeals court, only the district court.

Judge Barbara Jones of the U.S. District Court for Southern New York ruled June 6 that DOMA violates the U.S. constitution's guarantee of equal protection when it requires a same-sex spouse to pay a federal estate tax from which heterosexual spouses are exempt. Because of DOMA, plaintiff Edith Windsor was forced to pay more than \$363,000 in estate taxes when her same-sex spouse, Thea Spyer, died in 2009 and left Windsor her estate.

Brewer v. Diaz - This was originally known as Brewer v. Collins and pits a group of gay Arizona state employees against a new state law barring them from signing up their domestic partners and children for family health insurance coverage. A federal judge ruled the state law violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. The Ninth Circuit upheld that ruling last year, another victory for Lambda Legal. The state, and Republican Governor Jan Brewer, is petitioning the high court to overturn the ruling.

Pedersen v. OPM - This is GLAD's second DOMA challenge, essentially a twin to the Gill case in Massachusetts. This one was filed in federal court in Connecticut, with plaintiffs from several Second Circuit states.

The Supreme Court typically grants review when an appeals court declares a federal law unconstitutional. It also frequently grants review when various appeals courts are in conflict over a law's constitutionality.

The circuit courts have declared DOMA unconstitutional, but there has been no conflict. Both the First Circuit and the Ninth Circuit have said so. A federal district court in the Second Circuit has declared it unconstitutional, but the Second Circuit itself has not yet weighed in.

But the fact that the U.S. House Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) has been aggressively defending DOMA

(in 14 separate courts, at latest count) will no doubt weigh heavily on the Supreme Court's willingness to take up the issue sooner rather than later. A ruling from the high court upholding the law may be the only way to slow the dramatically increasing support for same-sex marriage - in the courts and in public opinion.

The NOM's second try

NOM v. McKee appeals a decision rendered by Walter F. McKee, a member of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The Commission ruled that political action committees operating in the state had to comply with state election campaign requirements to identify their donors. That includes in campaigns taking sides on statewide ballot initiatives, of which many in recent years have concerned same-sex marriage.

NOM's challenge of those laws has failed before the U.S. Supreme Court once already.

The Prop 8 climax

Hollingsworth v. Perry (formerly known as Brown v. Perry and Schwarzenegger v. Perry) is one of the most anticipated LGBT cases to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, for the LGBT community and for many others. It is a case that has been drenched with drama since the beginning, when the newcomer organization American Foundation for Equal Rights - against the advice of long-time gay legal activists - hired two of the country's most prominent attorneys to challenge a voter-passed initiative in California to ban same-sex marriage.

As Ted Olson and David Boies staged their three-week long landmark trial in defense of equal rights for same-sex couples, gay legal activists marshaled behind them. And when, in August 2010, they won a comprehensive victory from U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker (a Republican appointee who, after retirement, acknowledged having a same-sex partner), the momentum throughout the country seemed to begin shifting towards equality.

Then, in another victory, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in February 2012 that Proposition 8 was “remarkably similar” to Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, which the Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional. Based on that, said the Ninth Circuit, Proposition 8 must also be declared unconstitutional - a violation of the equal protection guarantees of the U.S. Constitution.

Memories Of MCC Lead To 40th Anniversary Dinner

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The Rev. Nancy Wilson, head of Metropolitan Community Church, a worldwide inclusive Christian denomination, has shepherded over MCC Detroit since early in her career. And now, in celebration of the congregation's 40th Anniversary, Rev. Wilson is returning for a dinner and dance celebration and to give a special Sunday morning sermon.

The upbeat theme is MoTown Big D and the Original Vandellas will also be performing at the dinner. The celebration will take place at Park Place Dearborn on Sept. 29. Wilson's sermon will be delivered the next day at MCC Detroit in Ferndale.

Members of MCC Detroit are looking forward to Wilson's visit, including Board Vice Moderator Jackie Walker, who said she's proud of all Wilson has accomplished.

"She started out here at MCC Detroit and left to work at the denomination's offices in LA. Then she became pastor of the LA church, which we call The Mother Church because that's where it all got started. She was also pastor in Sarasota, and now she is the head of the Board of Elders, which runs the whole denomination," said Walker.

She recalls how Wilson had an impact on her. "When I came out in 1975 I didn't know a single gay person. I couldn't find the bars and religion was always important to me. Rev. Wilson made everything easier."

Walker remained part of MCC through the years, only taking a break when her children were young and she wanted to send them to Sunday school, which was not offered at MCC at the time.

Since MCC Detroit began in Highland Park in 1972, it's had several locations. Walker explained that in 1977 the church left Highland Park and moved to Central United Methodist. From there it purchased a building in Birmingham that was later bought by the Original Pancake House and turned into a parking lot. MCC-Detroit next moved to Roseville, and most recently rents space from Drayton Avenue Presbyterian in Ferndale.

One wall of the present sanctuary displays a giant timeline that church members can decorate with photos and memories. It also includes names of members who have been lost to AIDS complications. "That was a hard time for us," Walker said. "We would go visit people in the hospital to give them communion. So many died."

The wall also features pictures of the various

locations, pastors, events and clergy. Several current members have been attendees for more than 30 years. Now with about 150 members, and attendance at church services averaging about 90 to 110 each week, MCC has what Walker calls "a special flavor."

"It's partly because of the people, but also because it's ecumenical. We have a sense of humor." She noted "the spiritual feel of the music, from Broadway hits to old African spirituals." Walker also values the open and affirming atmosphere of the church.

"I feel welcomed here. If I want to put my arms around my partner I can. Plus, it's a smaller congregation so it has a more intimate feel. It's a joyous feeling watching friends, partners and newcomers lining up to share in taking communion."

Rev. Jim Lynch is currently shepherding the

congregation through the transition from the loss of Rev. Mark Bidwell, who resigned in October 2011 and died in January.

"Rev. Jim is an interim who will take the church through a selection process," said Walker.

"We never just jump to replacing a pastor, the church always follows a process to make sure the congregation deals with issues of how the previous pastor went. Then the church does some visioning, looking at the mission and what we want in a pastor." Walker said that the formal pastoral search process should begin around January. "We will look for a pastor who is open to new ideas from all people, who will train lay persons to take leadership positions."

Walker sees the dinner and dance as a wonderful opportunity for members and previous members to get together. She notes that the church has come a long way since the 70s, now offering groups and activities for many ages, including a children's ministry and connection groups which meet once a week like the book group, Bible study and a support group for cancer patients and supporters.

On an international level, MCC is involved in world-wide liberation movements. "One thing that touched my heart recently was speaking with a group of lesbians in India, where they can be killed for being lesbians," recalls Walker. "They decided to live together and support each other. One or two would go to school and educate the others. We were able to get people to donate money to send them all to school at once. It's part of our LGBT Christian outreach."

Information: <http://www.mccdetroit.org/>.



Board Vice Moderator Jackie Walker with the church's 40-year timeline. BTL Photo: Crystal Proxmire

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► Torn Apart

Continued from p. 14

down the street snatching our wigs off. We're very smart and intelligent. You shouldn't reject the unfamiliar because we have a lot to offer."

A fashion model and harpist, WSU student Ahya Simone said she hopes to help change society's perception of trans women.

"I take joy in educating people about women like me," Simone said. "There are few [images] out there and I want to be that face. I just want to be a role model for girls like us, and women in general."

Not all discrimination comes from outside sources, though. The women all shared that they were often marginalized by others in the LGBT community.

"The 'T' is in there," said Krystina Edwards. "So I'm gonna need the L, the

G, and the B to embrace us."

The images in the campaign were all shot by photographer Jhordan Haliburton.

"At first I was kind of nervous about it because it was my first professional photo shoot," he said. "But they came out great. I love them. They came out very wonderful."

Look for images from the campaign



Sahray Arnold (left) answers a question at Friday's panel discussion while Mia Cole listens. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

to appear in the pages of *Between The Lines* soon.

► Town Hall

Continued from p. 9

this election, which is the most they have faced since 1973. His organization is a coalition of progressive interests across the country, and the group's endorsements tend to match those of PrideSourceVotes.com. He explained each ballot initiative for the crowd at the town hall:

Proposal 1 - Emergency Manager Referendum - would expand powers for emergency managers and the ability of the Governor to appoint EMs. Nothoff explained that in Michigan, Governor Snyder had been going into communities where the city or the school board was struggling financially and stripping the elected officials of their power, removing their power, and appointing someone of his choosing to be the EM.

"Now we have in this country one of the biggest strengths that we have and that we like to brag around the world about is the democratic process, small 'd,' right? That we elect our own people. What this really does is undermine that democratic process... I'm gonna remove the person you all voted for and I'm gonna put someone in who will do a better job.' And that is as anti-democratic as you can get, again small 'd,'" Nothoff said.

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "no," on Proposal 1 as does Michigan Voice.

Proposal 2 - "Protect Our Jobs" Amendment - would make collective bargaining a right for public and private workers.

Tim Kahanak of Pride at Work has been at Chrysler for 36 years. To him the intersection of LGBT rights and collective bargaining rights makes perfect sense. "I've been in the UAW since I was 18," he said. "I can't tell you the good that the union has done for me." He explained how unions in the auto industry in particular

have led the way for workplace equality, and how collective bargaining has given him the right for his partner to have the same benefits as a married person could give their spouse.

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "yes," as does Michigan Voice.

Proposal 3 - Renewable Energy Amendment - would mandate that 25 percent of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2025. Nothoff said Michigan Voice supports a "yes" vote on Proposal 3 because "currently 60 percent of our energy is generated by coal and 100 percent of that coal comes from out of state. So not only does it create renewable energy sources, clean energy, but it also would employ more Michigan workers."

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "yes," as does Michigan Voice.

Proposal 4 - Home Health Care Amendment - would give home health care providers limited collective bargaining rights. It would also provide for screening of health care providers and for patients to have a voice in who takes care of them.

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "yes," as does Michigan Voice.

