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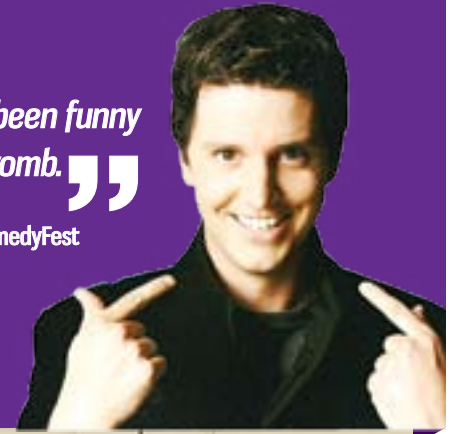
INSIDE: **Spring Pet Guide**

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since the womb. ”

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performer



AIDS Leader Exits

Barbara Murray On
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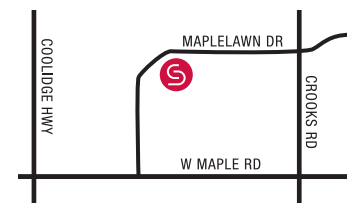


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COVER STORY

4 AIDS leader exits
Photo: Andrew Potter



NEWS

- 8 Mich. Democratic Party leadership changes at state, LGBT caucus level
- 10 Sequester could lead to massive cuts in HIV testing, treatment
- 11 Prominent GOPs against Prop 8

OPINION

- 6 HIV is not a distant threat
- 7 Parting Glances
- 8 Creep of the Week

SPRING PET GUIDE

- 12 Tail Waggers and Bissell chip in to get animals into digital database
- 14 Six funniest pet videos of all time
- 18 Wag'n Tails Pet Resort knows the importance of good grooming
- 20 Michigan animal lover making international waves
- 22 Reasons to get your poop scoop on

LIFE

- 25 Troupe delves into British gay history
- 28 The Laughing Stock
- 30 Happenings
- 31 Hear Me Out

REAR VIEW

- 34 Classifieds
- 36 Puzzle

IDENTIFY NOW AS A BISEXUAL.
I'M REALLY JUST
ATTRACTED TO ENERGY.

– ComedyFest Performer Jackie Monahan, pg. 28



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AIDS Partnership Michigan: 'Best Job—Hardest Job; I Ever Had'

Barbara Murray Reflects On A Quarter Century On The Front Lines Battling HIV

BY TODD HEYWOOD

DETROIT – After 24 years at the helm of AIDS Partnership Michigan – in some iteration or another – Barbara Murray will retire March 4.

In an interview with *Between The Lines*, Murray discussed her career, her life and the changing face of an epidemic that has carved its existence in gay life.

"Best job – hardest job, I ever had," she told BTL of her post at APM. But HIV was not where she had imagined herself many years ago.

"Well, frankly, all I ever wanted to be was a camp director," she said. That came from her experience during college working for the Girl Scouts as a camp counselor. She laughs now, as she looks back on it, realizing that the end of camp doldrums left her wishing for the adrenaline of being with the kids again.

She served the Girl Scouts here in Michigan, and then took a post in West Virginia as development director. She returned to Michigan and Flint, to work at the YWCA. There she helped start a domestic violence shelter and program.

"We built it from the ground up," she said. "We did it in a little less than two years."

And it was during this time that she faced off with Michael Moore, who then ran the Flint Voice, an alternative newspaper in the area. She said he "ripped" her and the organization a "new one" for their plans. She said Moore thought volunteers for the YWCA should house survivors in their own homes.

"I thought, Michael, what are you going to do when the first guy – course this literally happened – we had a guy try to drive his car through the lobby of the YW (to get at his partner)," she said of the conflict.

During this time, working with domestic violence survivors, Murray said she learned one of the most important lessons.

"I learned how important people who are going through that are as spokespersons and as teachers," she said.

After the executive director she was working with left to run a Texas YWCA, Murray was passed over for promotion to become the next executive director, and the new leader "made it clear" Murray was not particularly welcome in the organization anymore. So she launched a search for a new job – preferably

as an executive director.

"I guess that was the replacement for being a camp director, being an executive director," she said with a laugh.

Years later she ran into a former Girl Scout camper at the *Hotter Than July!* celebration, and the young woman told her she was sorry Murray had not gotten the post leading the YWCA in Flint, but that it had been because she was a lesbian. In her typical ho-hum downplay of things, she shrugged her shoulders and said, "Well, isn't that interesting?"

Finding The Love of Her Life

As her friend, and boss, was preparing to leave for Texas to embark on her new job there, Murray said she invited her to the bars in Detroit. As a lesbian, in the late 70s, the repercussions of being seen in Flint's local gay bar were immediate, she recalled.

"I knew damn well that if I did (go to the gay bar in Flint)," she draws her finger across her throat.

Murray accepted the invitation, which she would later discover had been a set-up to

introduce her to Annie, and went to the bars in Detroit.

Just before her boss and friend left for Texas, Murray recalls a conversation with her.

"She said, 'Murray, when was the last time you were in love? You need to be in love,'" she said. "I thought, 'well, I probably ought to listen to her.'"

But getting to love took time. Murray was in the process of ending a "broken" relationship with another woman at the time, and took two years to discover who she was.

While it would take two years for Murray to call Annie and pursue a relationship with her, the two have now been together for 29 years now.

"Oh my God! She's my rock. She's the love of my life," Murray gushed.

She said Annie recognizes that running an AIDS organization is a marriage unto itself, but she doesn't allow Murray to bring it home with her, "which is good," she declares.

The Passion

Murray admits that when a board member at the vision clinic approached her about the post of running an AIDS organization – then called Wellness – she was not particularly interested.

"I was kind of liking this 9-to-5 job," she said.

But the board member, who was also on the Wellness board, wouldn't relent. Murray finally agreed to the interview with the board, to get the woman "off my back."

"The interview was on a Saturday morning and I walked in and I was just so laid back because I was doing this to get her to shut up," Murray said. "Halfway through the interview, I wanted it so bad. I wanted to say, 'Please, hire me. Please.'"

That flip in attitude was a result of the passion of the board members and volunteers interviewing her she said.

"I have never seen people so passionate about what they were doing."

HIV and AIDS, while certainly something she was aware of at the time, was not a part of her everyday life at that point. She had attended one fundraiser for AIDS, hosted by a friend who had done fundraisers for the Common Ground organization, and Murray said she wanted to go because of the artist.



Barbara Murray with Associate Executive Director, Director of Prevention Services, Hank Milbourne; incoming Executive Director Bill VanHemert and Angelique Tomsic, Case Management Director. Murray says she could never have done it without her stellar team. APM's website lists 22 additional staff. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

See Next Page

► Murray

Continued from p. 4

She did not know anyone who was living with HIV at the time.

But it was the passion of those involved that drove Murray to want to engage.

“They did what they had to do. Parallel – ACT UP – You did what you had to do because this is terrifying and this has got to stop. Whatever it is, we’ve got to figure out what it is we gotta do,” she said of the passion.

Underlying that passion, of course, was the battle for lives.

“I felt so deeply for some of these guys because, you know, you just had this horrible epidemic train coming down the track – and at that point, there were not answers – you just got hit by the train. If you were lucky, you survived for a while, and others didn’t,” she said.

Loss And Sex

She said she was prepared to deal with the immense loss of fighting an epidemic that is until she was confronted by that loss in the form the Names Quilt displayed at Cobo Hall.

“That just tore me up,” she said, noting that the Quilt display included panels of people she knew, as did the reading of the names. “It was just emotionally gut-wrenching to see that quilt.”

Over the years, Murray has watched HIV become politicized, “permeated” with politics. She notes that while government funding has been important, it has also quashed fundraising within the community.

“What concerns me about that – and I have heard gay men say this – we don’t have to support you because the government pays

for it all,” she said. “The problem with that attitude is, yeah, but the government money comes with strings.”

Those strings complicate and sometimes hamper prevention activities. It is difficult to have deep, meaningful conversations about sex and sexuality with government cash. So private dollars are necessary to do “in-your-face” campaigns.

“I think private dollars are enormously important to what you need to do, and they are very hard to come by,” Murray notes.

“Have we won the fight with AIDS? Yes and No. It is no solution to take a lot of pills,” she said.

She says while HIV is still killing people, sometimes from the disease itself, and more often as a result of the long term effects of the drugs that keep the virus in check, but turn the cardiac system into a “train wreck,” the conversation remains hampered by one overriding issue.

“The problem is we don’t deal with sex in this country. We don’t. We just don’t deal well with it,” she said.

She notes our conversations and attitudes about sex are not transparent. That we are not giving youth “the whole damn story” about sex.

“Sex should be enjoyable, for God’s sake, but do what you have to do to be safe,” she demands.

Learn More About AIDS Partnership Michigan

AIDS Partnership Michigan is the state’s central resource for information and referral about HIV/AIDS and the largest service provider in Michigan. The agency provides total, wrap around HIV/AIDS services serving over 8,500 people each year.

Look Out, Boys! Mae West Is Back In Town!

Retirement reception for Barbara Murray includes performance of ‘Dirty Blonde’

Mae West is back, and Detroit has her! In conjunction with the retirement reception for Barbara Murray from AIDS Partnership Michigan, “Dirty Blonde” will be presented as a very special one-time event on March 4 at The Century Theatre located inside The Historic Gem Theatre in Downtown Detroit.

“Dirty Blonde” will feature actors Mark David Kaplan (Zazu) and Ben Lipitz (Pumbaa) from Disney’s “The Lion King,” and Colleen Flynn from the Prison City Players in Jackson will star as Jo and Mae West.

All proceeds will benefit AIDS Partnership Michigan and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA).

Tickets for “Dirty Blonde” are currently on sale for \$75 each (including pre-show dinner at the Historic Century Grille beginning at 6 p.m. and may be purchased in advance by calling AIDS Partnership Michigan at 800-872-2437 or at www.aidspartnership.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, pending availability. All seating is general admission.

This one night only performance will be held at The Century Theatre located at The Historic Gem and Century Theatres located at 333 Madison Street, Detroit.

