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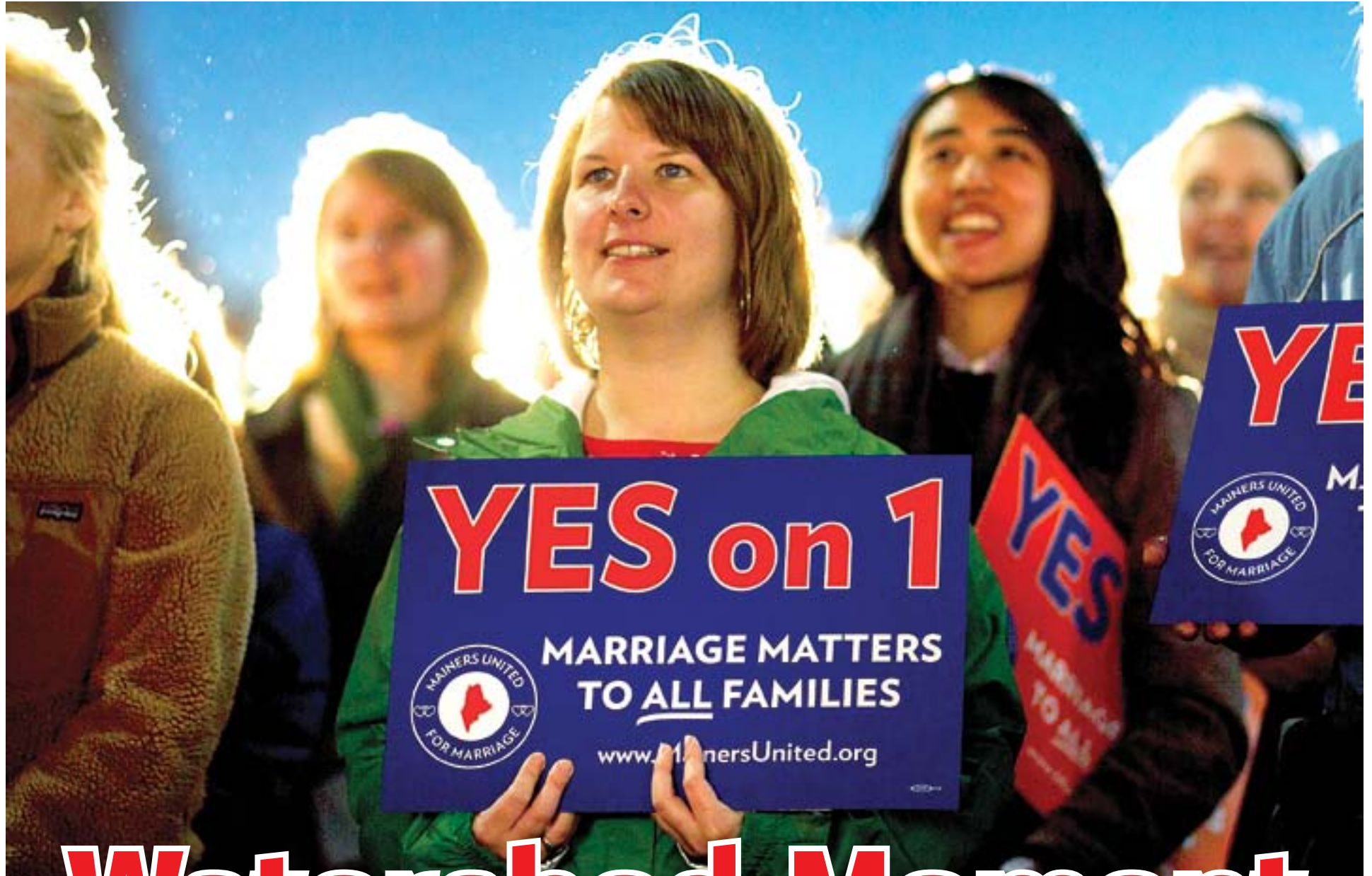


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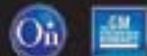
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COVER STORY

4 Watershed moment for marriage equality

Photo: AP



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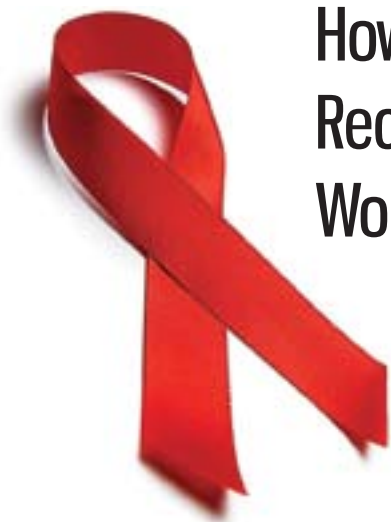
I didn't run to make history. I ran to make a difference.

— Tammy Baldwin, the first openly lesbian senator. Pg. 4



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How Are You Recognizing World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day is just around the corner and agencies and organizations all over Michigan are preparing to commemorate this important event. This year, BTL will be including a comprehensive calendar

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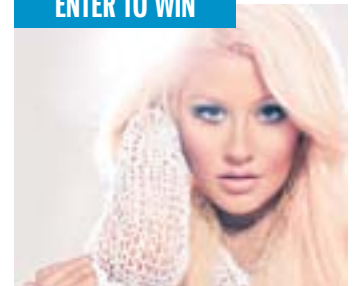
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Baldwin's Win Tops A Record Number of LGBTs In Congress

BY LISA KEEN

MADISON, WI - In an historic victory Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin became the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

Her victory, along with the apparent wins of six out of seven openly LGBT candidates for the U.S. House, marks a new high for the number of openly LGBT members of Congress: seven. The previous high was four.

The success of openly LGBT candidates come against a backdrop of partisan control in the Senate and House which will remain the same as before - Democrats control the Senate and Republicans control the House.

In her acceptance speech, Baldwin acknowledged the historic nature of her win.

"I'm well aware that I will have the honor to be the first woman senator from Wisconsin, and I'm well aware that I will be the first openly gay member of the United States Senate," said Baldwin.

"I didn't run to make history. I ran to make a difference - a difference in the lives of families struggling to find work and pay the bills, a difference in the lives of students worried about debt and seniors worried about their retirement security, a difference in the lives veterans who fought for us and need someone fighting for them and their families when they return home from war, a difference in the lives



of entrepreneurs trying to build a business and working people trying to build some economic security," said Baldwin.

The six other victors Tuesday night were incumbent Democratic Reps. Jared Polis of Colorado and David Cicilline of Rhode Island. Joining them will be two new members of the House--Mark Pocan, who won Baldwin's seat from Wisconsin, and Sean Maloney of New York. And as of Friday morning, Democrat Mark Takano still topped the results with a 13-point lead in his race for the House seat representing the 41st Congressional district of California, according to the Secretary of State's website.

Also Friday morning, the Arizona Secretary of State's website showed all precincts counted in Congressional District 9, and openly bisexual Arizona State Senator Krysten Sinema with a 3,842-vote lead over Republican opponent Vernon Parker. If Sinema, 36, is certified the winner, she'll represent Tempe, Mesa, and Scottsdale and become the first openly bisexual candidate to win a seat to Congress.

The only loss among openly gay Congressional candidates Tuesday night was Republican Richard Tisei, who lost a very close race against Democratic incumbent John Tierney in Massachusetts.

'Watershed' moment for marriage

BY LISA KEEN

Even the most jaded political pundits were stunned by the four victories for marriage equality on the ballot Tuesday.

In an unprecedented vote, Minnesota became the first state to reject a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Maine became the first state to approve a pro-active measure to allow same-sex marriage. And voters in Washington State and Maryland became the first to approve bills passed in their respective legislatures to provide for marriage equality.

And to top it off, the one Iowa justice targeted by anti-gay marriage activists hoping to unseat him during his routine retention vote, held onto his seat.

Fox News commentator Juan Williams called the four votes a "watershed moment" for the marriage equality movement in the United States. Prior to Tuesday, voters in 32 states have passed

bans on same-sex marriage.

The votes add Maryland, Maine, and Washington to the list of six states and the District of Columbia that allow same-sex marriage.

In Maine voters said Yes on Question 1, which approves a statute allowing same-sex couples to marry. The law will go into effect 30 days after the governor proclaims the results of the election.

In Maryland, Question 6 to ratify the legislature's passage of a marriage equality bill had won easily. Undoubtedly, a key factor behind the win in Maryland was the aggressive effort by the NAACP to convince the state's large African American population to back the measure.

A similar measure in Washington State won, Referendum 74, endorsing passage of a bill by the legislature for marriage equality. Fifty-two percent of the vote was Yes, 48 percent No.

And in perhaps the most astonishing marriage equality victory of the night,

Read More on Impact of Marriage Decisions
 » See page 12 of this issue

voters in Minnesota became the first to reject a state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Fifty-one percent voted against Proposed Amendment 1, 48 percent for.

Referring to the vote in Maine, which was reported first, Freedom to Marry National Campaign Director Marc Solomon said it was "hard to overstate the national significance of this vote." Solomon praised Mainers United for Marriage Campaign for its meticulous, three-year-long effort to pass the measure, calling it an "extraordinary effort."

"For years, our opponents have argued that we could not win a majority vote at the ballot. Today, Maine voters proved them wrong, standing up for the Golden Rule and for freedom for all Mainers," said Solomon.

LGBT Gains Breathtaking Leap Forward In U.S

BY LISA KEEN

A first-ever openly gay person elected U.S. Senator, the largest ever number of openly LGBT people elected to Congress, two new speakers at state houses, the first-ever openly transgender person elected to a state legislature, and the first openly LGBT candidates elected in numerous states.

That's just a snapshot of what made Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund President Chuck Wolfe call Nov. 6 a "breathtaking leap forward."

Election Day 2012 contests for LGBT candidates spanned 37 states, including such conservative bastions and North Dakota and



Kuhnke wins, other Mich. LGBT candidates lose

ANN ARBOR – Carol Kuhnke won her election for Circuit Court Judge in Washtenaw County, making her the first openly LGBT judge elected by the people in Michigan.

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to have been elected Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge," said Kuhnke. "I hope that young people in the community will see that they can be whomever and whatever they wish to be regardless of who they love. I also hope that my election takes us closer to full equality."

There were three other races in which openly LGBT candidates ran for office, but none of them won their election bids. Kevin Howley was defeated by incumbent L. Brooks Patterson for Oakland County Executive, Ken Ross lost his bid for Circuit Court Judge in Ingham County, and Todd Heywood lost in his race for a seat on the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees.

Other LGBT judges have or are serving in Michigan, but they either were appointed or did not run as out gay candidates elected, such as Rudy Serra, Frank Arnold and William Baillargeon.

West Virginia. They included victories in seven out of eight federal office races, 71 out of 94 state offices, and 40 out of 50 local offices.

Of 152 LGBT candidates on the ballot Nov. 6, 77 percent (118) won, while 22 percent (33) lost. One local election race is still pending. By comparison, in 2010, 65 percent (106) of 164 openly LGBT candidates won, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

There were many historic firsts this year, including the high-profile victory of U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, overcoming a multi-million-dollar super PAC campaign against her by right-wing operative Karl Rove, to become the first openly gay person elected to the U.S. Senate.

"It goes right up there in history with Ed Brooke of Massachusetts," said long-time gay Democratic activist David Mixner. Brooke, a Republican, became the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate, in 1966.

"Words almost can't describe the barriers this has broken down and it is a moment in the institution of the U.S. Senate that will be forever remembered," said Mixner. He said Baldwin's victory was in large part due to her being "a really great candidate who worked her ass off."

But he also said Baldwin's victory and that of so many others Nov. 6 was a "shift in attitudes" of American voters about LGBT officials and issues.

In California, teacher Mark Takano became the first openly gay person of color elected to Congress, winning a seat representing conservative Riverside, California.

The LGBT community also celebrated the elevation of four of its own to positions as state legislative Speaker of the House, two new to the position and two re-installed.

Oregon State Rep. Tina Kotek, 46, who has been serving as the House Democratic leader, is now in a position to become the state's first openly gay Speaker and, thus, the first lesbian to head a state legislative chamber anywhere in the country. Kotek, a three-term representative of North Portland, helped pass legislation in 2007 to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination. Her areas of focus have been education, health, and fighting hunger.

State Rep. Mark Ferrandino, 35, a Democrat representing Denver, was the unanimous choice of the Democratic majority in Colorado's 65-member House of Representatives. Ferrandino will receive the gavel in January from outgoing Republican Speaker Frank McNulty, who killed a civil union bill poised for passage by sending it back to committee last May. Openly gay Colorado State Senator Pat Steadman was a potential candidate for president of the State Senate but was beat out by a strong LGBT civil rights supporter, John Morse, from conservative Colorado Springs.

And two incumbent speakers will hold onto

See LGBT Gains, page 7



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State Changes Little After Expensive Campaigns

GOP Majority Shrinks In State House

BY JAN STEVENSON

LANSING – Despite millions of dollars and hard fought campaigns, the results of the Nov. 6 elections in Michigan netted only small changes in our state government composition. The Supreme Court will remain with a 4-3 Republican majority and the State House of Representatives will remain in Republican control, although by a smaller margin than before the election.

IN the most expensive Supreme Court race in Michigan history, Democratic nominee Bridget Mary McCormack got the most votes in a six-way race for two seats. She will replace former Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, a Democrat, who is retiring. Incumbent Republican Justice Stephen Markman came in



Bridget McCormack won a seat on the Michigan Supreme Court. BTL file Andrew Potter.

second, winning reelection for the other eight year seat. He beat out Democratic challenger Connie Kelly and Republican Colleen O'Brien. Incumbent Republican Justice Brian Zahra also won reelection for the remaining two years of former Justice Maura Corrigan, who left the court last year to head up the state's Department of Human Services, beating Democratic challenger Shelia Johnson.

The net result – no change in the balance of power on the Supreme Court.

The election for the Michigan State House of Representatives resulted in a net gain of six seats

for the Democrats, which was not enough to garner a majority but did diminish the size of the Republican majority to eight seats, down from 20. The partisan balance is now 59 Republicans and 51 Democrats in the new Michigan House that will be inaugurated in January.

The six seat pickup was the result of five Republican incumbents losing their seats, and one open seat flipping to the Democrats. No seats held by Democrats were lost to the Republicans.

"Michigan extremists will have to work a bit harder to sweep hateful and irrational legislation through the Michigan House and for that Michigan voters should be proud," said Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan. "Still, the former challenges to equality in Michigan remain. The House held onto one of our biggest adversaries in the reelection of Tom McMillin (R-Rochester)."

The Republican house representatives who will not be returning to Lansing in January are Rep. Holly Hughes in the 91st who was defeated by Democratic challenger Collene Lamonte, Rep. Roy Schmidt in the 76th who was defeated by the Democratic write-in candidate Winnie Brinks, Rep. Deb Shaughnessy in the 71st who was defeated by Democrat Theresa Abed, the first time since 1964 that a Democrat held that seat, and Rep. Matt Huuki who was defeated by Democrat Dianda Scott. The open seat in the 84th, now held by Republican Kurt Damrow who is term-limited out, was won by Democrat Terry Brown.