Proposal 5 - Taxation Amendment - would require any increase in state taxes to be approved by 2/3 majority in the legislature or statewide vote. Nothoff said this is "a very scary one." He said that "having spent the past eight years in the state of California, I can tell you what this does 30 years down the road. What it does is create a financial crisis in the long term because there's so much back and forth, but you're not allowed to raise taxes or find sources of income, and what happens is as a result they've cut their vital services we all need. This creates a death by a thousand cuts over time."

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "no," as does Michigan Voice.

Proposal 6 - Michigan International Bridge Initiative - require voters to approve any new bridge or tunnel from the state to Canada.

PrideSourceVotes.com suggests voting "no," while Michigan Voice has declined making a suggestion.

Get Organized

The Voter Action Town Hall attracted dozens of LGBT community members, many of whom take part in other voter mobilization activities and other activism. The Hungry4Equality strike continues now through the election. There are phone banks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Affirmations, and there are opportunities to do some door knocking.

Kevin Hogan of the Roundtable for Diversity said that mobilization is essential to making equality happen. "Those of you in your 20s, you will see it. Those of us in our 40s, 50s, and 60s, we need your help to see it happen."

Johnny Jenkins of Affirmations said that many of the setbacks against LGBT people have been because of an organized opposition. "All of these organizations have been going since the 50s. They are organized and systematic. The LGBT community in Michigan has never been as organized as they are now... Educate your friends, your families and your neighbors about how important this is."

INFO

EQUALITY VOTER GUIDE

Download the PrideSourceVotes.com Voters Guide at www.pridesource.com/specialsection.html?section=guide-voter. To learn more about Michigan Voice go to www.statevoices.org/states/michigan. For more on Hungry4Equality see www.hungry4equality.com.



Ben Kiehl is the director of the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

KEEPING THE ART ALIVE

Gallery Director Remembers Late Owners

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Thirty-six years ago, Robert Louis Kidd and Ray Frost Fleming opened a Birmingham landmark: the Robert Kidd Gallery. Partners in business and in life, the pair founded the establishment on Townsend Street in 1976, a popular place for home-art furnishings. Also, the oldest. The

gallery is the longest running gallery in metro Detroit.

"They spent a fortune turning it into the most handsome gallery in the Midwest. They took pleasure in the gallery and making it blossom," says Ben Kiehl, 30, director of the gallery for the last four years. "It's a special spot with amazing timelessness."

Kidd and Fleming met at the

internationally known Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield. They took their weaving skills and put them to good use by opening a yarn shop under the name Robert L. Kidd Associates. At the bottom of the stairwell they installed the Little White Gallery, where they showed tapestries from their weavings among other works created by Cranbrook students and local emerging artists.

As the gallery became more successful than the yarn shop, Kidd and Fleming redesigned the space adding new flooring, walls and furnishings in the 5,000-square-foot two-level gallery.

Kiehl remembers when Fleming used to tell people, "If you're on vacation and you see a gallery across the street from a hotel, it's a bad gallery. It's a boutique gallery." After the fancy Townsend Hotel ironically established its home across the street from the gallery in

1988, Fleming reminded people that he was there before the hotel, when it was a parking lot.

The well-maintained space has the same vintage character and charm as it did back in the '80s and '90s when the who's-who of the art world frequented the gallery. "They built it with quality in mind and the lasting potential. When they became a gallery, they would host black-tie invitation openings. It was elegant,

See Robert Kidd Gallery, page 16

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► Robert Kidd Gallery

Continued from p. 15

cutting-edge and helped establish the reputation of the gallery,” says Kiehl, adding that times have changed, but the gallery still has classy openings often in the form of cocktail parties complete with cheese and wine.

Outside of the gallery, Kidd and Fleming converted one of Marshall Fredericks’ stables into a modern apartment. Yes, that Fredericks – the legendary artist who created the Spirit of Detroit. “They did the same thing when they bought a traditional farmhouse on Maple Road. It was a modernist home: beautiful, all custom. Bob was not afraid to spend money, even if he had to borrow it,” recalls Kiehl.

While Kidd and Fleming were making their mark, Kiehl was earning his Fine Arts major at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The budding photorealist painter was young but talented and began showing in exhibitions that happened to be sponsored by the Robert Kidd Gallery. “I stood out. I sold readily to different collectors from the area. The level of my work was above-average and was more sophisticated than student work at the time,” says Kiehl, humbly. A professor of his suggested he visit the gallery to speak with Fleming, who noticed his work, which he didn’t have a lot of at the time. Everything was a class assignment.



“Ray was a real character. Outgoing. Bob was shy. Ray really stood out and was very charismatic and charming. Originally from Georgia, he was independent, intelligent and very forward-thinking,” says Kiehl.

Following his visit with Fleming, life took over and Kiehl worked toward finishing school, but sent an announcement to the gallery regarding his thesis exhibition. After the show, Kiehl received a call from Fleming’s assistant director around graduation. “I thought he was calling about my work, but he asked a lot of questions to see if I wanted his job. Before the economy failed in 2005, people were more stable,

whimsical and bohemian. Get a real job or be an artist? I decided I’m going to Europe for three months and I don’t know when I’m coming back. He said if I’m still here when you come back, give me a call,” remembers Kiehl. He returned that October, and took over in January.

“Ray thought I was a good fit. He talked about the way the art world works. Age doesn’t matter. If they like your work, they will show it. I was able to get a foot in the door precociously,” says Kiehl, who has been with the gallery for a total of seven years. “Ray and I were fast friends. We had tons in common. He was a kindred spirit. In a sense, he was like a surrogate father.”



Kiehl remembers the signature red belt that Fleming wore. "His favorite combination was a bold striped shirt with flat front pants and a bold silver or gray silk jacket."

Part of the legacy of the gallery, and something that Kiehl absolutely agrees with, is the composition and quality of work. "There is a sense of beauty in the way the work comes together. It's not about the subject matter. That's less important than the certain type of soul we look for when selecting work," he says.

And who you were wasn't an issue; it came down to the art. "Ray and Bob welcomed diverse designers and people. The only thing that mattered was the quality of the work." That hasn't changed. While exhibiting the work of many emerging contemporary artists, the gallery roster is further distinguished by such prominent names as Milton Avery, Harry Bertoia, John Chamberlain, Larry Rivers and Helen Frankenthaler. In addition, the gallery offers services for the acquisition and de-accessioning of artwork by significant modern and contemporary artists such as Deborah Butterfield, Hans Hofmann, Alexander Calder, Franz Kline and Richard Diebenkorn.

The only thing that will continue to change is the artwork, which rotates as exhibitions come and go. Some artists have been with the gallery for more than 20 years and some will show their work for the first time there.

"Ray often loved talking about paintings, explaining that the same person who loves realism can also love abstraction. It's all about balance, color and form. Fleming was not a detail man. That is the opposite of me. He saw the bigger picture, not dwelling on the incredible minutia of details. He opened me up conceptually."

Fleming passed away in April this year from breathing complications. Kidd preceded Fleming in death when he lost his battle with brain cancer five years ago.

"Having been so close to Ray, I miss him dearly," says Kiehl. "We were like family. Being at the gallery is a reminder of him. It's hard, but at the same time, I am so fortunate to have had so many years with Ray. I've learned so much. It's to my greater advantage. Being here keeps him more alive in my mind and there's an energy about it that hasn't disappeared."

For the last four to five years, Kiehl said Fleming called himself semi-retired. "He was behind the curtain handing me the baton whether or not I was aware of it. I was being groomed for the position. Legacy is important to Ray. I have been putting my own signatures in the gallery for the last few years as the gallery is an evolving entity. As the public evolves, so does the gallery and vice versa. My hope is to continue the gallery in keeping with the legacy while honoring the forward-thinking that made the gallery great in the first place."

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The Not-So Bible Belt

Rena Hopkins sells her Divine Iguana line at The Rust Belt in Ferndale. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire

Hip Artist Haven Popular Among Local Artists

LEAVE HOME GUIDE
BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

For her first-ever visit to Ferndale, Alisha Virani's friend Liz Salazar picked the Rust Belt as a must-see attraction. The uniquely designed artist haven, which anchors Nine Mile and Woodward, houses a rotating mix

of approximately 50 vendors selling clothing, jewelry, furniture and other artistic décor items for your home.

"I love it here," Salazar says. "I just moved to Ferndale in August and this is one of my favorite places. When my friends from Ann Arbor visit, this is the first place we go."

Jason Driscoll, creator of Kill Taupé, has been stationed at the Rust Belt off

and on since it opened in April 2011 and has been on a long-term lease since last November. The Rust Belt has helped him transition into full-time artishood.

"I was able to quit my part-time job a year ago," Driscoll says. "It's year-round so I don't have to have a brick and mortar store. I can sit at home in my art cave all week, then come here on the weekend and be like, 'Here's

all the art I did.'

"It's weird because it's such a solitary thing, but I come here and I get a reaction out of people – they smile and they laugh, and that's a nice way to earn a living."

Driscoll's whimsically naughty cartoons, mostly bunnies and bears, use bright colors and bold shapes to evoke humor, and sometimes even deep thought. The painting of the bunny with a flaming torch wanting to "burn Walmart down," the adorable

little critters living in the shadows of smoky industry, or even the bong-smoking bear and his triangular nacho-flavored snacks are all his ideas.

Driscoll has been creating his cartoon society since high school, doodling them in the margins of his notebooks. "I went to college for graphic design, but it was all boring technical stuff. I like doing this. The rabbits and bears are like childhood comforts to me. Growing

See Rust Belt, page 20

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► Rust Belt

Continued from p. 18

up in Michigan, it was special to see a bunny in the back yard, and I'd always say that one day I would get to see a real-life bear."

The Rust Belt also offers something a little darker. 13th Floor features the art of Adrian Clark, a self-described "grown-up Goth."

Sometimes macabre, sometimes steam punk, a little bit Victorian and ideal for Halloween time – that's 13th Floor's brand of fantasy art. Detailed wood burnings and creepy collages decorate the walls while trinketed hats and necklaces made of gears, wires, chains and other reclaimed objects give guests an opportunity to wear home a one-of-a-kind creation. There are also deviant-looking dolls, birdcages and odd pieces of furniture for sale.

