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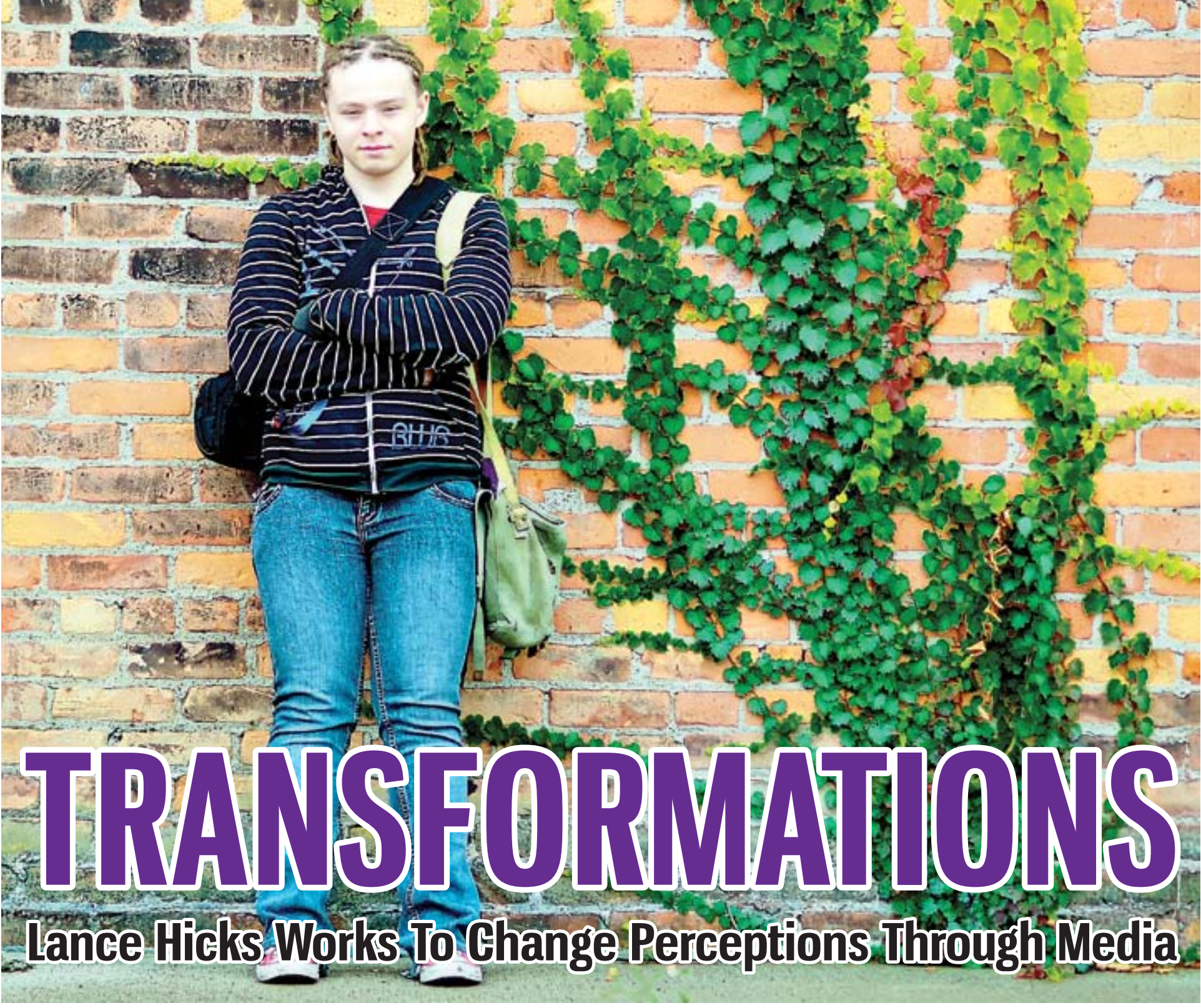
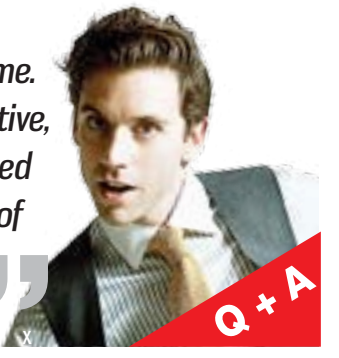


Kuhnke Could Be First Lesbian Judge In State

Comedian Aisha Tyler Chats Detroit Gigs

“It was the right time. There was nothing negative, or no pressure, associated with the process or act of labeling myself as gay.”

- Mika



TRANSFORMATIONS

Lance Hicks Works To Change Perceptions Through Media



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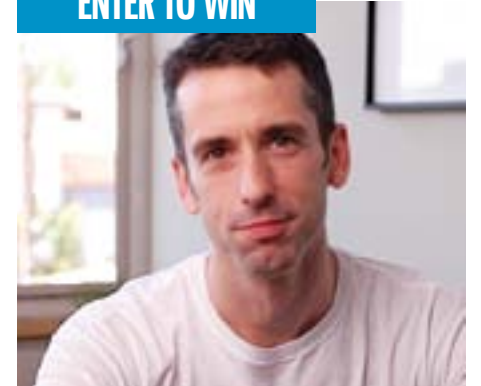
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Transformations

Transgender Man Works to Change Perception Through Media

BY ANDREA POTEET

Lance Hicks used to get mad when schoolyard bullies would argue with him about his race.

“I used to carry around family photos to show them because I would get really upset when people would tell me that I wasn’t the race that I said I was,” he says, sitting on a bench in Clark Park. “It’s just that idea that a perfect stranger based on how you look feels entitled to say they know more about you than you do.”

Hicks has a white parent and a black parent. He also has fair skin and light eyes. So when people look at him, they often only see a white man. But his race is not the only part of his identity people often misread. Hicks, 22, has been correcting them about his gender since coming out as transgender at 15.

“In a perfect world, everyone could just look at me and know who I was,” Hicks says, his sandy-colored hair twisted neatly into dreadlocks. “But we don’t live in a perfect

world, we live in this world, and it’s more important to me to build relationships with people who care about things that I think are important and are working on things that I care about and are invested in trying to do the work that I think is important. If you don’t understand my race or you don’t understand my gender, that’s okay as long as you can be respectful.”

Growing up on Detroit’s Northwest side, Hicks said he always felt like a boy, even though he loved pink and once refused to wear a dress until his mother glued a flower onto it, but started identifying as transgender when he found the word on the Internet.

Though initially his mother, the first person to whom he came out, thought he was joking, she researched the issue and became fiercely supportive, driving him to Affirmations youth group every week. There and at the Ruth Ellis Center, he found other trans youths and the support he needed.

“I kind of developed a peer group really early on of other trans and other LGBT youth and we

kind of created this little chosen family,” he said. “I came out so young and I had this peer group and this kind of support system around me so I was able to have a pretty positive experience during my teenage years, which I don’t think is something a lot of trans people can say.”

Most of the friends Hicks made at those LGBT youth centers were involved in queer youth organizing, which soon became a passion of Hicks’ and helped build his own confidence. He was involved in OSASS, Oakland County Substance Abuse Services and through Affirmations, he helped organize a Midwest trans youth conference that ran from 2007 to 2009. He said the event filled a need for youth-driven transgender programs.

“Lots of times big events like that don’t happen necessarily in the Midwest or aren’t necessarily youth-friendly spaces,” he said. “Youth are allowed to go and people will talk to you but you don’t see youth organizing anything or planning workshops or doing facilitation, they are just sort of there.”

The need for more active roles for LGBT youth is also behind his newest project, Detroit Represent!, which he cofounded with Rhiannon Chester last summer. Though still in its infancy and with limited membership, the project aims to teach LGBT youth of color media skills so they can take active roles in the media’s retelling of LGBT-related issues.

“We felt like a lot of media representation of LGBTQ youth was either not presented by members of the community, it was kind of by other people about us, or it didn’t represent youth of color,” he said.

Through the program, LGBT youth teach each other media skills and create projects that are authentic representatives of them and help to make changes in the LGBT community, not just highlight them.

“Instead of just saying ‘youth are homeless because people don’t accept them and this is not a good thing,’ maybe create a documentary piece to try to raise funds for a group that is supporting a transitional living project for LGBTQ youth,”

he said, “or maybe create an infographic for teachers on what resources are available for them to help support youth...something that actually creates an action toward improving the situation instead of just pointing out the problem and complaining about it.”

Hicks also recently joined the board of Detroit Latinos, which has donated their headquarters for Detroit Represent’s meetings. He said as someone who does not identify as Latino, he had reservations about taking on a decision-making role in a Latino organization.

“I actually felt really complicated about being on that board because I don’t feel like the best person to be making decisions for an organization that serves Latino people but ultimately the reason

why they were interesting in having me participate is some of the work I was doing around youth organizing and art stuff, so I think I can just kind of share some of that skill set with them, and not necessarily take on a huge amount of power,” he said.

The issue of race has been central to Hicks his entire life, but he said dealing with misconceptions about his gender brought issues about his race to the surface.

“Right now I’d say my race honestly is a bigger part of my identity than my gender,” he says. “When I tell people that I’m trans, automatically unless the other person’s trans too, people automatically think ‘Oh that must be the biggest thing about you’ and people always want to ask about that, so because of that I’ve been talking about that and thinking about that so much since I was 15 because it’s all people want to hear about. There’s not a whole lot left for me to say about it. It’s kind of the opposite with my race because I think that people who aren’t biracial often times don’t realize that that’s a really intense experience.”

Growing up, he said his white mother and black father both wanted him to know and be proud of the fact that he was “mixed,” a term he says he prefers because people automatically know what it means, but he said neither of them fully recognized how challenging it would be.

“It’s definitely been a complicated thing growing up here because this is such a segregated area,” Hicks says. “Most other places I’ve been people don’t assume that there’s only black and white, but in Detroit all the time you hear people say ‘oh is so-and-so black or are they white?’ as if those are the only two options. I never feel like I’m white or I’m black, I always feel like I’m this other third thing.”

That “third” classification has brought with it challenges, like questioning stares when he’s in an area mostly populated by black people, areas where he normally feels most comfortable. When he experiences racism, he said unlike those with darker-skin, he doesn’t have a built-in community of people who look like him to come to for support.

“I think I’m still learning what it means to carry the privilege of being light-skinned within the experience of knowing you’re not white,”

“Right now I’d say my race honestly is a bigger part of my identity than my gender. When I tell people that I’m trans, unless the other person’s trans too, people automatically think ‘Oh that must be the biggest thing about you!’”

he says. “I do carry a lot of privilege based on the way I look. Things like racial profiling or educational malpractice and teachers assuming you’re not going to work as hard or you’re not as smart or getting a lower pay rate when you start a job...things like that aren’t things I have to deal with as much but I think I have to deal with other things that darker-skinned black people don’t.”

Hicks said he may want to raise or mentor a biracial child to give him the understanding of those challenges his own parents could not.

“Not that they weren’t supportive, but neither one of them could really relate,” he said. “That would have been really special for me to have, so I’d like to at one point in my life be able to give that to a younger person.”

His race and gender, he said, also makes it harder to find safe spaces where he feels comfortable and gets all his emotional needs met.

“As much as I am a trans person and I claim the trans community, I often times don’t feel comfortable in spaces that are supposedly trans spaces because most of those spaces are by and for white people and so it makes

things complicated,” he said. “At the same time spaces that are mostly spaces of color are not safe spaces for me as a trans person, so it’s a matter of having to kind of get the things I need from different places and recognize that it’s not realistic of me to get everything I need from one place and learning to be okay with that.”

With no clear major for his passion, media-based community organizing, he’s bringing that same approach to his education. Studying at Wayne State University, he bobbed back and forth between degrees in social work and photography and then turned to taking classes, both on and off campus, that he thinks will help him improve his skills. He took part in one of Detroit Future’s 20-week Media Workshops, an experience he called the most transformative of his life, and is also learning from an apprenticeship with the Boggs Educational Center in addition to working in the resource center of nonprofit Alternatives for Girls, which assists homeless and high-risk women and girls.

In some ways, Hicks is already working his dream job as much of what he wants to do for a living is involved in Detroit Represent! He said his long-term career plans may not end up looking like a normal job, but he’s committed to Detroit and to queer youth and will continue to work to improve the city he loves and the youth who need access to resources and transgender role models.

“I really hope that I’m never done,” he said. “I hope that I live a long time and I do a lot of things in my life. I know some of the things I want to do and I know there are things that I will definitely discover later that I don’t know right now.”

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Former NFL player Wade Davis To Attend Equality Michigan State Celebration



DETROIT – Equality Michigan, the Michigan’s LGBT political organization, will host the State Equality Celebration Oct. 27 at the Detroit Club in Downtown Detroit.

Attendees will hear from former NFL player and openly gay man Wade Davis, community leaders and several elected officials. Equality Michigan will also

honor recipients of its annual Catalyst Awards, recognizing individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond in service to Michigan’s gay and transgender communities.

“Our Annual State Equality Celebration is an empowering opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our communities and the individuals working towards full equality in Michigan,” said David Wait, chair of the Equality Michigan Board of Trustees.

The State Equality Celebration begins at 7:00 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Detroit Club at 565 East Larned St., Detroit, Michigan 48226. The Host Reception starts at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125, or \$250 for the Host Reception, and are available online at www.equalitymi.org or by calling Equality Michigan at 313-537-7000 ext. 105. Student tickets are available at \$75.