Although encouraged by the modest gains at the state level, and more so by the national election results, Dievendorf remains cautious about the future. "The good news is that we know now, more than ever, that the nation is on our side and that Michigan voters can mobilize when inspired," she said. "Change can be right around the corner even for Michigan. But if we use this moment, full of compassion and resolve, to pause, progress can also disappear."

Troy Recalls Mayor Daniels

Janice Daniels Antigay Stance Fuels Campaign

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Troy Mayor Janice Daniels has been recalled. The Tea Party favorite will be forced out of office after one year by a 52.2 (20,763 votes) to 47.8 (18,993 votes) percent margin, according to the Oakland County Clerk with all 31 precincts reporting.

"I'm elated, over the moon," said Recall Janice Daniels co-founder John Kulesz, who began Election Day at 6:30 a.m. to visit with Troy residents and communicate with more than 100 recall volunteers spread out at 18 different polling locations in Troy. "It's amazing to do something that the majority of the people of Troy responded to in such a positive way."

The recall campaign, said Kulesz, raised \$18,000 with 85 percent coming from Troy residents and people with connections to the city. Nearly 9,000 valid signatures were collected to make this recall happen. Regardless of long lines and a few hiccups at the polls, eager voters waited patiently to cast their ballots on Tuesday. Leonard Malkin, a resident of Troy since 1973, stood in the cold for an hour at St. Anastasia Church holding his "Vote 'Yes!' to Recall Mayor Janice Daniels" sign.

"The mayor doesn't belong in office. I'm sure she's a nice person, but this is the wrong position for her," said Malkin, adding that Daniels is a "nincompoop," just as Sarah Palin was called in 2010 by Peggy Noonan, conservative columnist and former Ronald Reagan speechwriter. "She does not respect people and their opinions. She's her own worst enemy," he said.

Across the way, outside in the church parking lot, Daniels' supporters did their best to rally on her behalf. At their request, because one in particular did not want her name published in an LGBT publication, they spoke anonymously about the recall election. Daniels' was referred to as a "lovely person" who is being "crucified." Her supporters agree her Facebook posting months before she took office was inappropriate, but is not reason enough to recall a "woman who loves everybody."

Daniels stood in front of the First Presbyterian Church in the early morning on Nov. 6 still hopeful and confident, fighting for her political survival. She has avoided the media recently and continued to do so



Troy resident Leonard Malkin with Recall Janice Daniels group co-founder John Kulesz waiting for results Nov. 6. BTL photo: Kate Opalewski.

throughout Election Day. Daniels did say that she has broken no laws and voters are more upset with her contentious style than her actual views.

The majority disagrees. Mayor Daniels has been the center of controversy since she took office in November of 2011. Her anti-gay Facebook comment garnered national attention. She later told the Troy High School Gay-Straight Alliance that she would bring in an expert to tell them the homosexual lifestyle is "dangerous" and compared the dangers of homosexuality to the dangers of cigarette smoking. The recall also points to Daniels' negative statements about other city employees and her vote against a proposed transit center backed by millions of federal funding. More recently, Daniels engaged in an argument last month with 2012 Troy Distinguished Citizen Mary Kerwin while presenting her with a proclamation.

"We're so happy that the people of Troy have realized that Janice is not the best person to represent them, and that Troy can and will do better," said Recall Janice Daniels co-founder Matt Binkowski.

Recall volunteers celebrated Tuesday night at Joe Kool's in Troy. Audrey Touchette, a resident of Troy for 22 years and board member of PFLAG in Detroit, said she did her part as the mother of her gay son. "I can't believe this started a year ago. I attended council meetings and put up signs. To realize I can make a difference is an amazing thing. I was so

anxious all day awaiting these results. We crossed party lines to make this happen. My son said to me 'If I wasn't out then, I am now' about coming out and feeling supported. It's a good day for Troy," she said.

Party-goers were joined by former Troy Mayor Louise Schilling who challenged and lost to Republican incumbent Robert Gosselin in the race for 11th District County Commissioner. Schilling was accompanied by Mary Kerwin, the Democratic candidate for Michigan House District 41, who lost the race to Republican candidate Martin Howrylak. Oakland County Commissioner Craig Covey, the openly gay former mayor of Ferndale, made an appearance as well. Covey helped raise \$1,000 and has been rallying for months on Facebook in support of the recall.

"Folks in Troy have been appreciative of outside help, but this tremendous victory belongs to them. People across the country have been watching the race. This shows that even in a conservative city like Troy, extremism isn't going to work. When we win in places that are red, the victory is even sweeter," said Covey.

Members of the Troy City Council - Councilman Jim Campbell, Councilman Dane Slater, and Mayor Pro Tem Maureen McGinnis - were also in attendance.

"I am confident that we will be able to work together as a council to accomplish this, to create a smooth transition into the city's next chapter,"

See Recall Troy Mayor, page 9

► LGBT Gains

Continued from p. 5

their positions: Rhode Island Speaker Gordon Fox and California Speaker John Perez.

Fox, re-nominated House Speaker Nov. 9, was at the center of controversy recently for setting aside a marriage equality bill and pushing instead for a civil unions bill. The bill passed and represented a step forward for the state, but many LGBT activists were sorely disappointed at Fox's tactical decision to push for what he knew would pass, rather than insist on full equality. Fox, 50, represents Providence and is an attorney. He was first elected to the House in 1992, was elected majority leader in 2002, and was first elected speaker in 2010.

California Assembly Democrats unanimously chose John Perez to serve as speaker again. Perez, a 43-year-old union organizer from Los Angeles, was first elected speaker in 2010, becoming the state's first openly gay speaker.

In other historic election news Nov. 6, Democrat Stacie Laughton became the first openly transgender person to be elected to a state legislature, winning a seat representing her hometown of Nashua in the New Hampshire state house. Laughton, who owns and operates a small business selling environmentally friendly products, had already been elected to public office once, serving on the Nashua Board of Selectmen. Her issues of focus have been helping the homeless and supporting a proposed commuter rail.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps direct funding to openly LGBT candidates, did not include Laughton on its list of endorsed candidates but issued a statement celebrating her historic victory. Laughton lives with her campaign manager and former wife Lisa Laughton.

Almost as remarkable as the first transgender election was the election of openly gay candidates in North Dakota and West Virginia. Democrat Joshua Boschee won a seat to the North Dakota state house, being the top vote-getter (3,411 votes) out of four candidates for two seats representing North Fargo. Boschee, a native of North Dakota, has been involved in both city, community, and LGBT institutions. And Democrat Stephen Skinner, an attorney and founder of Fairness West Virginia, a statewide LGBT civil rights group, beat his Republican opponent by 699 votes, less than one percent of the 7,475 cast in the House of Delegates race to become the state's first openly gay legislator.

And the list goes on. Other standout LGBT candidates on Nov. 6:

- Following her primary campaign

for the Texas legislature this summer, Democrat Mary Gonzalez identified herself as a pansexual and ran unopposed in the general election, securing a seat representing El Paso. On her campaign website, she noted that she is board co-chair of allgo, a "statewide queer people of color organization" and has been involved with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

- Democrat Jacob Candelaria, 25, won a New Mexico state senate seat representing Albuquerque in his first run for public office. After winning 69 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary, he was unopposed for seat from the heavily Democratic district Nov. 6 and became the first openly gay

Almost as remarkable as the first transgender election was the election of openly gay candidates in North Dakota and West Virginia.

man to be elected to the New Mexico legislature.

- Angie Buhl, 27, won re-election to her State Senate seat in South Dakota, representing Sioux Falls. Before her first election in 2010, she worked as a consultant to Equality South Dakota. She beat her competitor by winning 2,973 votes, or 55 percent of the senate voting district. The Argus Leader newspaper characterized Buhl's race as one of the "most hotly contested legislative match ups this year." Her opponent was another Democrat who had held the seat until 2010 and ran as an independent to oppose Buhl in the general election. The newspaper endorsed Buhl.

- Democrat Kay Floyd took 69 percent of the vote to win her Oklahoma City district State House seat held by openly gay politician Al McAffrey, who is now in the state senate.

- Marcus Brandon, who in 2010 won his first-time run for state representative in North Carolina, becoming the state's first openly gay member of the House, won re-election unopposed Nov. 6.

- Lesbian Kate Brown won re-election as Oregon's Secretary of State, despite a well-funded Republican challenge.

At deadline, biotech manager Steve Hansen was awaiting results of a tally of 4,000 remaining votes in his race for the Sacramento City Council. As of Nov. 9, he was only 46 votes behind opponent Joe Yee.

Obama Victory Bodes Well For LGBT Community

BY LISA KEEN

In the Nov. 6 race with the greatest impact on the LGBT community, President Obama secured re-election Tuesday night, winning both the popular and electoral vote majorities.

The Obama re-election on the same night the LGBT community won unprecedented battles in four states over marriage equality and Wisconsin elected the first openly gay U.S. Senator, prompted comment from many political pundits throughout the night.

"This country is really changing," remarked CNN commentator Paul Begala. "We've just elected our first openly lesbian senator, Tammy Baldwin.... We re-elected a president who endorsed gay marriage. Nineteen years ago, I was working for Bill Clinton...and we thought it was progress to pass 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'" The results on LGBT issues Tuesday night, he said, "might be one of the most wonderful things about tonight."

The Obama victory was especially sweet for many LGBT people given the Republican ticket's staunch opposition to equal rights for gays in marriage, the military, and nearly every other arena, contrasting with President Obama's support.

"As the first president to sign a pro-LGBT bill, the first president to speak out in support of the freedom to marry, and the president who made open service in our armed forces for gays and lesbians possible, LGBT Americans have won a major victory tonight," said Jerame Davis, head of the National Stonewall Democrats.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin, calling President Obama the "most pro-equality president ever" said, "There is no doubt that we will continue to see tremendous progress toward full equality like we've made during his first four years."

"While some pundits predicted the President's support for marriage equality would hinder his campaign," added Griffin, in a statement released Tuesday night, "we know the opposite is true. President Obama's historic and heartfelt declaration that all loving and committed couples should be able to marry further rallied millions of voters and sparked conversations that advanced marriage

campaigns around the country. His reelection after expressing support for marriage equality is further proof that the momentum is on the side of marriage for all families."

Log Cabin Republicans did not issue a statement Tuesday night.

In his victory speech in Chicago after midnight, President Obama said that most Americans hope the country is a place that provides good education, a strong economy, and, among other things, a country that "isn't weakened by inequality." He also paid homage to the "diversity" of Americans.

Obama said he does not believe the country is as divided as pundits suggest, and that it doesn't matter who you are, including whether you are "gay or straight," "you can make it here in America, if you're willing to try."

The apparently heavy turnout of Democrats for Obama seemed to have paid off for LGBT candidates and ballot measures, with pro-same-sex marriage ballot measures passing in Maine, Maryland, and Washington, and the unprecedented defeat of a proposed ban on same-sex marriage in Minnesota. Obama's victory in Wisconsin also apparently helped propel U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin to an historic win as the first openly gay person elected to the U.S. Senate.

While Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney did not make same-sex marriage a prominent issue in his campaign, he and vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan made indirect attacks against President Obama over his support for marriage equality in particular.

Republican Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan, in a conference call sponsored by the National Journal with right-wing activist Ralph Reed's "Faith and Freedom Coalition" on Sunday, said President Obama was taking the country down a path that "compromises those values, those Judeo-Christian values, Western civilization values that made us such a great and exceptional nation in the first place."

A Romney campaign robo-call in Virginia also attacked President Obama on religious values. And another robo-call, released last Thursday, warned "President Obama used his health care plan to declare war on religion, forcing religious institutions to go against their faith."

The popular vote stood at 62.3 million for President Obama and 58.9 million for Romney. The electoral vote was 332 for President Obama and 206 for Romney. (To win, a candidate needs 270 electoral votes, regardless of the popular vote outcome nationally.)

LGBT Voters Crucial To Obama Popular Vote Victory

LOS ANGELES -The national LGBT vote was crucial to President Obama's popular vote victory on Election Day, according to new analysis from Gary J. Gates, distinguished scholar at the Williams Institute. In a contest of razor-thin margins, the 4.5 million votes cast by the LGBT population was a critical component of the president's winning coalition.

"In this close election, data suggest that the overwhelming LGBT support for President Obama constitutes a key factor in his victory," said Gary J. Gates.

Gallop exit polls found that 77 percent of LGBT voters supported President Obama, up for 73 percent in 2008.

Analysis of Tuesday's LGBT vote in favor of President Obama adds another dimension to an election where voters for the first time rejected referendums banning marriage for same-sex couples, the first openly-LGBT senator was elected in Wisconsin and a record number of openly-LGBT members will serve in Congress.

100 Days, Still Hungry

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Troy Mayor Janice Daniels is out of the office.

That's part of the social change that was helped along by the 100 day Hungry 4 Equality Hunger Strike that ended on Election Day, Nov. 6. The movement was centered around the couch at Affirmations, where dedicated equal rights activists would sit in 24 hour shifts without having any food. Their day of striking was seen live on UStream. Posters in the front of the LGBT community center and in centers throughout Michigan brought attention to the main issues facing the gay community.

The strike educated people about six anti-LGBT politicians: State Rep. Dave Agema (R-Dist.74); State House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Dist. 63); Troy Mayor Janice Daniels; former U.S. Senate Candidate Gary Glenn, who heads up the Michigan Chapter of the American Family Association; State Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Dist. 45); and Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Daniels lost her job as Mayor on Tuesday after Troy residents voted her out of office. The Tea Party poster child made headlines frequently for embarrassing her city. She battled the LGBT community, first by commenting on Facebook that she would not be using her I love NY handbag now that gays can be married there, and then by telling students that being gay is akin to a smoking habit. She famously de-railed a public transit project that was ten years in the making and argued with a member of the public while giving her an award.

Gary Glenn of the American Family Association was on the Hungry 4 Equality Hall of Shame for regularly campaigning against gay rights. He gave up in the middle of a failed candidacy for the Senate, although he is still behind the scenes lobbying against equality.

In addition to the Hall of Shame, The Hungry 4 Equality strike raised awareness about issues that affect the LGBT community, including the inability to be legally married and the fact that in Michigan someone can still be fired just for being gay. But the biggest achievement of the campaign was the connectivity and grass-roots organizing that it created.

"I think one of the biggest successes of this campaign is the coming together of all the LGBT community centers in Michigan. Historically, that had not been done before. As a result of us working together I really think we were able to expand our reach and ultimately connect people to LGBT community centers closest to them," said Affirmations Communications Director Cass Varner. "Many of the other centers really helped a lot with the scheduling. Because most centers don't have the space to necessarily replicate

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Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia congratulated and thanked Deb Holbrook who covered six shifts during the 100 day Hungry 4 Equality strike. Photo courtesy of Johnny Jenkins.