Be sure to check out last week’s feature about this benefit online at www.pridesource.com

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President Obama Posthumously Honors PFLAG Founder, Jeanne Manford

BY NATIONAL PFLAG AND LEO ROMO

On Feb. 15, President Obama awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal to PFLAG founder Jeanne Manford. PFLAG is the acronym for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a national organization that supports LGBT individuals and families. Mrs.



The late Jeanne Manford holding picture of her late son, Morty Manford.

Manford's daughter, Suzanne Swan, accepted the award on behalf of her mother, who passed away last month, at the age of 92.

"When Jeanne Manford learned that her son Morty had been badly beaten up at a gay rights demonstration, nobody would have faulted her for bringing him home, holding him close, and just focusing on her child," said President Obama. "But instead...she took to the streets with a simple message: No matter who her son was, no matter who he loved, she loved him."

The President personally selected Mrs. Manford as one of the 18 recipients of the medal, which is the second-highest civilian award in our country, and recognizes individuals "whose service has had a sustained impact on others' lives and provided inspiration for others to serve."

Upon the presentation of the medal, the President's military aid announced, "For insisting that equality knows no bounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, the United States honors Jeanne Manford."

This is an extraordinary and unprecedented honor for Jeanne Manford, her family, and PFLAG members and supporters everywhere. The message is powerful: the voices of parents, family members, friends, and straight allies, united with the voice of LGBT people, is critical to the advancement of acceptance and equality.

The ceremony marks only the second time an individual has been honored for advancing LGBT rights. In 2011, the president awarded one of the medals to Janice Langbehn, who filed a lawsuit drawing attention to the difficulties gay couples face when confronted with a hospital emergency. Her story prompted President Obama to issue a directive that all hospitals receiving federal funding allow gay patients the right to choose who can visit them.

BTL Editorial

HIV Is Not A Distant Threat

The numbers are staggering. The numbers are terrifying. The numbers represent a threat to the health and safety of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. And the silence around this threat is just as terrifying.

New predictions from the Office of National AIDS Policy show that the current cohort of 20 year old gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men have an overall prevalence of 10 percent – today. And the news is much more dire for 20 year old black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, the prevalence in that group is 20 percent – today. At current infection and transmission trends, when this group reaches age 50, half of them will be infected, and 70 percent of black MSM will be infected.

The federal government has known about this threat since 2009. The Michigan Department of Community Health has known about the threat since 2009. How did those appointed to protect the health of the public respond to these prevalence numbers?

Silence.

There have been no massive press events to highlight these numbers. The state has even admitted it did not bother to share the numbers with AIDS Service Organizations or LGBT groups.

What is clear here is that current HIV prevention efforts are a failure, and current public health authorities in Michigan do not care about gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men – unless and until they are infected with HIV.

The state has authorized \$2.5 million in HIV prevention funds. Of those dollars, only 16 percent will be spent on engaging MSM who are HIV negative in prevention efforts. On the other hand, 60 percent of the funds will be spent on HIV prevention for positives who are MSM. A significant majority of that funding is directed at programming designed to help HIV-positive persons disclose their status and prevent transmitting the virus. Some of that money is used for testing initiatives to identify persons with HIV who do not know they are infected.

The CDC estimates that 20 percent of people infected with HIV in the U.S. do not know they are infected. A person who is infected and unaware is 3.5 times more likely to transmit their infection. That group is also responsible for more than half of all new HIV infections in the United States.

The silence from those empowered to protect the public's health is appalling and shameful. But they are not alone in abandoning our brothers and transgender sisters to the epidemic.

For too long, a bright line of division between LGBT equality and HIV prevention,

care and treatment has acted as a barrier. As happened in the early days of the epidemic, it is our community who must pick up the neglected conversation of HIV among our own, and immediately create new, innovative programming to hold responsible, sex positive and fact-based education to the community and beyond. Public health has

an obliteration of a generation of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men as well as transgender women. Equality will mean nothing if half of our brothers and sisters are infected with HIV, struggling to pay thousands of dollars a year for access to life-saving medications – medications which while generally better than a decade

The federal government has known about this threat since 2009. The Michigan Department of Community Health has known about the threat since 2009. How did those appointed to protect the health of the public respond to these prevalence numbers? Silence. There have been no massive press events to highlight these numbers. The state has even admitted it did not bother to share the numbers with AIDS Service Organizations or LGBT groups.

shown it has no compunction about ignoring MSM and allowing this epidemic to decimate a generation, but our leaders in the LGBT equality movement cannot accept this.

It is time to end the silence – from our community, from our leaders and from the government agencies tasked with protecting our health. These numbers mean

ago, still carry significant side effects. Equality requires that our community not only be free and equal under the law, it also demands that infectious disease no longer disproportionately impact our community.

While HIV is not a gay disease, it is disproportionately impacting our community. The silence ends today.



Polly, Pegs, Salads Tossed



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A New York madam by the name of Polly Adler wrote a tell-all best seller about her 30 years in the brothel business. "A House is Not a Home" created a media sensation in 1953.

In 1949 I was 13 when I got an inkling that something was more than "a miss" on my city block. A twenty-year-old asked me if I knew where the "party girls" – said with a wink – hung out. "You know, kid. The whore house."

That summer I delivered groceries for Samhat's Market, a Muslim brothers-owned store, where I also learned a smattering of Arabic: Keef-hollic? (How are you?) Nish-good Allah! (Praise Allah!) Fee-kee honi. (Best left untranslated.)

I also encountered my first "sex worker". Miss Blond Bombshell answered her door in a see-through nightie. I dutifully surrendered my bread, milk, cheese. And, not knowing what else to do, bowed. Instead of a tip I got a cleavage peek. (I would have preferred the tip.)

I'm sure her intentions were meritorious: to help me earn my Boy Scout Badge for exploring unknown, impregnable terrain. To be truthful, I wasn't much interested in her kind of Tenderfoot instruction. (My motto: To light a fire, rub two sticks together. Hard enough. Long enough.)

Probably the most famous 20th century brothel was Salon Kitty. Established by German Gestapo in the fashionable west end of Berlin at the onset of World War II. It was a high-class operation catering to Axis diplomats (German, Italian, Japanese), war heroes, politicians.

Kitty's workers were glamorous machen, motivated not by sex for fun and/or profit but by a sense of patriotic duty to the Vaterland. Heil Hitler! Deutschland uber alles! (Germany over all. Or, more accurately: Germany screwing everybody!)

Kitty Salon was electronically bugged. Girls were trained to tease, titillate, twist classified information from clients. Fascist Italy's Prime Minister Count Ciano was a frequent guest. He was rated an "indolent lay" by staff. Biff! Bam! Ciao, mam!

Few earthshaking diplomatic secrets were ferreted out at Kitty Salon, but everyone had a helluva good time, at least until the Soviet Rooskies came and raped and ravaged the city up one end and down the other.

As far as the spy brothel business goes, we Americans did the Germans one better. We set up a male brothel operated patriotically, cost efficiently, wiretapped, run by the FBI.

The brothel (or "peg house" as it was called) was located near – no big drop your soap! – Gay Street in New York's Greenwich Village. Reports the late, prolific science writer Isaac Asimov, who dug up this steamy item for his "Facts & Figures" collection: "the decor was nautical." (But nice!)

(Purportedly the expression peg house comes from the method male prostitutes were primed by sitting on different size pegs. Today they're called butt plugs. Price range: Just4Us, \$50.)

"The house was staffed with multilingual agents for extracting shipping information from foreign sailors. The FBI claims it was a very successful operation," says Asimov. (Especially for those sailors getting their Caesar salads tossed in the process.)

Ship, ship ahoy! Bend over. Salute. Heil J. Edgar Hoover!

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Matt Barber

If any of my readers have daddy issues and get off on being told “you’re a bad bad boy,” you’ll love Matt Barber’s new slash fiction open letter to the gays.



Published on Feb. 25 on the WND (Wing-Nut Daily) website, Barber’s “An Open Letter to ‘Gay’ Teens” is a sexy romp through love-the-sinner-hate-the-sin land. That is, if you define “sexy” as demoralizing and belittling.

Barber wastes no time “sticking it” to the gays. In the piece’s very title he puts “gay” in quotation marks because he doesn’t believe in gay.

“I’ve had many people ask me what I’d say to my children if one of them came to me and declared: ‘Dad, I’m gay,’” he writes. “I’d tell them exactly what I’m about to tell you. I love you. I neither

judge you nor condemn you. I accept you and I would die for you. But you are not ‘gay.’”

Got that? You aren’t gay. You’re, well, I’ll let Barber explain it: “You are a wonderful, beautiful, precious human being created in the image and likeness of the one righteous and Holy God of the universe.”

Aww, isn’t that sweet? Especially how he considers “wonderful, beautiful, and precious” and “gay” as mutually exclusive categories.

The problem, Barber says, is not that you’re gay, it’s that you’re *doing gay stuff*. Knock that off and everything will be fine.

“Yes, you may be physically attracted to people of the same sex, but how you act on those attractions is entirely your choice,” Barber explains. “Who you are - your identity - is not defined by your sexual feelings, temptations or behaviors. The difference between who you are and what you feel or do is as the [sic] difference between night and day.”

Which leads to the question: If who you are = good and what you do = bad, then in this scenario would night = good and day = bad? Damn it, I wish I’d paid more attention to the story problems in grade school. Is it because “gay” rhymes with “day”? Or does it have to do with the moon and the sun? Wouldn’t that be getting into some kind of pagan shit? I am so confused.

Bottom line, says Barber, “you’re a sinner.” Don’t worry, he admits that he’s a sinner, too. But you’re probably a worse one because “Homosexual behavior is always wrong - demonstrably and absolutely wrong. Period.”

And you know a statement is true when even the punctuation is pronounced.

So if “homosexual behavior” is wrong without exception, if you’re a teenager doing or thinking about doing gay stuff and you’re feeling kind of stressed out about the whole thing, it’s totally your fault.

“If you feel such despair, know this: it is not ‘homophobia’ causing it, as adult enablers might tell you, but, rather, it is the sin itself that causes it,” Barber advises gay teens. “You are being used. Adult homosexual activists with a political agenda are using you as a pawn to achieve selfish goals in a dangerous political game.”

Yes, a dangerous political game called equality. Wanting our families treated with respect. Wanting to be treated like full citizens under the law. Boo!