Citizenship Checkbox Ordered Off the Nov. Ballot Application, Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction

DETROIT – In a ruling from the bench, a federal judge issued an injunction Oct. 5 against Secretary of State Ruth Johnson’s controversial “citizenship checkbox.” The ruling comes after a day of testimony and arguments. A voting rights coalition brought the lawsuit requesting Judge Paul D. Borman strike down the checkbox as unconstitutional and a violation of federal and state law.

In his ruling from the bench, Judge Borman stated that the checkbox “will create chaos” and cause “irreparable injury to the voting process.”

The lawsuit was filed last month by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LA SED), Ingham County Clerk Michael Bryant, and registered voters from East Lansing, Shelby Township, and Buena Vista Township filed the case with support from the UAW International.

“Today’s decision is a clear victory for Michigan voters and the cause of voting rights across the country,” said Dan Korobkin, ACLU of Michigan staff attorney. “There is no question that, without the court’s intervention, the chaos that persisted during the August primary election will be replayed on a greater scale during the November general election. We are encouraged by the decision and hope to work with the Secretary of State on initiatives that will truly ensure that voting is convenient and open to every eligible voter in our state.”

To learn more about this case, go to: <https://www.aclumich.org/issues/voting-rights/2012-09/1761>

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

Kuhnke Could Be First Lesbian Judge Elected In Michigan



BTL photo: Jerome Stuart Nichols

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

ANN ARBOR - Finding a politician who campaigns on a platform of helping the working man, justice and public service is easy. Finding one who actually believes in those things and is willing to do the work to make them happen is a bit more difficult.

Carol Kuhnke, Washtenaw County 22nd Circuit Judge candidate, is one politician who is making a name for herself by not just caring for the working man but also working women and any anyone else in need. For Kuhnke, it’s more than a campaign promise, it’s her passion and the reason she wants to be a judge.

Being a judge “...expands my ability to help people,” said Kuhnke, who has been a private practice attorney in Ann Arbor for 18 years. “Right now I help people one at a time. As a judge I could help people on a much grander scale.”

While generally reserved, she comes alive in the moments where she talks about her work. Though not perceptible in a campaign ad, there’s a spark of authenticity, honesty and joy that is nearly impossible to duplicate.

“I have enjoyed a career where I’m helping people who have never been to court before and may never end up in court again,” she said. “I find it very, very rewarding to work for real people.”

Outside of her work, family is the only other thing that seems to bring the openly gay adoptive mother of two out of her shell. When she has time to relax, there are baseball games and movies to enjoy with her children. But on

an average day, things are just as hectic as they are for every other single mother.

“My day to day life is being a single parent, getting two kids off to school and going to work,” she said. “I’m a lawyer and a mom... I think I’m really a pretty ordinary person,” she said. “Nothing all that remarkable about me except that I think I do good work and think I would do good work for Washtenaw County as a judge.”

She asserted that her deep understanding and respect for the position, along with her experience and sense of fairness, will help her make decisions when the law doesn’t work or doesn’t exist.

“Any judge can follow the law, that’s not the hard part of being a judge,” she said. “The hard part of being a judge is covering the gray areas where the law doesn’t tell you what to do.”

In a modern world with modern issues, having a judge that is for the people is paramount. Having one that also has the unique LGBT perspective could mean a world of difference.

“There are a lot of LGBT issues that are working their way through the courts right now,” she said. “Canon four of the judicial canons tells judges that they are in a unique position to influence law and to advocate for change in the law. So, where we have laws that are not friendly to the LGBT community, an LGBT judge advocating for change and explaining why change is needed is, I think, tremendously helpful.”

Kuhnke received her undergraduate from

“I take calls from clients in the middle of the night who can’t sleep because they’re worried about what’s going to happen with their case or they need to know when it’s going to resolve... I have a very deep understanding and respect for the impact of a judge on an individual.”

the University of Michigan in 1990 and went on to earn her JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1993.

When most people’s exposure to judges comes in the form of American Idol or Judge Judy, it may be difficult to imagine that they are good for anything except being sassy and British. That perception is one of Kuhnke’s biggest battles.

“People just really don’t understand how important judges are to day to day life,” she said. “If you are a litigant in a court, the judge that’s handling your case in the trial court makes decisions all the time about how your case is going to proceed, what’s going happen if you go to trial, how your trial will be conducted... So, on a one to one level... the judge has a tremendous impact on one person’s life.”

Kuhnke thinks she has what it takes to be the judge that people need.

“I have spent my career working for individuals,” she said. “I think most people can understand that corporations don’t have a hard time getting a fair shake in the courts because they can afford to hire the best... When you’re representing individuals you need to be sensitive to the time and expense of it,” she said.

“Coming from a background where I take calls from clients in the middle of the night who can’t sleep because they’re worried about what’s going to happen with their case or they need to know when it’s going to resolve... I think I have a very deep understanding and respect for the impact of a judge on an individual.”

Kuhnke is endorsed by Between The Lines, Equality Michigan Pride PAC, Stonewall Bar Association, the United Auto workers and other union groups, among others. If she wins Nov. 6, she will be the first openly LGBT judge elected in Michigan. For a complete list of endorsements and more information go to www.carolforjudge.com.

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BRIEFS

UNITED NATIONS

UN: Ukraine Must Rethink Anti-Gay Law

(AP) - The U.N.'s human rights office has urged Ukraine to rethink a much-criticized bill that envisions jail time for people who disseminate positive information about gays.

A spokesman for the U.N. human rights commissioner, Rupert Colville, said Friday that the law "is clearly discriminatory and runs counter to Ukraine's international commitments to ensure freedom of expression and information."

The law has caused outrage among rights groups and politicians who have called it a flashback to Soviet times, when homosexuality was a crime.

The bill envisages prison terms of up to five years for spreading homosexual "propaganda" – positive public depiction of gays.

Despite the criticism, legislators on Tuesday passed the bill in the first of two required readings. President Viktor Yanukovich has not said whether he will sign it into law.

PORTLAND, MAINE

Gay Marriage Supporters Outraise Foes In Maine

(AP) - Gay marriage supporters continue to bring in far more contributions than opponents in their referendum drive in Maine a little more than a month before Election Day.

Friday marked a deadline for quarterly campaign finance reports in the race.

Mainers United for Marriage, which is leading the drive to legalize same-sex marriage, said \$2.2 million was raised during the reporting period. That pushes its total to about \$3.4 million.

Protect Marriage Maine PAC, which is fighting the referendum, said it raised about \$370,000 during the latest recording period. That includes \$250,000 from the National Organization for Marriage's political action committee. Carroll Conley Jr. says that brings its total to about \$415,000.

Voters repealed Maine's gay marriage law in 2009, but it's on the ballot again in the Nov. 6 election.

BELGRADE, SERBIA

Serbian Gay Activists Hold Indoor Pride Event

(AP) - Embattled Serbian gay rights activists on Saturday staged a brief protest and held an indoor gathering after a pride march was banned by police over far-right security threats.

Amid a heavy police presence, about two dozen flag-waving activists briefly appeared outside an office building in central Belgrade and sat down on the sidewalk for what they described as a "small, silent, non-violent and motionless protest."

Police have banned the parade for the last two years, saying they fear a repeat of the violence from 2010 when more than 100 people were injured in day-long clashes with the extremists.

Even so, activists announced plans to hold an event in September 2013, saying they hoped that would give authorities enough time to allow the march. The ban has drawn criticism at home and abroad.

Human Rights Watch urged Serbia on Friday to revoke the decision and provide security for the marchers. The group says "basic human rights are being thrown overboard."

"Pointing to security risks without any visible effort to come up with a reasonable plan to make the Belgrade Pride Parade happen is succumbing to threats of violence," said Boris Dittrich, the group's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) advocacy director.

Activists at the indoor event on Saturday said they will put pressure on the authorities to pass a declaration in the parliament against homophobia and amend the criminal law to include hate crimes.

Improving gay and other human rights is key for Serbia, whose new, nationalist-led government has pledged to continue with the country's bid to join the European Union. EU's enlargement commissioner Stefan Fule has urged the authorities to make sure any future events will be held.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

De-Criminalization, Sexual Liberation, Focus At U-M

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

ANN ARBOR - Living in the cushy Midwestern cocoon of Michigan has a way of making people blind to the struggles of those next door. With last week's Sex and Justice Conference, The University of Michigan not only opened eyes but also got tongues wagging in the right direction.

From Oct. 4-6, an assortment of legal experts, scholars, health advocates and concerned citizens joined together at U of M's Rackham School for Graduate Studies. Guests included David Frank from the University of California Irvine, Sean Strub of the Positive Justice Project and New York based Jamaican human rights activist and lawyer Maurice Tomlinson.

The conference focused on three central issues: sex offender registries, the criminalization of HIV and sex work.

Those topics were chosen because, according to SJC Conference organizer Trevor Hoppe, "Over 750,000 Americans are currently registered as sex offenders," he said in his opening speech.

"Sex workers are routinely prosecuted by the police and locked up in a hostile climate of criminalization. Allegations of sexual misconduct are regularly made to discredit not just powerful figures like Julian Assange but everyday people, like a high school teacher..."

Hoppe hoped that bringing together people from all corners of the intersection of sex and justice would give each topic a unique perspective. It was a bet that paid off.

"My goal was to spark a conversation about the ongoing and increasing trend towards punishing and criminalizing sex globally. That goal has certainly been met," he said.

Even before the event officially started, conversations began. While enjoying coffee and waiting for the opening plenary session's customary "Michigan time" adjustment, participants were clustered around the space excitedly sharing ideas. That energy and excitement carried over throughout the conference.

With such knowledgeable people participating in the conference, a vibrant colloquy is to be expected. But it was the participant's passion and raw exchange of emotion that really had an impact.

"I found myself near-tears on multiple occasions," Hoppe said. "Not just tears out of sheer horror from some of the stories

that were shared about how people are being locked up and unjustly treated by the state, but also tears of awe in admiration of the courageous work people are doing to resist those efforts."

It's a little-known and bleak reality but successfully illustrates the need for gatherings like the SJC.

Despite the academic skew of the conference, many people from outside the



Legal experts, scholars, and advocates met with concerned citizens to discuss sex offender registries, the criminalization of HIV and sex work. BTL photo: Jerome Stuart Nichols

While organized to shine a light on and combat the austere judicial crackdown on sex around the world, there were also moments that brought hope.

In the opening plenary session, Deon Haywood of women's advocacy collective Women with a Vision shared the story of their triumph over Louisiana's anti-sex worker "Crimes Against Nature" statute. Grievously, it was one of few stories with a happy ending and would not have been possible without cooperation from the Center for Constitutional Rights.

"That work didn't just take guts, it took years of community mobilizing, savvy legal advocacy, and outreach to the community at large," Hoppe said. "I don't think anyone who attended 'Sex and Justice' could have walked away without being inspired by the hard work of folks like Deon Haywood and Alexis Agathocleous who will go down in history for courageously standing up for justice."

Moments after Deon's inspiring story, Maurice Tomlinson gave an overview of Jamaica's complex issues dealing with homosexuality.

He drew several plausible connections between the waning battle for LGBT rights in the U.S. and the rising tide of religious extremism and homophobia in Jamaica. This created an image much different than what's normally seen.

domain of sexuality also came to be a part of the conversation. For them, revelations – such as Tomlinson's – came as a shock.

Amy Wright-Olsen – who'd come to be enlightened – was among those who were affected by his story.

"...the talk about Jamaica, my god, that was horrifying," she said with an exasperated sigh and grim look of concern. "It seems so bad here sometimes and then you hear that and it's like, 'Wow.' Unfortunately, we have it good compared to other places."

Even though saddened, Wright-Olsen was still excited to be a part of the conference.

"It was a really cool opportunity to come to something like this that I wouldn't usually be able to go to and hear some fabulous speakers," she said.

Although there is no guarantee of a Sex & Justice Conference 2013, Hoppe is hopeful that there will be some event that could carry the torch and continue the conversation.

"The event has been a tremendous success – a landmark event that I hope will have lasting implications for the organizing around sex and justice in the future," he said.

"I sincerely hope there are future events in the vein of 'Sex and Justice' – there is more work to be done."

Michigan Pride Makes Move To August

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIER

LANSING – Organizers of Michigan Pride have announced they will be moving the state-wide Pride event from the traditional June date to the end of August.

The move is expected to increase attendance for a variety of reasons, and it will enable the march and rally to reach more legislators since they are back to work at that time.

Michigan Pride Board Member Emily Horvath said attendance is one of the reasons for the move. “This year there were about 8,000 people. Attendance has steadily declined over the last decade. At its peak in the late 90s there were probably 15-20,000 people. But now there are so many opportunities to celebrate Pride in the state. It’s an absolute blessing, but it presents a conflict too.

“It’s incredibly important that we create space where people don’t have to choose between going to their local Pride or to their state-wide Pride. When it’s all crammed into the month of June it can be hard,” she said.

Local Pride events like West Michigan Pride, Motor City Pride, Flint Pride, Kalamazoo Pride, and Ferndale Pride draw in a combined estimate of over 100,000 and the trend continues to grow. With Michigan Pride moving to August, it gives people an opportunity to celebrate locally and then join together at the end of the summer for a bigger wrap-up.