A Large, happy, relieved and celebratory crowd gathered at Affirmations Nov. 6 to watch the returns. They toasted Obama's win together. Photo courtesy of Johnny Jenkins.

Election Victories Celebrated, Equal Rights In Sight For All

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

With Maine, Maryland, and Washington having passed gay marriage, and Minnesotans voting not to deny it, people in the LGBT community have reason to celebrate.

"I think this is the last time that you will see gay marriage be used by any major Republican campaigns. This is it. The public has spoken. There are too many young, progressive people out there who just don't have the same hate. You can't campaign against equal rights any more and win," said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia as he and a group of people at the LGBT community center watched poll returns Nov. 6.

Optimism is strong as Michiganders wonder when equal rights will happen here. Same-gender loving couples are denied marriage in Michigan based on a change to the state constitution in 2004, which at the time got 58 percent of the vote.

Garnett Lewis, Director of the Joint Legislative Campaign of the Michigan Democratic Party, sees the victories as a good sign. "The successes in Maine, Maryland, Washington and Minnesota were enormously encouraging. I think we can credit President Obama for his leadership on this issue in announcing his support for marriage equality," Lewis

said. "Attitudes are evolving all across the nation, including here in Michigan."

There is still a lot of work to be done, however, especially in state leadership. "Despite the changes in public opinion, the Republican majorities in the Michigan House and Senate are incredibly hostile not just to LGBT equality, but gender

Kuhnke (Washtenaw). The message this sends is important to absorb because if members of the gay and transgender community or our allied champions are not in public office we cannot reasonably expect that our needs will be considered much less adequately addressed."

Lewis noted other victories as well. "Obviously, President Obama and Senator Debbie Stabenow winning re-election was great to see. Both the President and Senator Stabenow stood up for the auto industry when the economy was failing, and Michigan did not forget their efforts to save more than 1 million jobs across the country," Lewis said. "At the state level, it was encouraging to see House Democrats make serious progress toward retaking the majority by picking up six seats. Electing Bridget Mary McCormack to the Michigan Supreme Court is something all progressives should be excited about.

Finally, democracy was defended with the defeat of Proposals 1 and 5."

There was also evidence that morals mattered over money in this election. A report by the Sunlight Foundation shows that of the \$1.07 billion spent nationally by 629 outside interest groups, just 32 percent yielded the desired results. In most cases it was right-wing causes that lost.

"Progressives in Michigan should take heart that the millions spent by super



Oakland County Commissioner Craig Covey celebrated Obama's win at Affirmations with Eddie Mulak. Photo courtesy of Johnny Jenkins.

equality as well. Michigan can and will move forward on marriage equality, but we first need to focus on continuing our progress in the state legislature," Lewis said.

Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan, was buoyed by election results. "Pro-equality Theresa Abed, candidate for House District 71 (Grand Ledge/Charlotte), won her seat handily and is the first Democrat to hold the seat since 1964. We have a newly elected openly lesbian judge in Carol

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► 100 Days

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the strike in their centers, they helped gather strikers from their cities to bring here.”

The strike brought a lot of new people into the center, and gave people a chance to get involved. There were challenges though. “Probably the biggest challenge was the 24 hour/100 days in a row aspect. We quickly learned that 24 hours a day for 100 days didn’t care about holidays, weekends, illness or last minute challenges. It truly was an effort that every one of us had to work together to accomplish,” Varner said. “There were a few days that the scheduled striker just didn’t show up. Maybe it was a Sunday or a holiday. It didn’t matter. We had to be constantly be on our toes and think outside the box, so we could make sure the campaign was completed without interruption. We had one striker, Deb Holbrook, who was invaluable during this campaign. She was committed to being an emergency striker who would fill in if we had a striker that didn’t show up or a last minute cancellation.”

Holbrook covered at six shifts. “All people should be aware about the anti-gay discrimination in this state. Much of this legislation gets passed because we do nothing. Today, I’m doing something!” she said in Week 3.

And in Week 9 she updated, “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.”

Turnout was strong, and all across the country people voted for candidates and propositions that stood up for LGBT rights, thanks in parts to efforts of activists like those who participated in Hungry 4 Equality.

And because of the allies who got involved. Among the allies who made Hungry 4 Equality a success was Kathleen Nickerson, mother of one of the campaign’s organizers. “My daughter Megh [Hollowell] has always been my inspiration. She has shown me what strength, tenacity and courage looks like. I went to Megh and Karianne’s wedding last month (which is not legally recognized in Michigan). I have never in my life seen such a peaceful and passionate love as I did that day. I could not stop staring at them, laughing with them and sneaking away to cry tears of happiness for them. I am striking today for my daughter and her wife, to fight for their right to get married in Michigan and have all the legal benefits as heterosexual couples. I will always be here as an ally of the LGBT community. I will stand up for equality, proud and courageous, just like my daughter,” Nickerson said during Week 8.

Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia was the first striker and also the last. In a closing ceremony just an hour before the polls closed in Michigan, Garcia thanked all the strikers and staff for their dedication to the project.

looking for potential candidates for races at every level. We need people that are smart, hard-working and motivated. Doors don’t knock themselves. Candidates that are willing to do the work of getting out there and meeting voters and raising funds can be successful even in tough districts.”

Dievendorf said it’s about changing the world in other ways too. “Getting to know us to be the politically active parents, neighbors, children and leaders that we are is the most effective way to dispel stereotypes, eradicate fears, and inspire others to be champions for our rights. We need to be doing what we can to bring everybody into this movement.”

Radio 1270 show. She said “I’m very sad about it, but the results are in and I want to thank my supporters for all the hard work that they did to try to forestall this. A chapter of my life has closed, but I’ll open another chapter and I’ll be fine.”

Daniels also mentioned the lack of a “balance media” that would have reported all the good she did as mayor of Troy. “We don’t have a media that’s fair. It’s been very biased against me since the beginning. The people deserve balance in the media. That’s what I regret is that we don’t have a balance media.”

At the end of the interview, Daniels said, “I’m not going to go away, and I’m not going to move out of town.”

The council will have until Dec. 11 to appoint a mayor, who will serve until the Nov. 5 2013 regular city election, when a new mayor will be elected. On Nov. 11, 2013, the new mayor and council members will be sworn into office.

► Victories

Continued from p. 8

PACs here in Michigan made little impact on the presidential race. It shows that ultimately what makes a difference are the millions of contacts, neighbors talking to neighbors, that happened over the last few months,” Lewis said. “Progressives need to continue that momentum and keep working to organize.”

Lewis said she is already hard at work recruiting progressive candidates for the next election cycle. “It has already started. Actually, it never stops. Michigan Democrats are always

► Troy Recall

Continued from p. 6

said McGinnis. “I know there will be a significant number of people in the community that may not be happy with the results of the election. I am hopeful that everyone, regardless of how they voted on the recall issue, will support the council as we welcome a new city manager, choose a new mayor and work together to move the community forward.”

Campbell agreed. “We’re going to put all this stuff behind us and start thinking about the citizens instead of the ideology of Mayor Daniels.” He added that he has no doubt Daniels will show up on the other side of the podium at an upcoming council meeting. “I bet money on it. She will have three minutes to spew. At least then I can shut her up.”

Daniels was still talking during a Wednesday morning interview on the Charlie Langton Talk

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NATIONAL GAY
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Nothing average about it

BTL Editorial

BY JAN STEVENSON & SUSAN HOROWITZ

Hope Unfurls Election Night

“Boy, this restores my faith in the American people,” said a woman sitting next to me at the election return watch party we attended Nov. 6 when it was finally announced that President Obama had won reelection.

That statement summed up my feelings of hope, excitement, relief and joy as President Obama’s count in the Electoral College rose above the magic vote count of 270. At last, after a year of work and worry, the first U.S. President to ever embrace same-sex marriage as an equal rights issue would be securely reinstated into the Oval Office for another four years. Yeah and whew!

And then came the announcement that Tammy Baldwin won in Wisconsin to become the first-ever, out LGBT person to serve in the U.S. Senate, and the seat she vacated in the U.S. House of Representatives was won by a gay man, Mark Pocan, bringing the total number of out, LGBT people in the U.S. Congress up to a record five.

As the night wore on the excitement grew even more, as all four of the marriage amendments passed in our favor, in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and finally Washington State. For the first time, same-sex marriage rights were approved by popular vote and an anti-marriage amendment was rejected.

We all looked at each other and remembered that other night eight years ago when voters in Michigan approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a public institution to which LGBT citizens are not welcome. Michigan was one of 11 states that night to approve anti-marriage proposals, and George W. Bush was reelected as President. That was a sad night of defeat and it hurt. But now, eight years later we were smiling at each other, celebrating an historic win in America for fairness, openness, diversity and equality.

Progress is sometimes hard to see and even harder to feel, especially because the path towards equality and justice is rarely

As the night wore on the excitement grew even more, as all four of the marriage amendments passed in our favor, in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and finally Washington State. For the first time, same-sex marriage rights were approved by popular vote and an anti-marriage amendment was rejected.

an even one. There are triumphs and defeats, wins and losses, and it can be disheartening. But what is clear is that the arc of history from 2004 to election night 2012 has been towards acceptance of marriage equality. It may take a while here in Michigan to reverse our discriminatory constitutional amendment, but no one – not our allies nor our enemies – can look at the tide of public opinion and the results of this election and think that it will not be overturned eventually.

After the 2004 losses, we were not at all sure that the trend in public opinion would ever turn toward us. It felt terrible that fellow citizens would vote to affirmatively discriminate against us. It was easy to lose hope, and to leave, and many did. But what is clearer now through hindsight is that the 2004 loss was a necessary step in the march toward equality. We had to go through the campaigns, build the armies of volunteers, do the fundraising, work

the long nights on the phones, draft the policy statements, call allies and do the groundwork – even though we lost in 2004. Because without that conversation and all the ones since that saw 31 states deny us equality until Nov. 6, we could not have experienced such a triumphant night in 2012.

So the work continues. In Michigan we need to build our political clout and organize better than we have before. We need to garner our allies and understand the complexities of coalition building. We need to step up our game and continue to win elections, court decisions and acceptance in the court of public opinion. We hope that soon we will be celebrating again on another election night, but instead of basking in the glow of other state’s wins we will experience the joy of seeing full equality bestowed on the LGBT people of Michigan.

It can happen, if we believe, try, organize and keep marching forward.



Gaydar Goes Half App'd



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I've been told by a high techie source - but perhaps it's just wishful thinking "queersay" - that there's a new app on the market called Gaytection.

Its purpose is to determine at a glance just who might be gay. Correction. Who is gay.

(For some reason of digital failure at manipulation of internal incorporated judgmental criteria, the app does not work in the detection of dykes. I'm told that Gaytection app developers feel that it's not necessary to determine what, to them, is already perceived as obvious.)

Interestingly enough, Gaytection is a big hit with straights who, now that gays have seemingly made such great equality strides, feel its most politically correct and unhesitatingly expedient to tell at a glance who's queer, who's not, who's just pretending.

I don't plan to purchase or - if you'll pardon the expression - download the app. I've been using my God-given gaydar for so long now that I can tell who's gay in a nanosecond, and have received many straight requests to perform this service free of charge in the interest of ecumenical and spiritual considerations (say, to answer questions like, "Is our choir director a fag? Is father so-and-so really celibate?")

Of course what happens whenever social assimilation occurs is that the majority wants in on the action of what's perceived as an up and coming enviable popularity plus on the part of the heretofore marginalized minority. (NOTE: I have a B.A. minor in sociology.)

According to a recent article in Psychology Today ("Gaydar: The Dorian Gray Effect"), fancied cellphone sensors like Gaytection are not necessary. Apparently, straights are now tapping into their own media-acquired gaydar to determine who is and who isn't gay. Safe bet: Adam Lambert. Another: Jim Parsons.

As reported by PT, two psychologists, Nalini Ambady, Tufts University, and Nicholas Rule, University of Toronto, have teamed up to do research on just how much is revealed by ones facial expressions.

Their finding for LGBTs: "The more motivated you are to know someone's orientation, the better your intuition. People who have the sharpest gaydar are gay men and lesbians, naturally, and" - cocktail party tidbit - "ovulating women."

PT continues, "Subjects identify lesbians accurately between 64 and 70 percent of the time; gay men are correctly identified with slightly less reliability in the 60 to 65 percent range."

Tested subjects are shown pictures of gays, lesbians, straights to guess who is homosexual and who isn't. Those who respond with a spontaneous gut reaction are more frequently on the mark, in contrast to those who hesitate in forming a judgment.

So called straight-acquired gaydar doesn't work in certain instances, instances that are often confusing for gays and lesbians as well. "Metrosexuals trigger false alarms; lesbian femmes and gay Marlboro men often ride under the gaydar."

As for judging a book by its cover, Ambady and Rule conclude, "Stereotypically, gay men are more emotionally expressive than straight guys, adopting more female-typical facial movements, and some lesbians may express themselves more like straight men."

Given all the celebs now jumping on the rainbow bandwagon, the simplest thing to do socially is just ask, "What took you so long, Mary?"

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Peter LaBarbera

Remember that old saying about trying the same thing over and over and expecting different results being the definition of insanity? Well, if that saying is true, then I've got a live one for you.

Peter LaBarbera of Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, a group that (surprise!) tells lies about gay people, issued an official declaration of insanity on Nov. 8, just two days after LGBT equality won big at the polls.

After such a scathing rebuke at the ballot box of anti-gay measures and arguments, have people like LaBarbera learned something important?

As you might recall, marriage equality won across the board on November 6 in Washington, Maine, Maryland, and Minnesota. Not to mention the fact that President Barack Obama was reelected. Not only was he the first president to openly support equal rights for

lesbians and gays, he's the first president to be reelected after public stating his support for lesbians and gays.

After such a scathing rebuke at the ballot box of anti-gay measures and arguments, have people like LaBarbera learned something important? Yes. According to LaBarbera, they aren't being anti-gay enough.

LaBarbera writes, "We need to stop conceding the moral high ground in a fearful bid to appear 'tolerant': one pro-family group, Protect Marriage Maine, asserted that 'same-sex couples are entitled to respect' – a claim at odds with historic Scriptural teaching."

Got that? LaBarbera is saying that marriage equality won in that state because "pro-family" folks are just too damn nice to the gays. None of this namby-pamby call for "respect" bullshit. Bring out the pitchforks!

LaBarbera continues, "Sadly, there is a 'passion gap' or maybe a 'boldness gap' between LGBT activists and their overly defensive pro-family opponents. Many timid, guilt-ridden Christians make rotten Culture Warriors, while unapologetic 'gays' excel at it."