Barber warns, “If you continue down this wide, empty path, make no mistake: it will not ‘get better.’ It gets much, much worse.”

Is it just me, or is this wildly callous thing to say to a group of young people particularly vulnerable to suicide?

According to the Trevor Project, “LGB youth are 4 times more likely, and questioning youth are 3 times more likely, to attempt suicide as their straight peers.”

Not that Barber would ever entertain the idea that this has anything to do with “loving” people like him. A “dangerous political game,” indeed.

Michigan Democratic Party Leadership Changes At State And LGBT Caucus Level

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - Both the Michigan Democratic Party and the LGBT Caucus changed leadership at the Feb. 23 Michigan Democratic Convention held at Cobo Hall in Detroit. After a contentious battle, and a morning spent making the rounds of the various political camps, Michigan Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer withdrew his nomination with a simple, graceful farewell making Lon Johnson the new party chair.

“It has been a great almost two decades as Chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party. I’ve enjoyed working with all of you. But in the interest of party unity, I’m withdrawing my candidacy as party Chair,” Brewer said to standing ovation.

Brewer’s withdrawal spared the convention from a floor fight and allowed delegates to move forward with the focus of taking back the state House in 2014 and making Gov. Snyder a one-term governor.

In the morning caucuses prior to the afternoon election for party chair, both Brewer and Johnson spoke to the LGBT Caucus. When asked why he did not fill out the candidate’s questionnaire for the Between The Lines Voter Guide last fall, Johnson said that candidates get “dozens and dozens” of them, and added “I want to hit the issue head on. Do I support gay marriage? Do I support the overturn of this draconian law that was in 2004? The answer is yes.”

In the 18 years that he served as Democratic Party Chair, Brewer worked with LGBT people and candidates. “I’m not a fresh face to this community,” Brewer told the caucus, his voice cracking at times. “We’ve been working together since the 80s when I was a volunteer lawyer with the ACLU and we’ve done a lot of great things together over the years. I and the Democratic Party stood with you on marriage equality by being against proposal 2 (in 2004), and I worked very hard on

the work I did last summer to make sure that the Michigan Democratic Party platform came out in favor of marriage equality just like our national platform. It doesn’t stop there. I worked very hard to make sure that our national delegation last summer had a record number of members from this community.

“I’m looking forward to working with Mark, Dave and Garn to build a strong LGBT voice within the Democratic party,” said Stevenson.

Coulter’s term as the chair of the 9th congressional district ended and he declined to seek the position again. Instead he is looking forward to building



Lon Johnson, the new Michigan Democratic Party Chairman. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire

And we have worked to help LGBT candidates all over the state.”

Brewer and Johnson were not the only politicians courting the LGBT Caucus. Elected officials from the state house and state senate as well as county officials also addressed the Caucus, which over 60 people attended.

LGBT Caucus

The LGBT Caucus also changed leaders. Phil Volk, who chaired the organization since 2009, declined to seek another term, leaving attorney Mark LaChey from Saugatuck unopposed. BTL co-publisher Jan Stevenson was elected the first vice chair, Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter was elected second vice chair and Saginaw based Democratic party organizer Garnet Lewis was elected third vice chair.

the LGBT caucus. “I want to increase the presence of LGBT people in part,” Coulter said. “As a community I don’t think we’re as politically active or organized as we could be. In order to have our voice heard, we need to be active. My hope is that with Mark LaChey’s leadership we bring more people to the party.”

Lewis agreed. “I see the LGBTQA caucus actually doing something for its members and the party as a whole. Mark LaChey will be a great leader and Jan and David will provide invaluable expertise. I know that we’ll be meeting soon to strategize for greater visibility and involvement in the MDP and around the state,” she said.

When longtime community activist Michelle Brown asked about the lack diversity in the caucus chair positions, LaChey



Above: From left to right, 2nd Vice Chair Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, 1st Vice Chair Jan Stevenson, 3rd Vice Chair Garnet Lewis and newly elected LGBT Caucus Chair Mark LaChey. Right: LGBT Caucus attendees welcome the new chairs who will be building a board of directors.



said, "I recognize that the chair and vice chairs are all caucasian. There are two men, two women, and four congressional districts." He said he approached others to serve, but that none would and that he hopes to reach out to racial minorities and to youth to get involved and be part of the caucus' board now that the elections are over. He also said that because he knows Stevenson, Coulter and Lewis from work they've done in the past, he trusts them to help move the organization forward and build a diverse board for the caucus.

Volk left with several bits of advice. The first was to encourage youth participation in the Democratic party. The second was to be patient with politicians who may not be as vocal, but still vote with the LGBT community when the time comes.

Duane Breijak, a board member from 2009-2012, spoke about the caucus' successes. In 2009 there was no LGBT caucus. It had come and gone over the years, but no one had successfully pulled off a long-term group.

Lon Johnson

The new Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, Johnson of Kalkaska, grew up in Rockwood, which is downriver of Detroit. According to his website he got his start in politics, "As a high school yearbook photographer, (Lon) found himself stranded at the opening of an auto plant in Flat Rock. Little did he know that afternoon would

change his life. Congressman John Dingell was also attending the opening and offered Lon a ride back to school. The two got to talking and the congressman invited Lon to attend a Michael Dukakis rally the following meeting. After that rally, Lon was hooked on Democratic politics and never looked back."

After graduating from Arizona State, Johnson traveled the country working on various Democratic campaigns. His wife, Juliana Smoot, also has campaigning in her blood. She was deputy manager of President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election.

With speeches that emphasize "winning," "working together," and "energizing" youth with social media, Johnson won over significant groups within in the Michigan Democratic Party to ascend to party chair last weekend.

"Together we win when we build a party that is more than the sum of our parts. Our institutional partners have done great things. They have changed the world. But now we must recognize the power of the individuals to make great change... We win when we practice the politics of addition," Johnson said.

To learn more about the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party visit: www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaususoftheMDP?ref=ts&fref=ts. To find out more about the Michigan Democratic Party, visit www.michigandems.com.

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TOPEKA, KAN.

Kan. Supreme Court Upholds Lesbian Mother's Rights

(AP) – In a ruling hailed by some as a victory for parents in non-traditional relationships, the Kansas Supreme Court has ruled that the non-biological mother of children in a same-sex relationship can have the same parental rights as the biological mother.

Friday's ruling involved two Johnson County women, Kelly Goudschaal and Marci Frazier, who separated after they become parents of two children, now 10 and 8. Court documents indicate the women's relationship began in 1995 and Goudschaal moved out in 2008.

After the separation, Goudschaal moved with the children to Texas and limited Frazier's visitations, The Kansas City Star reported (<http://bit.ly/UULh9b>).

Frazier filed a legal action to enforce a co-parenting agreement between the women that said Frazier's "relationship with the children should be protected and promoted," and that they intended "to jointly and equally share parental responsibility." A Johnson County judge then found that joint custody was "in the best interests of the children" and granted Frazier "reasonable parenting time."

Goudschaal appealed, arguing that the parenting agreement was unenforceable. Her argument was that the courts didn't have authority to address issues of child custody, parenting time and support unless they were presented "in a divorce action involving two married persons, who would necessarily have to be a man and a woman in this state, or when considering a visitation request by a grandparent or stepparent."

The high court, however, said not enforcing the parenting agreement would deny the children the opportunity to have two parents.

ALBANY, N.Y.

Transgender Rights Bill Advances In NY Legislature

(AP) – A bill in Albany would protect gender identity or expression from discrimination and subject violators to a potential hate crime prosecution.

Gender identity would be added to New York state law that already prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, age, sexual orientation and more in issues of housing, credit, employment and others.

The measure has some powerful Democratic sponsors, which could be enough to narrowly carry the bill. Versions of it have been pushed for years by gay and transgender advocates who won the landmark law legalizing same-sex marriage in 2011.

The District of Columbia, 16 states and several cities already have laws protecting gender identity and expression.

New York's large population, many corporate headquarters and national media concentration make it an important state for the effort.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

Sequester Could Lead To Massive Cuts In HIV Testing, Treatment

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is among the many federal programs that will take a hit if \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts go through March 1, and those cuts could potentially lead to an increase in HIV transmission, the White House said Sunday in a report {[URL report www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sequester-factsheets/Washington.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sequester-factsheets/Washington.pdf)} on the anticipated state-by-state impacts of the so-called sequester.

The report - part of the Obama administration's public campaign to encourage a compromise between Congress and the White House in order to avoid the austerity measures - says the budget cuts could lead to a drop in access to life-saving HIV medications and an increase in treatment costs for those infected with the virus.

"Cuts to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program could result in 7,400 fewer patients having access to life saving HIV medications," the report says. "And approximately 424,000 fewer HIV tests could be conducted by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) State grantees, which could result in increased future HIV transmissions, deaths from HIV, and costs in health care."

In the report Michigan, those cuts could result in a loss of \$315,000 in federal dollars used for HIV testing. That could mean 7,900 fewer tests conducted.

"Our leaders in Washington have failed us in a way that will have a detrimental effect on thousands of LGBT people living in Michigan. At a time when we should be paying more attention to HIV/AIDS, this sequester yanks funding away from those vital services. As the number of LGBT related discrimination, harassment, and violence cases increases, this sequester will take away crucial resources from the Equality Michigan Department of Victim Services' over 700 clients from this past year. Equality Michigan demands that our elected officials behave responsibly and end this sequester before it does irreversible damage," said policy director of Equality Michigan Emily Dievendorf.

In Iowa, the state could lose \$61,000, resulting in 1,500 fewer HIV tests, while Florida - one of the states hardest hit by the HIV epidemic - could lose \$1.4 million, resulting in nearly 36,000 fewer HIV tests.

This news comes at a time when LGBT leaders and AIDS service organizations in

the U.S. are struggling to address a sharp increase in new HIV cases in young men who have sex with men. At the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change conference held in Atlanta last month, CDC official Gregorio Millett released disturbing data estimating that in 30 years half of the current population of 20-year-old men who have sex with men will be infected with HIV. For black men who have sex with men in that cohort, the infection prevalence rate is estimated to reach 70 percent in that same time frame.