The change of date has other benefits as well. Students will be starting to move to the area in preparation for college classes, and legislators will be back in session from their summer vacations.

“The big thing Lansing has to offer is



Michigan Pride organizers hope the move will allow the march and rally to reach more legislators as they return to work.

political access,” Horvath said. “This way we will have our political protest when the legislature is in session. Michigan Pride is not just a celebration, it is a rally. We march through Lansing, we go to the Capitol steps, pump our fists and listen to speakers. We organize and learn what we can take back to our communities.”

Horvath said that the Michigan Pride Board is committed to making the focus of the Aug. 24, 2013 rally more political, and using any money raised to help bring in highly recognizable speakers. Plans are in the works for a political action day, and the annual commitment ceremony is expected to grow as well.

“We have gotten away from the celebrating, because there is still a lot of work to be done,” Horvath said. “It’s pretty clear considering the political climate. We still don’t have marriage equality. We can’t adopt our own children. We still do not have hate crimes protection and we don’t have

protections in our jobs or in housing.”

The decision to move the date to August was not made on a whim. “I admit I was one of the people that was stubbornly attached to the month of June,” said Horvath. “June has always been Pride month. It took a lot of convincing for me. But we have to grow! We need to keep up the energy from the local Prides and wrap up the summer with one last push. And we want everybody there.”

Dave Wait of Motor City Pride reacted by saying “It’s an interesting move and I wish them lots of success.” Craig Covey of Ferndale Pride said, “If they are interested in being more political it should help to be there when the legislature is in. We wish them the best of success.”

For more information check out www.michiganpride.org, and to get involved contact Emily Horvath at pride@michiganpride.org.

New HIV Program Tests Couples Together

DETROIT - AIDS Partnership Michigan announced Testing Together, a new HIV testing and counseling service for male couples/sexual partners. Testing Together, provides an opportunity for male couples/sexual partners to get tested for HIV together and receive their results together in a safe, neutral environment in a way that affirms their relationship and allows for open discussion about safer sex.

“Recent research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control suggests that up to 68 percent of new HIV infections in gay men come from a main sex partner, not from casual sex, in part because main sex partners are more likely to forgo condoms,” said Hank Millbourne, APM’s associate executive director. “Furthermore there are few interventions or vehicles that affirm male same-sex relationships. Testing Together does that in a very honest and open way.”

Trained counselors help male couples

through discussions about not only their HIV test results but in developing skills for addressing issues around HIV and having continued dialogue about sex within the context of their relationship. Counselors also can help couples to talk openly about building a risk reduction plan together.

Partners testing together was first developed more than 20 years ago and utilized with heterosexual couples in Africa and found to reduce HIV transmission by more than 50 percent. The intervention was adapted for use with male same-sex couples by Emory University researchers, Patrick Sullivan and Rob Stephenson. Focus groups and clinical trials were conducted in Atlanta and Chicago to refine the adaptation of the intervention. HIV test counselors are or have been trained in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and now Detroit.

Couples/sexual partners are screened separately to determine their eligibility for the service and, if eligible, are given a short survey about their relationship. They then meet with a counselor, discuss risk factors and get tested together. When the results are ready in about fifteen (15) minutes, the counselor provides them to the couple together. APM is currently the only agency in Michigan with counselors trained to provide this service. The service officially launched at four APM HIV test sites, APM Main Office –Detroit, APM Pontiac Office, Affirmations Community Center and the Ruth Ellis Center, beginning Oct. 1 and is by appointment only initially.

For more information on Testing Together or to schedule an appointment, contact Clarence Peoples at APM’s Main Office at 313-446-9820 or the Michigan HIV/AIDS/ STD Hotline at 1-800-872-AIDS (2437).

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Throw The Bums Out



Viewpoint

OPINION BY AMY HUNTER

Two years ago this November, the American electorate performed a well practiced act of self-immolation. They stayed home from the polls, and even worse, voted against our collective interest by simply voting those in office, out, and putting in “the new guy.” In far too many cases, the new guys weren’t really a solution to what we perceived to be the problem; they were in fact, much worse.

In 2010, numerous states suffered from this tendency to vote without clear motivation. The unfortunate consequence of this “throw the bums out” mentality rapidly became far-ranging. The new guys, it seems, weren’t truly what had been bargained for. Within days of taking office, state legislatures from Wisconsin to Florida took up extreme measures and began rolling out radical-right social agendas which looked much more like 1950 than 2010.

With few exceptions, no state evidenced this willful regression better than Michigan. Here, into office, voters swept new-right majorities to the State Senate and House, and all of the critical statewide offices including Governor. The subsequent waves of restrictive policy and social legislation were horrors almost too difficult to bear. Bill after bill came to the house and senate floor attacking long given precepts of Michigan’s social structure and not least, making our proud state a case history of how democracy can be obviated by a determined, well funded majority.

Don’t get me wrong, sometimes; we really DO need to throw the bums out. Sometimes, we really do NEED a referendum about who governs and how our interests are represented. This year is indeed, is one of those times. But - before we can do that responsibly, it’s worth taking a look at what we have allowed to become our advocacy and electoral modus operandi.

No matter who gets my vote, did I take a critical view of what that vote means beforehand? Will I be casting my vote for change? Ideology? Status quo? Am I prepared to back-up my choice with action? Am I willing to participate in our representative democracy beyond exercising my franchise to vote?

It is clear that we have become reliant on others to do most of the heavy lifting for us. We haven’t envisioned a social and political climate in which we all participate. We looked at our nation, our state and our interest groups and decided that they weren’t measuring up to our unrealistic notions about what our leadership is able to accomplish without popular support and more importantly, participatory accountability. So, 2010 became a “change” election fueled by unwarranted

disillusionment, disappointment, dissatisfaction and a false sense of disenfranchisement – all manner of “dis” words that describe nothing more profound than self-absorption.

There is a lesson from the 2010 election that can be put to practical use before Nov. 6 - it isn’t too late.

We can and should fix the state of progressive politics in Michigan and by doing so, turn Michigan around. The effort will require that we all pull together on principled action – participation in the very system we love to blame. Our course we mustn’t merely seek an ideology we can agree with or that seems to fit what we believe - no matter how attractive that may be. Rather, we can and should agree on some basic principles about what comprises individual responsibilities as citizens in a republic and what those entail.

If we want our leaders to lead effectively in the environs to which we elevate them, then we cannot hold them accountable simply by voicing our dissatisfaction when they fail our standards of performance. We cannot simply tell them where we want them to be, and what we expect them to accomplish on their own. Certainly, we must hold our leaders accountable, but not by firing them every two, or four, or six years, without having first made well considered choices, showing them first; what we expect and then supporting their candidacy and their efforts on our behalf.

Michigan has some of the finest, most dedicated folks working in advocacy, policy and progressive politics I have ever been favored to meet. They have taken on the mantle of leadership in what is demonstrably one of the hardest states in the nation in which to be practicing progressivism. They need our help. They need our ideas and they need our willingness to participate in democracy above the level of self-interest.

Five easy things you can do:

- Find out who the candidates are in your area and check them out. Do they measure-up? If they haven’t been endorsed by the major players in LGBT and progressive politics across the state, find out why. (HINT: there is a nifty VOTER GUIDE published by BTL. Go to www.MIVoterGuide.com)
- Go to a candidate forum and ASK well thought out pointed questions of these folks. (This is the beginning of accountability.)
- Volunteer for a campaign. They need you. It isn’t hard to make phone calls, knock on doors, or stuff envelopes. (They won’t take you hostage, I promise.)
- Contribute whatever you can in financial resources. You can give directly to a candidate or, to an entity like a lgbt or progressive PAC which endorses and supports candidates who represent the interests of our community. (I never met a campaign that would turn down a contribution because it’s too small)
- Be critical about your vote. Is this really the right person for the job? Will they be a leader for what I believe we need in Michigan?

After all the votes are counted on Nov. 6, after the victory party decorations and the yard signs are taken down, the hard work truly begins. Get on your winning candidates mailing lists and follow what they’re doing over in Lansing or down at the County Seat or up in the State Supreme Court. Give them your support along with your opinion. If you give it in the best interests of everyone in our state, I can guarantee – they’ll listen.



Gay History Month #2



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Almost 125 years before the birth of Jesus a handsome youth named Antinous was declared a god by the Roman emperor Publius Aelius Hadrian.

Hadrian fell in love with Antinous when the boy was 13, an age when many post-pubescent males married. They were ruler and consort lovers for six years, touring Greece and Egypt in search of initiation into the Goddess Mysteries of Demeter, Persephone, and Isis.

Legend says that an Egyptian priest told Hadrian that unless a special sacrifice was offered on his behalf Hadrian's life would fade "like incense on a starry night." Antinous, in devotion to emperor Hadrian, gave the deep waters of the flooding Nile his youth, beauty, and life.

So doing, Antinous joined those pre-Christian gods who provided atonement and resurrected death for humankind: Osiris, Adonis, Attis, Mithra - whose birthdate celebrated by humble shepherds was December 25 - Dionysus, Hermes, and Bacchus.

(Recommended reading: "The Jesus Mysteries: Was the 'original Jesus' A Pagan God?" by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy; Harmony Books.)

Hadrian glorified his lover/god with statues, coins, temples, paintings, and a city bearing his name, Antinopolis. He was worshiped in an ancient world until Constantine in 324 CE mandated Christianity as the state religion of Rome. Hadrian was following in the sandled footsteps of Alexander the Great* who had his battle-killed lover Hepaestion deified for community adoration.

In the 18th century Cardinal Aliesandro Albani and the gay German art historian Johann Joachim Winkelmann joined a secret cult centered in Rome that worshiped Antinous, along with lust-monger gods Pan and ever-erect Priapus added in for good ejaculatory, et-cum-spiritus-a-go-go measure.

Last century Belgian writer Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) devoted 20 years of her life to researching and writing about the lovers. Her novel "Memories of Hadrian" was published in 1951.

Yourcenar came to America in 1940 with her partner and translator Grace Frick. She became a U.S. Citizen in 1947. Yourcenar had impeccable sensitivity for writing about homoerotic love. Her other gay affirming novels are "Alexis" and "Coup de Grace."

"The books I like best are those where there is intelligence, goodness, and no injustice," she said. "They are very rare. I never write anything I have not chosen myself."

Yourcenar's 40-year relationship with Grace Frick ended with Grace's death in 1979. In 1981 Yourcenar was elected to the French Academy, the first woman so honored in the society's 350-year history.

"I am rootless," Yourcenar summed up her life. "To quote Hadrian, 'I am at home everywhere and nowhere.'" But like the fair Antinous she too dwells among those poetic gods of gifted gender and two-spirited persuasion.

*RE ALEXANDER, ABOVE: No relationship to present PG writer. None that I can vouch for credibly. Also: there are two-dozen photos of Antinous available for viewing on Wikipedia. Two off them do bear an uncanny resemblance to me. Worshipers welcome!

Charles@pridesource.com

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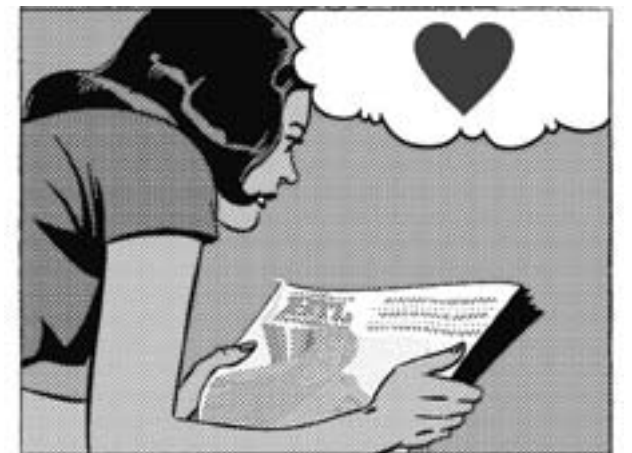
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Joseph Farah



A couple of weeks ago I was sitting around trying to think of something cool and hilarious to do and I came up with the idea to write “You are a faggot” in grammatically incorrect Spanish on my face. Totally original, right? I mean, who else would think of such a thing?

As it turns out, Yunel Escobar, a shortstop for the Toronto Blue Jays, beat me to the punch. In that he really did write “You are a faggot” in

grammatically incorrect Spanish on his face and then trotted out onto the baseball field, in real life.

Unsurprisingly, people noticed and it caused quite a stir, leaving Escobar suspended for three games with his salary for those games reportedly being donated to the You Can Play campaign and to GLAAD.

This turn of events has folks on the anti-gay right flamin’ mad. Joseph Farah, the man behind World Net Daily, was inspired to write in his Oct. 2 Between The Lines column (seriously. His WND column handle is Between The Lines) titled “Homosexual Fascists Target Baseball.”

“Are Mom and apple pie next?” Farah’s column begins. “Those may be the next targets of the homosexual fascists - who are like the anti-American poofy sect of the Taliban.”

That’s right, folks. A grown ass man writes “You are a faggot” in grammatically incorrect Spanish on his face and yet gays are the bad guys here. Personally, I have nothing against moms - heck, I am one myself - and my wife makes a pretty amazing apple pie. Oh, wait. That probably falls under Farah’s definition of homosexual fascist activity.

Comparing gays to the Taliban is a nice touch. Getting offended because a baseball player writes “You are a faggot” in grammatically incorrect Spanish on his face (I cannot emphasize that enough) is totally comparable to, say, the destruction of the World Trade Center and the murder of thousands of Americans.