Don "Daddy" Beverlin helps to sell his sweetie's eclectic creations and says he's "amazed" with Clark's work, and after eight years of living together, his partner's creativity never gets old. "Our living room looks just like this," he says of their Hazel Park home. "He's always changing things, and I am amazed sometimes when I come home and there is something new to see."

Across the aisle, the bright, nature-inspired works of Divine Iguana bring passersby a place of peace and appreciation. With a pixie-like smile and layers of fabric and lace, the artist Rena Hopkins of Detroit is as much a charm as the necklaces and earrings she has for sale.

And since 2009, Hopkins can officially say that she's no longer a struggling artist. "I've had stuff



BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

on consignment in other stores and I've done the art fair route, but Rust Belt is better," she says. Her booth is made of burlap covered walls accented with white holiday lights.

"I'd go to these art fairs and spend eight hours setting up my displays and it would be hit or miss. Here I'm not taking a risk on shows. I do well consistently, and this is my base. My customers know where to find me."

The art of Divine Iguana is what Hopkins calls "an intersection between magic and science,

between the mechanical and the fantastic." There are a lot of watch parts in her work – gears, numbers and hands, as well as other richly-detailed found objects. "I found a supplier in Switzerland and when the shipment comes I still get excited. I'm easily amused."

Her advice to other artists is to "make what you love and make the best art you possibly can."

The Rust Belt is not just about art, though. Royal Oak-based record collector Mike Trabley says he feels right at home with his record and retro clothing

“It's weird because it's such a solitary thing, but I come here and I get a reaction out of people – they smile and they laugh, and that's a nice way to earn a living.”

– Jason Driscoll

booth, Stay Pressed Records, located right inside the back entrance to the market. "I've worked in record stores for 10 years," says Trabley, who worked at Amoeba in L.A., and then took a job in Philly before he landed one in Michigan three years ago. Trabley had been selling records online, with the Ebay name "Detroit Record Exchange," and has been in the Rust Belt for seven months.

Stay Pressed has all types of music, with albums and covers in great condition and clothing that has all been dry cleaned and professionally pressed. A listening station with head phones gives customers a chance to hear the album before they buy it.

Just don't ask him to part with his "shoegaze" collection. "I won't sell my shoegaze," he says. "I'm a huge fan of British bands from the '90s. Ride is my favorite. I couldn't part with those."

To learn more about the Rust Belt, which is open Saturdays and Sundays, visit www.rustbeltmarket.com.

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How To Make Your House Blossom

Florist Offers Tips On Using Flowers In The Home

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

For most people, the only time they step foot in a flower shop is when there's a wedding, funeral or first date in the near future. Flowers can be more than a pretty but soon forgotten item bought more for their ceremonial purpose than natural splendor. Flowers can also transform any living space with their lively colors, sweet fragrance and natural beauty.

"I have flowers in my home all the time," says Darin Lenhardt, floral designer for Birmingham floral shop Blossoms. "I mean, if I have anywhere from one person to 30 people coming over, there are flowers in every room. Even when I was doing construction on our new home, there were flowers in all the rooms.

"They bring such life and energy and happiness. How can you feel sad when you're

looking at something that's living and so uniquely beautiful?"

It's hard to argue that flowers aren't uniquely beautiful. But with a few thousand options available, trying to find the petals that speak to you is a thorny proposition. Perhaps something simple and elegant like Darin's favorite, the classic white orchid (*phalaenopsis* cultivar), might be right.

"Phalaenopsis orchids are my favorite flowers in the world," Lenhardt says. "They're so simple and clean-looking."

Although orchids are stunning flowers, there's more than one bud, bouquet or arrangement that will get the job done. It's all about finding the look that works for your budget, tastes and needs.

An easy way to get started is checking out the latest trends. For winter, look to cylindrical glass vases and arrangements with multiples of the same flower (mono-floral arrangements).

"Maybe three vases down your dining room table with a hydrangea in each," Lenhardt suggests. "It doesn't always have to be a super arranged look. Even just the simple four lilies for fragrance next to your bed is a stunning look."

Their stunning looks can also add a bit of

See Florist Tips, page 24



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Darin Lenhardt. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

► **Florist Tips**

Continued from p. 22

texture to the room, also a big trend in floral design.

“I love all foliage arrangements where it’s all different types of greens: ivy, eucalyptus, pods, green dream or green dianthus, which has kind of a moss look to it,” he says. “Where it’s not so much only about fragrance, it’s about texture

and feeling.”

Carnations (*dianthus caryophyllus*) are one flower that will add color and texture to any room. They are also very budget-friendly. While they may not get the same adoration as an orchid, lily or rose, Lenhardt thinks that this is one member of the *dianthus* genus that may require a second look.

“Sometimes I feel like carnations get a bad rap,” Lenhardt says. “I mean, they’re a beautiful flower, just (depends on) the way that you use them. If you use them in a mono-floral design, you can get an entire bunch of carnations and mound them in a vase to almost make them look like a hydrangea. It’s going to have a longevity; it’s going to be beautiful.”

The trends aren’t all about simple and clean. There’s also meadow bunching or grouping of several different flowers in a wildflower-like display. It’s a trend that’s great as something a bit more organic and natural or daringly colorful.

According to Lenhardt, these “mass groupings of flowers (are) put together in a way that really brings boldness through the type of flower because you’re going to have four different colors of flowers. It’s really going to be visually pleasing and bold, which is always a good statement.”

Although flowers can do wonders to help any home, knowing what to get in a pinch will go far. Lenhardt offered up some great examples of arrangements for life’s various ups and breakdowns:

When meeting your partner’s parents for the

first time, “a mixture of roses and hydrangeas, spray roses and maybe Queen Anne’s lace because they’re a little older and a little bit more traditional. In soft colors like light blue, white, a soft yellow, peach and then always a soft green.”

When breaking up with Taylor Swift, “I would give a meadow look. Right now, I would do all Michigan garden flowers.”

After denting your boyfriend’s car, “I would do mokara orchids and three bold colors like red, orange, yellow or red, orange, purple.”

When asking your parents for money, “Ooh, green and white! It’s the color of money.”

When in doubt, Lenhardt emphatically suggests picking up an arrangement of green and white.

“If you’re ever looking for a fresh bouquet to give to someone, the best color combination is green and white,” he says. “No matter what colors you have in your house, white and green is the freshest look that you can go for.”



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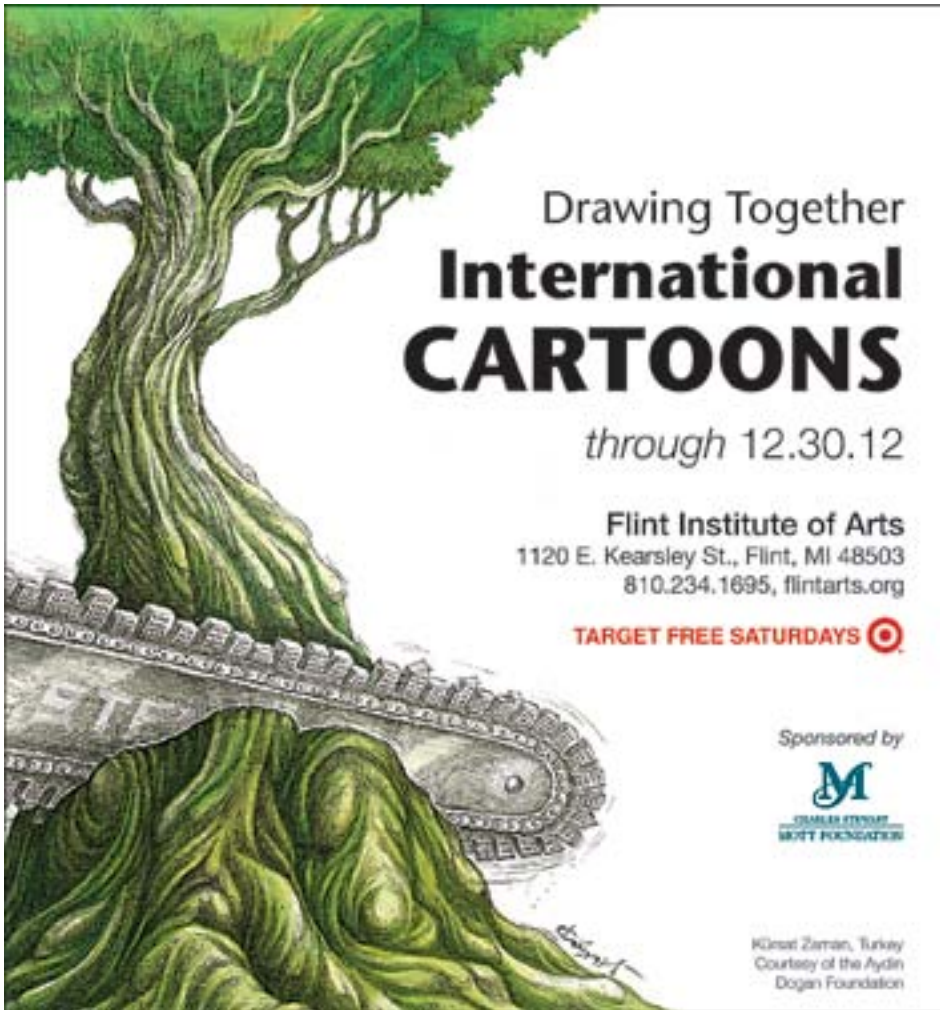
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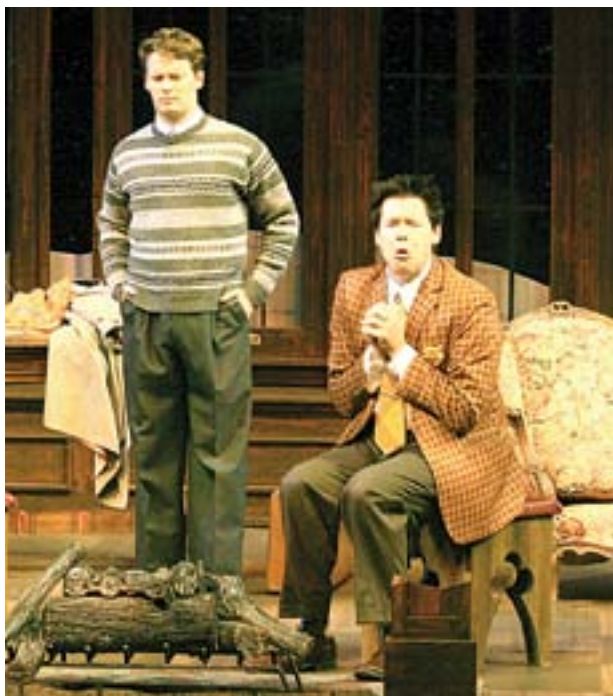


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"The Mousetrap" opens the Hilberry Theatre's 50th anniversary season.
Photo: Hilberry Theatre

The Hilberry Celebrates 50 Years With Christie Classic

BY JOHN QUINN

The Grand Dame of Crime, Agatha Christie, deserves a category in "Trivial Pursuit" (that, my children, was a board game we played before the Internet taught us the real meaning of "trivial") all her own. At the top of her achievements is her iconic 1952 murder mystery, "The Mousetrap," which is about to celebrate its 60 anniversary of continuous production in London's West End. That show has attracted over 10 million patrons. While its limited run will not be seen by that many (a shame, really), "The Mousetrap" is a joyful opening for the Hilberry Theatre's 50th season.