Ah, yes. Those poor, timid Christians too afraid to stand up to Big Gay. It's truly heartbreaking. Then again, maybe gays are "unapologetic" in the fight for equality because they don't have anything to apologize for. And maybe some of these "timid" Christians are beginning to realize that the War on Gays is not a worthwhile crusade. Maybe, just maybe, there are some Christians out there who are saying to themselves, "You know, maybe fighting against consenting adults who love each other and want to be recognized as a family isn't the best use of my time here on earth. Maybe I should be helping to feed the poor and other stuff Jesus was into."

Of course, LaBarbera would probably respond to such an idea with, "Stop that crazy talk!"

He writes, "Pro-family advocates must stop looking for short cuts and return to their principled duty of educating citizens – especially brainwashed youth — on why homosexual behavior is wrong, unnatural, unhealthy and – most important – changeable."

In other words, "We need to double down on the stuff that isn't working." Especially the ex-gay bullshit that no one with even a shred of professional credibility supports.

The thing is, "returning" to the "principled duty of educating citizens" that gays are a disgusting mistake that nobody likes is returning to the helm of a sinking ship. The word is out: just about everyone knows someone who is gay now. Gays and lesbians aren't creatures lurking in shame in the shadows. LaBarbera and his ilk can't dehumanize an entire group of people who have proven over and over again their very humanity.

"While politics does not decide moral and spiritual Truth, it is an indicator of the heart of our nation," LaBarbera writes.

And it looks like that heart is finally in the right place.

Engagement Before Marriage Rights

How Four States Won At The Ballot Box

BY LISA KEEN

Was the sweep of marriage equality in four state ballot measures Nov. 6 the payoff for years of grassroots work, talking to neighbors, and preparing against scare tactics, or was it the luck of having a weakened opponent on more liberal ground with a strengthened Democratic turnout?

There are as many answers to this question as there are ways of asking it: Why, after eight years and 32 straight losses (save for a victory in Arizona that was reversed two years later), did marriage equality supporters this month win four of four battles at the ballot box?

In various mainstream media recaps, the response is that the general population is growing more accepting of same-sex marriage. A New York Times article Sunday said, "A rapid shift in public opinion is bolstering [the same-sex marriage equality] cause as more people grow used to the idea of same-sex marriage and become acquainted with openly gay people and couples."

The Minnesota Post gave credit to the fact that 79 percent of young voters in Minnesota voted against the proposed ban of same-sex marriage, a much higher percentage than voters overall in the state (54 percent). It also noted that any ballot that did not include a "Yes" or "No" vote on Amendment 1 counted as a "No" vote.

Articles in the Kennebec Journal in Maine credited a "progressive" electorate that cares about fairness and pro-marriage equality supporters "who learned from their defeat" in a 2009 ballot fight "and made a concerted effort to win votes outside the state's progressive urban and suburban districts."

The Baltimore Sun said the victory to pass Question 6 in Maryland could be "traced in part" to the involvement of the faith community, in particular to the fact that two African American Southern Baptist ministers chose to "lend their names, faces and reputations to a campaign on an issue that remains highly controversial in their community."

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer said the passage of Referendum 74 to allow same-sex marriage in Washington State was "bolstered by getting two-thirds of the vote in populous King County."

The National Organization for Marriage (NOM), which spearheaded the drives to defeat the three pro-marriage equality measures and to pass the proposed ban in Minnesota offered a litany of reasons for their unprecedented losses. One NOM official, Thomas Peter told PBS News Hour that many opponents of same-sex



Top: Lauren Snead, right, hugs her partner Katy Jayne, left, as they celebrate the legalization of same-sex marriage in Maine Nov. 6. AP photo.

Bottom: People celebrate early election returns favoring Washington state Referendum 74, which would legalize gay marriage, during a large impromptu street gathering in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. (Photo: Ted S. Warren AP)

marriage had grown "complacent" from all their previous victories. But their key explanations, according to NOM leader Brian Brown, were that the four states were "very liberal" Democratic states, and the other side had much more money.

All of these explanations have some veracity, some more than others. For instance, Patrick Egan, a public opinion specialist and professor at New York University, says there's no doubt "we were fighting on very friendly territory this year in three states," Maine, Maryland, and Washington. And there's no doubt

that Democrats generally outperformed Republicans in the state of Minnesota this year. (It certainly contrasts with North Carolina, which approved a marriage ban in May, has typically been a Republican-leaning state.)

But these explanations still represent only the surface of a very deep, multi-faceted foundation to Nov. 6's historic victories.

Longtime gay Democratic activist David Mixner credits youth, too, but sees

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► Marriage Rights

Continued from p. 12

it as two-way street: more young LGBT people willing to come out to their friends and family plus an “influx of straight energy into the LGBT movement” from a younger generation who has more knowledge and less fear about sexual orientation differences.

“By coming out, more people know LGBT people individually and personally, and the more willing they are to support our freedom and equality,” said Mixer. “And young people challenged their parents and said it’s not fair. This influx of straight energy into LGBT movement is something we haven’t seen the likes of since the civil rights movement of ‘60s.”

Another long-time activist, Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, said she would “definitely” give President Obama some credit. President Obama, in May, arranged for a nationally televised interview specifically to express his personal evolution to a place where he supports the right of same-sex couples to get married.

“He came out for freedom and, as he did, he explained how he talked about it with own children. It changed how African Americans voted in some of these states.”

Unlike President Clinton, noted Jean, who “acknowledged us” but then “invited the passage” of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), “one of the single worst pieces of legislation ever enacted,” President Obama has been “a proponent of full and complete equality

for our people...and he got re-elected.”

“I think that fact alone means that the right-wingers can no longer bank on being able to use our lives, dignity, and rights as a wedge issue,” she added.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry organization, agreed that President Obama’s remarks in support of same-sex marriage were critical.



Left, Katie Dougherty (left) and Myka Betts react to news that the proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage was voted down. Right, a Maryland couple seen proposing after learning that the amendment allowing them to legally marry passed.

“The Freedom to Marry said at the beginning of the year that paving the way for the president” to support marriage equality was “our top priority,” along with having marriage equality become part of the Democratic Party platform. Both happened.

The top priority for the last half of the year, he said, was “winning a ballot measure, and we succeeded in four of four.”

Wolfson, who has been working on the marriage equality issue since its first serious eruption in Hawaii over an historic lawsuit there in 1993, said the four “profound triumphs” this year came down to infrastructure, conversations, and time.

“We had better, smarter, and more focused infrastructure and resources this year that had the ability to close the deal,” said Wolfson. “We



worked hard to lay the kind of groundwork that is necessary for campaigns to win.” That included early money that enabled campaigns to make earlier media buys that were both cheaper and provided for a long, sustained interaction with voters. The money also totaled much more than the National Organization for Marriage and marriage equality opponents could muster. Brown estimated his group spent \$5.5 million;

Wolfson estimated the four pro-marriage equality campaigns spent \$32 million. The campaign against California’s Proposition 8 raised \$40 million, noted Wolfson, but more than half of that money came in the last few weeks of the campaign.

Having that funding in place early, said Wolfson, “enabled us to command the narrative and constantly make the case with voters without being diverted” to fundraising activities. It also enabled the campaigns to put messages in place to counter the scare tactics they knew would be coming from the other side, such as Proposition 8’s message that allowing same-sex marriage would require public schools to teach young children that boys can marry boys.

In addition to television messages to counter those tactics, said Wolfson, the four campaigns benefited from the “cumulative effect of persuasion and conversations” with the public.

“I’ve been saying this for years: There is no marriage without engagement,” said Wolfson. “It’s the number one most important factor to help people think things through and create the climate” to win.

And part of that climate change has, he said, comes over the course of time with the public being able to “see with their own eyes” same-sex couples getting married in six states and the District of Columbia, as well as in 14 countries.

“It refutes the scare tactics, it resolves the discomfort in favor of fairness. Families are helped and no one is hurt,” said Wolfson. “All that is up from zero a decade ago, and it has allowed people to rise to a higher level of understanding and support.”

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BRIEFS

VATICAN CITY

Vatican Digs In After Gay Marriage Advances

(AP) - The Vatican is digging in after gay marriage initiatives scored big wins this week in Maine, two other states and Europe, vowing to never stop insisting that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

On Tuesday, Maine voters approved of same-sex marriages, as did Washington state and Maryland. With 98 percent of Maine precincts counted, the initiative won 53 percent to 47 percent. Gay marriage laws also advanced in Spain and France.

In a Saturday article in Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, the Holy See sought to frame itself as the lone voice of courage in opposing initiatives to give same-sex couples legal recognition. In a separate Vatican Radio editorial, the Vatican spokesman asked sarcastically why gay marriage proponents don't now push for legal recognition for polygamous couples as well.

EUGENE, ORE.

Gay Fraternity Sues Upstart Over Trademark

(AP) - A pioneering college fraternity for gay men is suing a newer campus organization that calls itself a gender-neutral "fraternity," claiming trademark infringement.

The lawsuit was filed last month by Delta Lambda Phi in federal court in Eugene, Ore.

It claims that Delta Lambda Psi, which started at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2005, has caused confusion with the public and on Twitter and MySpace by deliberately choosing a name that differs by one Greek letter and also using the same abbreviated designation of DLP. There is another Delta Lambda Psi chapter at Northeastern Illinois University.

Delta Lambda Psi has shown it intends to expand the infringement of Delta Lambda Phi's trademark by opening a third chapter at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore., the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit asks a judge to order Delta Lambda Psi to change its name and pay damages.

Delta Lambda Psi spokesman D.J. Bott said in an email Friday that his gender-neutral organization, which accepts men and women of all sexual orientations, is not competing with the fraternity for gay men.

"We have tried to address Delta Lambda Phi's concerns," expressed in a letter in July, he wrote. But instead, the other fraternity went to court.

He added his organization is not affiliated with the Delta Lambda Psi at the University of Oregon.

Delta Lambda Phi was founded in 1986 to promote the interests of gay, bisexual, transgender and progressive students, the lawsuit said. It has 30 chapters and four colonies across the U.S. and Canada with 400 undergraduate members and 2,500 alumni.

"Delta Lambda Psi's opening of a new chapter at the University of Oregon in Eugene has made the need to address this harm particularly urgent," Delta Lambda Phi attorney John Mansfield wrote in an email. "DLP offered several times to meet with Delta Lambda Psi face-to-face to resolve the dispute in person, but Delta Lambda Psi never responded to any of those offers."

UPS Ends Grants To Boy Scouts Over Discrimination

Federal tax returns for 2011 for Intel, the world's largest chip maker, were not immediately available. Some media reported the Santa Clara, Calif.-based company as giving hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years.

UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said groups applying for the foundation grants will have to adhere to the same standards UPS does by not discriminating against anyone based on race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

"We promote an environment of diversity and inclusion," Petrella said Monday. "UPS is a company that does the right things for the right reasons."

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

Transgender Day of Remembrance Events Planned Across The State

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ANN ARBOR - Since Transgender Day of Remembrance began in 1998, students at the University of Michigan have gathered to honor the lives of transgender people who have died at the hands of violence because of who they are.

Cameron Breither moved to Ann Arbor from North Carolina because he knew it would be a place he could safely transition. "I used to not feel comfortable being myself. Coming to Michigan helped. I came here for the graduate program for higher education because I really wanted to work at the Spectrum Center," Breither said. "I started transitioning in Michigan after I moved here last August. When I've left and gone back to North Carolina I've had problems; people refusing to serve me, being kicked out of bathrooms."

He says he hopes to stay in Michigan and to work on a college campus in a program that helps LGBT students. He is part of the advisory board at Spectrum Center and was part of the committee that planned this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony, which will be Nov. 15 at the Ann Arbor Neutral Zone from 7 to 9 p.m.

Dr. Julie Simpson, director of the Spectrum Center, said the ceremony is a beautiful tribute. "There is a time where names are read because they were murdered because of how they identify. People are given an opportunity to voice what they want to say. We pass out roses and people come up to put on in a vase and take a rock as a reminder. We want to remember those who were murdered."

After the solemn ceremony, there is a reception where people can connect and celebrate the acceptance of transgender people in their immediate community and college community. "When you hear about people who were murdered because of their identity, it's intense. We want to end with a celebration to show how we have moved forward."

For Breither the event is both educational and emotional. "As somebody who identifies as transgender myself I want to make sure people are aware of

the community. Some don't know any transgender people at all, and some don't even know we even exist. This helps people understand.

"Last year there was a young woman who was murdered. When she (Shelly Moore) was murdered, it gave me a lot of anxiety as a transman. But it also helped



Cameron Breither moved to Ann Arbor from North Carolina because he knew it would be a place he could safely transition. Photo: Spectrum Center

me to open up conversations for people who aren't trans. People think that murders and violence against transgender people doesn't happen here. They think murders happen in other countries. You hear a lot about the ones in South America. But it happens here. It happened in Detroit, close to home."

In addition to helping plan Transgender Day of Remembrance, Breither is busy making the campus more welcoming for gender nonconformists. He is currently gathering data about all of the gender-neutral bathrooms on campus and is developing a smartphone app so that students can easily locate them.

Carrie Davis will be the keynote speaker for the Transgender Day of Remembrance event. "She has done a lot for the transgender community," Breither said. "She is the director of community services at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in New York City and has a very long history of

working with schools and government agencies on LGBT, especially T, issues. She's done a lot of great work and we're excited that she's coming.

All week long there will be a Trans Awareness E-Series where the Spectrum Center's ListServe will feature a transgender article each day during the week.

Nov. 13 Rev. Julie Nemecek will speak at the Inteweave Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony at Ann Arbor Universal Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. Dr. Nemecek serves on the national boards of Soulforce and PFLAG as well as the board of Jackson PFLAG. She is also on the advisory board of Trans Youth Family Allies and is an ex-officio member of the City of Jackson Human Relations Commission.

Nov. 14 there will be a Breaking Binaries Panel at the Michigan League from 8-9:30 p.m., which will feature several speakers on transgender topics.

Nov. 15 Davis will give a Transgender Day of Remembrance Talk at the U of M School of Social Work room B760 from 12:10-1:30 p.m. The lecture will be more educational in style. The main event will be at the Ann Arbor Neutral Zone from 7-9 p.m. the same day.

Other Transgender Day of Remembrance Events Across Michigan Include:

Nov. 15, Ann Arbor 7 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Spectrum Center, the Neutral Zone, and SAPAC. 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. SpectrumCenter.umich.edu

Nov. 16, Detroit 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church 23 E. Adams Ave., Detroit. Transgenderdor.org?page_id=1663

Nov. 18, Grand Rapids 6 p.m. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 4010 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids.

Nov. 18, Kalamazoo College 4 p.m. Light Fine Arts Building, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo.

Nov. 19, Oakland University 12 p.m. Guest speaker Michelle Fox-Phillips Gold Room B, Oakland Center, Oakland University, Auburn Hills.

Nov. 19, Eastern Michigan University 7 p.m. Guest speaker Mara Keisling. Student Center Room 300, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Facebook.com/events/363604130396954

Nov. 20, Traverse City Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse, 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. UUCGT.org

The international Transgender Day of Remembrance website lists 37 murders in the past year, though the number may go up as the list could be updated before the official day, Nov. 20.