Farah also throws in a Nazi comparison just for good measure when he refers to gays as the “crude, vulgar, name-calling, arrogant pink-shirt gestapo.” My guess is that Farah is not trying to be ironic when he accuses gays of “name-calling.”

Oh, and gays are also worse and more oppressive than Castro. “[Escobar] probably thought once he left Fidel Castro’s island paradise that he would be able to speak his mind, joke around and not fear the thought police,” Farah writes. “Was he ever wrong?”

Yes, poor little Escobar, coming to America only to get called out for writing fucked up things on his face.

Farah honestly doesn’t see what the big deal is since “faggot” is “used far more often by homosexuals than by heterosexuals.”

“Should non-homosexual Americans be fined, suspended and humiliated for a remark that wouldn’t draw a second glance in most homosexual bathhouses?” Farah writes.

Granted, I haven’t spent much time (any, actually) in gay bathhouses (then again, Farah is the one positioning himself as the expert here, not me). But I suspect that if you walked around with “You are a faggot” written in grammatically incorrect Spanish on your face you would most certainly “draw a second glance.” Probably even more so if you wrote it on your penis.

“Has anyone ... picked up a “gay” newspaper lately and seen the kind of obscenity they portray and the filthy language they use?” Farah writes.

Honestly, I don’t know what the fuck he’s talking about, but he can go suck a bag of dicks.

New LGBT Support Group In Grand Rapids

BY CAROL TANIS

GRAND RAPIDS - When Diane VanAlstyne’s son said he was gay she began looking for a LGBT support group for parents in Grand Rapids and was surprised to learn there wasn’t one. So she started one.

Allies Coming Together, or ACT for short, aims to help parents who have a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender child come to terms with her or his sexuality. “Our mission is to meet and support each other, along with our LGBT loved ones, and to educate ourselves, our community and advocate for a more inclusive world,” said VanAlstyne.

She said given society’s varied level of acceptance, parents may have feelings of anxiety about their gay or lesbian child’s future health and happiness. In addition, the sort of future parents expected for themselves and their children may be drastically changed when a child comes out.

“I think a lot parents have these feelings and by coming together in a support group such as ACT, I hope we can help alleviate our anxieties,” said VanAlstyne. “Or, if parents simply want information we can point them in the right direction and provide educational resources that can provide a better understanding of their child’s sexual orientation.”

She adopted her son, Tim, as an infant from Calcutta, India and she began to wonder about his sexual orientation when he was in high school. “He was really cute and the mothers

of daughters in his class would say, ‘Oh, my daughter thinks your son is so cute.’” But Tim never seemed to be interested,” she said.

While in college Tim became engaged to a girl and VanAlstyne admits, as his mom, she was “thrilled.” But the couple broke up and today, knowing that her son is gay, she’s glad they didn’t get married. Now 27 years old, Tim has been out of college for four years and has a boyfriend. As an evangelical Christian, at one point in her past she would have wanted to get him “help,” for being gay but now she’s simply glad to see him happy and has come a long way in accepting Tim’s sexual orientation.

“One weekend Tim came home from Chicago and I brought the subject up. He said, ‘I’m gay and I know God loves me.’” I gave him a big hug. I must have suspected he was gay because I remember telling him I would love him even if he was gay. That didn’t matter to me I would always love him no matter what. But at that time for me, that meant if you’re gay we can get you help.”

Like VanAlstyne, when Rachele Hufnagal found out that her son was gay, she looked for a local LGBT support group in Grand Rapids for parents and was surprised to learn there wasn’t one. She met VanAlstyne at a Holland Lakeshore PFLAG meeting in 2011, and today, together they are trying to spread the news about ACT.

“We’d like to get the word out to families that ACT exists and that there is a safe place to go to talk with other people who know

how you feel,” said Hufnagal. “When I was searching for an LGBT support group I felt very alone. Our extended families are great, but unless you’re in the same position as a parent of a gay child, they don’t quite understand.”

Hufnagal said since Ryan came out to them he’s been like a new person with a growing pride and dignity about his sexual orientation. “He attends a teen LGBT support group meeting held at the LGBT Network in Grand Rapids and last year he started a Gay Straight Alliance at Grandville High School where he is a student. I’d like to see more parents attending ACT meetings which would in turn start more growth in the teen group held at the Network I’m proactive in finding ways for him to meet other kids like him.”

ACT support group meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at the LGBT Network, located at 343 Atlas in Grand Rapids. Executive director of The Network, Pat Ward, said there is definitely a need to have a support group in Grand Rapids for parents and friends of LGBT folk.

“We often get calls from people wondering if there is a local group where the parents and friends of the LGBT community can meet and support one another,” said Ward. “We are excited about hosting ACT. The socializing is good and the cookies are always great!”

For more information about ACT-Allies Coming Together, call the The Network at 616-458-4294 or email: thenetwork@grlgbt.org

Vote On Iowa Justice Seen As Test For Gay Marriage

BY RYAN J. FOLEY

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) - Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins isn’t well known outside the legal community of his state, and even inside that group, isn’t particularly popular.

But the question of whether he should keep his job has become one of the most fiercely contested judicial issues on the Nov. 6 ballot because of what he symbolizes in the debate over gay marriage and the role of courts.

Three years ago, Wiggins and his six colleagues ruled that the state’s law banning gay marriage was unconstitutional, which made Iowa the third state to recognize same-sex unions and the first outside the coasts. The decision triggered a furor among conservatives, who mounted an aggressive campaign a year later to defeat three of the justices whose terms came up for ballot review.

Now, the future of Wiggins, whose term comes up this year, is sparking an even bigger battle as liberal groups and lawyers shocked by the outcome in 2010 fight back on his behalf. The race is being watched not only as barometer of the public’s changing attitude toward gay marriage but as a message for judges who might take up similar cases in the future.

“2010 was like a hand grenade into the Supreme Court chambers and we don’t want

to have that repeated,” said Des Moines attorney Guy Cook, president-elect of the Iowa State Bar Association, which is campaigning to support Wiggins.

The opposing sides have launched “Vote Yes” and “No Wiggins” campaigns and are spending heavily to get their messages out. The National Organization for Marriage television ad this week and conservative stars Rick Santorum and Bobby Jindal led a cross-state bus tour denouncing Wiggins as a liberal judicial activist. At each stop, they were trailed by a bus carrying members of the bar who defended Wiggins against that accusation.

The passion around an obscure state justice captures the heightened tension this year over gay marriage, with questions on the ballot in four states and surveys showing that public opinion is shifting on the subject.

“The reality is, if you’re living in Alabama or South Carolina, you don’t look to California or New York as your yardstick. You look to Iowa. If it can happen here, it can happen in those other places,” said Donna Red Wing, executive director of One Iowa.

During the bus tour, National Organization for Marriage President Brian Brown said that defeating the justices shows that gay marriage isn’t inevitable and can’t be imposed by the courts.

More state court decisions on gay

marriage lawsuits are expected in coming years. Currently, six states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage while more than 30 prohibit it.

Iowans did not embrace the Iowa court’s ruling when it came down following a lawsuit brought by gay couples who were denied marriage licenses. Justices up for retention in 2010 were easily defeated, receiving about 45 percent of the vote, the first judicial ousters since the state adopted a merit-selection system in 1962.

But views have changed as more than 4,500 same-sex couples have married since 2009. A Des Moines Register poll in February found that voters overwhelmingly opposed amending the constitution to ban gay marriage. Those surveyed were split on the 2009 ruling and one-third said they “don’t care much” about the issue.

The bar’s boost for Wiggins comes even though its members like him less than many of his colleagues. A survey conducted by the bar every two years on the performance of judges up for retention found that 63 percent of lawyers believed Wiggins should be retained, second lowest of 74 judges on the ballot.

Wiggins is honoring the tradition in which Iowa judges do not campaign. However, he wrote recently in the Register, “I do not want Iowa to end up like states with highly partisan courts. Iowa is better than that.”

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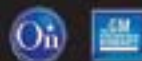
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Hungry4Equality: Week 9

Day 64



“Education and awareness is key. When they understand that we simply want to live our lives in safety with whomever we choose to love. That’s what I am striking for.”

–Ashleigh Brelin

Day 68



“Quite simply, no one should be prohibited from exercising a right that another person enjoys. Ever.”

–Victoria Suber and Angela Lis

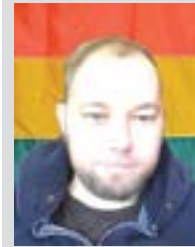
Day 65



“I made buttons for an anti-bullying campaign today and it reminded me how lucky I was to avoid being bullied growing up. Many of my queer peers were not so fortunate. This is a potentially fatal issue that deserves our immediate attention.”

–Charlie Erickson

Day 69



“Being limited to a 10x10 space for 24 hours definitely takes your mind of the some of the hunger aspects of the strike. The constraints the space provide are like the laws in Michigan as they apply to the LGBT community. We will not remain in a box just because the conservative right continues to deny us access to equal rights. Stand up - Vote often!”

–Gary Bedard

Day 66



“We hunger strike to uplift all families and friends with love, understanding, respect in all that they pursue.”

–Regina and Vera

Day 70



“Being visible during a time like this is crucial. Look at all the people we are reaching just because things are happening in Ferndale - maybe we wouldn't have if we weren't sitting in this window. Let's hope voter turnout sees a big increase!”

–Deb Holbrook

Day 67



“It's important for me to stand up for what I believe in. In 2004 when Marriage Equality was turned down, it felt like a slap in the face. Now, I feel like I get to be the one slapping inequality in its proverbial face.”

–Mark Greene

Flash Mob Draws Attention To Hunger Strike

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – With West Nine Mile Road blocked off and lined with vendors for the annual Live Green Fair, it created a perfect opportunity for the organizers of Hungry4Equality to call forth a rainbow-clad group of dancers for a flash mob.

A core group of about 20 people got together several times over the past two months to practice a dance routine meant to surprise unsuspecting people in a public venue. The fair took place along West Nine Mile, including in front of Affirmations LGBT Community Center.

When two people seemed to randomly break out in a dance routine, people started to gather around. Music pumped out through

speakers from Affirmations and suddenly people in solid red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple shirts emerged from the clusters of onlookers and began dancing as well.

Vendors and shoppers seemed delighted as they whipped out their cell phones to film the flash mob action. Towards the end of the song others joined them carrying signs supporting LGBT activities. One gave the GoAffirmations.org website. Another reminded folks to “go down on the ballot.” Another said “Come out allies.”

Affirmations Program Coordinator Megh Hollowell worked with Kristi Faulkner of Kristi Faulkner Dance Studios to come up with a routine that would wow onlookers and give people of all talent levels the ability to participate. The flash mob is one of several

ways Hollowell and others at Affirmations are promoting the 100 day successive hunger strike known as Hungry4Equality. The strike has people going without food for 24 hour stints in order to raise awareness about inequality, and it ends on election night.

“We organized this flash mob to draw attention to the hostile anti-LGBT discrimination that we face in this state of Michigan,” Hollowell said. “We really want to educate voters to vote on pro-equality issues. We can't adopt. We can be fired for being gay. We can't legally get married. ... Get out and vote Nov. 6, and think of the LGBT community as you do it.”

Learn more about the campaign at Hungry4equality.com. To learn about pro-equality candidates, go to MiVoterGuide.com.



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Magic

Pop Star Talks New Album, Coming Out & Stripping Down To His Underwear

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

After years of speculation, Mika has finally confirmed it: He's gay. Totally queer. One-hundred percent into men.

Now, moving on: The British performer's third album, "The Origin of Love," is Mika's most self-reflective work, from opening up about his sexuality to the ebb and flow of love and even the bullies that he fended off as a kid. He even looks more GQ than Toys R Us kid these days.

Mika caught up with us to chat about whether he's over talking about being gay (he's not), his female alter egos and how tight jeans help with the high notes.

So, you're gay. Are you sick of talking about that yet?

(Laughs) The question before was, "Are you gay?" Now the question everywhere I go is, "What's it like being a 29-year-old who's gay?" It never irritated me, and it's never something that has bothered me, so I'm not sick of it. It's not essential to understanding my music, but I guess if you want to understand me as a real person – as a person with facets and different angles – then it is important. So no, I'm all right with it, and I'm still answering those questions. It certainly didn't make them go away. If anything it's becoming even more a theme for conversation in interviews.

How do you respond to people when they ask you what it's like to be gay?

I'm like, "What do you want me to say to that?"

Photo: Mark Cant

Mika

There are so many inappropriate things I could answer back. (Laughs) I'm like, "It's not a color of a jacket that I chose that day." It's how I've always been programmed. It's my brain. It's part of who I am. I don't really know how to answer that. I'm like, "Well, what's it like for you to have brown hair?"

Do you think the public is too concerned about celebrities' personal lives?

I don't know if the public is too concerned. I think that at the end of the day, let's face it, it's a choice; anyone who says that every celebrity or public person doesn't have a choice is insane. For many years I always said I'm not hiding my sexuality; it's innately a part of what I do and what I've always done in my music, but whether I label myself or not, that is my personal choice and I'll cross that bridge when I get to it. I did frustrate people and have to deal with the consequences of those choices, just like I have to deal with the consequences of labeling myself at this point in time. But the reason I was comfortable to label myself is because it was a decision I made on my own. I did it from a position of joy and confidence, and I felt like it was the right time. There was nothing negative, or no pressure, associated with the process or act of labeling myself as gay.