Dame Agatha is often imitated, but never equaled. One is quick to note that her characters and plot devices are familiar, and an astute theater-seat detective can catch the murderer pretty early in the play. It doesn't matter one bit: David J. Magidson has crafted a stylish, sophisticated rendition that keeps us on the edge of seats.

Our mystery begins at a country house somewhere near post-war London. An ambitious young couple, Mollie and Giles Ralston (Megan Dobbertin and Alec Barbour), have converted the cavernous Monkswell Manor into a guest house. It's opening day,

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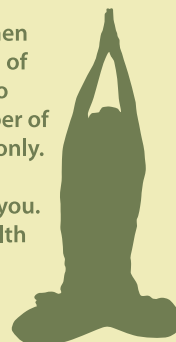
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and four guests are expected. They include the flighty Christopher Wren (Topher Payne), who, to use a contemporary idiom, seems a little light in the loafers. He's joined by an officious – and offensive – snob, Mrs. Boyle (Vanessa Sawson), and the staid Major Metcalf (Joshua Blake Rippey). The young and thoroughly modern Miss Casewell (Danielle Cochrane) rounds out the quartet.

As bad luck and reliable plot devices would have it, a raging blizzard has closed the roads! Out of the storm arrives, unannounced, the oily Mr. Mustapha (Edmund Alyn Jones), who's managed to flip his Rolls in a snowdrift. The tinder is set; all that's needed is a match. That would be a call from the police that Detective Sergeant Trotter (Christopher Call) is on his way (on snowshoes, of course) with distressing news. Monkswell Manor is linked to a murder in London. He announces that the murderer is in the house, and two more lives are in danger.

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The Perks Of Being Ezra Miller

Breakthrough Actor On Gay Teen Role, Why He's Queer And Doing Drag

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Twenty is a young age to have already played two characters that couldn't be any more different. But Ezra Miller's done it with parts as Tilda Swinton's evil son in "We Need to Talk About Kevin" and as Patrick, the lovable outsider with swagger and fearlessness in the film adaptation of the coming-of-age novel "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" – the boy every gay person wishes he could be. Even Miller. (The film opens Sept. 28 at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak.)

The young actor talked about *not* being that kid in high school, breaking label barriers and coming from a "whole queer-ass family" – who dressed him in drag.

What was your high school experience? Were you out then?

Yeah, definitely. But I wasn't shouting it out. I was unabashedly me. I was always having to leave high school, though, because I started working, so that was pulling me out of school. When I'd come back, there was a certain resentment: "You are no longer one of us. You have betrayed our pack." And I dropped out of high school when I was 16 years old because, first of all, the form and function of the schooling system never made any sense to me in the context of education, but also there was some ostracizing at play. At that point in my youth experience, I knew that feeling all too well. I immediately realized that I had just turned 16 and that it was best, and technically legal, for me to flee.

How was it playing a character that you wished you could've been in school?

I came out of the movie feeling like I had a bunch to learn from the character I just played, and then I came to the unfortunate conclusion that he was a fictional character and he didn't exist. I mean, to be able to hold your dignity and your pride, and to be able to empower yourself and love yourself in high school, is a feat.

That scene where you stand up for yourself in the lunchroom was probably something that hit close to home.

Yeah. You picture that moment where you effectively fight back, but then of course



Logan Lerman, Ezra Miller and Emma Watson star in "The Perks of Being a Wallflower." Photo: Summit Entertainment

“Anyone who dares to cultivate the courage to stand up for themselves has immediately already won the battle.”

– Ezra Miller

Patrick does, in that situation, end up getting held and pummeled and sort of relentlessly beaten on – that’s a reality, too. You can cultivate all of the courage and pride and power to stand up for yourself and still get beat to a pulp. I had that experience a few times. That scene was so important to everyone – to (director) Stephen (Chbosky) but really to (co-star) Johnny (Simmons) and myself. Having experienced things like that in our lives, we were really determined to get some bruises to make that fight brutal, the way that sort of peer-inflicted violence is – just horribly brutal.

Bullying is brutal, and it’s obviously become an epidemic in the last few years. What do you think young people who are victims of bullying might find empowering about Patrick?

I’m hoping that there could be a theoretical audience member who could watch Patrick in this fearless state of self-preservation and rebellion and come to the thought that anyone who dares to cultivate the courage to stand up for themselves has immediately already won the battle. The second you endow yourself to be your own best protector – your own best friend, your own best lover – you’ve already won. People can put you through a lot of horrific psychological, emotional and physical conditions, but if you have that for a support system for yourself, by yourself, there’s only so much anyone can ever do.

In the movie, Charlie is a troubled loner, but you open your world up to him and affect his life immensely. Who were your queer role models growing up?

My sisters, who were really strong and really empowered and who just were constantly making sure that I felt the love and that I was thinking for myself, but at the same time had my back. They were, for me as a younger person, the only role models I ever needed. My flesh and blood consumed

almost my whole frame of perception from when I was a younger child.

So your sisters are queer too?

Yeah. It’s a whole queer-ass family! (Laughs) You know, it’s pretty much the most ridiculously happy and lucky



The cast of “The Perks of Being a Wallflower.” Photo: Summit Entertainment

situation a boy like me could ask for. I really thank all sorts of illusive deities for the family that I have every day.

After seeing you as Frank-N-Furter during “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” scene, something tells me this wasn’t your first time doing drag. You were that good.

Thanks, darling! I’ve definitely dabbled from a young age. Those older sisters of mine actually started putting me through drag school when I was, like, 3. I remember running a lemonade stand and I was all made-up: My hair got did, I was in a dress and I remember getting it going so hard even then that people would come up to one of my sisters and say, “I saw you and your sister selling lemonade today.” (Laughs)

Yeah, I’ve definitely served some time in the mighty and honorable school of drag. When I was in middle school – it was combined with a high school, and the theater department was the same and it was the year that high schools were allowed to do “Rent” – I jumped on Angel really fast, so I even got to dance in drag and rock some pumps. So, I’ve definitely had some informative experiences.

You owe your sisters some gratitude for schooling you in drag.

Really, man! I was such a goofily happy kid when we were doing that. It was such, like, a ridiculous dream come true.

You sound like the polar opposite of your character in “We Need to Talk About Kevin.” You were so not Kevin as a child.

Yeah, that’s true. But it’s good to stretch in many different directions. I’m still convinced I can go much darker than anywhere I’ve gone so far, and I’m pretty sure there are greater possibilities. I really feel like I’ve only just scratched a really minute surface.

You develop a small crush on Charlie in “Wallflower.” Have you ever fallen for a straight boy before?

I mean, I just never believe anyone when they say they’re straight.

The media obviously isn’t sure how to interpret your “queer” identity; I’ve seen you called gay by many news outlets. Why do you prefer queer? And what do you think of just abandoning labels all together?

I think queer is that doorway into the L, G, B and T. Queer is the doorway to where we should all be at. In a perfect Garden of Eden world, we are all pretty damn – I don’t know if you say genderless or omni-gendered – but we’re all omnisexual, we’re all balanced and none of us are participating in a binary. But until that day comes, these labels and these ways that we can identify ourselves to ourselves are all useful, and it’s really important that people figure out how to be inclusive and supportive of each and every one of them. That’s my feeling on it. I’m queer because I think the way society splits the human being in half is kind of tragic, and I think we should all be as open a book as possible when it comes to loving another human.