Until earlier this year, thousands of Americans infected with the virus were on waiting lists to gain access to HIV medications. The drugs can cost thousands of dollars a

In Michigan, those sequester cuts could result in a loss of \$315,000 in federal dollars used for HIV testing. That could mean 7,900 fewer tests conducted. This news comes at a time when LGBT leaders and AIDS service organizations in the U.S. are struggling to address a sharp increase in new HIV cases in young men who have sex with men.

month, but without them, most people grow very sick, increasing their health-care costs even further. The Obama administration in July 2012 distributed \$69 million to 25 states to eliminate the waiting lists for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs in those states, but some people continue to wait for support to access the drugs.

Public health officials have often touted HIV treatment as a successful prevention method, citing several studies showing that when a person is on successful anti-retroviral medication care - meaning the virus is nearly undetectable in the blood - he or she is significantly less likely to transmit the infection.

But not having access to the medications can lead some who are infected to grow sick quickly and possibly die from complications from the infection. For those currently taking powerful HIV-treating drugs, losing access to that medicine could cause their bodies to develop resistant strains of HIV. Those strains are transmissible, and a CDC official told The

American Independent that 16 percent of new HIV infections each year are resistant to one or more HIV medications currently available. Resistant strains make the virus more difficult to treat, create more complicated treatment protocols, and end up costing more per person with HIV.

In addition to the issues surrounding treatment, a reduction in testing could also trigger an increase in new infections. Studies show that in the U.S., 20 percent of persons infected with HIV do not know they harbor the virus, but it's worse among men who have sex with men. A 2010 study found that while one in five gay and bisexual men in 21 U.S. cities was infected with HIV, 44 percent of them were unaware of their infection. Last November, the CDC reported that about 60 percent of young people ages 13 to 24 living with HIV were unaware they were infected.

Studies show that those who are infected but unaware of their status are three-and-half times more likely to transmit their infection.

HIV activist Laurel Sprague, the regional Coordinator for the North American affiliate of the Global Network of People Living with HIV, was shocked by the White House's analysis.

"Cuts to HIV testing and treatment mean that, in Michigan and around the country, testing will not be as easily available to our young people and that the many young people who lack good private health insurance will be challenged to find the medical care they need," Sprague said in an email.

"The consequences are clear," she continued. "In the short term, we will see more of these young people die of AIDS. There will be long term effects as well. This is not a system that can simply be reversed once members of Congress finally decide to live up to their responsibilities. The community viral load will remain high and the cycle of new infections between people who do not know their HIV status will continue. Those newly infected will not learn of their status or receive timely treatment, increasing their risk of death as well."

This story was originally reported here <http://americanindependent.com/218735/sequester-could-lead-to-massive-cuts-in-hiv-testing-treatment>

Prominent GOPs Sign Brief Against Prop 8

BY LISA KEEN

The talk of many political pundits this week is a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court filed by a group of prominent Republicans that argues that California's Proposition 8, banning marriage for same-sex couples, violates the federal constitutional rights of gay people.

The brief has not yet been filed with the Supreme Court but was reported on Monday (Feb. 25) by the New York Times, which was given an advance copy of the document. Times reporter Sheryl Gay Stolberg said she could not release the brief or the list of signers to other reporters, and attempts to obtain the brief elsewhere have been, so far, unsuccessful.

But, according to Stolberg's article, the brief argues that California's ban, as well as "all similar bans," violates the U.S. constitution. As of Monday, she reported, 75 people had signed onto the amicus (friend-of-the-court) brief, including "a string of Republican officials and influential thinkers."

Signers identified by the Times include former California gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman, who supported Proposition 8 in 2008, two years prior to her unsuccessful bid for office. Former Republican governors Christine Whitman of New Jersey, William Weld, Paul Cellucci, and Jane Swift of Massachusetts, Gary Johnson of New Mexico, and Jon Huntsman of Utah have also signed the brief.

Other signers include U.S. Reps. Richard Hanna of New York and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, and former Reps. Deborah Pryce of Ohio, Mary Bono Mack and Michael Huffington of California, and Connie Morella of Maryland.

Signers also include numerous officials from the administration of President Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, including Reagan White House Chief of Staff Kenneth Duberstein and Reagan budget director David Stockman.

The American Foundation for Equal Rights issued a press release Tuesday (February 26) saying the signers include more than 80 "political conservatives, moderates, and libertarians," including openly gay former U.S. Rep. James Kolbe and openly gay Mary Cheney, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

AFER's list also identifies signers to include Republican media advisor Alex Castellanos and numerous officials from the

2012 Republican presidential campaign of Mitt Romney.

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Gergory Angelo said the list is important because "Republicans who support the freedom to marry for committed gay and lesbian couples can no longer be dismissed as a small fringe of the party."

"The individuals who signed on to this Proposition 8 brief are some of the party's most respected and influential individuals," said Angelo. "They understand that there is a conservative case to be made for marriage equality, and we hope other Republican leaders follow their bold lead and support marriage for all Americans."

Freedom to Marry Executive Director Evan Wolfson said the list demonstrates that support for marriage equality "mainstream position that reflects American values of freedom, family, and fairness, as well as conservative values of limited government and personal responsibility."

The Times reported that the openly gay former chairman of the Republican National Committee, Ken Mehlman, spent "months" quietly gathering signatures from Republican peers.

According to the Times, the brief cites some very high-profile Supreme Court decisions in its reasoning, including the controversial campaign finance decision *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, and a controversial gun ownership case, *D.C. v. Heller*.

Producers of the brief have until Friday (February 28) to submit it to the court. At that time, it will become a public document available through the court's website.

The U.S. Supreme Court will oral arguments in the Proposition 8 case on March 26. It will hear arguments in the DOMA case March 27. Briefs in support of striking down DOMA are due March 13.

ONLINE:

Link to AFER list of who signed:
<http://www.afer.org/press-releases/conservative-leaders-to-file-amicus-curiae-brief-calling-on-supreme-court-to-recognize-marriage-equality-for-all-in-proposition-8-case>

Link to NYTimes article:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/26/us/politics/prominent-republicans-sign-brief-in-support-of-gay-marriage.html>

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Participants enjoy the 2012 EXPO. BTL photos: Andrew Potter



Laura Zain, bottom right, is the founder of Tail Waggers. Photos courtesy of Tail Waggers

Tail Waggers And Bissell Chip In To Get Animals Into Digital Database

SPRING PET GUIDE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Animals of Inkster and Garden City have a golden opportunity, thanks to Tail Waggers in Livonia and the Bissell Technology Foundation who are partnering on an animal microchipping program. Tail Waggers offers low cost microchipping and other services regardless of income or residency,

but special assistance is available for those two target cities.

Laura Zain, founder of Tail Waggers, is glad to have the opportunity to microchip more pets. "It really increases the reuniting of the pet and an owner. When people find an animal, their instinct is to take it to the police or a shelter. By law these places have to check for a microchip. The animals won't go up for adoption or be euthanized if they have a chip while they are looking for the owner."

Tail Waggers has done microchipping for four years, and with Bissell underwriting for about six months. Zain said the funding is helping them do microchipping in a targeted area where the effect should be measurable. The normal cost is \$30 per pet, which includes Tail Waggers handling the sometimes inconvenient task of registering the animal in the database that can be checked should the animal be found.

On top of the microchipping, Tail Waggers provides services

to help pet owners. "Most rescue organizations help adopt animals, but we are a little different in that our focus is on home-owned animals. People are struggling and they can't pay their bills. Animals are getting surrendered because people can't feed their pets.

"We have a Pantry 4 Paws where people can get donated food for their pets. People also put off vaccinations because of the cost. Our vaccinations are low cost, and we have spay and neuter services that are low cost."

Her heart goes out to people and animals that suffer. "There are people who have lost everything – their jobs, maybe their families, their homes. For many people their pet is the only thing they have left. We make it possible for those people to keep this source of companionship with them."

Pantry 4 Paws serves over 50 animals each week, and overall the organization has 15-20 regular

See Tail Waggers, page 16

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The Six Funniest Pet Videos of All Time!*

***In One
Writer's
Opinion**

SPRING PET GUIDE

BY DAWN WOLFE

When you search the Internet for funny pet videos, what do you find?

Cats. And more cats.

Seriously - there's even an Internet Cat Video Film Festival (<http://gaybe.am/p1>). Do videos of dogs get the same attention? No way - nor do other beloved pets ranging from guinea pigs to boa constrictors. (Not that there's

anything necessarily funny about boa constrictors. Especially if you're a mouse.)

But while cats rule the Internet (<http://gaybe.am/p2>), the fact is that it is possible to find funny videos of other pets online - you just have to be willing to do the research. It was a hard and arduous task, but after taking a highly unscientific poll of one (this writer), BTL has found the six funniest pet videos on the Internet (and yes, most of them are videos of cats). Here they are, in highly subjective order:

Number 6: Snowball is a popular guy; this video alone has more than three million views on YouTube! <http://gaybe.am/p3>

Number 5: Poor puppy! How can his kitty be in the room and on the computer at the same time? <http://gaybe.am/p4>

Number 4: Cat meets snow. Snow meets cat. Giggles ensue. <http://gaybe.am/p5>



Henri's Le Chat Noir took top honors. Find out why at HenriLeChatNoir.com

Number 3: Les Chats Ninjas. Yes - the urban legends are true! (One in a series - WARNING: these videos are definitely NSFP (Not Safe for Productivity)) <http://gaybe.am/p6>

Number 2: L'Art de la seduction. Cats and birds, living together! <http://gaybe.am/p7>

Number 1: By now virtually everyone with an Internet connection knows Henri, Le Chat Noir, (www.henrilechatnoir.com) whose first video took the top honors at the Internet Cat Video Film Festival. But Henri is a philosopher of many opinions - and our number one pick for Funniest Pet Video of All Time (at least for now) featured Henri on Halloween: <http://gaybe.am/p8>



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Photo courtesy Michigan Humane Society. For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID numbers, 727652-53. Photo courtesy Michigan Humane Society.



“There are people who have lost everything – their jobs, maybe their families, their homes. For many people their pet is the only thing they have left. We make it possible for those people to keep this source of companionship with them.”