For years, you were considered bisexual after you were misquoted, as you've said, in a Netherlands magazine. Why didn't you ever come forward and clear that up?

What am I supposed to say: "No, I'm not bisexual"? If I'm gonna talk about, I'll leave it until I talk about my sexuality in an open, confident and unpressured way. Again, I made that decision, that right to take time and do things at my own pace. And I was like, "When I deal with this, I'll deal with this properly. There's no point dealing with something in a small way; when I do it, I have to do it in a positive way."

It's not a negative thing. Whatever it is, it's not negative. If you zoom out and look at it

with perspective, there's no part of this that's negative, because it's a developing story. I'm 29 and I'm probably going to be a different person when I'm 33, so maybe we'll be having a conversation then about sexuality or the politics of sexuality, and I may have completely different things to say about it. But all I know is that I'm happy and totally comfortable with my sexuality, and I can talk about it and say I'm not the 13-year-old who was looking at himself in the mirror and thinking, "How the hell am I gonna shake this sense of fear or pressure that I feel? Is there a way out?"

So when I did the interview with *Instinct* recently, quite honestly I was a little nervous – but I wasn't fearful. That's why I knew it was the right thing to do. I said to myself, "Talk as if you're talking to this 13-year-old who doesn't know how to get out of how he's feeling right now."

You're 29? You seem so much younger.

There is a naive childishness to my music. Even with this new record, which is definitely an evolution, it is more mature, but it's still got this sense of mischief. There is that sense of youth. It's essential to always be able to look at stuff in life in awe; if you know you can be in awe, or be awed by something, you know that you're alive. I guess people can sometimes misunderstand that for childishness, because often it's children who stand there with their mouth open, but I guess I'm very comfortable standing there looking at things with my mouth open ... being in awe. (Laughs) If an extremely beautiful person is walking down the street, I'll just stand there and stare and they'll think I'm the biggest psycho in the world.

I also can't say I know many adults who dance around their bedroom in just underwear.

(Laughs) And on the one hand, I'm fully aware that in that video (for "We Are Golden"), there are moments of it where I look ridiculous, like in a bad way, and there are moments where I look great. It's the combination of those two

See Mika, page 22



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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

No Doubt Returns With Vintage Sound Plus: Dragonette Goes Mainstream



No Doubt, 'Push and Shove'

No Doubt's femme-fronter Gwen Stefani longs for the past on a track from the band's new album, "Push and Shove," when she sings, "Do you remember how it was?" Though the song, "Sparkle," is likely lamenting a relationship that's aged into oblivion, it can't help but be read as a nostalgic trip down memory lane – the kind that comes 11 years after releasing your last album, where "it's never gonna be the same" even if we want it to be. The decade between "Rock Steady" and this roots-rewind established Gwen Stefani as a solo act and mommy. So while it's true that we can't expect the same No Doubt – the foursome are all in their 40s and have eight kids among them – "Push and Shove" recaptures the scrappy-pop magic of the 26-year-old band. That imitable grungy ska sound is immediately recognizable on "Settle Down," a single that goes from Middle Eastern restaurant to nightclub. One of the best songs, "Easy," works evocative '80s synths into a power-ballad rush that feels inspired by late-night drives along the Cali coast. Not all the softies prevail: The few fillers tacked on at the end, especially the closer "Dreaming the Same Dream," are lost for ideas. But even the ridiculousness

of "Looking Hot," which could fit any of Gwen's solo sessions, has a cool strut that you can't help but go bananas over. Welcome back, No Doubt. *Grade: B*



Dragonette, 'Bodyparts'

Could Dragonette be having a Robyn moment? The Canadian trio, which has struck up buzz in the dance underground, is ready to mingle with the mainstream – and, like Robyn did with "Body Talk," has an album accessible enough to put them there. (Look at the album titles, too: one's about body parts; the other – Ms. Fembot herself – gets those parts talking.) They also have the cocksure confidence to climb that ladder: "Live in This City" isn't just the biggest earworm on the album; it's better than most of what's currently on radio. It's also a damn good song to dance to in your underwear. Same goes for "Giddy Up," a hyper jolt of Mario Bros. blips, frontwoman Martina Sorbara's brisk singing and a novelty sound that can't help but conjure the teen years of Hanson –

in a good way. Songs like "Untouchable," about tainting a goody two-shoes, and "Run Run Run," almost indistinguishable from Goldfrapp, take an evocative approach that's tempered so much they barely register; the same pure-pop punch just ain't there. But "Let It Go" has that emerging from every corner of its synth-powered, drum-slapped whoop; "My Legs," too, is a saucy dance-floor ditty – but it also has a message of empowerment tucked in its get-down proclamation. "Bodyparts" is dance music that's guiltless even after the drinks wear off. *Grade: B-*

Also Out



Tori Amos, 'Gold Dust'

It's natural to want to reflect on the originals after hearing the rerecorded versions – backed by the famed Metropole Orchestra – on Tori Amos' latest release. Don't be surprised if many of them sound very similar. Though the set list, which covers Amos' early work as much it does the lesser-known and more current fare, is a satisfying collection of songs, the differences are so subtle that "Gold Dust" is more direct, with just minor changes – though a new "Precious Things" is refreshing. Made to commemorate 20 years since her "Little Earthquakes" debut, it's best to look at this as a greatest hits.



Cher Lloyd, 'Sticks & Stones'

That Cher Lloyd recently declared Nicki Minaj a pop-music trailblazer shouldn't be surprising. On her debut, the fourth-place finisher on Britain's "The X Factor" shows signs of doing Minaj better than the rapper herself. Lloyd can sing (standout: "Behind the Music"), and she's not trying too hard with the overblown gangsta fakeness. Her raps might skirt closer to the Disney Channel than BET, but "Oath" is fun for any programming – catchy, cute and licked with a sweetness that Nicki just can't pull off. The album derails halfway through its skimpy 35 minutes – but with a name like Cher, don't count her out.

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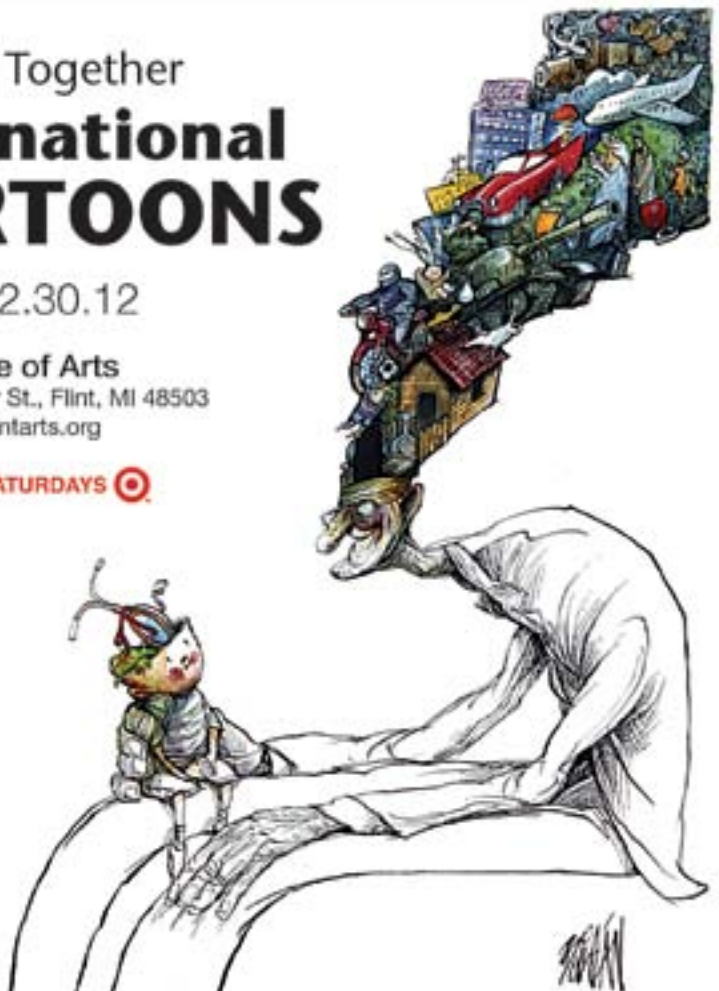
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Photo: Mark Cant

► Mika

Continued from p. 19

things that I'm fine with. I quite like it.

You don't mind looking a little ridiculous?

Sometimes. As long as you can look hot a minute later. (Laughs)

You sampled a "Wicked" tune for your song "Popular" off the new album – a song that's directed toward bullies. Can you explain the process of writing that?

I wrote it with a friend of mine called Priscilla Renea; she's becoming really well known for writing a lot of urban and hip-hop stuff. She's actually the one singing on it with me. We were sitting there and I was like, "Do you know that melody from the "Wicked" song 'Popular'?" And she completely geeked out and I burst out laughing. I was like, "Listen to you. You walk around in your three-inch-long fake nails and you write raps and hooks on hardcore rap songs. Does anyone know you like 'Wicked'?" And we laughed about it.

She was tortured in school. She was made to feel like shit every day. And we were laughing how the people who write pop songs are often the least popular growing up. It's that bizarre thing: You end up writing something that is innately popular or designed to be popular. So it started off like that. We wrote it as a conversation. I would say some things and she would answer back. I guess we were both thinking of that horrible feeling you get when you walk across the schoolyard. Bizarrely, I still feel that sometimes when I'm put in certain situations – that schoolyard mentality comes right back.

Isn't it weird? I can feel threatened sometimes, but when I'm onstage – no matter who I'm singing in front of – I feel like that's my boxing ring and I have nothing to fear, and everything to say. I guess that's where I found my outlet.

So, Elphaba or Glinda?

Elphaba is too soppy. I don't feel sorry for her and her greenness. Like, she's green – tough shit, get over it. (Laughs) I actually do find her really irritating. Gotta be honest. And when she sings "Defying Gravity," I'm like, OK, big deal.

What's the highest note you can sing?

It depends on the day and other various factors: altitude and whether I drank the night before. And it depends on the tightness of my jeans.

The tighter the better, right?

The tighter the better. Always.

Is the namesake on the song "Emily" an alter ego of yours?

It actually kind of is. I have various pen names, because I write for other people and sometimes it's easier when no one knows who's written or co-written the song. So I have this little fleet of girls' first names that I write under. One of them got discovered and it's out, but I've got a few others that are still nice and safe.

How does your boyfriend play into "The Origin of Love"?

On the record you can hear a horrific breakup, you can hear me questioning myself and going on dates with other people, and then you can hear me finally finding love in the person who I was originally with – you see this transition through the record. I think for him, it's a record with a happy ending – well, for both of us – but it's definitely something that I think he sees a lot of truth in. As funny as it may seem, and as flippant and ironic as it may come across, "Love You When I'm Drunk" was written completely from truth.

There's no question that a lot of your songs have radio potential, but they're often overlooked by American radio. Do you think that has anything to do with you being gay or your songs being flamboyant?

I was accidentally copied on an email a couple of years ago, and it was from a person at radio saying that they wouldn't play "Love Today" because it sounded like a guy who was singing in the range of a girl. I immediately assumed this had to do with sexuality or identity and I got really angry, and then I just was like, "You know what, it's not; that's just an excuse. It cannot be a reason." I may just be naive, but I don't know – it cannot be the reason. Maybe I'm just being a dick and I should take a reality pill, but if I took that reality pill then maybe I wouldn't have made this last record, and I think that would've been a shame.

With that said, I wanted to tour America again and (the label) was like, "Let's do three shows and see how it goes." So we put the three shows on sale and they sold out in 52 seconds – all three shows sold out in 52 seconds! I can sell shows in America when I haven't been there in four years and I haven't had a single played on radio. I can keep on building my niche and my fans are faithful and I don't have to compromise any part of myself or my writing. If that's the case, then I'll keep going.



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Aisha's Got Your Back

Comedian Talks Stand-Up,
Gaming & Marriage Equality



BY ANDREA POTEET

Whether she's dishing with the ladies on the daytime chat show "The Talk," lending her voice to sarcastic superspy Lana Kane on the FX animated series "Archer" or musing about video games, friends with kids and the plight of the diminutively derriered in her stand-up shows, Aisha Tyler is whip-smart and effortlessly funny.

But the one thing she wouldn't change in more than 20 years behind the mic is the times she wasn't.

"The things that make you the funniest are the ones where you really, really bomb because you have to go away and completely reexamine everything about your life and how you approach comedy," she says, driving home after a taping of "The Talk." "When you kill you just think you're awesome and you go do shots, but it's when you really bomb that you go away and try to get better."

Tyler's bombing days are far behind her. Fans who've seen her stand-up specials on Comedy Central or her self-effacing viral rap video "No Ass at All" have helped make Stephanie Miller's "Sexy Liberal Comedy Tour," which paired Tyler with John Fugelsang and fellow "Talk Soup" alum Hal Sparks, the highest-grossing political comedy tour of all time. Tyler said she hopes her solo stand-up tour, bringing her to the Detroit area for the first time for an Oct. 19 date at The Magic Bag, will live up to that streak.

"I love stand-up and I've been doing it long enough now that people come – and my fans know me, they know the kind of humor," she says. "People really know who I am as a comedian, and they know what they are gonna get."