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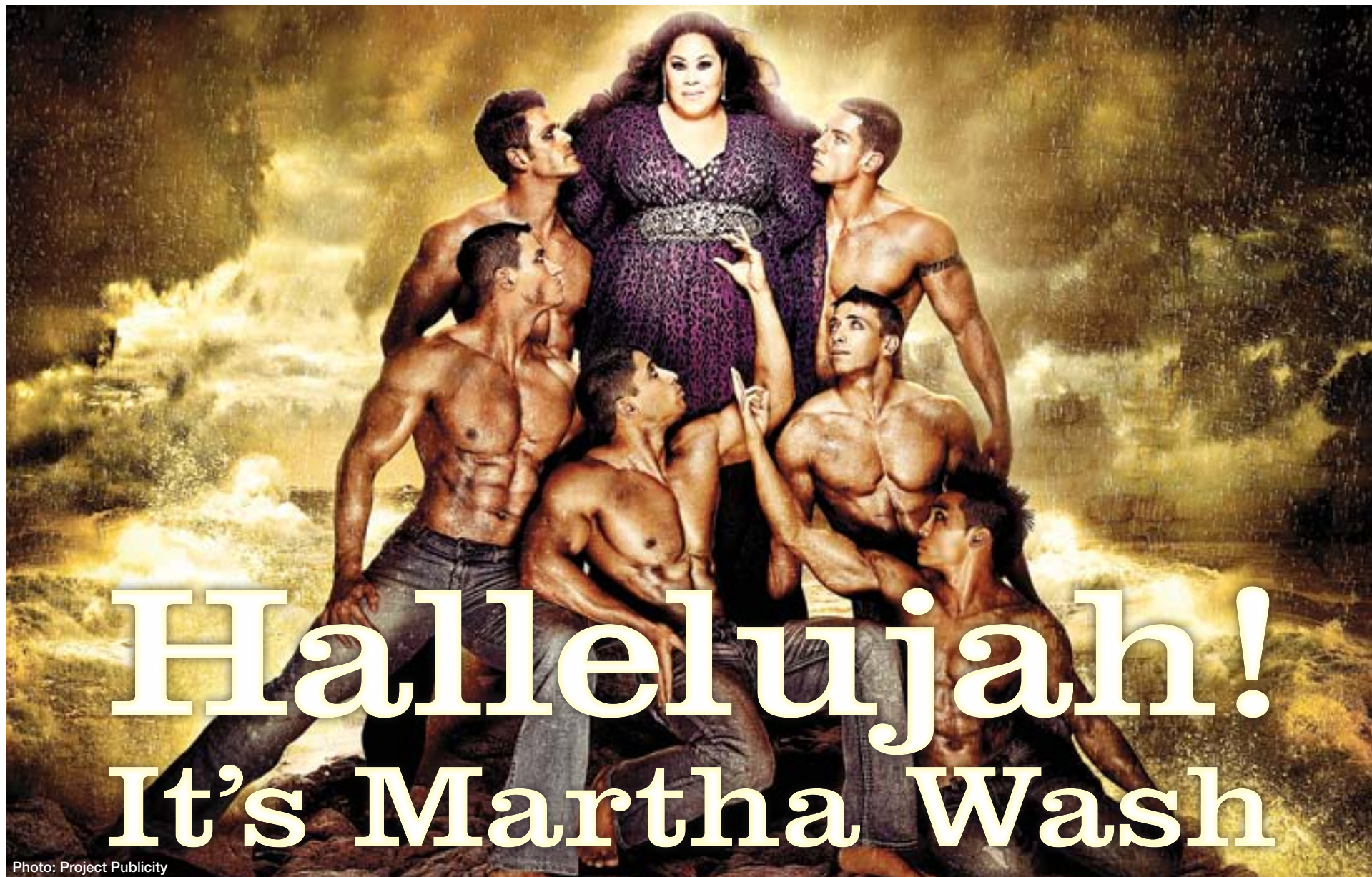


Photo: Project Publicity

Hallelujah! It's Martha Wash

Disco Star Talks First Album In 20 years, Fighting For Gay Rights & How She Wants It To Rain Matthew McConaughey

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

If you've been feeling cloudy with a chance of man-rain, have we got news for you. Martha Wash, the former lead singer of The Weather Girls, releases her first full album in 20 years this December – and she's bringing out the sun.

Known for leaving a mark on the disco era, the early '80s girl group's biggest hit, "It's Raining Men," is still as much a part of gay culture now as it was then. The theme of empowerment – one that the 58-year-old can relate to, especially after witnessing the toll Hurricane Sandy took on her New York neighborhood – endures on Wash's latest solo album, "Destiny," an adult-contemporary showcase for her powerhouse vocals.

Just hours after her power was restored, Wash called us to talk about what the new songs mean to her, how she fought for gay rights when few people in the '80s did and being surrounded by hot hunks for the 30th anniversary shoot of "It's Raining Men."

Twenty years: Do you know how grueling this wait has been for your gay fans?

(Laughs) Well, I've tried to give them a little bit off and on, but I'm glad this is finally coming out.

Why the 20-year wait?

Well, what can I tell you? Life. No one particular thing, but I thought it was time to put out a whole new CD and hope that the fans would accept it.

Was it easy getting back in the studio?

Yes and no. Some of the songs are a bit harder for me to do, but it was something I needed to do – to stretch out on things I had not done in a long time. I'm just really hoping that the fans will appreciate the work and love the music.

The album takes a very inspiring and faith-focused approach. How does "Destiny" represent you at this point in your life?

I think it's more so for the masses. There are so many people that are going through something, and sometimes they feel like they're the only ones going through it. I think that everybody needs a bit of uplifting, and the songs kind of sound like anthems. For some people, those are the things

they'll take away from the songs – songs of empowerment, just being uplifted. I think that's what people need right along through here.

Obviously you're known for anthems; "It's Raining Men" is still a staple in the gay community 30 years later. Which songs on the album could be remixed for the gay clubs?

Everybody wants a remix! Can't you accept it just the way it is? (Laughs)

You know how the gays are: They want something to shake their butt to. Have you considered remixes?

Nope, no. We have not. I don't think it'll happen. That's not to say never, because somebody is always going to find a way.

This album can stand on its own.

That's what we want it to do.

How can you relate to these songs?

(Laughs) Oh, I can relate to just about every song, to something in there.

Anything in particular?

Good grief. Put me on the spot here. I think as far as "Destiny" is concerned, having gone through love and loss and thinking, "If it's supposed to be, then it will be; that would be the destiny for us. But if it's not, then I gotta let it go."

How much of a hand did you have in writing these songs?

Just the one song, "Destiny." I'm slowly getting into songwriting; that was a song Zach Adam already had the music and lyrics for, and we decided to just scrap the lyrics, keep the music and start all over again. So we wrote that one again.

For the 30th anniversary shoot of "It's Raining Men" with celebrity photographer Mike Ruiz, how difficult was it being surrounded by all those hot men?

(Laughs) Oh, that was fun! And the shoot went great.

The song is played everywhere: at weddings, gay clubs, even at my Zumba class.

Look, it's played everywhere, OK! The gay community snatched it up and made it their

anthem, but like you just said, you hear it at wedding receptions, you hear it at bar mitzvahs, you hear it at parties, you hear it at clubs, at your Zumba class – you hear it everywhere. Even though it's a campy song, everybody likes it. I think that's why it's lasted so long, because for 30 years you've got the kids and then you've got the grandkids who like the song. It's one of those pop songs that's a classic now.

Are you glad "It's Raining Men" is the song you became known for, or is there another that you wished became your staple?

I think for that particular time, when it came out in 1982, that was the song that was supposed to be for us, because other people had turned the song down. We were the ones that recorded the song and (co-writer) Paul Jabara was the one who really took the song around to clubs and asked the DJs to play the song in the clubs way before mainstream music picked up on it.

You know, 1982 was also the year I was born. Should I blame it for turning me gay?

(Laughs) Uh huh! There are a lot of people who say, "I came out when that song came out." And I say, "Well, cool!"

When did you know you had a big gay following?

It was actually before "It's Raining Men," when I was singing background for Sylvester. I started singing with Sylvester in the mid-'70s, and so he had a large gay following and it followed us when we started recording under the name Two Tons o' Fun and then into The Weather Girls, and so forth and so on.

And how about all the Weather Girls drag queens?

There have been over the years, because they've come up to me and told me, "We sing your songs in our show!"

Do you get a kick out of seeing them?

At times, yes. (Laughs)

Which men would you want it to rain? For me, I'd put George Clooney in the sky.

Mmm, sure. Let's see: George is a nice-looking guy, but I'm leaning more toward Matthew McConaughey or Idris Elba. And Terrence Howard is cute. Russell Crowe's not bad. So yeah, there are a few out there.

You'll be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the AIDS Emergency Fund on World AIDS Day at the 30th anniversary dinner gala – in the heart of the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park – to honor your friend Sylvester, who passed away from AIDS back in 1988, and for years of raising money and awareness of HIV/AIDS. Why were you so outspoken about gay issues when so many people in the '80s were not?

Yeah, we were going around doing all these fundraisers for these grassroots organizations in different cities and we were asked to come and do shows to raise money for different organizations that were trying to set up hospices. I always say I wish I didn't have to do this, but it's been over 25 years (of AIDS/HIV) and I'm still going out, doing

shows and trying to help people raise money.

How do you reflect on that time? And why was it important for you to stand up for the gay community?

Because at that time I was losing so many people in the industry: artists, DJs, agents, managers. People just leaving out of here in droves. It was a really scary time for a lot of people, and at that time nobody could really figure out what was causing this AIDS epidemic and the blame was always on the gay community – which I don't believe was true, because I was hearing of straight people who were dying of AIDS. They couldn't figure out how they contracted it. At the time, the gay community was really getting slammed for bringing this AIDS epidemic to the world, and it was wrong because at the time nobody knew how it was contracted. But you always have to put the blame on somebody, so why not the gay community? That's the easy thing to do.

So you were defending them.

Yeah, I couldn't understand why would you blame the gay community but not know how it's contracted. Again, there were straight people (getting AIDS). I remember an older woman who died, she was in her 50s or 60s, from what they said was AIDS. So now how did she contract it? Was she with somebody who was gay? Use a little bit of common sense, but people weren't. And they were scared. They were saying, "Don't be around somebody who is gay, because you don't know if they might give you the AIDS virus."

I remember this one time there was a celebrity who had this big dinner party and she had all her silverware washed in bleach. Seriously. This was kind of a gossip report. And I'm saying to myself, "You don't know how this is being contracted, so why would you bleach all your silverware?" It was just crazy.

Is that celebrity still a celebrity?

Yeah.

Can we talk about who it is?

I'm not gonna talk about who it is. She is famous and she was married to a very famous man. But it was just the mentality at that time.

What do you miss most about Sylvester?

I guess his craziness. (Laughs) Yeah, he was crazy at times, but you had to love him. He was way before his time and really just kind of on the cusp of going mainstream when he passed. I think if he had come out now, it would be no problem – him being a gay singer. There are more people who are coming out every day, period. But I think he was way before his time. Great singer, great entertainer. I think if he had lived longer, if he had come along in this generation, it wouldn't have been a problem.

Where do you stand on gay issues like marriage?

I'm for it. Look, from my perspective, there have been more gay couples who've stayed together longer than straight couples. My feeling is, if you are a citizen of the United States, you should have all rights and liberties of everybody else. If you're paying taxes like everybody else, why can't you have the full commitment from the United States government, from marriage on down?

Pixar's First Princess, '80s Musical On Blu-ray

Rock of Ages

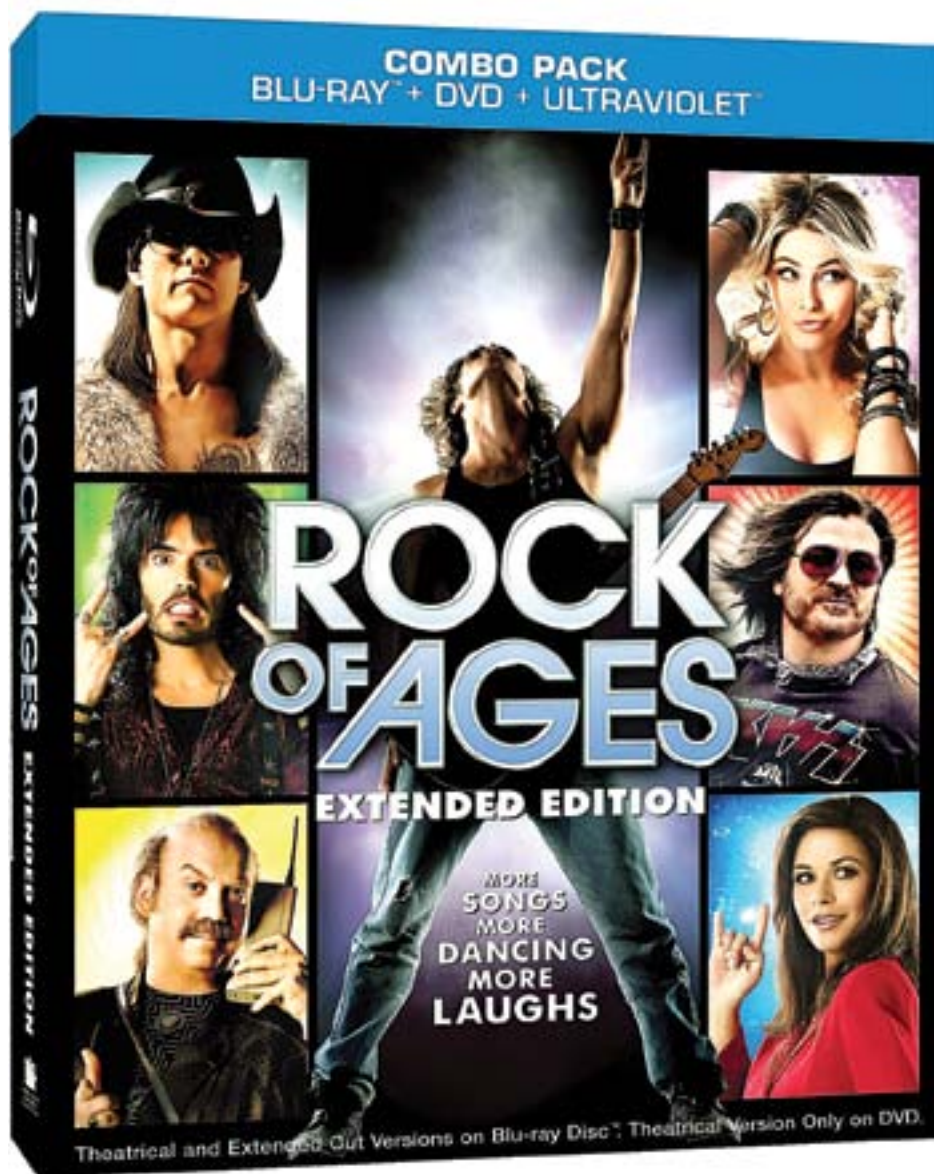
It's far from perfect. It's not even great. But following his first musical, "Hairspray," director Adam Shankman's take on this Broadway hit – which, by the way, basically only exists so history (and shoulder pads) doesn't repeat itself – is such a kitschy good time that even Tom Cruise lets his hair down. His role as a seedy rocker who's gone a little cuckoo is Oscar-caliber. Also: Catherine Zeta-Jones moves to "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" like she's ready to start a dance craze, Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand open their hearts to each other in a silly super-gay montage, and Mary J. Blige sings like this ain't no family affair but an MJB concert. (Queen of Hip-Hop Soul, people). Only newcomer Diego Boneta and especially Julianne Hough bore as lovebirds who fall for each other over music, which is too bad – the movie is built around their characters. The rest of it, though, kind of rocks if you surrender to the ridiculousness of the era's soundtrack set to some of the cheesiest scenes in cinema history. And Alec Baldwin in a Bret Michaels wig. You know you want more, and the Blu-ray has it: a look at '80s style, interviews with Sunset Strip legends and an MJB music video – the only one, because she's Mary J. Blige.