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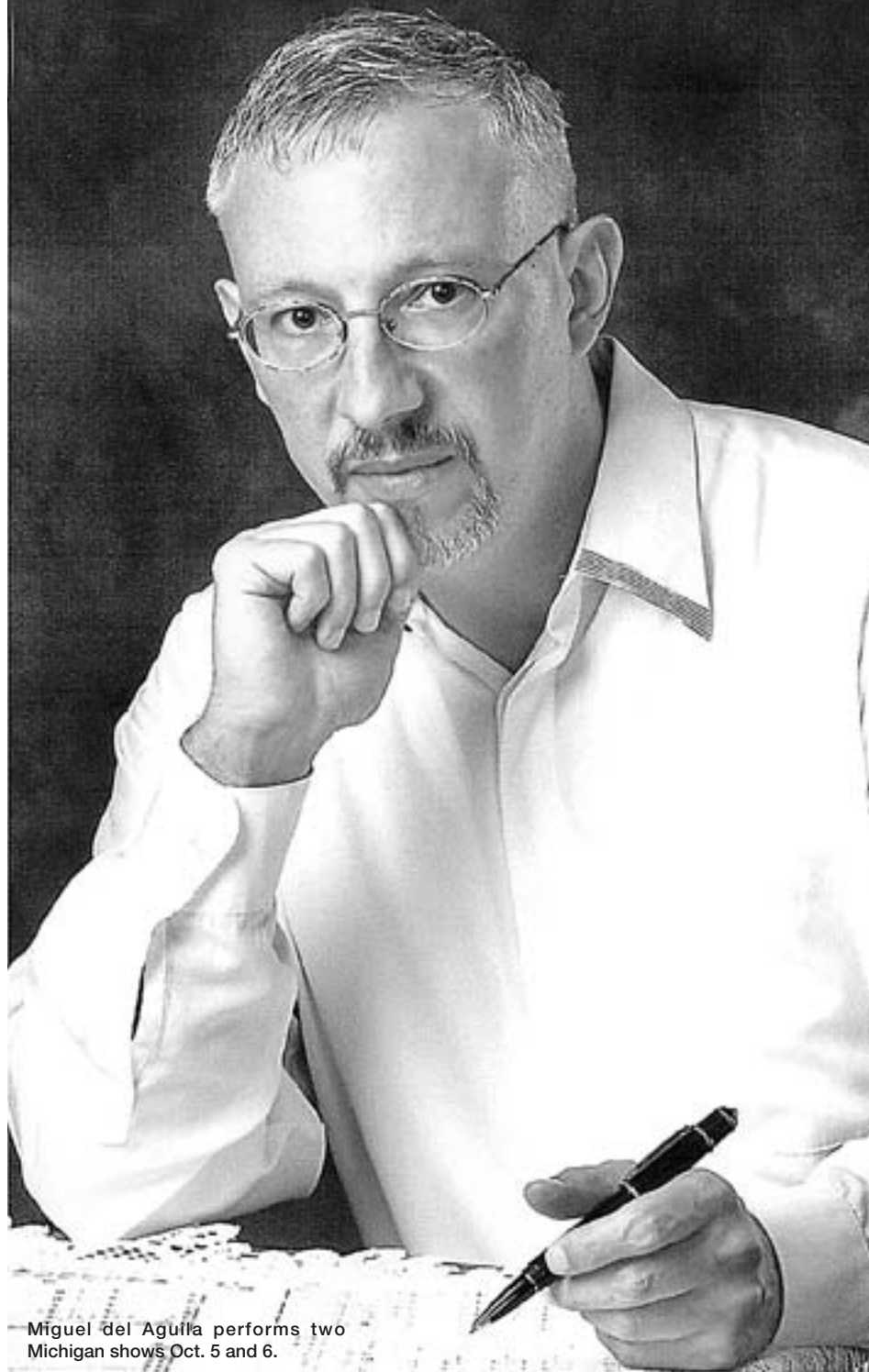
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Miguel del Aguila performs two Michigan shows Oct. 5 and 6.

Sharon Isbin, Miguel Del Aguila Perform Two Michigan Shows

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

For Miguel del Aguila, one of the most rewarding aspects of being a composer is bringing people together with his music.

"You can have your music performed in China or Germany and even if this music may sound exotic to them, they will understand it and they will feel it as if that were their music because that's the music they are listening to at the moment. Nothing like music illustrates better the fact that even though we all look and act so different, people around the world are all very similar," says Aguila.

The Michigan Philharmonic welcomes the California-based composer along with America's leading classical guitarist, Sharon Isbin, for opening night performances on Oct. 5 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills and on Oct. 6 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Aguila is in town for the Michigan premiere of his work "The Giant Guitar, inspired by the instrument he loves and grew up with in Montevideo, Uruguay.

"Having lived the first 20 years of my life in South America, I can't think of a guitar without associating its music to my early memories there. I often view South America as a giant guitar: friendly, sentimental, nostalgic, apparently weak, and yet concealing a great power only suggested by occasional rasgueado chords or historical revolutions, as in the political events of the 1970s," says Aguila, who lived in Vienna, Austria for 10 years before returning to the U.S. in 1992. The Los Angeles Times critics welcomed him as "one of the West Coast's most promising and enterprising young composers."

Aguila was recently honored by the Recording Academy with two Latin Grammy nominations for his CD *Salon Buenos Aires* and for his composition "Clocks."

"I am very excited about this performance and looking forward to the rehearsals as well," he says, adding that "The Giant Guitar" title actually refers to the shape of the South American continent, which resembles that of an upside-down guitar. "The guitar's open-strings theme is introduced at the beginning of the piece and it slowly takes us through many landscapes and dramatic historical events. One of these events being the 'Dirty War' where millions were murdered by militaristic governments all over South America. This is the time I had to emigrate to the U.S. I have never returned to South America since. 'The Giant Guitar' is not only a tribute to the instrument and to the people of the continent, but it also denounces and it accuses, or at the very least it reminds us of what tyrants are capable of."

"I look forward to meeting Miguel del Aguila, hearing his music for the first time, and discovering what a giant guitar for orchestra sounds like,"

INFO
Miguel del Aguila and Sharon Isbin
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says multiple Grammy Award winner Sharon Isbin, acclaimed for her extraordinary lyricism, technique and versatility. Special guest Isbin will perform Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, written in 1939 to become Rodrigo's most famous and recognizable work.

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"I greatly admire Sharon's musicality and talent and I'm thrilled to share the evening with her music, especially hearing her play one of my most beloved guitar concertos," says Aguila.

The musical tour concludes with Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony No. 7*, a dark, mysterious piece journeying through Bohemian dance rhythms and lyrical folk melodies, and ultimately closing with its triumphant finale.

"The Michigan Philharmonic is excited to be expanding their programming and reaching new audiences by performing in great new venues such as Seligman Performing Arts Center and the Carr Center in Detroit," says Michigan Philharmonic Executive Director Beth Stewart. According to Stewart, the Southeast Michigan professional symphony orchestra featuring Nan Washburn, music director and conductor since 1999, will bring its events into an ever-expanding roster of Michigan communities, including Plymouth, Canton, Birmingham-Bloomfield, the Grosse Pointes, downtown Detroit, and many others.

"I've had the pleasure of working with the Michigan Philharmonic and Nan Washburn many years ago when they did my *Conga*," says Aguila. "I seldom heard musicians play my music with such enthusiasm and drive. Nan is one of my favorite conductors and I wouldn't miss this concert for anything."

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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Pink's Defiant Disappointment



Pink, 'The Truth About Love'

In a world ruled by artificial pop princesses, Pink has always approached her music with real-woman candor, whether she's slamming horny dudes at the bar or singing a true-life tale about her parents' divorce. But this hell-raiser act, which extends through her catchy-but-safe seventh album, is turning cocky into caricature. "The Truth About Love" wants so hard to convince the world that Pink, who had a kid not long ago, is still the biggest badass on the block that it spends so much time proving a point when it should be using Pink's mighty ways as a singer and songwriter to crush the competition. (We know she can.) The potty mouth, the man put-downs (she tells him, cheekily, to blow her) and a duet with another often-misunderstood musician, Eminem – we get it; she's still a punk. Though Pink at her most "punk" was on the fierce commercial-dud "Try This," released nearly 10 years ago, it's clear record execs won't let this one suffer the same fate: Second single "Try" fetches a generic credo of perseverance but has a cool grunge sound, while "Walk of Shame," about a one-night stand, is goofy super-pop that's a lot of fun. But Pink, who has made catchier songs about jerking off, is better than "Slut Like You." Her deftness is demonstrated on "Beam Me Up," where she lets down her guard for a needy moment of vulnerable release. It's just too

bad how hard "The Truth About Love" tries to be another "Funhouse," turning Pink into a brand instead of the artist she always seemed destined to be. *Grade: C+*



Barbra Streisand, 'Release Me'

There's a predictability to Babs that's like comfort food: Her rainy-day music tends to require a box of tissue, and she sings with the same passion, precision and power that made the Brooklyn girl a star over 40 years ago. Simply put, there's no one else like her in this smoke-and-mirrors music industry. Not even Adele possesses the same purity as Babs. "Release Me," spanning decades as it reaches back into her song catalog for 11 previously unreleased tracks, is a testament to her reign as a vocal luminary who's not just stood the test of time, but stands taller as the years go by. But even in 1971, during her "Stoney End" era, Streisand's capabilities were so absolute that her cover of Randy Newman's "I Think It's Going to Rain Today" was cut in one take, with a simple reading over Newman's piano that preserves the melancholic sorrow of the song without overdoing it. Better than

Bette's version from "Beaches"? Not when it comes to heart. "Being Good Isn't Good Enough," from the 1967 Broadway musical "Hallelujah, Baby!" about equality, goes all diva with an escalating orchestra that finally crescendos as Babs sings her butt off. It's also refreshing to hear Streisand, who's gone the contemporary love-song route, take on a song as theatrically thrilling as her up-tempo version of "Home" from "The Wiz." The song never made "The Broadway Album" as planned – but it's here, and it's glorious. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Ryan Bingham, 'Tomorrowland'

Never mind that Ryan Bingham won an Oscar for his fragile folk song "The Weary Kind" from "Crazy Heart"; he's a new man who's, well, not so weary. At least by the sound of his new DIY disc, where he's without his signature band and former label. He rocks hard on "Beg for Broken Legs" with his usual gruffness but also a fiery attitude that's almost inspiring. His heart, however, hasn't strayed too far: "Never Far Behind" ruminates quite poignantly on the difficulty of moving on from a family member's suicide. If "Tomorrowland" wasn't so rooted in yesterday's rock, that awards mantle could be looking a lot fuller.



Pet Shop Boys, 'Elysium'

On "Your Early Stuff," Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe – aka Pet Shop Boys – recall a conversation with a cab driver who thought the U.K. duo was done for, but admired their '80s work. Since their 11th album tends to drag – its chill-out vibe could really use a few more hits of adrenaline, and the songs aren't nearly as memorable as their classic stuff – who can blame the guy for wishing they were still in their prime, singing about West End Girls? But the Pet Shop Boys still pull off some splendid moments of lounge-tronica: "Hold On" is a gospel beauty, and the dry-witted "Ego Music" satires celebrity vanity. Otherwise, though, it'll have you turning to the early stuff.