– Laura Zain

► Tail Waggers

Continued from p. 12

volunteers. Tail Waggers began in 1989 as what was supposed to be a one-time fundraiser in honor of an aunt who used to feed stray animals out of the back room of a bar in Detroit. But once Zain saw the difference the support had made, she knew she needed to continue. Keeping an all-volunteer staff, Tail Waggers has grown over the years, and moved into its own storefront location. Zain is in the process of having a Spay and Neuter clinic constructed to further the Tail Waggers' impact.

On top of all that, Tail Waggers will also be doing 15 clinics from March to September where they'll travel to near-by communities

and do low-cost vaccinations. And while they don't do animal adoptions, they can connect people to resources they need in that area.

One big fundraiser that's coming up is the Chili, Hoops and Hounds chili cook-off which takes place March 23 at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Rd, Livonia. from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with all-you-can eat chili for \$15 or samples from contestants for \$1 each. Judging takes place at 3 p.m., and there is still room for more teams to enter.

To learn more about Tail Waggers and their services or events, check them out at <http://www.TailWaggers1990.org/>. You can also contact them at 734.855.4077 or TailWaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics

Tail Waggers is kicking off their community low-cost vaccination clinics beginning March 10th at Premier Pet Supply in Beverly Hills.

In a strong effort to enable pet owners to affordably vaccinate all their animals, Tail Waggers will again conduct multiple, low-cost vaccination clinics throughout Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. These clinics are open to everyone, regardless of income level and pet owners are encouraged to take advantage of this simple way to get their pets up-to-date on their vaccinations. To date, 15 clinics are scheduled, across 8 different cities from March through September.

The vaccination clinics will kick-off March 10 at Premier Pet Supply located at 31215 Southfield Rd. in Beverly Hills from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For dogs, rabies, distemper/parvo and bordetella come as a package for only \$30 or can be purchased individually for only \$12 each. For cats, rabies and distemper can be purchased individually for only \$12 each. Microchips are available and cost \$30. Registration is included with Microchip fee.

Zain says that “with the challenging times we are all facing today, it is with high hopes that people of all income levels will continue to take advantage of our Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics and get their pets properly vaccinated to avoid further health issues. Expanding into Washtenaw and Livingston County shows there is a need and demand to assist pet owners with affordable pet health care”.

No appointment is needed but an RSVP to help Tail Waggers' staff plan better. To RSVP, call 734-855-4077 or e-mail vaccinationclinic@yahoo.com.

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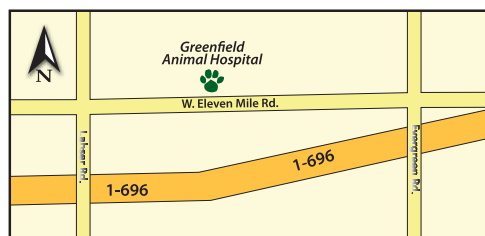
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Wag'n Tails Pet Resort Knows The Importance Of Good Grooming

SPRING PET GUIDE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Grooming one's four-legged companion is not a luxury, but a part of care that every pet owner should take seriously. Not only does it make the animal look good, it makes them feel good and helps them stay healthy.

Tom Metevier of Wag'n Tails Pet Resort in Lansing is a Certified Master Groomer with over 20 years in the business. For the past 15 years he's owned the Wag'n Tails Resort, a place where animals can be groomed, boarded, pet sat and socialized in a comfortable, home-like environment.

The end of winter is a great time to get your dog groomed, Metevier said, "Dogs tend to be inside a lot more than out. They pick up dust just like your furniture does. Because their coats grow seasonally the end of winter is best for shampooing and brushing them out, as well as getting them clipped."

Grooming includes "combing and brushing, cutting nails, plucking hair from ears, and parasite control."

The nails are an important part of overall animal health. "You should keep the nails short so they're walking on their pads. If they're walking on their nails it puts pressure on their skeletal system and causes arthritis over time."

Another part of a good grooming is that a professional groomer will look over the animal and tell the owner if there are any signs of fleas or skin problems, or other signs of deteriorating health. They can also give advice if the dog seems to be having problems, such as itchy skin, bad breath or other unusual smells.

The biggest perk of grooming though, Metevier said, is "a happy dog. We like our animals clean and the dogs are happier too. They know when they're fluffy and clean."



Wag'n Tails employee Claire. Photo courtesy of Wag'n Tails.

One of the perks is seeing the client happy and the dog excited with all this energy. It's a passion for us."

Metevier started the Pet Resort because he "knows what pets can do for people," he said. "Having a pet gives us a sense of being wanted, and loved. And that sense of responsibility. It reminds you that you're needed. I love that phrase 'if I can just be the person my dog thinks I am.' That's how a dog or a cat makes you feel, like a good person."

The 12 person staff of Wag'n Tails Pet Resort is ready to help with animal grooming or boarding needs. Their website has Q & A about grooming and other pet-related subjects, as well as information about their services. Learn more at www.wagntailspetresort.net.

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Michigan Animal Lover Making International Waves

SPRING PET GUIDE

BY DAWN WOLFE

Out in “the boonies” between Flint and Lansing, a new animal rights and shelter organization headed by a gay mid-Michigan man is attracting international attention.

“Our first donation, \$150, came from Belgium,” explained Executive Director L. David Farr of Advocates for Animal Rights (AFAR), which is currently providing a range of services from fostering animals to grief services for owners who have lost their beloved pets.

AFAR (<http://advocatesforanimalrights.org>), which recently formally incorporated as a non-profit, continues to see support from across the pond thanks to a grant of \$10,000 in digital services provided by the U.S.-based Grassroots.org (www.grassroots.org). The gift has made it possible for AFAR to work with a web site designer in France and to have an Italian logo designer.

Why the buzz? For one thing, AFAR is the only organization of its kind operating in the middle of the state. The other reason, though, is the obvious enthusiasm and dedication of Farr and his team of all-volunteer board members and volunteer animal foster homes. Farr is so committed to helping animals, in fact, that he is currently taking care of eleven special needs dogs and a number of birds in his own home.

Unsurprisingly, cats that are rescued by AFAR find homes with other volunteers.

While AFAR started officially in 2007, Farr said that his family has always taken in animals in need. After a forced retirement brought on by a disability, making animal rescue his full-time volunteer job just seemed like the natural thing to do.

Farr and his volunteer crew want AFAR to go well beyond fostering and rehabilitating rescued animals. In addition to their fostering work, the organization offers a “Disaster Response Team”



Jake came to AFAR afflicted with Parvo-virus. He's now a healthy, happy – and adopted – dog. Photos courtesy of AFAR

for caregivers and beloved pets in crises as well as the grief counseling services for newly-bereft pet owners. While providing these services, AFAR is raising money for two eventual animal sanctuaries – one for domesticated animals including farm animals, and one for wild animals – and wants to provide services and advocacy on a number of fronts. Helping “animal hoarders” become informed, responsible animal caretakers and operating a long-term care facility for the pets of US military personnel and veterans are among AFAR’s ambitions.

Right now, Farr said, “One hundred percent of the funds we receive are going into rescue services. We are also taking from our own pockets,” to make sure the animals in their care receive the help they need.

Farr, who is also an LGBT advocate, said that he is concentrating his post-career career on working with and for animals because, “[W]e share our world with many other beings. I believe that we need to have compassion and offer assistance for all who are disadvantaged, because we know how it feels.”

For more information or to make a donation to AFAR visit the organization’s website at: <http://advocatesforanimalrights.org>.

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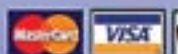
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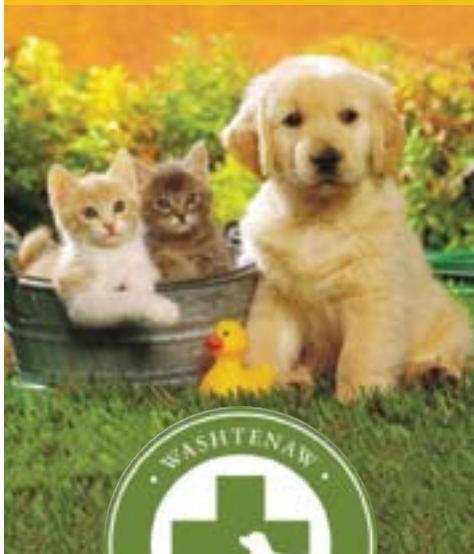


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Reasons To Get Your Poop Scoop On

SPRING PET GUIDE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Bill Field has been poop scooping for 13 years. And while the ins and outs of the animal waste removal business may not make for a glamorous story, the reasons behind it are worth understanding.

Field is the owner of Highland-based Poop 911, a company that does weekly and one-time animal feces clean ups. His company goes all over southeast Michigan, making the world a cleaner place one yard at a time. "Nobody really likes to pick up waste," Field said, "so it's a pretty common thing among all walks of life, from trailer parks to mansions."

The main reason for his success is the distastefulness of the work. But many customers value that it's more than just unpleasant.

"Waste that's left in the yard gets down into the ground water. The waste can get washed by the rain into yards where kids might play.

"It's terrible for dogs. You don't want them out there running around in that," Field said.

The poop can also attract unwanted critters to a backyard, including rats.

Another reason people hire poop scooping companies is that often lawn maintenance services will refuse to do landscaping on a yard that is not clean.

What sets Poop 911 apart, Field said, is that many companies will come and clean a yard, but then leave the waste in a bag

Poop 911 goes all over Southeast Michigan, making the world a cleaner place one yard at a time.

on the property. This can still end up being problematic for a homeowner or property manager, especially if rats tend to get into the garbage. "We have our own dumpster off site where it gets disposed of properly and they don't have to worry about it," he said.

While over 200 customers each week enjoy a regularly scheduled cleaning, Poop 911 does get a spike in business early in the spring when the snow melts and the presents left behind in the winter are finally revealed.

For price estimates for one-time or weekly animal waste removal, contact Bill Field of Poop 911 at (877) 469-8314. Or check out his website at <http://www.poop911.com/michigan-detroit.shtml>.

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Troupe Delves Into British Gay History

The New Theatre Project Explores Life Of King Edward II

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

ANN ARBOR—“Edward the Second” is more than an excuse to put naked men on stage.

It’s an appeal to get younger people attending theater while exploring the intersections of love and lust, of hedonism and responsibility, and of power and subservience.