Moonrise Kingdom

No offense to Wes Anderson, but his offbeat, star-studded comedy about young love is as dainty, whimsical and lovable

as hearing Taylor Swift sing about being a princess. This is a compliment, for Anderson's "Moonrise Kingdom," his best film ever, packs just as much nostalgic magic in its narrative: Two precocious misfits (first-timers Jared Gilman as orphan Boy Scout Sam Shakusky and Kara Hayward as 12-year-old Suzy Bishop) leave their everyday lives and run away into the wilderness, where they think they'll find their happily ever after. No more adults, either. Those grownups have their own problems, anyway: Frances McDormand and Bill Murray star as Suzy's bickering parents, and Bruce Willis makes an endearing sheriff. If you're not moved by the innocent charm of "Moonrise Kingdom" – which profoundly speaks to anyone who's been forbidden to love somebody and loved them anyway – then check yourself for a beating heart. Special features are scarce, with only a few short making-of featurettes, but word is there'll be a more expansive release for people who heart this movie like I do.



The Amazing Spider-Man

In Marc Webb's adaptation of the famous comic-book story, Peter Parker is a bullied high-school student transformed

into a superhero by a spider bite. He web-blasts villains, crawls up buildings and gets the confidence to woo Gwen Stacy (a blond Emma Stone being her adorably cute self). Gee, it really *does* get better. The reboot, released just five years after Sam Raimi's third and final installment in the Tobey Maguire trilogy, is the most sensitive entry in Spidey's web. Every scene featuring Stone and Andrew Garfield, with their awkward getting-to-know-yous, is

especially likable, and recent Human Rights Campaign honoree Sally Field as Peter's aunt is so awesomely emotional she'll make you miss "Brothers & Sisters." "The Amazing Spider-Man" also benefits from Webb's indie touch: The first hour is as beguiling as a lot of his last feature, "(500) Days of Summer." And hey, admit it: There are few things in life better than Andrew Garfield Ziploc'ed in spandex. Unless, of course, he's doing a catwalk *in* spandex, a short bit among extras like cast interviews and a long look into firing up the franchise again.

Your Sister's Sister

How do you deal with the death of a brother you lost a year ago? If you look to "Your Sister's Sister" for advice, you go to your friend's quiet cabin and sleep with her drunk lesbian sister.



The setup for Lynn Shelton's little-seen indie almost sounds like a Tale Lesbians Love To Hate, but nothing's objectionable in this drama about empathy, forgiveness and unconditional love. After taking a dare to go gay with a buddy in "Humpday," Mark Duplass makes an even greater mark in his role as Jack, who's ordered by Iris (Emily Blunt) to bike out to her dad's getaway home where her sister, who's wallowing after a breakup with her girlfriend, is also staying. A few whiskey shots later and they're doing it, and then things get awkward when Iris pops in. This is Blunt's best role ever, and Rosemarie DeWitt is, once again, a revelation. All three are so fully committed in this little big-hearted film, one of this year's most unexpected charmers. Extras are lean, but the director commentary gives an insightful explanation of the lesbian sex scene that's caused a fuss.



Brave

Pixar's given us leading men, some adorable fish and even a robot, but what about a woman? We finally got our pretty princess in "Brave," a medieval fable about Merida and the path she

takes to be her own person. That's great and all, but it's that curly red mane – every strand perfectly drawn and flowy and beautiful – that really had me in awe. It says a lot about "Brave": animated up to usual brilliant Pixar standards, but lacking the studio's inventive storytelling. Be yourself. Go your own way. Shoot a bow and arrow even if you're a girl. We get it, and we've seen it all before. Recently, in fact, with "How to Train Your Dragon," an ancient story of standing up for what you believe in. Part of the problem is Pixar's own greatness: The franchise has set the bar so high with "Up," "Finding Nemo" and "Wall-E" that this installment just can't compete with a tender tale of an old man and his air balloon or a cute android couple. The special features – a full disc of them! – focus on the animation, from complications of creating cloth (seriously) to discussions of smelly Scottish people.

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

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Evan (Michael Lopetrone, center) is surrounded by his friends (from left to right: Jamie Richards, Joe Bailey, Robbie Dwight, Joel Mitchell, Lisa Melinn) in Philip Dawkins' "The Homosexuals," playing at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre beginning Nov. 16. Photo: Colleen Scribner

'The Homosexuals' Redines Family At The Ringwald

BY DANA CASADEI

FERNDALE – Defining what “family” is used to be simple. It was one man, one woman and their two-and-a-half kids. Now, its definition can no longer be described so, well, dully, as families have expanded leaps and bounds beyond those two-and-a-half kids.

Starting Nov. 16, “The Homosexuals” at the Ringwald Theatre will take a look at that ever-expanding definition. “This play is all about the family that you choose, not your family of birth,” said Annette Madias, director of “The Homosexuals.”

Madias, who had never seen the show, instantly fell in love with Philip Dawkins’ script.

Like the family created in the show, Madias added that there was some pressure while directing the Michigan premiere of the critically-acclaimed play, wanting to do her theater family proud. “You want it to be good,” she said. “You want to do right by all those people you care about.”

Those people include playwright Dawkins, who Madias developed an

e-mail relationship with while working on the young man’s “coming out journey.”

The young man in question, main character Evan, has a story that starts much like one of Dawkins’ own, which

“People in Chicago really seemed to take to it in a way that wasn’t about agreeing or disagreeing or engaging in debate. It was more about just loving these people.”

would become a “little brain infection” for this show.

While at a music sharing party with a “gaggle of gays,” he realized the history lesson unfolding in front of him and couldn’t let it go. “I was just so fascinated with how the interactions of the people in this room told me so much about where they came from and who they were to

each other and how they had molded each other,” Dawkins said.

After going home with their music – or as Dawkins put it, “going home with their underwear, it’s so personal” – and listening to it all, he wrote the first scene. He had no idea where the show was going, but then a moment of inspiration struck: It would go backwards.

“We were going to work up to that moment where somebody enters a room and realizes there’s an entire world here that I’m not a part of,” he said. Much like he was at that party.

The decade-long story may focus on this group of men and their history, but it has an interesting one of its own, especially the first read-through.

“I was under the knife as they did the first reading of the show,” he says with a slight laugh. His gallbladder had “kind of exploded.”

Even though he wasn’t there, which he highly recommends, he got very honest feedback, leading to his re-writes happening while in recovery.

“People in Chicago really seemed to take to it in a way that wasn’t about agreeing

See **The Homosexuals**, page 22

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The Michigan premiere of Chicago-based playwright Philip Dawkins's "The Homosexuals" will take place at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale.

► The Homosexuals

Continued from p. 21

or disagreeing or engaging in debate," Dawkins said. "It was more about just loving these people."

"I think people latched on to the warmth more than the ideologies of each of the characters," he continued.

Another thing that makes up this group is that it's specifically Midwestern; it takes place in Chicago, something that was very important to Dawkins. He had an interest in what it means to be 20-something and newly out at the beginning of this century in the middle of the country.

It may be a question that Dawkins doesn't think he answers, but it's one that these characters are trying to figure out.

PREVIEW

The Homosexuals

Friday-Monday, Nov. 16-Dec. 10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$10-20.

>> www.TheRingwald.com

Luckily for Dawkins, his professional history is one that he had figured out at a very young age, always knowing that he wanted to work in theater. "It's (playwriting) how I think, it's how I process," Dawkins said.

"I look at the world, and when I problem-solve in my head, it happens on the stage," he continued. "It's part of how I discover the world every day."

Having started as a child actor, Dawkins' first professionally produced play was "Giants, Jokers and Jacks: A Beanstalk Blockbuster," which he lovingly describes as a "lovely gigantic mess." It was also the last time he got to work with one of his mentors, David Wo.

This was the first time that Dawkins got to feel what it was like to be paid and have people perform his words, "even if they were 9-year-olds."

As that show is a part of Dawkins' history, he hopes that "The Homosexuals" can become a history piece as well, especially in regards to "gay plays."

"I hope five years from now this sounds really dated and really honest," he said.



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Madonna Does The D



BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Queen Of Pop Performs Controversial, Queer Show At Joe Louis

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Madonna did what she does best last week at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit: she used her splashy two-hour show for serious things like religion and politics – and lots of half-naked men.

It was, just like the name of her closing song on the MDNA Tour that culminated into an all-out dance party, a “Celebration” – because not only did the Bay City-born diva come home to Michigan on Nov. 8, making this her first stop since 2008’s Sticky & Sweet jaunt, she was still high from President Obama’s re-election a few days before. It was her feeling of being “ecstatically happy” over his win that roused loud applause ... and boos.

“You can boo all you want,” she retorted, “but I’ve been to countries around the world where people can’t vote for their leaders.”

Madonna handled the uproar coolly, finally flat-out telling the crowd, “Don’t be haters.”

Haters gon’ hate: Critics, and even fans, have called her MDNA Tour – a spectacle with wowing production and age-defying dancing (how the hell is she 54?) – a desperate plea for attention and nothing more than shock-value without any real purpose. Detroit finally got to see what the fuss was over, and why Madonna is still the queen.

With big screens used to replicate a

breath-takingly life-size temple, Madonna descended – at a fashionably diva-late 10:45 p.m. – from the ceiling in a confession booth to the sound of church bells, teasing the packed arena with just her silhouette. She was a “Girl Gone Wild,” the song she opened with from “MDNA,” her latest album, before becoming a gun-carrying mass murderer, the role she inhabited for a violent blood-splattered “Gang Bang.” Set in a motel, and remarkably choreographed, it had the awesomely gratuitous aimlessness of a Quentin Tarantino movie.

The transition into “Papa Don’t Preach,” performed with her sprawled on the ground, was an inventive reinterpretation of a classic that had her begging for mercy before she was carried off by a group of terrorists. It was dark and menacing, and uniquely bold and provocative: Who can say they’ve blasted their own audience with a machine gun? Was it too much? Not if you know Madonna.

Whatever motifs of sin and redemption were a part of the show’s first third were abandoned when she came out as a baton-twirling majorette for “Express Yourself,” featuring a flying marching band and updated ‘60s propaganda that spotlighted queer love. To reclaim her status as Queen of Pop, the song was mashed up with Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way,” a song criticized by Madonna as “reductive.”

We all know how progressive Madonna is: She won’t even do her own songs the same. Even though there were just a few, the classics she did do – “Open Your Heart” and “Like a Virgin” among them – were, as much as she abhors the word, reinventions. That’s also when she connected most with “fans.” Because she hasn’t had a legit hit in so long, and also because only 2005’s “Confessions on a Dance Floor” lived up to her greatness, those were the songs that shook the non-homos out of a coma. (The show obviously needed more gays, something I thought I’d never say about a Madonna concert.)

But there’s a reason why the gays were so enthralled: aside from the man skin onstage, Madonna acknowledged us loyal followers who’ve been through the wilderness with her in a way that seemed more endearing than ever. It became especially poignant when she remembered young gay lives lost to bullying – including Tyler Clementi – during a dramatic interlude.

It wasn’t long after, during the penultimate “Like a Prayer,” that the show reached a peak that no song before it quite achieved. With white lights signifying rebirth, and a full choir, it was a rousing performance that lifted everyone. And not just out of their seats (finally), but also to a spiritual place.

From the Vegas-type sets to her bottomless pep, the show was like a prayer – and Madonna, for two hours, took us there.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 15

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org

Resource Center Health Group 7 p.m. LGBTQ and allied teens 13-18. E-mail for more info. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 259-381-2437. Youth@KGLRC.org Kglrc.org

UM Transgender Day of Remembrance 7 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Spectrum Center, the Neutral Zone, and SAPAC. Commemorating those victimized by transphobia. Spectrum Center, 310 E. Washington, **Ann Arbor**. SpectrumCenter.umich.edu

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, Nov. 16

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

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Soldier's Girl; This powerful drama tells the true story of a young soldier, Pfc. Barry Winchell, who meets and falls for a beautiful transgendered nightclub performer while on a drunken outing with fellow soldiers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Nov. 17

Healing Detroit: The Health and Wellness Expo 8:30 a.m. Free community-wide health fair to focus specifically on issues of importance to the black LGBT community. KICK, 4750 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-Kick.org

Gender-Identity Network Alliance 7 p.m. Transgender Detroit presents a new identity: The Gender-identity Network Alliance. Join GNA in celebrating the change with a wine and cheese reception at Affirmations. Event will feature performances by Mr. Debonair and Lady Vanity Tajoure and an opportunity to meet the newly appointed GNA board. Gender-Identity Network Alliance, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 313-549-1082. Facebook.com/GenderNetworkAlliance

Sunday, Nov. 18

KGLRC Transgender Day of Remembrance 4 p.m. Featuring keynote speaker, Jaime M. Grant, Executive Director of the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership and lead author of the groundbreaking study, "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey." KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. KGLRC.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 25 and over: join GOAL each week for discussion, food and a new topic each week. Topic: Should children (under 18) be given hormones to change their gender? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

A Gathering of Hope 6 p.m. Join Transgender Education Collaboration and Plymouth UCC in commemorating those victimized by transphobia. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 4010 Kalamazoo Ave., **Grand Rapids**. Transgendermichigan.org

Monday, Nov. 19

Michelle Fox-Phillips and OU Transgender Day of Remembrance 12 p.m. Michelle Fox Phillips, co-founder of Transgender Detroit and former board member of Transgender Michigan will be speaking about transgender issues and Transgender Day of Remembrance. Oakland University, Gold Room B, **Rochester**. Transgendermichigan.org