Reach Chris Azzopardi via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

Planet Ant Delivers Food For Thought

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Hamtramck – a town almost completely surrounded by its much larger neighbor, Detroit – was once home to Southeast Michigan’s Polish community. In 1970, 90 percent of its residents were of Polish ancestry. Today, the bustling ‘burb is now the state’s most internationally diverse city, with large numbers of residents coming from numerous Asian and Middle Eastern countries – all of whom live in very close proximity to a smattering of African-Americans, Latinos and folks with family ties to an assortment of European countries.

It’s also home to the feisty Planet Ant Theatre, which examines the community’s racial, cultural and religious differences with the world premiere of Margaret Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races.” The result is a near-flawless production.

Edwartowski, long known as one of the reigning queens of Detroit’s improv community, has earned a glowing reputation as an up-and-coming playwright. Beginning with her initial one-act drama “Snowbound” in early 2010, it’s been a pleasure watching her skills and storytelling abilities improve with every new script she writes. Thanks (I suspect) to many years of improv, Edwartowski has developed a keen ear for dialogue and a knack for creating imaginative, yet believable characters – and both are at a peak in “Hamtown Races.”

But of equal importance, Edwartowski proves with this production that she fears nothing and will take the necessary risks to tell the story she wants and needs to tell in the most complete and honest way possible. So if you’re easily offended or live a politically correct life, then take this as a strong hint: “Hamtown Races” may not be for you.

For the rest of us, though, Edwartowski has crafted a warm and heartfelt tale about what can happen when people of significantly different backgrounds mix together at a small Hamtramck restaurant owned by Noor (Amy Probst), a Lebanese immigrant. It’s a clash of cultures, as regular patrons Dobry (Patrick O’Connor Cronin), a Polish immigrant, and Jimmy (Rico Bruce Wade), an African-American on disability, enjoy themselves teasing and taunting Matt (Stephen Blackwell), the white-bread owner of a tee-shirt silk-screening company across the street – and who has an obvious crush on Lolia (Britta Peele), Noor’s beautiful daughter.

Storm clouds roll in with the arrival of Noor’s long-estranged husband, Kassim (Mike Eshaq), a rich banker from Lebanon who is displeased to find his wife and daughter working and living in a lower-middle-class neighborhood. Nor is he thrilled to stumble upon Lolia and Matt kissing after a night of drinking and partying.

But that’s the least of the problems Noor and her family will face over the next few days.



“Hamtown Races” by Margaret Edwartowski features Patrick O’Connor Cronin, Rico Bruce Wade, Amy Probst, Mike Eshaq, Britta Peele and Stephen Blackwell. Photo: SMyers

REVIEW

Hamtown Races

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck.
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 21 - Oct. 13, plus
Sunday, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, and Tuesday, Oct.
2. 120 minutes. \$20. 313-365-4948.

www.planetant.com

Edwartowski’s blend of quirky characters and realistic dialogue might lead one to believe she penned much of her script by eavesdropping on Hamtramck citizens as they came and went from any of Hamtramck’s dining establishments – it’s that natural. And they’re vividly brought to life by a director who understood how to both pace the show and allow his actors to fully invest themselves in their characters.

Director Mike McGettigan has long been a favorite of mine because of his unique perspective on comedy and his inventive nature – and here he’s at the top of his game. Much more traditional than some of his past work, McGettigan gets high marks for finding the small nuggets in Edwartowski’s script to build off of and have fun with – a brief look, a minor change in a facial expression, a pause in the action – all of which pay off great dividends by allowing us, the audience, to believe we actually *are* in the restaurant watching the story unfold before us.

His eye for casting, though, is among the show’s greatest assets.

The adorable Probst has a gentle sweetness about her that works quite well as Noor, matched by the innocence Cronin gives to Dobry. (Always an audience favorite, it’s fun to watch Cronin’s comedic mind at work when faced with an opportunity to have some unexpected fun when something goes awry, which happened early in the performance on opening night. I suspect some may not even have noticed it, but that quick, sly grin couldn’t be missed by those of us familiar with his work.)

Blackwell, a tall and lanky actor, always manages to physically and emotionally become whatever character he plays, and his Matt is no different. His total control of

his body, face, voice and movements tell you everything you need to know about what this character is thinking at any given moment.

And Peele, still a student studying theater at Wayne State University, acquits herself rather well as the least experienced actress among a team of veteran, top-notch thespians.

Two performances, though, merit special notice.

Missing from Detroit-area stages for far too long has been Eshaq, a filmmaker and actor whose memorable performances include two monologues in “Bogosian V(5): The Christening” at The Abreact in 2009. Once again, his focus and intensity are palpable – and he dominates the stage every time he makes an entrance.

Likely the bravest performance of the night is given by Wade. In this politically correct age, it’s been said that the TV series “All in the Family” would never make it on the air today. Wade’s Jimmy – a black man who sees himself the victim of racism, but fails to acknowledge his own flaws – is a direct descendent of Archie Bunker’s, with strong views and the words to match. While I suspect some in future audiences may be offended by the repeated use of the much feared and dreaded “n word,” I also suspect all of us know and love someone just like Jimmy – and the result is one of the most honest and sincere portraits of a “warts and all” human being to hit the stage in quite some time. (He’s also damn funny!)

Katie Orwig’s set design suggests a familiarity with local Coney Island and Middle Eastern restaurants, although missing from the wall is the required operating license from the local municipality. And Kevin Barron’s lights serve the show well.

While it’s been said many times in recent years that discussions about race and cultural differences are impossible to have when tensions among the various factions are so high – and when politicians use the topics to enflame their bases – Edwartowski’s “Hamtown Races” proves how live theater can help stimulate the conversation through laughter and plenty of food for thought that can be taken home and digested later.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday Sep. 27

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

Legal and Financial Issues for LGBT Seniors 6:30 p.m. "What happens if I die without a will? What happens if I become incapacitated? Should I get a reverse mortgage? Who makes health/legal decisions for me if I cannot do so?" A free seminar for LGBT seniors, with guests Tim Cordes, Henry Grix, Molly Giles and Amanda Shelton. Gay Elders of Southeastern Michigan, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-573-9932. GESEM12@gmail.com

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

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

Debating Same-Sex Marriage 7:30 p.m. RSVP Required, free to the public. Center for the Study of Citizenship welcomes John Corvino (WSU Professor, philosopher and prominent gay advocate) and Maggie Gallagher (nationally syndicated columnist and co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage) as they continue the debate originated in their book *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* (Oxford University Press, 2012). Center for the Study of Citizenship, Wayne State University, 450 Reuther Mall, **Detroit**. 313-577-6140. Helen.callow@wayne.edu Clas.wayne.edu/citizenship

Friday, Sep. 28

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Daphne Geraldine Somerville stars in this BBC biopic as acclaimed novelist Daphne du Maurier, whose secret infatuations and affairs with the likes of heiress Ellen Doubleday and actress Gertrude Lawrence are said to have informed much of her writing. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sep. 29

AIDS Walk Michigan-Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti/Jackson 1 p.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, Detroit Edison Building, **Washtenaw**. 734-544-0015. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

OUTFest 2012 5 p.m. OutFest 2012 is a full evening event with food and drinks, entertainment, information about community organizations, opportunities to win prizes, and the ability to be immersed in a welcoming and inclusive community. Outfest in an event held each year to celebrate National Coming Out Day. The Jim Toy Community Center provides support and resources to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Ally community in Washtenaw County. To present an event of this magnitude, JTCC rely on the support of our community in many ways. Contact JTCC to get involved. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-776-8104. OutFest2012@gmail.com JimToyCenter.org

Sunday, Sep. 30

Prime Time Sunday 11:30 a.m. Worship and praise service specially dedicated to LGBTQ seniors in and near the Detroit community. All are also welcome to join. Full Truth Ministries, 4458 Joy Road, **Detroit**. 313-459-3033. Ronchele.andres@yahoo.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI 25 and over-join GOAL every Sunday at for discussion, food and fun. New topic each week. Topic: What have you done to overcome fear(s) in your life? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Oct. 1

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. Gailwoloff@gmail.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

Tuesday, Oct. 2

Pride Action Night 6 p.m. Equality Michigan and Affirmations are looking for pro-equality volunteers to help mobilize the community as the upcoming election year approaches, building up momentum to ensure that LGBT rights are on Michiganders' minds as they head out to the polls. Equality Michigan and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. EqualityMI.org

Wednesday, Oct. 3

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

Dykes on Bikes 6:30 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

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

Thursday, Oct. 4

LGBT + Allies for Obama 7 p.m. Garret Arwa, Obama For America-Detroit, will explain in detail how President Obama has worked for equality for LGBT Americans in five ways. An optional phone bank with will offered after the presentation. Saginaw County Democratic Party, 122 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. 989-792-9900. Leoromo@yahoo.com

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. Crystal@jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Oct. 5

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

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, Oct. 6

The Blessing of Same-Sex Relationships 10 a.m. This conference will give participants some of the historical, theological, liturgical, and practical background that will equip them to prepare their congregations to celebrate same-sex unions. The cost for the workshop including lunch is \$15, \$25 if staying for dinner. Oasis Ministry, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. 734-846-3578. Jsummers@umich.edu Oasisministrymi.org

Fall Bash 2012 6:30 p.m. Affirmations is proud to announce the first annual 2012 Fall Bash at the Magic Stick, bringing a casual compliment to our formal spring event. Spring Bash, offering an alternative and informal venue and atmosphere. Affirmations, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-833-9700. Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Oct. 7

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI and allies 25 and over-join GOAL every Sunday for discussion, food and fun. New topic each week. Topic: Is lying or cheating ever justifiable? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Recall Troy Mayor Janice Daniels Ferndale Solidarity Party 6 p.m. Join friends from Ferndale and all over Southeast Michigan to help the LGBT community in Troy's efforts to recall Mayor Daniels. Any donation accepted, food provided, cash bar. Everyone welcome. SOHO Ferndale, 205 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Facebook: Recall Troy Mayor Janice Daniels Ferndale Solidarity Party