The New Theatre Project produces its first historical adaptation, returning to playwright Jason Sebacher to adapt Christopher Marlowe’s “Edward II,” the story of a gay king whose lust trumped all other royal concerns.

“The Marlowe play in which our piece is based on is an almost shocking look at homosexuality,” said director Keith Paul Medelis. “It features some of the most sexually honest and frank dialogue about the love of a king for his boyfriend based on historical fact about King Edward II. Those used to seeing hetero-normativity in classical theater will have their views challenged here.”

The adaptation, “Edward the Second,” condenses the story to four characters and focuses on the first half of the play.

“The thing we most enjoy is classical text and reinventing it in some way,” Medelis said. “We’re also interested in LGBT characters and themes. This happens to be one of those plays. Marlowe is pretty well known for being a homosexual, so was Edward II. Edward II ruled England with his boyfriend.”

Sebacher has adapted many works for New Theatre Project, including “Posing,” “The Spring Awakening Project,” and “The Tempest Project.” This is their first history.

“The New Theatre Project is very interested in taking old stories and making them new,” Sebacher said. “(Edward II) is a story at its heart that is very urgent. It must urgently be heard by all people—but in my mind especially the younger crowd. It is the story of a young man who graduates from whatever and is unready for adulthood.”

Chris Jakob, who plays Edward II in the adaptation, said he has found the king

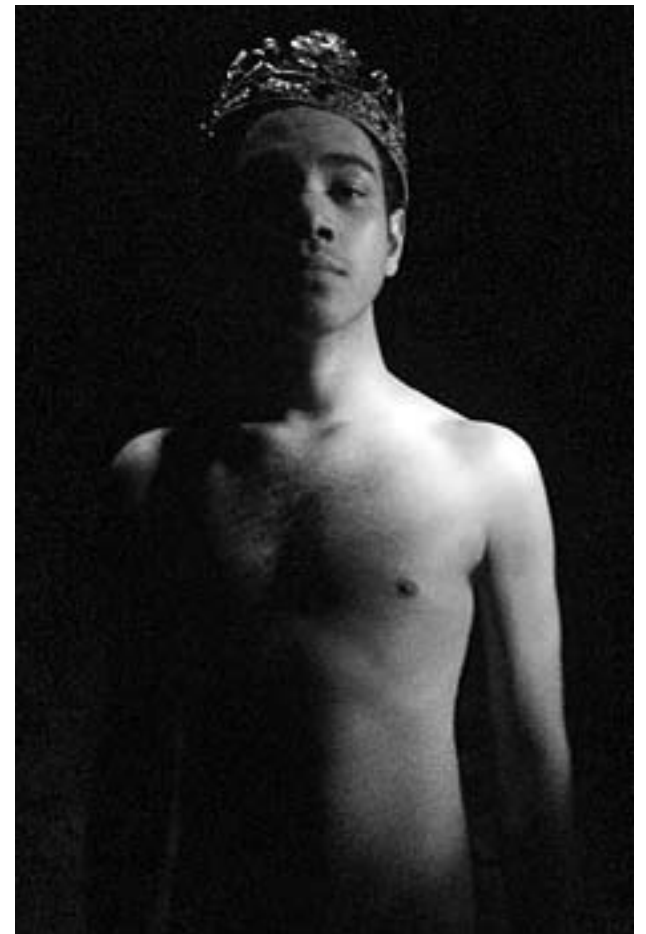
to have a true beauty to him even though he can sometimes be a monster.

“He is young and is thrust into this role and has to take on all the responsibilities,” said Jakob, saying he focuses on keeping the character young. “This boy (his lover) is the only thing that matters. Everything else comes second. He’s there to do whatever he wants and no one can say anything to him really. No one can stop him from flipping out and making his boyfriend the archbishop. He really can do whatever he wants and be as drunk as he wants. Then people look to him and things get real. He can’t just be a child, he has to be a king.”

It is the youth of the king that all three agree makes this story relevant and urgent. Edward inherits while unready. He gets rid of all the old advisors and replaces them with his boyfriend and the two youths run rampant.

“They have a love fest on the throne because they think they know better,” Medelis said. “It is this naïve young lust that we are interested in focusing

See Edward, page 37



The New Theatre Project presents “Edward the Second,” an original adaptation of Marlowe’s “Edward II” by Jason Sebacher beginning March 1. Photo: Courtesy of TNTP



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Jim Toy Resource Center... 5
Lewis Jewelers... *
Men's Yoga... *

Mitchell Gold & Bob Williams... 8
Natures Garden Center... *
Necto... 9
Orion Automotive Services Inc... *
Out Loud Chorus... *
People's Food Coop... 10
Performance Network... 11
The Pet Emporium... *
Peterson, PLLC, Lisa J. ... 12
PFLAG Ann Arbor... *
Rosenberg, David... 7
Sh'aut\ Cabaret and Gallery... 5

Spectrum Center... 13
Three Chairs Co... 14
Tios Mexican Cafe... 15
Top of the Lamp... *
Trillium Real Estate... 5
Two Men And A Truck... *
UMHS Comprehensive
Gender Services Program... *
University Musical Society... 16
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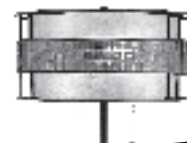
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The Laughing Stock



Clockwise from left: Bridget McManus, Ted Morris, Gloria Bigelow and Jackie Monahan.

Meet This Year's ComedyFest Performers

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

Some of the country's funniest comedians are coming to the Michigan LGBT ComedyFest at 8 p.m. March 9. Bridget McManus, Ted Morris, Jackie Monahan and Gloria Bigelow will perform during the 17th

annual event at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Bridget McManus

How long have you been funny?

I guess I have been funny since I was about 3 years old. But I am not sure if other people thought I was funny back then.

When and how did you come out?

I told my older gay sister I was queer when I was about 14 and she pretty much gave me a high five. She lives in Seattle now with her wife

and my nephew. I'm actually expecting my new nephew in April. I came out to my mom when I was about 20 years old. She took it hard but she came to accept it after a lot of time and love.

Who makes you laugh?

My wife and my dogs make me laugh. Eddie Izzard is great. I love Amy Poehler. I really like Aziz Ansari. Zach Galifianakis is brilliant. I love comedians that don't always do the same things and constantly surprise themselves.

Who is the easiest celebrity to joke about?

I like writing about Hillary Clinton and Judge Judy – strong women who are just bad ass.

What's the best and worst part about being a comedian?

The best part is that it is a fantastic way to connect with people all over the world. I have had the opportunity to go to France and Germany – no matter where you go, people love to laugh. The worst part is when you are alone writing and constantly self-editing. I will ask my wife or family how they feel about a joke, but the writing part can be maddening.

Where were you five years ago and where do you see yourself five years from now?

Five years ago I was living in a studio apartment; my wife and I weren't quite

INFO

ComedyFest

8 p.m. March 9 (\$35)
Dearborn's Ford Community
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www.comedyfest.org

together yet. We celebrate our five-year anniversary later this year. Five years from now I hope I am working with people who don't know how brilliant they are, like Lena Dunham. I love the show "Girls." Who knew how brilliant she was five years ago?

What are you looking forward to most about the ComedyFest?

I love doing gay shows. The audience always seems to have really open arms, minds and hearts. And I get the chance to perform with my friends Gloria and Jackie.

Ted Morris

How long have you been funny?

I've been funny since the womb. But, I've been doing standup for about 12 years. I was an improv guy and one day I went to support a friend who was trying standup – he wasn't really good. I found it interesting and I thought I'd like to do that.

When and how did you come out?

I was in vet school at the University of Guelph. I didn't realize that you had to come out to date people. So I was a late bloomer and came out when I was 24 or 25. I had a coming out party and invited everybody.

Who makes you laugh?

Debra DiGiovanni makes me giggle a lot. I like Mike Wilmoth; he is one of my favorite Canadian comedians.

Who is the easiest celebrity to joke about?

Anyone who is full of themselves.

What is the best and worst part about being a comedian?

The best part is making people laugh. I love when you push them to the point that they snort their drinks out of their noses. The worst part is when that doesn't happen.

Where were you five years ago and where do you see yourself five years from now?

Five years ago I decided that I wasn't just going to do comedy as a hobby. I wanted to push myself. Five years from now, I hope I am doing this full-time in the States and the U.K., and working on a sitcom.

What are you looking forward to most about the ComedyFest?

I don't get to perform in front of gay audiences a lot. I don't know if I am gay enough for them here in Canada.

www.PrideSource.com

Jackie Monahan

How long have you been funny?

I've been funny since I was about 3 or 4 years old. I would run up to people with mustaches and call them daddy just to freak out my mom. We'd be at the grocery store and my mom would tell me to pick out the cereal I wanted and I would say "OK, as long as you don't beat me again."

When and how did you come out?

Coming out was easy for me. I told my mom and she went straight to therapy. If I would've known she was going to have that reaction, I would've come out when I was 3 years old. I identify now as a bisexual. I'm really just attracted to energy.

Who makes you laugh?

My best friend, Tom Van Wie, is the funniest guy I know. He and I have a sketch show at The Comedy Store in L.A. right now. I love Madeline Kahn – her timing and her quirkiness.

What is the best and worst part about being a comedian?

It's the best excuse for everything. Anytime I get into trouble I say, "I'm just kidding." I am 37 and I act like I am 23. I can get away with it now. The worst part is that a lot of other comedians take comedy too seriously.

Gloria Bigelow

How long have you been funny?

I've been funny since I was a kid, but back then it was as a defense when I was the only black kid in my neighborhood.

When and how did you come out?

I knew I was gay when I was about 12 or 13. I came out on my 25th birthday to a girl I knew was a lesbian and was hot.

Who makes you laugh?

I have a lot of laughter in my life. I work at a small charter school in Hollywood and the kids make me laugh. It's funny because they come to me, of all people, for discipline.

What is the best and worst part about being a comedian?

The best part is making people laugh and watching someone double over. There is nothing better than that feeling. The worst part is sitting through a homophobic, misogynist comedian who goes on before me. That happens a lot because comedy is so male-dominated – and it's annoying every time.

What are you looking forward to most about the ComedyFest?

Being able to do a show with Jackie and Bridget is going to be so much fun. I did my first special with Bridget. It's so great to do a show with them and just sit, watch them and laugh.