Mara Keisling and EMU Transgender Day of Remembrance 7 p.m. Founding Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, Mara Keisling, will

speak at EMU LGBTRC's Transgender Day of Remembrance event, honoring victims of transphobia. EMU LGBTRC, Student Center Room 300, **Ypsilanti**. Facebook.com/emulgbtrc

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

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Sposes Partners of Transgender People Support Group 6 p.m. This group meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month, beginning Nov. 20. UMHS Comprehensive Gender Services Program, 2025 Traverwood, Suite A1, **Ann Arbor**. 734-998-2150. Nquay@med.umich.edu Med.umich.edu/transgender

Transgender Day of Remembrance 7 p.m. Honoring those who have been victimized by transphobia. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse, 6276 Center Road, **Traverse City**. 231-947-3117. UUCGT.org

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

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, Nov. 21

Ladies Who Lunch 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., **Kalamazoo**. Angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kglrc.org

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

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

Goodie 2 Shoes 7 p.m. A new social group dedicated to reaching out to the community and helping others. Meets every other Wednesday at MCC Detroit. Goodie 2 Shoes, 2441 Pinecrest St., **Ferndale**. 299-399-7741. AnnCox@Pridesource.com

Thursday, Nov. 22

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

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

Friday, Nov. 23

Youth Only HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free anonymous testing for individuals 21 and under. Available the second and fourth Friday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Battle Creek Pride Free Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30 p.m. BC Pride hosts a free Thanksgiving dinner the day after Thanksgiving. RSVP via e-mail or phone. Donations or offers of assistance. Battle Creek Pride, 910 North Ave., **Battle Creek**. 269-924-9035. DeanaSpencer23@aol.com

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She; Interviews with transgender and bisexual men and women - as well as scientific and academic experts - shed light on the difficulties of people whose gender may fall somewhere in between male and female. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

The Real L Word (Ladies Night @ Liquid) 9 p.m. Every Friday, its ladies night at Club Liquid Detroit with DJ Lena. MC Lyrik Drag King Teddy, \$5 cover. DJ Lena, 3537 E. Seven mile Road, **Detroit**. 313-826-1192. Djsirlena@gmail.com

Saturday, Nov. 24

LezRead 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Saturday of every month. LezReads, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. LezRead.com

Sunday, Nov. 25

TransCend 4:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Tracy@kglrc.org Kglrc.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 25 and over: join GOAL each week for discussion, food and a new topic each week. Topic: Where is your sanctuary? Where do you go to re-energize? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Von Oeyen Plays Schumann" Debussy's Images, Schumann's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, and Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Nov. 16 - Nov. 18. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "The Music of Queen" In a decade of "super groups" - and four decades beyond - Queen still reigns supreme. The Detroit Symphony presents "The Music of Queen." A "Bohemian Rhapsody" of hit after chart-smashing Queen hit. Brody Dolyniuk sings the solid platinum hits of Freddie Mercury, with the Detroit Symphony. Tickets: \$19+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Nov. 24 - Nov. 25. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Kerrytown Concert House Pressendo Trio; Aaron Berofsky on violin, Kathryn Votapek on viola and Suren Bagratuni on cello. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House Oluoyemi and Kenn Thomas Duo; Oluoyemi Thomas on reeds and Kenn Thomas on piano. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 19. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

CONCERTS

Michigan Philharmonic "Dance Mix" An eclectic array of vivacious dance music from ballet to folk to Broadway and back with Saxophonist Zachary Shemon. The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 2 p.m. Nov. 18. 734-394-5300. MichiganPhil.org

Olympia Entertainment Chris Isaak; Grammy nominated singer-songwriter, musician and actor, Chris Isaak, will bring his "Beyond the Sun Tour" to the Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 23. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Channel 955 Jingle Ball 2012" Hosted by The on-air staff of Channel 955, special performances will include Flo Rida, The Wanted, Austin Mahone, Meagan & Liz, Sammy Adams, Bridget Mendler and DJ Beatbox. Tickets: \$29.50-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Nov. 24. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Single Ladies Tour" R. Kelly's "Single Ladies Tour" with special guest Tania. Tickets: \$48.50-105. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Peabo Bryson; With special guest Regina Belle. Tickets: \$41-43. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Citizen Cope; Special guest Charlie Mars. Tickets: \$25-30. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Chrisette Michele; Tickets: \$30-55. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Nov. 21. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

The Acorn Theater "Something to Live For: The Strayhorn & Ellington Collaboration" Jazz vocalist Elaine Dame in concert, featuring virtuosic guitarist Andy Brown. Tickets: \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Nov. 23. 269-756-3879. AcornTheater.com

The Ark Mr. B; Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 24. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Katie Herzog; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Palace Justin Bieber; With special guest Carly Rae Jepsen. Tickets: \$39.50-89.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5-30 p.m. Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21. 248-377-0100. ThePalace.net

OTHER

Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry "Tapper's 21st Annual Coat Drive" Local residents can support less fortunate neighbors by dropping off warm winter items and making cash donations at all Tapper's locations. "Our goal is to donate more than 2,500 coats, new hats, gloves and blankets to those in need before winter arrives," says Steven Tapper, custom designer and vice president of Tapper's. Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, Various Tapper's Locations. . Nov. 1 - Nov. 21. Tappers.com

Olympia Entertainment Lewis Black; Proflic funny man, actor, author, and stand-up comedian/ranter Lewis Black will perform at the Fox Theatre as part of his "Running on Empty Tour." Lewis' live performances provide a cathartic release of anger and disillusionment for his audience. Lewis yells so they don't have to. Tickets: \$35-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Wrinkle in Time \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Nov. 9 - 17. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

Five Bowls of Oatmeal: The Return of Oatmeal \$5 adult; free under 18. 826michigan and The Penny Seats at Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., **Ann Arbor**. 3 p.m. Nov. 18. 734-761-3463. Fivebowls.brownpapertickets.com

Legally Blonde - The Musical \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 15 - 18. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

Meanwhile Back on the Couch \$16-18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., **Royal Oak**. Through Nov. 17. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

Nuncrackers \$19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Nov. 23 - Dec. 9. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

Sunset Boulevard \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., **Birmingham**. Through Nov. 18. 248-644-2075. Birminghamvillageplayers.com

The No Hole Holiday \$5-7. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Riverside**. Nov. 23 - Dec. 2. 517-482-5700. Riverwalktheatre.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Broke-ology \$10-12. WSU Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, **Detroit**. Nov. 15 - 24. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

Ruined \$5-20. Western Michigan University Department of Theatre at The University Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Through Nov. 18. 269-387-6222. WMUTheatre.com

Spring Awakening Not suitable for children under the age of 17. \$18. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., **Rochester**. Through Nov. 18. 248-370-3013. oakland.edu/tickets

PROFESSIONAL

A Christmas Carol \$17-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., **Rochester**. Nov. 16 - Dec. 23. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

A Little Night Music Previews Nov. 15-18 & 21 (\$27-\$37). \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 15 - Dec. 30. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

A Paradise of Fools \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door; Nov. 10 is special Black Tie Event for \$75. . Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, **Detroit**. Through Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com



Editor's Pick

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "The Music of Queen," a "Bohemian Rhapsody" of hit after chart-smashing Queen hit.

In a decade of "super groups" - and four decades beyond - Queen still reigns supreme. With over 150 million albums sold and 18 No. 1 albums and 18 No. 1 singles, Queen is without doubt one of the world's most renowned musical groups. They received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Phonographic Industry in 1990, and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001.

Hear Brody Dolyniuk sing the solid platinum hits of Freddie Mercury, Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor with the Detroit Symphony.

Performances are 8 p.m. Nov. 24 and 3 p.m. Nov. 25 at the Max M. Fisher, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. For more information go to DSO.org.



Editor's Pick

The Studio Theatre presents "Broke-ology" by Nathan Louis Jackson, the story of the King family, an African-American family that lives in Kansas City. In light of their father's deteriorating health, brothers Ennis and Malcolm find themselves at odds in deciding how to care for him. "Broke-ology" is a comic drama that is centered on a tight-knit family that fights against its many problems, with strength, humor, and above all else, love.

Jackson, a young African-American playwright, grew up in an impoverished neighborhood in Kansas City,

similar to that in the play. After years of struggle, he has now established himself as an up-and-coming playwright in the realist tradition.

"Broke-ology" will run Thursday, Nov. 15 through Saturday, Nov. 24. Tickets are \$10-\$12 and are available by calling the Studio Theatre Box Office at 313-577-2972 or by visiting the box office in the Hilberry Theatre at 4743 Cass Ave. on the corner of Hancock in Midtown Detroit.

Antigone in New York \$25. The Elizabeth Theater, Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Nov. 9 - Jan. 12. 313-444-2294. ParkBarDetroit.com

Cancer! The Musical \$25. Planet Ant Theatre at Boli Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 9 - Dec. 15. 313-365-4948. brownpapertickets.com

Cirque Chinois \$30-50. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. Nov. 24 - Nov. 25. 313-887-8500. MusicHall.org

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

Dreamtigers \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Nov. 24. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Ebenezer Previews Nov. 15-18 & 23 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Nov. 15 - Dec. 23. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Ella Mentry and the Case of the Missing Scientist \$10 adult, \$7 child. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 24 - March 23. 734-663-0696. PerformanceNetwork.org

Five One Acts by Allan Ball \$18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio Theatre, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Nov. 16 - Dec. 2. 877-636-3320. DetroitEnsembleTheatre.org

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) The story of a young academic who proposes Shakespeare had two different, comedic endings in mind for two of his most beloved tragedies. Plays in rotating repertory. \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Nov. 16 - Feb. 9. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Greetings! Previews Nov. 21 (\$10). \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Nov. 21 - Dec. 16. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

Julius Caesar \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Nov. 18. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

Magician Sean Masterson and The Village Puppeteers \$15 adult, \$10 ages 12 and under. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 2 p.m. Nov. 24. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Ordinary Days \$29-\$32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Dec. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Othello \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 17. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Plaid Tidings Previews Nov. 23 & 24 (at 3 p.m.) (\$18). \$26-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Nov. 23 - Dec. 23. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Stomp \$20-45. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Nov. 16 - 17. 586-286-2222. Macomb.edu

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

Sweeney Todd \$18-20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through Nov. 17. 269-282-1953. WhatADo.org

The Comedy of Errors \$6-12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave., Grand Rapids. Nov. 15 - 18. DogStoryTheatre.com

The Empire Builders \$10-20. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. Through Nov. 18. 313-993-3270. http://Theatre.UDMercy.edu

The Homosexuals \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 16 - Dec. 10. TheRingwald.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Ann Arbor Art Center Instructor Exhibition" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 1 - Nov. 25. 734-995-8004. AnnArborartcenter.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17 - March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Soo Sunny Park: Vapor Slide" Sculptor Soo Sunny Park's large-scale installation SSVT Vapor Slide. The exhibit combines quotidian materials chain link fence, plastic cups, paper clips, river rocks in imaginative ways, crafting a dazzling environment of ethereal light and space. 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17 - March 17. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church "Ridge Fine Art & Handmade Wares Show" Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest St., Ferndale. 10 a.m. Nov. 17. 248-398-8107. Facebook.com/pages/Ridge-Fine-Art-Show/214775811895328

Flint Institute of Arts "Worth a Thousand Words: American Political Cartoons" Explores the history of American political cartoons in the 19th and early 20th century from the collection of Michael Kelly. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 3 - Jan. 6. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Drawing Together: International Cartoons" 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 1 - Dec. 30. Flintarts.org

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

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

Michigan State University Museum "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" Brings together the best of the MSU Museum's fossil collection and the fossil-inspired artwork of celebrated artist Ray Troll to explore questions about evolution, extinction, and early life on Earth. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 6 - Dec. 30. Museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Vision in a Cornfield" Based on an unexpected encounter 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. MOCAdetroit.org

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

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Voice of the City" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2 - March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCAdetroit.org

St. James Episcopal Church "Musical Odyssey A Concert for Hurricane Sandy Relief" Presented by violinist-pianist-composer Daniel Cho, Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) national competition winner, only 11 years old but already a fantastic performer on violin and piano, accompanied by his mother, Dr. Seung Cho, music director at St. Stephens, Troy. Freewill offering to benefit Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, Birmingham. 4 p.m. Nov. 18. 248-644-0820. Stjamesbirmingham.org

The Gallery Project "Grammar of the Elite" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 11 - Nov. 18. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

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 "Jesper Just" 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - Dec. 9. 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

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celebrate So celebrate

LGBT Sellers: How To Help Attract A Qualified Buyer

BY JEFFERY A. HAMMERBERG
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT GAY REAL ESTATE

Everyone is well aware that for the past couple of years the real estate market has been rather lopsided in favor of buyers and quite challenging for sellers and their real estate agents. That situation is based on lots of economic factors but it all boils down to the fact that there is an excessive inventory of homes on the market, self employed buyers that used to be able to qualify for a loan now can't, and people are afraid of losing their jobs so the limited buyers have plenty to choose from when they go shopping.

More houses for sale means greater competition for a finite number of qualified buyers, so LGBT homeowners who are able to more effectively market their homes will have a distinct advantage.

There are practical steps a seller can take to assist the realtor, and these can potentially make the difference between a prompt sale and a listing that languishes on the market without any real nibbles or purchase offers.

Here are five things to consider, for example, to assist the listing agent:

Maintain curb appeal

Although it may take an extra hour a week, keeping a home looking attractive from the street is one of the easiest ways to add intangible equity.

Think of the visual appeal of the home as charisma that can be felt from the street. Keep the lawn manicured, the flowerbeds tidy, and put a new coat of paint or varnish on the front door because it can work wonders in terms of pulling in buyers and making the listing agent's phone ring with inquiries.

Set the stage

When a buyer makes an appointment to view a home it is not just a dress rehearsal; it's show time. Help market the home by keeping it free of clutter, because extra space makes any home look larger and real estate buyers typically pay more for a bigger property. Fifteen minutes before the Realtor arrives, turn on a few lights to illuminate rooms and architectural features and pick up any clutter. That way the house is ready to show as soon as the buyer steps through the door. The realtor can always extinguish lights to save energy before he or she locks up and leaves.

Do a disappearing act

Vacate the premises before every showing appointment. This avoids any face-to-face awkwardness, but more importantly it allows the buyer to imagine or pretend that the home is actually theirs, not someone else's. Once a buyer takes possession of the home within his or her mind they subconsciously begin to make a real

emotional connection with it. This psychological transformation will usually inspire them to make a written offer – but it may not happen if they feel that are imposing or intruding because residents are in the home.

Beware of the adorable kitten and cute puppies

If there are pets in the home then arrange for them to go to the park during the showing, and remove the litter boxes. If someone is allergic to cats or has a general fear of dogs, for example, they may not even step inside to tour the property and that could spoil the chance to make a sale. Pet odors are also one of the most often cited reasons that buyers give for not liking a home.

Listen, learn and communicate

After each house tour find out the reaction of the buyer and learn from their feedback how to improve the presentation before the next showing. The listing agent should call the showing agent and find out specific reasons why the buyer liked the home or found it less appealing. Talk to the listing agent and continually collaborate to update marketing plans. If it might help then organize an open house event or consider a strategic lowering of the price.