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Cirque de la Symphonie" Beginning the new Pops season as Jeff Tyzik is joined by Cirque de la Symphonie. Aerial acrobats literally "drop" into Orchestra Hall. Each gravity-defying feat choreographed to live music performed by the Detroit Symphony. Acrobats-contortionists-strongmen-jugglers. Tickets: \$19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Oct. 5-Oct. 7. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Kerrytown Concert House Pauline Martin and Yoonshin Song; Violinist Yoonshin Song, was born in South Korea where she began her musical studies at age 5. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 4. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "MasterWorks 2: Shostakovich Symphony No. 10" Mendelssohn's Final's Cave Overture, Mozart's Bassoon Concerto, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10. Tickets: \$15-50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 6. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

Michigan Philharmonic "Isbin Plays Rodrigo" Miguel del Aguila's The Giant Guitar, Joaquin Rodrigo's Concierto De Aranjuez, Antonin Dvorak's Syphony No. 7. The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. 734-394-5300. MichiganPhil.org

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Tony Deyo; A rising young talent, Deyo is known for his sharp, quick material and near perfect comedic timing almost certainly gained from his years as a professional symphony musician. Tickets: \$10-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 28-Sep. 29. 734-996-9080. AACComedy.com

Olympia Entertainment Jerry Seinfeld; America's premier comedian returns to Fox Theatre. Seinfeld has been hailed for his uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere. Tickets: \$49-79. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Jim Breuer; An American stand-up comedian, actor and radio host. He is most noted for his time as a cast member on Saturday Night Live. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Sep. 28. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Opening Week Joshua Bell" Bernstein Divertimento for Orchestra, Overture to Candide, Symphony No. 1, "Jeremiah," and Serenade. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 28-Sep. 30. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Kerrytown Concert House "National Endowment for the Arts Jazz" Don't miss what is sure to be a truly momentous evening featuring the 2012 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, legendary jazz vocalist Sheila Jordan. Tickets: \$10-40. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Olympia Entertainment Anthony Hamilton; With special guests Estelle and Antoine Dunn. Tickets: \$39-99. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 28. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Eric Church; He's sold out over 25 dates on his inaugural arena headlining tour, but Eric Church's "The Blood, Sweat & Beers Tour" isn't over yet. Tickets: \$37.50-47.50. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "The Blood, Sweat & Beers Tour" Not only has "The Blood, Sweat & Beers Tour" received huge response from fans, but it has also been met with praise by many outlets. Tickets: \$38-48. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Joss Stone; English soul singer, songwriter and actress. Her second album, the equally multi-platinum Mind Body & Soul, topped the UK Albums Chart for one week and spawned the top ten hit "You Had Me", Stone's most successful single. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

The Ark Ingrid Michaelson; Staten Island, New York songstress Ingrid Michaelson started out singing mellow, moody, often very funny folk-pop confections like "The Way I Am" ("I'd buy you Rogaine when you start losing all your hair"). Tickets: \$42. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 30. 734-764-2538. TheArk.org

The Ark Joss Stone; By the time Stone was in her early teens she had begun to intuitively hone her now trademark gravelly-but-lustrous vocals by singing along to Aretha's Franklin's greatest hits. She began pursuing a singing career at thirteen, securing a record deal at 15, and recording her star-making debut album, "The Soul Sessions", which was released in 2003. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Oct. 6. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

The Ark Nervous But Excited; With special guest Andrea Gibson. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 4. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark The Kin; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 28. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Vienna Teng; Tickets: \$25 (\$15 with student ID). The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 29. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Fillmore Detroit Ben Folds Five; Ticket: \$25-45. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 2. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

The Fillmore Detroit "The Long Live A\$ap Tour" A\$AP tour with special guests Danny Brown, Schoolboy Q. Tickets: \$25-35. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 3. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

The Fillmore Detroit Anjelah Johnson & Jo Koy; Tickets: \$32.50. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 6. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

The Majestic Theatre Gossip; Tickets: \$15.00, all ages welcome. Lighted secure parking in rear of venue. The Majestic Theatre, 420 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 2. 313-833-9700 201. majesticdetroit.com

University Musical Society "Special Celebration Dinner" The venerable ensemble returns to help kick off the "Hill 100" season in style. Join us for this celebratory dinner, honoring both 100 years of UMS performances in Hill Auditorium and Ken Fischer's 25th anniversary as President of UMS. Campus Inn, 615 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. 5:30 p.m. Sep. 27. 734-764-8489. UMS.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER
Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson \$17. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Oct. 4-13. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

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

Legally Blonde, the Musical \$23+. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 28-Oct. 14. 269-343-1313. Kazoocivic.com

Stepping Out \$12-15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Sep. 30. 517-782-8473. centerstagejackson.org

The Dixie Swim Club \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hill. Oct. 5-27. 248-553-2955. FarmingtonPlayers.org

The Rat Pack Lounge \$25-28. The Croswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through Sep. 30. 517-264-SHOW. Croswell.org

Wait Until Dark \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Oct. 5-28. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org



Editor's Pick

Peppermint Creek Theatre Company opens their 10th anniversary season with "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson," playing Oct. 4-7 and 11-13 at its new venue, the Miller Performing Arts Center, located at 6025 Curry Lane, just two blocks west of the Miller/Cedar Street intersection in South Lansing.

"Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson" tells the story of America's first political maverick: Andrew Jackson. Jackson kicked British butt, shafted the Indians and smacked down

the Spaniards all in the name of the United States. Who cares if he didn't have permission? An exhilarating and white-knuckled look at one of our nation's founding rock stars, "Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson" recreates and reinvents the life of "Old Hickory," from his humble beginnings on the Tennessee frontier to his days as our seventh commander-in-chief. It also asks the question: Is wanting to have a beer with someone reason enough to elect him? What if he's really, really hot?

Tickets are on sale now at 517-927-3016.



Editor's Pick

New York songstress Ingrid Michaelson started out singing mellow, moody, often very funny folk-pop confections like "The Way I Am" ("I'd buy you Rogaine when you start losing all your hair"). Ingrid's success expanded, and her songs have been all over the soundtracks of hit television series like "Grey's Anatomy," "One Tree Hill," and more. As a composer of pure infectious melody Ingrid is still second to none, but with her fifth

album, "Human Again," she pushed herself harder as both a vocalist and writer.

Now Ingrid comes to the Power Center in Ann Arbor with an acoustic quartet, putting her voice and songs front and center, in a show that marks the maturing of one of today's generation's favorite artists.

Ingrid Michaelson performs at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$27-42. This performance was brought to the Power Center by The Ark. For more information, go to www.TheArk.org

PROFESSIONAL

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

A Skull in Connemara Free; donations accepted. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Sept. 27. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Barbara Cook \$46-56. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4. 248-661-1900. TheBerman.org

Blue Man Group \$34.50 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids, DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Through Sep. 30. 616-235-6285. broadwaygrandrapids.com

boom Previews Sept. 27 (\$15), \$20-22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. Through Oct. 21. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

Bunnica \$12-\$15. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Sep. 30. 800-745-3000. michtheater.org

Death and the Maiden \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Oct. 14. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

Deathtrap \$29-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 7. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Evil Dead: The Musical \$15-26. The Ringwald & Olympia Entertainment at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 4-27. 313-471-6611. OlympiaEntertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

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

Hamtown Races \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Oct. 13. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

La Cage Aux Folles \$40-80. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Oct. 7. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

Moonlight and Magnolias \$38-45. Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through Oct. 7. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Oh, Ananse \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Superior Donuts Previews Sept. 26-27 (\$22-\$32). The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Suzhou Kun Opera Theater of Jiangsu Province \$30 and up. University Musical Society at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 28-29. 734-764-2538. ums.org

The Fantasticks \$18-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Sep. 27-Oct. 21. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

The Glass Menagerie Previews Sept. 27-30 & Oct. 4 (\$22-\$32). \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 27-Oct. 28. 734-663-0696. PerformanceNetwork.org

The Mousetrap \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 13. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The Pillowman \$15-18. Threefold Productions at Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Through Oct. 13. threefoldproductions.org

The Spitfire Grill \$27-31. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Oct. 5-21. 269-343-2727. FarmersAlleyTheatre.com

Thursdays at Go Comedy! A night of original comedies: "50 States of Grey" (\$10) and "Improv Rebels" (10 p.m.; \$5). Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

You Make Me Laugh! A Love Song to Gilda Radner \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 29. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Annual: All Media Exhibition" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 2-Oct. 21. 734-995-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "The Chris Webber Collection" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1-Sep. 30. 313-494-5853. TheWright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "George Nelson: Architect / Writer / Designer / Teacher" The first comprehensive retrospective of Nelson's work. 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" 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. July 5-Nov. 1. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "All Girls, No Boys" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Sep. 1-Sep. 30. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

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

Michigan State University Museum "4,000 Years of Indigenous Michigan Horticulture" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 1-Nov. 30. Museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 6-Dec. 30. Museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Vision in a Cornfield" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Anri Sala" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "The Pieces Fall Together" 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sep. 6-Sep. 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

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

The Gallery Project "Quantified Self" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 30-Oct. 7. 734-997-7102. TheGalleryProject.com

The Scarab Club "Nancy Mitnick: Time Travel" 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Sep. 5-Oct. 14. 313-831-1250. ScarabClub.org

Toledo Museum of Art "Made in Hollywood" 2445 Monroe St., Toledo. Oct. 7-Jan. 30. 419-255-8000. ToledoMuseum.org