Raised in San Francisco by her dad after her parent's divorce when she was 10, she grew up a nerdy tomboy who loved science-fiction, video games and sifting through medical books at the library.

INEO

Aisha Tyler

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"I grew up on the back of a motorcycle," she says. "My dad and I used to play video games. My dad was a really loving, caring dad, but he also wanted me to be tough."

After attending McAteer High School's performing arts program and Dartmouth College, where she took acting and improv classes, she said she got into comedy to see if she could do it.

"I never thought I was funny, even as an adult," she says. "I don't think I got into comedy because I thought I was funny; I got into comedy because I loved it and I wanted to be good at it."

After hosting "Talk Soup," and landing acting roles on popular series like "Friends," Tyler relied on her growing celebrity and universal appeal when she started her popular podcast, "Girl on Guy," in 2011. The podcast features Tyler's chats with bro-friendly stars from The Roots' ?uestlove to The Travel Channel's Anthony Bourdain.

"Most of my closest friends are men, and because I'm a comedian I spend a lot of time being the only woman in a room full of men," she says. "I just wanted to talk with guys about stuff we all thought was interesting and compelling and really do a show that was a little edgier and racier than television and could connect with artists and actors and musicians that I really admire."

A self-professed videogame fangirl and Comic-Con frequenter, Tyler was thrilled to lend her voice to a minor female trooper character in 2010's "Halo: Reach."

"It's very fun to hear your voice coming out of the television," she says. "It's very fun to shoot at yourself, but more than that, I think amongst other gamers there's a nice amount of street cred when you've been a part of a game."

She's also lent her name to causes from the Obama campaign to the Human Rights Campaign, for which she did a video spot supporting gay marriage.

"I grew up in San Francisco and a lot of people move there because it's a safe place to be yourself and a place where everyone can embrace who they are without feeling like they are going to be judged or discriminated against," Tyler says. "I always felt like that was a life that everyone should experience. This is a country of opportunity and freedom – and that means freedom for everyone."

Married for more than 20 years to attorney Jeff Tietjens, she said marriage equality hits home for her.

"I'm in an interracial marriage," she says, "and 40 or 50 years ago, interracial marriages were illegal in this country. I've been married for 20 years now and I'm very grateful for my marriage, so the fact that there are people who love each other and can't get married because of some arbitrary law, it's wrong and it's something I feel very deeply about on a personal level."

Six-foot-tall Tyler, who is as well-known for her model-esque looks as her jokes, said another recent attempt at activism was a bit more nerve wracking. For recent season premiere of "The Talk," she and co-hosts Sara Gilbert, Sharon Osbourne, Sheryl Underwood and Julie Chen went without makeup to send a message of self-acceptance and the beauty of imperfections.

"We all thought it was a great idea when we agreed to do it," she says, "and when it was time to do it we all thought, 'What crazy person said this was a good idea?'"

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10/11-13

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Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, director

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Friday, October 12, 8 pm

Saturday, October 13, 8 pm

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10/27

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Valery Gergiev, music director

Denis Matsuev, Piano

Saturday, October 27, 8 pm

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Stravinsky	The Rite of Spring (1913)

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Performance Network Does Right By Tennessee Williams Classic



Matriarch Amanda Wingfield (center) and her family: Laura (Emily Caffery) and Tom (Kevin Young) in Performance Network's "The Glass Menagerie." Photo: Sean Carter

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

The first time I saw "The Glass Menagerie" I was 20 years old and it was a play about a smart, wisecracking young man and his mother who was too much in his business. In the morning she'd say "Rise and shine" and he'd respond with "I'll rise, but I won't shine." He also had a sister who walked with a limp.

The next time I saw it, I can't recall how old I was, it was a play about a brother and sister who really got each other and would exchange eye-rolls whenever their mother would start one of those stories about her days as a Southern belle with 17

gentleman callers competing for her affection.

A time or two after that, it was a play about a mother living in genteel poverty and worrying about the precarious future of her two adult children as they all face the hard times of the 1930s.

Tennessee Williams wasn't kidding when he invoked magic – "I have tricks in my pocket, I have things up my sleeve" – to begin his most autobiographical play.

There is magic, too, in Tim Rhoze's new production at Performance Network. Taking advantage of the leeway – "unusual freedom of convention," Williams called it – that the playwright granted directors of "The

PREVIEW

The Glass Menagerie

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 28.
\$25-41. 734-663-0696.

www.PerformanceNetwork.org

Glass Menagerie," Rhoze has a violinist (Emily Slomovits), offstage but visible, playing background (sometimes foreground) music. He has added some subtle but meaningful gestures best left for future playgoers to discover, and Rhoze makes liberal use of projected images and a fluid approach to props: There is a phonograph, but no record; a picture frame but no picture...

All of this enhances, embellishes – or occasionally impedes – the proceedings and intensifies the idea that this is a memory play, and memories are not an unblemished fabric but one with rips and snags.

None of this would matter much without the most important thing Rhoze brings to the table: whole-hearted performances by four actors who appear to have spent a lot of time getting to know the play.

Kevin Young, as narrator and son Tom (Williams' real first name) Wingfield, conveys innate good nature and the frustration of an artist stuck in a warehouse job facing the daily struggle between responsibility and his own dreams.

Tom's dreams are of the future. His mother

Amanda's dreams are of the past. With grace, Carla Milarch navigates that and Amanda's present state, that of a loving mother trying too hard to hold on to one child, Tom, the family breadwinner, and to let go of fragile, pathologically shy daughter Laura by finding her a suitor, a gentleman caller, who would take care of her.

The third in this family of dreamers is Laura, played by Emily Caffery. Laura lives the present as if it's a dream, absorbed in her collection of glass animal and not much else. There is more to her, a personality as easily shattered as her fragile little creatures, and Caffery carefully lets out Laura's underlying vivacity when Tom at last brings home a friend from the warehouse, the long sought-after gentleman caller.

Jim, played by Sebastian Gerstner, is another kind of dreamer, the practical kind. A star-everything in high school, he hit a rough spot somewhere but he's going to night school, studying public speaking and electronics; he believes there's a future in television (obvious in hindsight, but not bad for a play written in 1944 about characters in the 1930s). Jim is a smaller, but crucial, role, easy to misplay as a platitudinous future member of the stuffed shirts of America, but Gerstner steers clear of that.

At once dreamlike and harshly realistic, musical in language, memorable in character, "The Glass Menagerie" endures, and Performance Network's production gives it the breath of life.

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Humor Is In The Blood At City Theatre

PREVIEW

Evil Dead: The Musical

The Ringwald & Olympia Entertainment at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Thursday-Saturday through Oct. 27. \$15-26. 313-471-6611.

www.OlympiaEntertainment.com

BY CAROLYN HAYES

October is the time for tricks and treats, and both are currently alive and well – or, rather, undead and hilarious – at Detroit’s City Theatre. Once again, The Ringwald Theatre and Olympia Entertainment have joined forces to resurrect the massively popular “Evil Dead: The Musical” (book and lyrics by George Reinblatt; music by Frank Cipolla, Christopher Bond, Melissa Morris, and Reinblatt; music supervision by Cipolla; additional lyrics by Bond and Rob Daleman), an homage/parody of a cult classic indie film series that has become a cult favorite in its own right. This year, “ED:TM” veteran Tim Kay slips into the director’s chair, taking viewers on a euphoric skewering tour of horror town.

Making clear, sturdy hops through the major plot points, the play is eminently novice friendly, while bearing enough iconic quotes and in-references to satisfy the most devoted fan. In a nutshell, a raft of teen-movie cliches road trips to a secluded, abandoned cabin in the Michigan woods: protagonist Ash (Pete Podolski), girlfriend Linda (Shari Mocheit), sister Cheryl (Heather Sejnaw), best friend Scott (Sean May), and Scott’s vacuous vacation sex acquaintance (Tara Tomcsik). As horny but inquisitive college students are wont to do, they almost immediately stumble on an ancient book and unknowingly awaken a race of demons bent on dominating the world, apparently one stock character at a time.

Meanwhile, the take-charge daughter of the cabin’s absent owner (Tomcsik, in a dual role), followed by her fiancé of few words (Casey Hibbert), set out for the cabin with the help of a local yokel (David Schoen). Who lives, who dies, and who finds new life in demon form is fleshed out in catchy songs and wonderfully excessive comedy violence.

This year’s iteration is strongest in its comedic sensibility. In the face of ominous and hellishly gory source material, Kay elects to ratchet up the camp of every beat, and the laughs are tremendous. From the high notes of Brian Carbine’s standout choreography – alternately blindly wholesome and madly vulgar – to the attention to detail that reveals riotous cracks in straight-faced parody, the occasional dated lyric and ho-hum reference pass unregistered. The choice



“Evil Dead: The Musical” continues its bloody-good engagement at the City Theatre through Oct. 27. Photo: The Ringwald Theatre & Olympia Entertainment.

inevitably means a scale tip in favor of funny over spooky, but there is craft in the crassness that makes the choice a success.

This is not to say that the production isn’t bloody base as ever; indeed, Jen and Ted Hansen’s storied special effects are here in all their spurting glory, guaranteed to handily anoint those viewers adventurous (and early) enough to snag prime seats in the plastic-tarped splatter zone. The orgy of viscera finds a hundred ingenious hiding places on Tommy LeRoy’s log-cabin set, among a circus of tchotchkes and knickknacks (by properties designers Michelle LeRoy and the Hansens once again) just waiting to take on increasingly bizarre and delightful uses – many executed by bit part player, backstage crew head, and seriously good sport David B. Woitulewicz. Lighting design by Alex Gay matches the tone, unobtrusively for unobtrusively, and costumes by Miekyle Turner are workhorse pieces designed to move easily, get destroyed, and wash clean. Admittedly, the overall sound design leaves something to be desired: The pitfalls of canned music are compounded by its low volume, and music direction by Ryan MacKenzie Lewis wants for the raw belting foundation that propels this kind of silly energy. Yet at the same time, to nitpick that sound cues don’t quite match up with the action onstage

is to miss the essence of such a fun and wantonly sloppy melee.

To this effect, Kay has assembled a crack ensemble ready to set vanity aside and milk every preposterous punchline for all it’s worth.

Podolski is in his element beneath an inflated chiseled-hero veneer, acting the fool alongside Mocheit’s earnest but sultry love interest. Awkward kid sister Sejnaw goes from wide-eyed misfit to one-demon peanut gallery, and her clear enjoyment in the task sells the performance. Tomcsik is equally skilled in glassy-blank congenial oblivion of the ditzy one-night stand and as the pushy but sexy know-it-all archaeologist; that frustrated Hibbert does more than just hold on in her wake is an accomplishment. Unblinking Schoen knows how to work an indignant outburst, and although May doesn’t seem entirely at home as the self-serving bully, he layers on a needed Fred Schneider-ly affect that makes a corny late-show number shine.

In all, it’s another fine recurrence for “ED:TM,” largely matching the strengths of its predecessors and honoring the source material, but still evolving and benefitting from new discoveries. Here, Kay and company’s vision pays off in a heaping helping of comic gems that are achievements in their own right.



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LGBT Leaders of Color 6 p.m. Come meet some of these extraordinary, young leaders of color and learn about their activities, plans, dreams and expectations for the future of the LGBT community. As part of this gathering, BTL has invited special guest speaker Dr. Marjorie Hill, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in NYC, to share her incredible journey and moderate a question and answer discussion. Refreshments provided by Bona Sera Cafe. Pride Source Media, 290 W. Nine Mile Road. **Ferndale**. 734-293-7200. Pridesource.com

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. EqualityML.org

Friday, Oct. 12

7th Annual MSU GLBT Homecoming Reception 6:30 p.m. Come meet fellow MSU alumni, faculty, staff, and students at the 7th annual GLBT homecoming reception. Food will be provided and a cash bar will be available. The annual MSU homecoming parade will take place before the reception, and the homecoming game opponent is Iowa. Tickets for this reception will be available at the door. GLBT Alumni of MSU, Kellogg Center, MSU Campus, **East Lansing**. Facebook.com/pages/GLBT-Alumni-of-Michigan-State-University

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

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



Editor's Pick

American jazz musician, vocalist and songwriter Cassandra Wilson was once described by critic Gary Giddens as "a singer blessed with an unmistakable timbre and attack (who has) expanded the playing field," by incorporating country, blues and folk music into her work.

A multi-Grammy winner, Wilson's earliest formal musical education consisted of classical lessons; she studied piano from the age of 6 to 13 and played clarinet in the middle school concert

and marching bands. After working in public affairs in New Orleans, Wilson's peers encouraged her to move to New York City and pursue a career in jazz.

Wilson's 1996 album "New Moon Daughter" won the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance. In 1997, she recorded and toured as a featured vocalist with Wynton Marsalis' Pulitzer Prize-winning composition, "Blood on the Fields." Today, she is renowned for her unique sound and fine-tuned vocals.

Cassandra Wilson performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit. Tickets begin at \$18. For more information, go to www.DSO.org.