Of course another way for a LGBT seller to enjoy a market advantage is to hire an LGBT realtor. If a home is located in a popular gay or lesbian enclave, for example, that can be a great selling feature and those real estate brokers who constantly work with LGBT clients will have a longer list of potential LGBT buyers. They will also know gay-friendly mortgage lenders in the area who can help potential buyers get an affordable loan with a low interest rate and manageable monthly payments.

LGBT sellers should keep in mind that mortgage financing doesn't just benefit buyers. Loan financing is just as important to the seller, because unless the mortgage application is approved and the loan goes through the transaction will fall apart before closing. That's why having a team of LGBT-friendly real estate professionals who can help potential buyers is a really savvy and proactive way for a homeowner to facilitate a sale. Those expert realtors and lenders who are themselves active members of the local LGBT community will also have social and professional relationships that extend deep into the community. So they can even help advertise the home through that extended network and pipeline.

To find real estate and mortgage professionals dedicated to active support of the LGBT community, visit www.GayRealEstate.com or locate a gay-friendly realtor by visiting PrideSource.com Yellow Pages.



MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Say hello to Lexi!

A one-year-old black Labrador, Lexi is fully grown at 49 pounds. One look at that face and you'll be hooked for life! Lexi is a bit shy and would do best with a family that can give her lots of positive reinforcement. Come meet her today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and more.

For more information, please visit or call the MHS Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 733519. Photo courtesy Michigan Humane Society.

Part of the Week made possible by
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital
3800 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-832-7282
www.pattersondogandcat.com

Classifieds

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 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.
Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday 11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Wednesday 8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.
Ferndale-Saturday 1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.
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.

To place a classified ad with us, visit PRIDESOURCE.COM/classifieds or call us at 888.615.7003 x22

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group Wednesday 8pm St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement) Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI Closed Meeting
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Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group Saturday's 8pm Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement) Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale Closed Meeting
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See Classifieds, page 28

INSIDE AND OUT

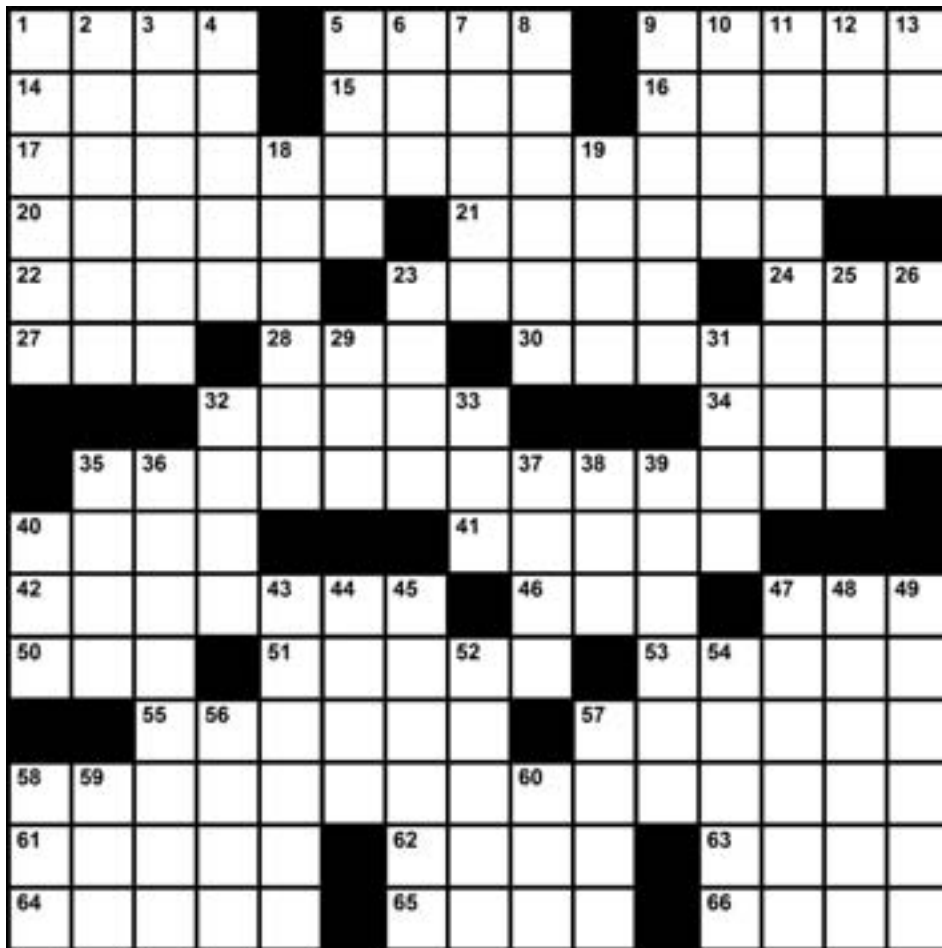
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Across

- 1 Nice Nellie
- 5 Head for
- 9 Petty squabbles
- 14 Actress Skye
- 15 Spartacus or Ben-Hur
- 16 Is het up
- 17 He played Cedric Diggory in the "Harry Potter" films
- 20 Gets a smile out of
- 21 Gung-ho
- 22 Q, and others, in Scrabble
- 23 With 51-Across, he played Jareth the Goblin King in "Labyrinth"
- 24 Pink-slip
- 27 Comics cry
- 28 Org. in many spy movies
- 30 Working in the theater
- 32 "The Celluloid Closet" author Vito
- 34 Just managed, with "out"
- 35 He played Merlin in "Camelot"
- 40 Griffin of game shows
- 41 Inundate
- 42 They may lie in bed with patients
- 46 Neighbor of Leb.
- 47 U-turn from NNE
- 50 Son of Prince Valiant
- 51 See 23-Across
- 53 Word before organ

Down

- 55 Strolls leisurely
- 57 Hugh of "Life with Judy Garland"
- 58 He played Harry Potter
- 61 In doubt
- 62 Got in the game
- 63 Harden
- 64 "I Dream of Jeannie"'s Barbara, and others
- 65 Maker of some fruity flavors
- 66 "Xena" deity
- 1 Peter Pan opponent
- 2 Bert, to Ernie
- 3 Low-cost way to buy things
- 4 They go down south for the winter
- 5 Catches on to
- 6 Like straight to gay (abbr.)
- 7 It tops a queen
- 8 Book size
- 9 Ford classics, familiarly
- 10 Island of Barrie's land
- 11 Seafood dessert?
- 12 Alice and Vera's coworker
- 13 Digits used when the IRS gets its hand in your pocket
- 18 Save from going to the bottom at sea, e.g.
- 19 Watered down

- 23 Bit of salt, for Stephen Pyles
- 25 What Dorian Gray never does
- 26 Beauty of "Roseanne"
- 29 AOL, e.g.
- 31 Take care of
- 32 Say whether or not you're coming
- 33 On vacation
- 35 Raspberry that isn't a fruit
- 36 What military guys may shoot off
- 37 Former netman Nastase
- 38 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field
- 39 Tom Wilkinson film about a transsexual
- 40 Degree for Andrew Tobias
- 43 Where people don't sleep with the opposite sex
- 44 Longtime NFL coach Chuck
- 45 Turn sharply
- 47 Gay porn site visitor, e.g.
- 48 Sit on, in a way
- 49 Potters' tools
- 52 "Let me repeat..."
- 54 Telepathic board that inspired James Merrill
- 56 Bearing
- 57 Some watch faces
- 58 JFK preceder
- 59 Hand job?
- 60 Laurie Partridge portrayer Susan

Solution on pg. 28

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Classifieds

Continued from p. 26

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Solution to puzzle from page 27

P	R	I	G	G	O	T	O	T	I	F	F	S				
I	O	N	E	E	P	I	C	B	O	I	L	S				
R	O	B	E	R	T	P	A	T	T	I	N	S	O	N		
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T	I	L	E	S	D	A	V	I	D	C	A	N				
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Cocktail Chatter

The Hairy Navel

BY ED SIKOV

Hairy navels make my mouth water. I'm referring to guys' belly buttons here, not the cocktail. (I'll get around to that in a minute.) I'd go so far as to say that a hairy navel is my favorite part of the male anatomy. My fascination with fuzzy abs far exceeds my interest in more obvious erogenous zones, and despite many years pondering my own, I still have no clear idea why. Is my attraction to men's stomach hair rooted in the fact that women don't have it? No. After all, women don't have penises, either. (News bulletin! Stop the presses! Your intrepid columnist has just discovered something big!) And unlike some of my gay brethren, I'm not averse to women's bodies at all.

Another explanation: Shirtless guys were all over the place when I was a kid, and I eroticized what I could see. The locker room at the local swimming pool was a terrifying space, so I avoided looking around as guys of all ages changed in and out of their swimsuits. But out by the pool I could stare slack-jawed at swim-trunked high school boys making out with their girlfriends in the broad daylight. Those boys were hot! And the ones I most wanted to see up close were those that had a fresh, new field of boy hair on their chests and stomachs. I was captivated.

And TV offered up a buffet of beefcake on a daily basis. I'd be watching some western when all of a sudden some cowboy's arms were being held behind his back and another cowboy would walk up and rip his shirt open. I'd be riveted with delight, especially if the guy had hair on his torso. Freud would have said that I was displacing my desire for dick – that I couldn't deal with what I really wanted, so I sublimated that attraction into something less threatening.

I've been mulling this over for a week now.

Dan and I had dinner last Friday with a guy I knew from childhood and his partner. Billy and I reconnected on Facebook, and we met at a restaurant in midtown. The cocktail menu listed the Hairy Navel, and I couldn't help but order one. Dan was appalled.

"You're kidding, right?"

"I'm stone cold serious," I replied.

"He never orders stuff like this," Dan informed Billy and Dave. "What's gotten into you?"

I found this annoying. Yes, I do tend to reject cocktails that veer to the sweet side. But cripes! Can't a guy order a Hairy Navel without his husband making a federal case out of it?

I responded too personally, I admit: "Since you shaved your entire chest and stomach last weekend without even informing me of the decision – and I do have a stake in the matter – I decided to drown my sorrows in the only kind of hairy navel I'll get to taste for the next month."

"Are there no boundaries with you?" he asked.

"Look!" Billy suddenly declared. "No, look here!" Dave echoed. They each pulled up their matching rugby shirts to expose two of the hairiest navels I've seen in a long time.

"I'm a married man," I protested with not much enthusiasm. And wouldn't you know? When our server – clearly an aspiring actor, judging by his flawless physique – came over with our check, he asked, "Is there anything more I can do for you?" and yanked up his tight black T-shirt to expose one of the finest hairy navels I have ever scene. Narcissistic show-off. So hot. So unavailable. I tipped him 40 percent.

The Hairy Navel

1 oz. Absolut premium vodka

1 oz. peach schnapps

Orange juice to taste.

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Let's Get Physical



Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

I'm an awful friend because I'm not in support of Doug and his less-than-sexy fling with a doctor even though it's not technically a fling. It's more of a professional relationship that morphed into a one-sided date the instant the doctor's finger made contact with Doug's butt.

"I know. I shouldn't read into it," Doug shares over a drink. "But he smiled when he tickled my prostate. That has to mean something, right?"

I shed him a peculiar look. "He's a professional. He probably fingers buttholes all day long."

"Yes. But he felt me up four times this year. Isn't that special?"

"Not when you're the one setting up the appointments."

He flinches, hand to his heart. "I have a reoccurring itch down there. OK?"

The itch is due to lack of sex. That's why Doug's been feigning illnesses since the beginning of the year. He has an offshoot of Munchausen Syndrome but is on the market for sex rather than attention. He says it beats online dating and jacking off at a computer screen. Plus, he has great insurance, so why not?

"It just seems wrong to get off on having a doctor grope you," I later admit. At the mall he combs the H&M underwear section, telling me he needs to trim "down there" for his next appointment. "Is the bald eagle still in?"

I wince. "What?"

"My bush. Do you think I should shave? What about a Mohawk?"

"No. No Mohawk. You don't want your dick looking like some boy band from the '80s."

He laughs, getting excited. "I have a testicle exam scheduled and I'm not going to make it easy. That way, we have time for small talk." A few days later he phones to state things didn't go as planned. The doctor was curt, bordering rude. He failed to exhibit proper bedside manner, telling Doug to focus on the testicle pain when Doug began to talk about his favorite restaurants. "I thought he might take the hint and ask me out. But he was all business, saying, 'Does this hurt, does this hurt?' I was like, get a new line, you dirty masochist."

"He was doing his job."

"Whatever. If he's going to grab my balls, he can engage in mindless chitchat. It's the little things." I don't think you have to worry about it. It's over." I haven't the heart to act like it actually never began. Two weeks later, Doug confesses he's doctor shopping again. Some clients desire a doctor willing to distribute pain pills. Doug wants one with a "ready, willing and able" penis. He feels karma's on his side because he only signs up for single doctors. He doesn't want to break

"I once had a friend tell me his mother would linger in the aisles at Wal-Mart, praying someone would say hello. It prompts me to consider what other measures people have begun to take in order to meet someone or simply have someone listen."

up families. He wants to start off on the right foot. That's why he's keeping his pants on this time.

"I'm going to wait until the second date before I undress," he says, calling me before the initial visit with a new doctor. The doctor came recommended because of the special attention he gives to individual clients. "He's known to actually hold your hand if he has something bad to say," Doug boasts. After the visit, he calls me upset because the doctor asked about his sexual history. "It was a little presumptuous, if you ask me," he says. "You're not supposed to talk about past relationships on a first date. Everyone knows that."

"But you weren't on a date."

"Really? Then what would you call it?"

"A physical."

"Pfft," he says. "Call it what you want. He wants to see me again. That's more than I can say about other guys." Growing upset he says he's going to drown his pain in a vat of coffee ice cream.

"I'm really concerned about you," I say. "This isn't healthy."

"Please. Would you rather have me date men who insult my pic on Grindr? Or should I go on Manhunt and talk to insecure guys who want someone straight and manly? What is healthy? I'm running out of options so I'm getting creative. So what?" He hangs up the phone, and I wonder if I'm overreacting. He's not hurting anybody. He's going after what he wants, finding new avenues to locate a man. It may be a tad outside of the box, but he's not harming anyone. Is it different from joining a gym or a social club in hoping of bumping into a potential partner? Sometimes loneliness makes the looniest notions noteworthy. I once had a friend tell me his mother would linger in the aisles at Wal-Mart, praying someone would say hello. It prompts me to consider what other measures people have begun to take in order to meet someone or simply have someone listen.

"Are you there?" Doug asks, phoning the next day. "I wanted to say I'm sorry. I shouldn't have hung up on you. I'm just so frustrated with trying to meet someone. You think I'm crazy?"

"No. I think... I forgot how hard it is to be alone and have no one to talk to. So talk. Go on. Talk."

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