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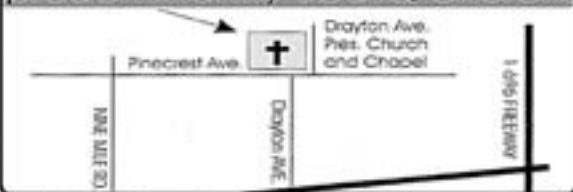
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Feb. 28

Free HIV Testing 5 p.m. Free, anonymous HIV testing is available at S3 Safe Sex Store every other Thursday until 9 p.m. Testing is performed by HARC staff. Call to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins are more than welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. Info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

PFLAG Battle Creek 7 p.m. Meets monthly at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Affiliated with BC Pride. PFLAG Battle Creek, 16 E. Van Buren, Battle Creek.

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

Friday, March 1

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Rita Rudner: Live from Las Vegas; Grab a front-row seat for this entertaining evening of stand-up by renowned comedian Rita Rudner, recorded live from Harrah's Las Vegas, where she has performed her show a record-breaking 2,000 times. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

Saturday, March 2

Oasis Ministry of Michigan: TBLG Outreach 5:30 p.m. Using the "Holden Evensong," Oasis strives to reach out to those who may be trying to grasp how one can be an LGBT person and a part of a church or of any faith community. Meets the first Saturday of every month. Oasis, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor. OasisMinistryMI.org

Sunday, March 3

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Revenge - whom would you target and what would you do? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

Wednesday, March 6

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. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Road Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-573-9932. GoAffirmations.org

Wild Wednesday 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18. Dedicated to Make a Change, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

Beloved Hearts 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group (LGBT and allies) for those who are grieving the death of a loved one (including pets). Meets every Wednesday. Call for information and address. Get Out And Live!, Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

Transgender SOS 7 p.m. A safe space for spouses, partners, family and friends of transgender people. Ages 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

P.L.U.S. Youth Group 9 p.m. For Middle and High school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age, going through the same issues as they. Meets every Wednesday. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/calendar/

Thursday, March 7

Free HIV Testing with S3 and HARC 5 p.m. Free and confidential HIV testing provided by HIV/AIDS Resource Center at S3 Safe Sex Store. Call ahead to schedule an appointment, or simply walk-in. Appointments take approximately 20-30 minutes. Testing is provided the first and third Thursday of the month at S3. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. s3safesexstore.com

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. GoAffirmations.org

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

5th Annual Boogie Bowl Fundraiser 7 p.m. Grace Centers of Hope hosts the 5th Annual Boogie Bowl Striking Out Homelessness 70s themed disco fundraiser. Begins with registration followed by glow bowling. Proceeds benefit the life-saving programs and services provided to the homeless men, women and children at Grace Centers of Hope. Tickets: \$35. Includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, complimentary pizza and soft drinks. Non-bowlers can participate for \$15 and all guests have the opportunity to enter raffles and contests, including Best Costume. Grace Centers of Hope, 400 W. Maple Road, Troy. 248-334-2187 ext. 11. Cdejeu@gracecentersofhope.org Gracecentersofhope.org

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Bar Girls;



Editor's Pick

The Flint Institute of Arts' Annual Wine Tasting event returns for its 14th year, March 9. Along with a unique wine selection, enjoy live entertainment, gourmet fare from area restaurants/bakeries and a stroll through the galleries. Current exhibits include "Winfred Rembert: Amazing Grace," "African American Works on Paper," "Explorations in Space" and "Around the World with 80 Objects."

Guests will also have the opportunity to place orders for their favorite wines of the evening at a reduced rate. Each guest will receive a complimentary tasting glass. Meet and sample wines with special guest Dan Farley of J & R Importers.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. March 9 at the Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. All are also invited to take part in the VIP Reception at 6 p.m. prior to the main event. Admission is \$60 for members, \$75 for non-members. VIP reception and main event admission is \$85 for members, \$105 for non-members. For more information, go to www.FlintArts.org.

Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.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. Crystal@jimtoycenter.org

Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters shows others how to listen effectively, think on their feet, speak confidently and learn valuable leadership skills. Meets the first Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Kevinolmstead76@yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

Friday, March 8

GLSEN 6 p.m. Social and discussion group for members of local high school LGBT groups. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road,

Stood up yet again at Los Angeles' Girl Bar by her gorgeous but flaky girlfriend, successful TV cartoon writer Loretta fears she may never find her soul mate. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Saturday, March 9

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Initiative 8 a.m. Full-day conference with lunch and breakfast. The goals of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Initiative are to provide a safe and welcoming space, to create a more supportive and inclusive campus climate that encourages the success of all students, staff, faculty and administrators regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, to increase awareness of the realities that face gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex (GLBTQQI) people, and to advocate for the larger GLBTQQI community. SOGI, 2200 N. Squirrel Road,

Rochester. Oakland.edu/sogi/2012

SOGI Education Conference 8 a.m. General Registration: \$100. Student Registration: \$25 Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 248-370-4614. Sogi@oakland.edu Oakland.edu/sogi

Crossroads 7 p.m. Dedicated to serving the needs of transgender individuals. Meets the second Saturday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Social group for metro area bears. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Comedyfest 8 p.m. With performances from Jackie Monahan, Gloria Bigelow, Ted Morris, Bridget McManus. Tickets: \$35. Equality Michigan, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Comedyfest.org

Sunday, March 10

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion group with facilitator. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over - join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Is it possible

to deal with extreme violence without using force in return? How can we deal with bullies without becoming one in return? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

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See Happenings, page 35

www.PrideSource.com

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Tim McGraw, Jewel



Tim McGraw, 'Two Lanes of Freedom'

"Two Lanes of Freedom" is a significant departure for the country-music stud who's so brand new, his wardrobe now includes butt-hugging white pants. He takes advantage of this newfound liberation – he's officially free from Curb Records (his label home for two decades before recently signing with Big Machine for this outing) – and blends the grits-and-biscuit sound he's been angling for most of his career with a classic-rock edge and Coldplay histrionics. The climb during the "whoa, whoa" chorus of the big and propulsive title track is pure Byron Gallimore, the man responsible for such slick mainstream makeovers as Faith Hill's crossover "Breathe" and Sugarland's pop sound-behemoth "The Incredible Machine." Gallimore's glossy production on "Two Lanes of Freedom" is similarly chic on the atmospheric slow-builder "Friend of a Friend" and experimental "Southern Girl." Hawking them to a broader demographic with a definite push to capture the under-20 crowd who didn't grow up on McGraw's "Don't Take the Girl," the songs are so indicative of country music's Taylor Swift-ing that "Highway Don't Care" even features Taylor Swift. Get over the creepy fact that McGraw is twice her age and this desperate song of longing and love builds into a night-drive stunner. You can't fault Tim for wanting

to appeal to the tweens, and this album is often successful at doing so, but the line about jamming out to Lil Wayne during the alpha-male twanger "Truck Yeah"? That's one step too far. *Grade: B-*



Jewel, 'Greatest Hits'

When Jewel Kilcher found her place among the pop-diva and gangsta sounds of the mid-'90s, she had two things going for her: a harrowing story of survival and songs that could (and would) reach the masses. It was with 1995's "Pieces of You" – her debut, a powerhouse that produced three of her career's biggest singles – that Jewel became a bona fide singer-songwriter success, selling in excess of 12 million copies. Over nearly 20 years, she's gone from straight-up folkie to dance siren sellout and, finally, country darling – the natural progression of which is evident during this all-inclusive "Greatest Hits," the musician's first collection. Career-launchers like "Who Will Save Your Soul" and "Foolish Games," not the original album version but the slicker commercial single (Kelly Clarkson adds power-ballad vocals on an

intense bonus take), are her origins, except Jewel refused to stay on the sensitive singer-songwriter train. The breakthrough to achieving complete country-girl status – a gradual evolution noticeable via the alt-rockish "Standing Still" and cinched with the total immersion of "Stronger Woman" – was a more authentic folk-sound extension than the dance direction taken on "0304." But "Intuition" still has a place here, if only to remind you of the feminine hygiene product it became associated with. The album's genre-ambiguous Top 40-sounding new single, "Two Hearts Breaking," doesn't forebode Jewel's future, but why would it? Her hands, they are her own, and she'll do whatever she wants with them. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



The Deer Tracks, 'The Archer Trilogy Pt. 3'

The last installment of the Swedish duo's trilogy – released in three parts a la "Body Talk" – glistens with twitchy pop, icy lullabies and symphonic bursts of celestial bliss. Sound familiar? Of course it does. David Lehnberg and vocalist Elin Lindfors' aural schizophrenia is, essentially, Björk pastiche done right – and it's immediately identifiable on "W," a frenetically built electro tonic. "Lazarus" exhilarates with soul-lifting spirit in the surging atmospherics, and "Explodion" is an aggressive knockout. These aren't just songs, but obsessions.



Nataly Dawn, 'How I Knew Her'

Don't let the sweet whimsy of Nataly Dawn's first solo outing fool you. The cutesy 26-year-old singer-songwriter – her duo Pomplamoose has covered Lady Gaga and Beyoncé – uses coffeehouse charm and old-fashioned zing, but darkness looms underneath the veneer. She takes on death and religion with "Long Running Joke," but it sounds more like the grand-entrance theme for circus elephants. If Dawn could only bring the same seriousness to the surface of these songs, "How I Knew Her" might inspire more than a trip to Starbucks.

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Sometimes You Just Grin And Bare It

Ringwald's 'Making Porn' Through March 18

BY JOHN QUINN

Hardcore pornography!

Now that I have your attention, consider what Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart wrote about the topic. "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description, and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it ..." Well, I've seen "Making Porn," and it's not pornography. Nor, the sign outside the Ringwald Theatre notwithstanding, is it strictly "A Comedy." It recalls a cliché of the past election cycle – you don't want to know what goes on in a sausage factory. It's messy.