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Benjamin West: General Wolfe and the Art of the Empire" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22-Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Discovering Eighteenth-Century British America: The William L. Clements Library Collection" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22-Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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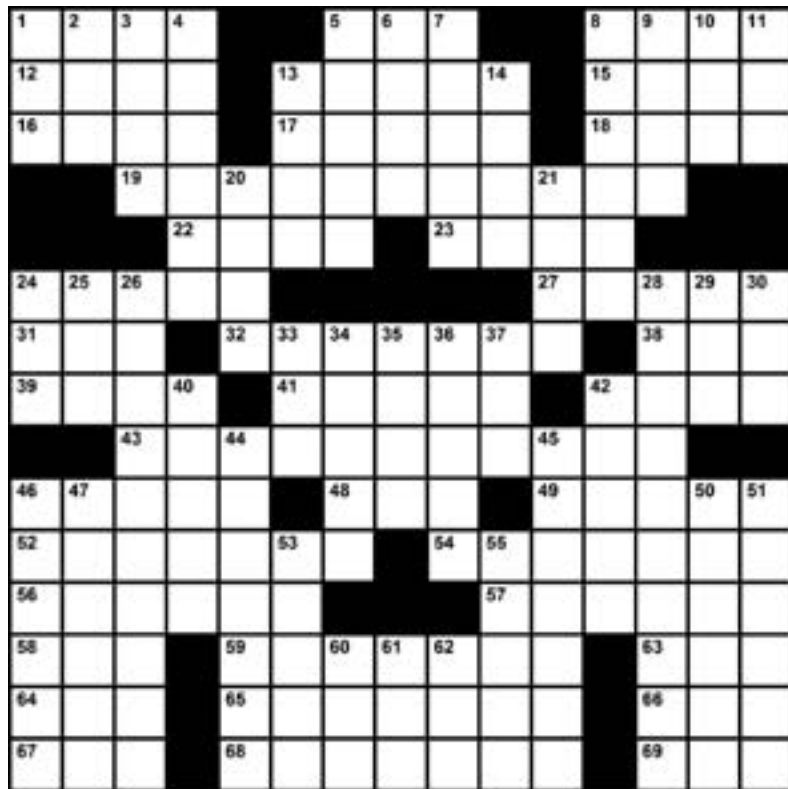
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Across

- 1 Pirate drink
- 5 ___ Virgin (character in 19-/43-Across)
- 8 Spencer-Devlin's sport
- 12 Like Obama's office
- 13 Takes out of the text
- 15 Blown away
- 16 Queens tennis stadium
- 17 Tatum of "The Bad News Bears"
- 18 Sentence unit
- 19 With "The," start of a film title of 32-Across
- 22 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 23 "Quo Vadis" emperor
- 24 Charlize Theron's _Monster_ award
- 27 Flaming queen's crime?
- 31 Cheerleader's shout
- 32 With 56- and 57-Across, Mr. Phipps portrayer in "D.E.B.S."
- 38 Pod beginning
- 39 "Get yer ass in gear!"
- 41 Get smart
- 42 Bipedal dino
- 43 End of the film title
- 46 Became erect
- 48 That to Juan
- 49 Orally pleased with gusto
- 52 Cameo carvings

- 54 Sailing race
- 56 See 32-Across
- 57 See 32-Across
- 58 Boater or bowler
- 59 Dame Edna
- 63 Palindromist's cry
- 64 Nice beach season?
- 65 A fistful
- 66 Play bumper-cars
- 67 Lawyers' thing
- 68 Gothic-window lacework
- 69 Some of Barrie's precipitation

Down

- 1 "Don't ___ step further!"
- 2 Mobile digs
- 3 Island of Diamond Head Beach
- 4 "Ed Wood" role
- 5 Country or folk
- 6 What you shake when you come quickly
- 7 Have a craving
- 8 "I Will Survive" singer Gloria
- 9 Got a little behind
- 10 Gamboling area
- 11 Eleanor's beard?
- 13 Lesbian couples in "Bambi"?
- 14 Fruit flavor for gin

- 20 Sleeping quarters
- 21 Caspian Sea feeder
- 24 Tolkien cannibal
- 25 America's Uncle
- 26 Willy Wonka factory output
- 28 Tennessee Williams's desire and more?
- 29 Rough stuff for miners
- 30 Put the kibosh on
- 33 Notre Dame is on one
- 34 Hands over
- 35 Harry and others
- 36 Maid Marian's cross-dressing suit?
- 37 Rocker Brian
- 40 Emphatic turndown
- 42 Tennessee tight end, e.g.
- 44 Most like a milquetoast
- 45 Without detail
- 46 He handles shafts and quivers
- 47 Give an account of
- 50 Affirmation member, for one
- 51 ColOn locale
- 53 Kind of pitch
- 55 Second name in cross-dressing
- 60 Madonna's Peron role
- 61 YMCA activity
- 62 "We ___ Family"

Solution on pg. 43



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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

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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Cocktail Chatter

Dill-Vodka Martini

BY ED SIKOV

When we left our hero, he had just ruined yet another dinner party with a rare but deadly combination of bad memory and gracious seasonal taste. I had made dill-infused vodka and served it to a good friend who, I'd forgotten, had auditioned for the role of Dill in the film adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and, having not gotten the part, has spent the rest of his life in mortal dread of the very word "dill," let alone the herb it signifies. I mentioned that the dilled vodka was delicious, and I gave instructions on how to make it, but the following weekend's (shall we say) full-throated reception of the cocktails I made from it was so overwhelmingly positive I've actually decided to expand on the recipe and offer one particular suggestion for a cocktail to make with it.

I acknowledge that I'm not the world's most humble human being; I can be quite a blowhard sometimes. But I must say plainly and simply that dill-infused vodka is by far the best drink I've ever made, and it was greeted as such by our housemates last weekend. They polished off practically the whole fifth in less than an hour. I barely had enough to experiment with, and I wanted to create a martini-like cocktail using the infusion as the base. I snatched the bottle right out of Craig's pudgy fist to get the last ounce before he gulped it down.

"Heyyyyyy!" he whined.

"Hay is for horses, dear," I clucked. "How many times must I tell you? What would Princess Grace say if you were at the palace and said 'hey' at the dinner table?"

"Outa my way, Letitia!" Craig side-butted me and sent me flying into the refrigerator. He attempted to grab the vodka bottle but I held firm. "Oh, why are you such a douchebag?"

"Douchebag?" I said it as though I was a Harvard anthropologist quoting another anthropologist's study of self-reporting users of vulgarities in Appalachia. "I simply want enough to try a recipe...."

"Which you naturally will drink yourself," Craig batted back. "OK, fine. Have it your way.

You always do. What's Dr. Mengele's experiment this weekend?"

"A variation on the martini...."

"A Dill-Tini! Wait, no. A Dill-a-Tini! Or for you a Dill-a-Tante-Tini!"

I was putting my concentration toward measuring a tiny amount of dry vermouth, not Craig's chatter, so I didn't hear Dan and Paolo and Chipper come into the room. Their sudden barks of laughter caught me off guard and I nearly dropped the shot glass.

"You know that I hate those stupid 'tini' suffixes," I said huffily. "I'm not inventing the best cocktail of my career only to ruin it with a dumbass name."

"So what are you calling this masterpiece, Dr. Goebbels?"

"The 57."

"I live with this," Dan said to no one in particular.

"I'll bite," said Chipper. "Why?"

"It's an homage to the Heinz pickle. The garni is a cornichon or two. Dill? Pickle? Dill? Pickle? Get it? Heinz 57?"

"We're so lucky to have you in our lives," I wish somebody had said. But they all turned and went their separate ways. I downed the tiny 57 and felt just fine.

The 57

1 fifth Absolut premium vodka
 1 bunch dill, washed and dried
 dry vermouth to taste
 cornichon for garnish

Make the infusion: stick the dill in the vodka, leave it alone for two days, then remove it; this is easy to do if you leave the stems sticking out the top of the bottle and cover it all with plastic wrap. Put the cap back on and stick the bottle in the freezer.

Make the 57s: Just make a vodka martini according to your own taste using the dill infusion and dry vermouth; I like a 4-1 ratio. Rinse a few cornichons under water and dry them on paper towels; drop a few into your finished drinks and serve.

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Horoscopes

Listen to your friends, Gemini!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus is squaring Mars, boosting creative and sexual tensions. Impulse and ego are very strong here, not true love. Commitments to a higher cause can prove dramatic. Promises of love will just explode.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): “All’s fair in love and war,” but there are consequences that go beyond victory. Beware of collateral damage to your reputation and other regrets. Are you really fighting for something worthwhile? Or just needing to assert yourself? Think ahead!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Cleaning house or digging up family secrets can expose a lot more than you bargained for. Someone, probably your partner, will not be pleased. Jealousy is useless and destructive. Keeping your home together may require a new open-mindedness.

GEMINI (May 21– June 20): A winning streak in love and games won’t last long, but enjoy it while it does. Be careful, though. Too much fun could upset your partner, or botch efforts to start something new. Listen to your friends, but don’t trust all of them.

CANCER (June 21– July 22): The need to assert yourself can run you afoul of authority. It may be more strategic in the long run to let a boss steal credit for your innovations. Deserved credit will come your way in time.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): You may indeed have all the answers, but don’t be too eager with them. Let people figure it out for themselves and you might even learn something in the process. Deal with small health problems before they become large ones!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You could be in for a raise. Make very nice with people who decide that, but more importantly, make sure your true value is clear to see. Promotions bring bigger challenges. Don’t be intimidated or over-eager. Size up the situation carefully before acting.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Popularity is a double-edged sword. Invitations from your friends can cause friction with your family and mate. If your partner suggests that some of your pals are taking advantage of you, he or she is probably right.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your efforts to get ahead will be noticed, but that will also highlight your faults and mistakes. Nobody’s perfect. Your best strategy is to ask your boss or another expert for help where you need improvement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): If you’re looking for a lover, look among your friends. If you have one, get your baby to socialize more with your pals. In love and friendship, think about who you want to be with 12 years from now.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Reality is about to lose those clean definitions you love so dearly. You can gain empathy and foresight, but like any new skill those can be challenging at first. Yes, you are going a little crazy, but that can be a brilliant adventure.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Secrets will be revealed! Keep your mouth shut about others and especially at work! Focus on digging up your own with a counselor or a trusted confidante, and you could free yourself from old fears and anxieties.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): You have lots of opportunities to indulge fleeting passions, but don’t mistake them for love. Life is about to get a bit harder and more serious. You’ll need to define and focus your goals, but that will take time. Don’t make snap decisions now.



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Solution to puzzle from page 38

G	R	O	G	G	A	Y	G	O	L	F					
O	V	A	L	D	E	L	E	S	A	W	E	D			
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Thursday	October 11, 2012 at 8 p.m.
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