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Albert Nobbs; Having for decades disguised herself as a man while working as a butler in a posh 19th-century Dublin hotel, a woman calling herself Albert Nobbs reconsiders her charade when a handsome painter arrives on the scene. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Oct. 13

Grand Rapids AIDS Walk + Run 9:45 a.m. AIDS Walk + Run, Grand Rapids is an annual Walk + Fun Run, raising money for Kent County AIDS services and education. RED Project GR, Rosa Parks Circle, **Grand Rapids**. Redprojectgr.org

Roller Derby Monster Mania 6 p.m. Halloween is right around the corner, and the Mitten Mavens and Wild Childs are celebrating early with a Monster Mania Doubleheader Bout. Tickets: \$8-10. Mitten Mavens Lansing Roller Derby, 7977 Centerline Dr., **Dimondale**. Mittenmaven@gmail.com Mittenmavens.net

LBGT for Obama 6:30 p.m. Free event. Light refreshments served. Organizing For America- Michigan, 136 S. Main St., **Mount Clemens**. 586-441-2571. Nelliegriffin@live.com My.barackobama.com/page/event/manage/gslid9

Anything Goes! 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10, available via email, from a choir member or at the door. One Voice Chorus, 1000 Cranbrook Road, **Bloomfield Hills**. 248-291-7464. DetroitOneVoice@yahoo.com OneVoiceChorus.net

Sunday, Oct. 14

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

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTIQ and allies 25 and over-join GOAL every Sunday at for discussion, food and fun. New topic each week. Topic: What was your most embarrassing moment? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Oct. 15

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

Tuesday, Oct. 16

PFLAG Kalamazoo 6 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October from 6 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Resource Center. PFLAG, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 7:45 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Jimtoycenter.org

Wednesday, Oct. 17

An Informed Voter casts an Informed Vote 7 p.m. Feature ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project staff attorney, Jay Kaplan, who will discuss the importance of the 2012 election for the LGBT community, both at the state and federal levels. This program is open to the public, and reservations are not required. Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 1511 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Phillips847@comcast.net

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. 18

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

Friday, Oct. 19

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. Discuss relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, and/or omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Meeting usually followed by dinner at aut

Bar, two doors down. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: She Likes Girls 4: Tomboys & Tough Girls; From awkward hilarity to heartwarming drama, this installment of the popular She Likes Girls series features a collection of short films that run the gamut of the lesbian experience. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Oct. 21

LGBT Ferndale School Board Mimosa Brunch 11 a.m. LGBT community members talk about why they are supporting BOLD for Ferndale School Board and Ferndale citizens should care who gets elected. Meet the candidates. This event is hosted, sponsored and paid for by private citizens. Covey, Garcia, LaTosch, Lemon & Westerman, 290 West Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-807-1557. Klatosch@gmail.com Facebook.com/events/394283277309953/

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

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTIQ (and allies) 25 and over-join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. New topic each week. Topic: What would you like to be remembered for? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Olympia Entertainment George Lopez; Multi-talented entertainer whose career encompasses television, film and stand-up comedy, will return to Detroit's Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$44.50-54.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 20. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Arnez J; MotorCity Casino Hotel welcomes comedian Arnez J to Sound Board. Tickets: \$34-42. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 18. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Whiting D.L. Hughley; One of the most popular and highly recognized stand-up comedians on the road today, Hughley brings his unique twist of comedy to The Whiting stage. Tickets: \$19+. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint 8 p.m. Oct. 13. 810-237-5131. Thewhiting.com/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=4689

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "New Beginnings Jazz Concert" Music composed by Doug Halladay. Featuring some of Detroit's finest Jazz Artists. Tickets: \$15. Historic First Congregational Church of Detroit, 33 E. Forest Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 18. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Romance of Rachmaninoff" Rachmaninoff's Caprice bohemien, The Isle of the Dead, and Piano Concerto No. 3. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Oct. 19-Oct. 21. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Lansing Symphony Jazz Band" Join Director Ron Newman and the Jazz Band in a fun afternoon of great music. Tickets: \$10-15. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. 3 p.m. Oct. 14. 517-487-5001.

LansingSymphony.org

Max M. Fisher Music Center Cassandra Wilson; "A singer blessed with an unmistakable timbre and attack who has expanded the playing field," declares critic Gary Giddens. Tickets: \$18. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 12. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Michigan State University College of Music "Ikutus Percussion Group" Guest Recital. Tickets: \$8-10. Hart Recital Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11. 1-800-WHARTON. MSU.edu

Olympia Entertainment "The King's Men" Four of the most successful performers in gospel music history, Kirk Franklin, Marvin Sapp, Donnie McClurkin and Israel Houghton, will share the same stage for the very first time when they embark on "The King's Men" concert tour this fall. Tickets: \$25-100. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 12. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Go-Go's; Tickets: \$40-50. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave, **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Blue October" Blue October was formed by lead singer/songwriter/guitarist Justin Furstenfeld, his brother Jeremy, and multi-instrumentalist Ryan Delahoussaye. The band was discovered by former Kid Rock manager Michael Rand performing at the Atchafalaya River Cafe. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

The Ark The Boxcars; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Oct. 13. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark The Chenille Sisters; Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Oct. 12. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Fillmore Detroit Regina Spektor; With special guest Only Son. Tickets: \$25-49.50. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 13. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

The Fillmore Detroit Brandi Carlile; Tickets: \$25-39.50. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Oct. 19. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

University Musical Society Murray Perahia, piano; In the more than 35 years he has been performing on the concert stage, American pianist Murray Perahia has become one of the most sought-after and cherished pianists of our time, performing in all of the major international music centers and with every leading orchestra. Tickets: \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Oct. 20. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Bard by Any Other Name \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., **Ann Arbor**. Oct. 19-21. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Advise and Consent \$8-\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. Oct. 19-28. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

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

From the Shadows: The Villains Take the Stage \$13-15. Canton Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, **Canton**. Oct. 12-13. 734-394-5300. SpotlightPlayersMI.org

It Came From Mars \$18-\$20. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook,

400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Oct. 12-28. 888-71-TICKETS.

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

Next Fall \$14-\$16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre's 2nd Stage, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., **Royal Oak**. Oct. 12-21. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

The Diviners \$10-\$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. Through Oct. 14. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

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

The Imaginary Invalid \$12-19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Oct. 12-27. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

The Rocky Horror Show \$5. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., **Adrian**. Oct. 19-31. 517-264-7469. crosswell.org

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

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Almost, Maine \$10-\$26. UM Dept. of Theatre & Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, **Ann Arbor**. Through Oct. 14. 734-764-2538. <http://tickets.music.umich.edu>

Broken Glass \$10-\$12. Wayne State University, Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, **Detroit**. Oct. 18-27. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

James and The Giant Peach \$15 general, \$13 senior, \$10 student, & \$8 ages 12 and under. Michigan State University Department of Theatre at Pasant Theatre at Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 12-21. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu

Police Deaf Near Far \$10-\$18. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., **Rochester**. Through Oct. 14. 800-585-3737. oakland.edu/mtd

Slasher \$5-\$10. LCC Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 Grand Avenue, Room 168, **Lansing**. Through Oct. 13. 517-372-0945. lcc.edu/showinfo

Sunday in the Park with George \$10-\$26. UM Dept. of Musical Theatre at Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. Oct. 11-21. 734-764-2538. <http://tickets.music.umich.edu>

The Crucible \$12-15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Oct. 12-21. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

The Merchant of Venice \$9-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre, 103 Quirk, **Ypsilanti**. Oct. 19-28. 734-487-1220. EMich.edu

The Three Musketeers \$5-20. The University Theatre at Shaw Theatre inside the Gilmour Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Oct. 11-21. 269-387-6222. Wmutheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

Anything Goes \$32. Roundabout Theatre Company at Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, **East Lansing**. Oct. 16-21. 517-432-2000. WhartonCenter.com

Barstool Philosophers Improv \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., **Three Oaks**. 8 p.m. Oct. 13. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

boom \$20-22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, **Williamston**. Through Oct. 21. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

Editor's Pick



Five unforgettable women are on a mission to prove that friendships last forever in "The Dixie Swim Club," now playing at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

The touching family-friendly production has been called a cross between "Designing Women" and "Steel Magnolias." It tells the story of five women who meet on a college swim team and remain friends for 55 years, reconnecting one summer weekend each year to laugh together and enjoy life.

"The show is about love and friendship," says director Tim Timmer. "These women stick together through all of their trials and tribulations, and form a bond that never fails." The production combines live actors with video to take the audience back in time.

"The Dixie Swim Club" runs through Oct. 27. Reserved seats (\$16) for this comedy are available by calling the box office at 248-553-2955. The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Cyrano de Bergerac \$15-\$25. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Oct. 14. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

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

Dial 'M' For Murder \$15-18. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Oct. 19-Nov. 17. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

Escanaba in Love \$15-25. Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Oct. 19-21. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

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

Firebird on \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 Grand River, Detroit. Through Oct. 27. 313-961-7777. PuppetArt.org

Francis The Holy Jester \$25; advance sales only. Italian Film Festival USA at University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 16. 248-930-6017. ItalianFilmFests.org

Francis The Holy Jester \$25; advance sales only. Italian Film Festival USA at Wayne State University, General Lectures 150 Auditorium, 5045 Anthony Wayne Dr., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 19. 248-930-6017. ItalianFilmFests.org

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

Madame Sherry Performed in concert format. \$12-\$15. Comic Opera Guild at Vitoshka Concert Hall, 1917 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Oct. 20-21. 734-763-8587. mutotix.com

None of the Above \$10-20. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. Through Oct. 14. 313-993-3270. theatre.udmercy.edu

Picking Palin \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Oct. 12-Nov. 3. 313-408-7269. MagentaGiraffe.org

Rhinoceros \$18+. University Musical Society at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 11-13. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

Superior Donuts \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

The Barber of Seville \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Oct. 13-21. 313-237-SING. MichiganOpera.org

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

The Glass Menagerie \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 28. 734-663-0696. PerformanceNetwork.org

The Haunting of Hill House \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Oct. 28. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

The Hundred Dresses \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 19-Nov. 4. 810-237-1530. FlintYouthTheatre.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 Price is Right Live \$25-35. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 13. 1-800-Wharton. WhartonCenter.com

The Search for Ron Mims \$10. The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Oct. 19-20. 313-444-2294. parkbardetroit.com

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

The Taming of the Shrew \$5-\$10. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 10 a.m. Oct. 15. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

Woyzeck \$10-15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Oct. 18-31. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Annual: All Media Exhibition" This juried exhibition is open to artists from throughout the state of Michigan who were invited to submit their work created in any medium for consideration. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 2-Oct. 21. 734-995-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.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

Flint Institute of Arts "Guy Adamec Invitational" Curated by FIA instructor Guy

Adamec, this exhibition features fellow faculty and students. Guy has been an artist and educator in southeast Michigan for 40 years as well as a part of numerous community partnerships and projects. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 1-Oct. 21. Flintarts.org

Goldner Walsh Garden and Home "Pumpkin Art Workshop" Admission: \$8 per person, includes instruction, pumpkins and some natural tools. Goldner Walsh Garden and Home, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 1 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-332-6430.

Lawrence Street Gallery "Celebrate the Print-2012" Nearly 40 Southeast Michigan area printmakers participating in a juried exhibition. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Oct. 3-Oct. 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

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 "Anri Sala" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Voice of the City" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2-March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.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 "Grammar of the Elite" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 11-Nov. 18. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

The Scarab Club "Nancy Mitchnick: 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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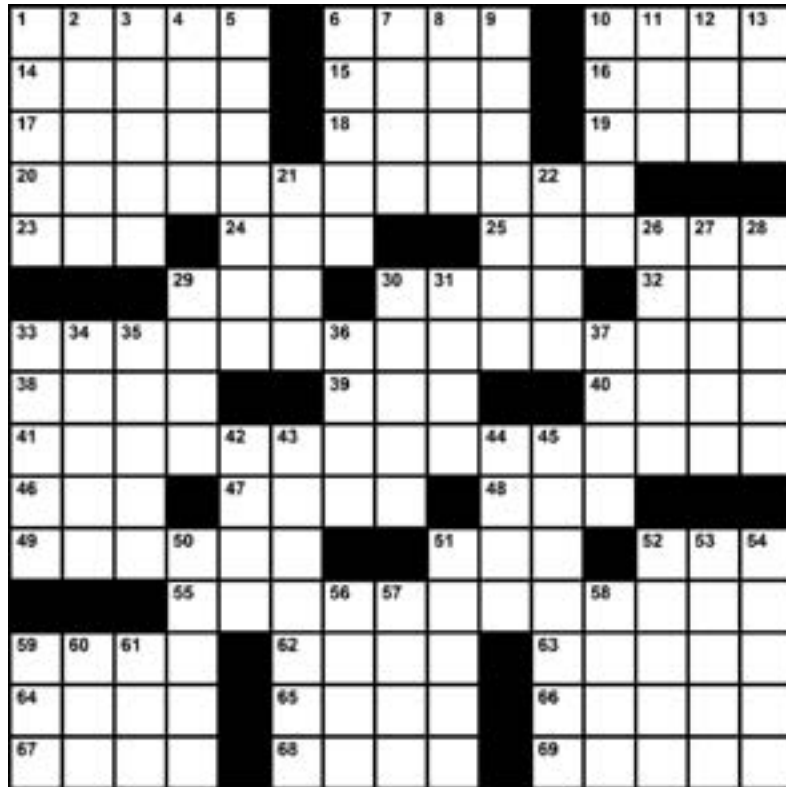


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Tops And Bottoms Down Under



Across

- 1 Elton John wears them
- 6 Bringing up the rear
- 10 Suck (in)
- 14 Deck opening
- 15 Northern capital
- 16 Cocksure Aesop character
- 17 Colette's "The ___ One"
- 18 Minimal tide
- 19 Club for Sheehan
- 20 Start of a riddle
- 23 Big initials in fashion
- 24 Caesar's way
- 25 Frank acknowledgment
- 29 Dry, as wine
- 30 A volatile guy has a short one
- 32 Not in the pink
- 33 End of the riddle
- 38 Drag queen's leg scraper
- 39 Hip-hop's Dr.
- 40 Bridge triumph
- 41 Start of the answer
- 46 John of Barrie's land
- 47 TV trophy
- 48 Stooge with a bowl cut
- 49 Bewitched_ mother
- 51 Canning container
- 52 Barnyard male

- 55 End of the answer
- 59 It may come before 69
- 62 Early AIDS play
- 63 Tend with tenderness
- 64 Minor in astronomy
- 65 Russian singing duo
- 66 Home run, or home fries source
- 67 Muff diving area
- 68 Barely gets, with "out"
- 69 Gives a pink slip to

Down

- 1 Like a peacock
- 2 Wooded ways
- 3 Kind of alcohol
- 4 Reproduced without sex, for short
- 5 Respond to the cold
- 6 Ars ____, vita brevis
- 7 In midvoyage, maybe
- 8 More than tickle
- 9 Active seaman's pole?
- 10 Sometime label of Dusty Springfield
- 11 Galley slave's tool
- 12 Solidly behind
- 13 Shakespeare's dusk
- 21 Rolled cubes
- 22 "If ___ I Would Leave You"
- 26 Author Cather

- 27 Box to Vidal
- 28 Andean pack animal
- 29 Order to Rex
- 30 Like a bear
- 31 Like hand-me-downs
- 33 French composer Erik
- 34 Hawke of _Hamlet_
- 35 Current fashion
- 36 Second fruit eater
- 37 R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World ___ Know It"
- 42 Gay cable network
- 43 Come out
- 44 Colorful computer
- 45 City of _Xtra_
- 50 Winfrey of _The Color Purple_
- 51 "Superstar" title character
- 52 Wrongful acts, in law
- 53 First appearance
- 54 Austin Powers portrayal Mike
- 56 Writer Dinesen
- 57 "Marriage ___" (civil union, derogatory)
- 58 Party after a Hawaiian wedding, perhaps
- 59 Long sandwich, for short
- 60 Broadway bio
- 61 Sex, crudely

Solution on pg. 33

Adopt Panzer, a 5-year-old German Shepherd

Panzer is a 5-year-old German Shepherd. He was lucky enough to be brought to the Humane Society of Huron Valley where is being cared for until he finds a caring home. Panzer is house-trained and knows many of his basic manners already. Panzer would love a big yard to run in and a family who enjoys daily playtime. Panzer prefers to be the only dog in home, but we think he might do well living in a home with cats. At the end of the day Panzer would love to curl up with you on the couch and indulge in endless amounts of belly rubs.

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The comic strips include:

- mutty thinking**: A dog barks "WOOF!" and a woman asks "WHAT IS WITH DOGS OWNERS THESE DAYS?". A man replies "DOGS ARE SOCIAL. DOGS ARE PACK ANIMALS. DOGS DO AS YOU SAY...".
- A Couple of guys***: A man asks "EXCUSE ME, DO YOU READ CAPTAIN NUCLEO?". The man replies "WELL, I'VE READ COMMENTS ONLINE COMPLAINING THAT THE ART IS MORE HOMEROTIC NOW, BUT I HAVEN'T NOTICED IT." The other man replies "ME NEITHER."
- A Couple of guys***: A man says "YES, I HAVE EVERY ISSUE." The other man asks "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ART...LATELY?". The man replies "OH, OH... YOU MEAN BECAUSE THE NEW ARTIST IS GAY?".
- A Couple of guys***: A man says "BUT SUPPOSEDLY THE NEW WRITER VS GAY, TOO, SO HAVE THINGS WILL CHANGE." The other man asks "DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?".
- A Couple of guys***: A man says "OUR CLOTHES WERE TORN TO SHREDS BY THE EXPLOSION, BUT I MUST GET THIS INNOCENT BYSTANDER TO SAFETY!". The other man replies "OH MY! THE ROOM IS FILLING UP WITH VEGETABLE OIL!".

Horoscopes

Don't Worry, Cancer!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus in Virgo and Mercury in Scorpio are in a long sextile now aspecting Pluto and Uranus, bringing shrewd insight to social and political problems. Pay close attention to the details of how things work if you really want to change them.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): If you get it into your head to try something new at work, consult with someone first. It will help you look like a better team player and could save you a lot of trouble. They might even improve on your ideas.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Looking creatively at new ideas can wake up some inner demons. Your partner will help you dispel those old monsters, but it may take a lot of discussion. Schedule time to discuss your worries and fears, but also your hopes.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Check into your family health history, especially on Mom's side. Some community work can help you find new purpose in your life and make some very helpful connections. If you're already there, you may need to work on better connections.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Worrying about your role and position in your family can make you sick. Don't worry. If you're feeling neglected, remember the telephone works both ways. Focus on your work, don't obsess. Pace yourself, breathe, relax.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Your playful impulses can be too enthusiastic and easily misunderstood. Think before speaking. The planets are conspiring to make a great fool of you. You can handle that, but stay alert to the time and the place, and the consequences.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Your partner needs a good listener right now, not just conversationally, but on other levels. That could lead to novel fun in the bedroom, but be very aware of safety issues that might come up.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): The solution to your relationship problems is not in the bedroom. There are other kinds of creative play and challenges that can help you understand each other better. Like what? That's the creative part.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Your mouth is liable to get you into trouble, especially at work. Keep your mind intrigued with new techniques and away from low amusements and gossip. If you can't say anything nice, learn to say it in a different language.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): You may chafe at authority and discipline, but take the long view and see how you can use them to your advantage. Fun-loving friends who urge you to do crazy things are more than fun-loving, and less than friends.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Don't beat yourself up for trouble with friends. You can work on solutions, find better friends, or prefer quality to quantity. Perspectives that are new to you (perhaps old and foreign) can help resolve domestic troubles. Be willing to give in order to get.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Don't let new position or responsibilities tempt you to spending sprees, or into taking yourself too seriously! Someone who sees you naked on a regular basis will be happy to help you keep things in proportion.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): The strength of your roots and history shouldn't protect you from challenges, but help you adapt to them. When you're juggling too much take time out to meditate. Swallow your pride and reach out to friends. They'll be glad to help.

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Solution to puzzle from page 32

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101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Holstead (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

Homemade 'Smoked' Salmon

BY ED SIKOV

This week's column is about how a single great hors d'oeuvre can elevate an easy dinner party into something truly special. The most common mistake hosts make is trying too hard. Unless you're really sure of yourself and have at least a full day to prepare for your dinner party, don't set yourself up for failure by overextending yourself. Your guests want to relax and have fun, not be wowed by your culinary expertise. So don't be afraid to make a big bowl of spaghetti (and use bottled sauce if you have to), get two bags of salad mix and some bottled dressing, and heat up a frozen pie. Put your energy into a "wow" appetizer: homemade "smoked" salmon.

First things first: stick a bottle of Absolut in the freezer. That's your cocktail. You're not a bartender, and your home is not a bar. You do not have to stock everything on earth just in case somebody might want a (insert name of cocktail here). Icy vodka is classy, especially when you serve it with something as delicious as this easy-to-make salmon.

Your local supermarket should carry "fresh" salmon; I put "fresh" in quotes

because the salmon has almost certainly been frozen between sea and store. You want salmon filets, not steaks, and you need a pound or a pound and a half. You won't be cooking this salmon but rather preserving it, so take a particularly good look at it before you buy it. If possible, smell it, too. It should be moist but not greasy or dry looking, and it should smell faintly like the sea. If it has a strong fishy odor or just plain looks bad, forget it; buy some cheese and crackers and make this recipe another time.

Buy a box of kosher salt. No, you're not converting to Judaism; you're merely going to be using coarse salt, and kosher salt fits the bill. Make sure you have a cup of sugar at home; if you don't, buy some sugar, too. Now proceed to the tea department and look for Lapsang Soochong, a Chinese tea with a distinctly smoky flavor. If you're lucky, they'll have it loose-leaved in a tin; if not, you'll have to buy teabags and cut the bags open at home. Buy some unsalted butter or whipped cream cheese and some party rye, and pick up a bunch of dill if it looks good.

Two days before your dinner party, mix 1 cup of Lapsang Soochong tea leaves with 1 cup of coarse salt and 1 cup of sugar.

Place 2 layers of plastic wrap crosswise in a Pyrex loaf pan (or other nonreactive square or rectangular deep dish), and layer the salt/sugar/tea mixture with the salmon filets until you run out of both. Fold the plastic wrap over the top, weigh the fish down with a stack of small plates, and put the whole thing in the refrigerator.

The day of the party, remove the fish from the fridge, and – in the sink, because it will drip – separate the fish from the now-wet salt/sugar/tea mixture. Using a knife, scrape off as much of the mixture from the filets as possible. *Do not do this under running water!* You'll lose too much flavor that way. So what if some specks of tea leaves remain on the salmon? Then, starting at the thin end of each filet, carefully slice them on a sharp diagonal – almost horizontally, really – so that you have nice looking slices about half an inch wide. Put the butter or cream cheese out on the counter to come to room temperature – it's spreadable that way. Put the fish back in the fridge.

Right before serving, spread some butter or cream cheese on the party rye, put a piece of salmon on each slice, top with a sprig of dill, et voila!

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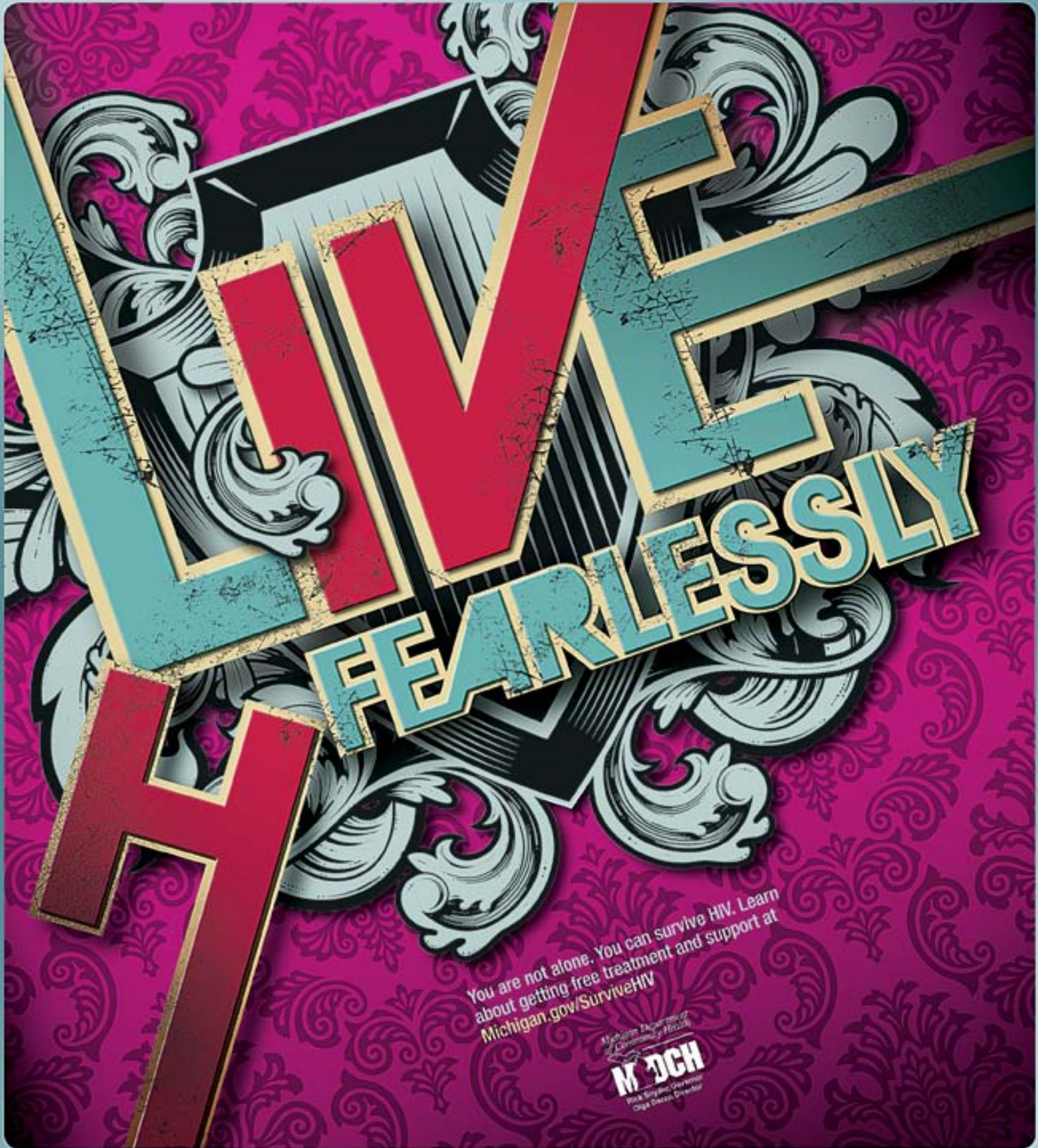
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