"Making Porn" is set in San Francisco in the early 1980s. Would-be actor Jack Hawk (Brenton Herwat) is out of work and desperate. Having tested the waters of male erotica, he takes the plunge and lands on the doorstep of Arthur Mack (Joe Bailey), who hires him to star in his latest porn movie. "Cops" cast includes Ray Tanner (Dan Morrison), a veteran of 70 films, but only remembered for a single scene. Ray ekes out a living from personal appearances and hustling. In stark contrast is Ricky (Bailey Boudreau), 19, new in town and working his way through college. There's a hitch: Jack's straight. How will his wife, Linda (Lisa Melinn), react when she finds out about her husband's career path? How will Arthur react when he finds out his partner-in-life-and-business, Jamie (Richard Payton) falls in love with one of the actors?

Blue Blake is a real-life porn actor who once produced "Making Porn" and played Ray Tanner. "I've never made a porn movie and found it sexy." What's true about film can be said for the stage. While Jack, Ray and Ricky cavort in the nude, it's so clinical that it isn't erotic. Sorry, Ricky, there's no glamour



Lisa Melinn and Brenton Herwat star in Ronnie Larsen's "Making Porn" at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre through March 18. Photo: Joe Plambeck

here. However, there's a laugh a minute as the play explores the conventions of the gay film industry. I may never be able to look at a milk shake again without a snicker.

Joe Bailey directs "Making Porn" and plays Arthur as well. That combination frequently leads to a shaky production, since the director can't

stand back far enough to get the big picture. That hasn't happened here. Bailey has played the role a number of times – in fact, with the aforementioned Blue Blake – and his familiarity with the material has rubbed off in his cast.

The performances are remarkably natural, each character sincerely portrayed. This is indeed a formidable ensemble. But Bailey's most satisfying achievement is the delicate balance between silly and somber, since "Making Porn" is a difficult script.

The performances are remarkably natural, each character sincerely portrayed. This is indeed a formidable ensemble. But Bailey's most satisfying achievement is the delicate balance between silly and somber, since "Making Porn" is a difficult script.

PREVIEW

Making Porn

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Monday through March 18. 1 hour, 45 minutes. Contains nudity and adult situations; no one under 18 will be admitted. \$10-20.

www.TheRingwald.com

It's set in the '80s, and sex in the City by the Bay is shadowed by a "killer disease that affects only gay men." The film industry, just like the rest of the world, must react to a crisis. That's a serious theme to inject into a comedy, but the Ringwald troupe deftly weaves it all together.

To my mind, doubling municipal parking fees is pretty obscene, but since the new machines aren't performing as advertised, this was "Get into Ferndale Free Weekend." For entertainment like "Making Porn," coughing up the extra coins is worth it.

"Making Porn" contains nudity and adult situations. No one under 18 will be admitted.

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101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pincrest. 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, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group
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St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group
Saturday's 8pm
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
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Solution to puzzle from page 36

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A	L	O	T	A	R	O	M	A	U	G	L	Y	
C	A	T	T	V	E	N	O	M	N	O	S	E	
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Editor's Pick

What's in a name? More to the point, what's in a name like Thorstein the Staff-Struck? And why is it going to get a lot of people killed?

In the year 1050, a young man leaves a drunken brawl with a nasty cut and a nastier nickname. While the former heals, the latter spreads, and before long, his blind, cantankerous Viking father has cajoled him into avenging the insult.

Join Penny Seats at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at Arbor Brewing Company for an evening of broadsword and beer, as it presents local playwright Russ Schwartz's retelling of a millennium-old story from the Icelandic Sagas as an active staged reading, with dinner provided by Arbor Brewing Company and a talkback following the performance. (It is also possible to skip dinner and go straight for the reading and talkback beginning at 8 p.m.)

Tickets are \$18 for dinner and show, and \$5 for show only. For tickets, call 800-838-3006.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 30

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor "Diana Krall" Tickets: \$45+-. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. March 2. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Farmington Players "Blackthorn in Concert" 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. March 8 - March 9. 248-473-1856. FarmingtonPlayers.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Giraffe" 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 8. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Magic Stick Lounge "Bob Mould / Jason Narduncy / Jon Wurster" 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. March 2. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

Olympia Entertainment "Chris Tucker" 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 8. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Muse" Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 2. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Major Lazer" Tickets: \$20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. March 1. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Janis Ian" An Intimate Evening with Janis Ian. Tickets: \$35-37. Saugatuck Center for the Performing Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. March 9. 269-857-2399. SC4A.org

The Ark "May Erlewine & Seth Bernard" Tickets: \$17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 8. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Dervish" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 5. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Catered Affair - A New Musical 2nd Stage production. \$16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through March 10. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

Little Shop of Horrors \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. March 1 - 17. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

Rabbit Hole \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington

Hills. Through March 2. 248-553-2955. FarmingtonPlayers.org

Return Engagements \$15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. March 1 - 17. 313-561-TKTS. PlayersGuildOfDearborn.org

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, Jr. \$7+. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 8 - 14. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

Thorstein the Staff-Struck A staged reading. \$5; \$18 for dinner and show. Penny Seats at Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E Washington St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. March 2. 734-276-2832. PennySeats.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later \$5-10. Lansing Community College at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing. Through March 23. 517-372-0945. http://lcc.edu/cma/events/

PROFESSIONAL

A Chorus Line \$53-58. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 8 - 9. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

Detroit \$12-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 5. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Dirty Blonde A one-night-only fundraiser for AIDS Partnership Michigan and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS featuring cast members from Disney's "The Lion King." \$75; dinner included. Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. 6 p.m. March 4. 800-872-2437. aidspartnership.org

Edward the Second \$10-15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. March 1 - 31. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

Gee's Bend \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through March 3. 810-237-1530. FlintYouthTheatre.org

Hair \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 2 - 3. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

How The Other Half Loves \$18. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through March 23. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat \$18-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through March 3. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Looking \$29-32 adult, \$27-\$30 student & senior. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through March 3.

248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Phoenix \$20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. March 1 - 24. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

The Divas Project \$20-38. Plowshares Theatre Company at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Through March 10. 313-744-3181. Plowshares.org

The Lion King \$25+. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through March 10. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

The Vagina Monologues \$20. UDM Theatre Company at Grounds Coffee Haus, Student Life Building, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28. 313-993-3270. Facebook.com/UDMtheatre

ART'N'AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Soo Sunny Park: Vapor Slide" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 18 - March 17. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Flint Institute's Wine Tasting Event" Tickets: \$60-105. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. March 9. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Winifred Rembert: Amazing Grace" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 27 - March 17. Flintarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Sight and Feeling: Photographs by Ansel Adams" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 27 - May 19. 269-349-7775. Kglrc.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Spatial Intensity" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Feb. 27 - March 29. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "East Meets West" MSU Museum Heritage Gallery, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22 - April 14. Museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Voice of the City" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 18 - March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

The Gallery Project "First Contact" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Feb. 14 - March 24. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Florenca Pita/FP mod" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 19 - June 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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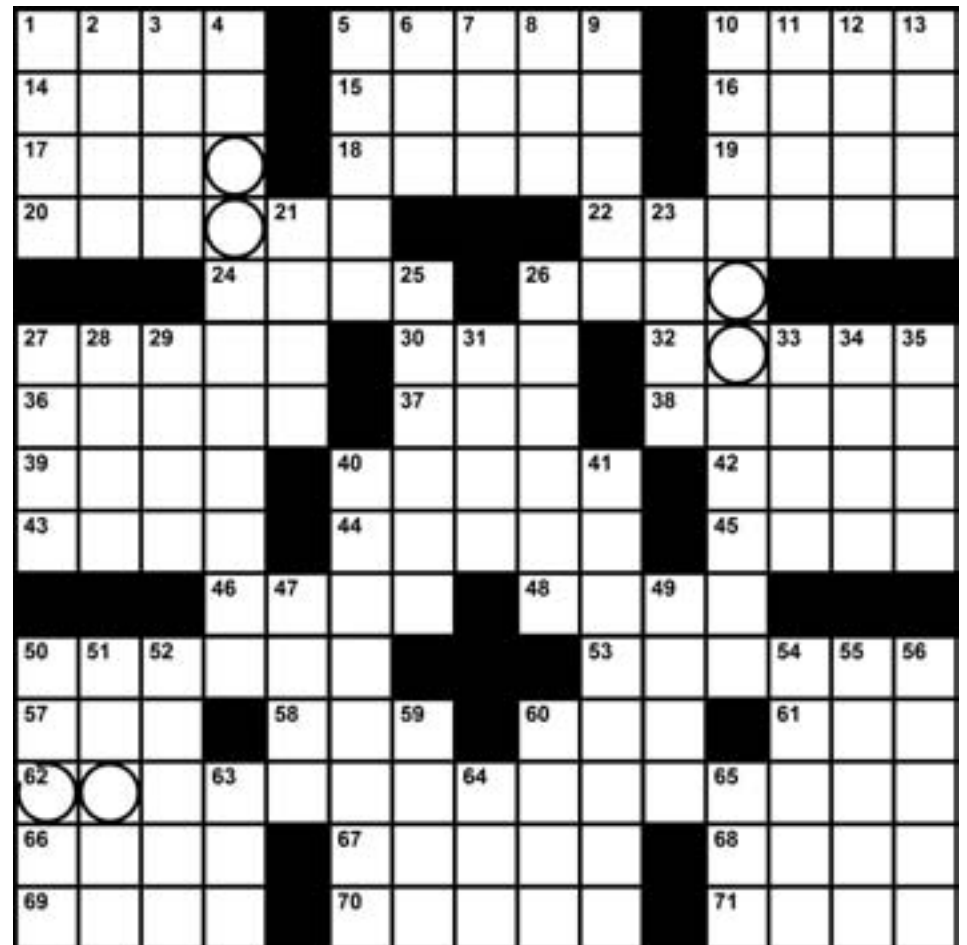


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- 19 Part of a plane
- 20 At a rock-bottom price
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- 24 Lass in a Hardy tale
- 26 Baby's dusting
- 27 March cockily
- 30 Neighbor of Miss.
- 32 Day of many Hudson flicks
- 36 Graceful steeds
- 37 Eccentricity
- 38 "Dinah ___ Weekend"
- 39 Smith of "Dawson's Creek"
- 40 Ecclesiastical gathering
- 42 Shakespeare's stream
- 43 Twin to Jacob
- 44 Thick liqueur
- 45 "___ It Like Beckham"
- 46 Retreat for D.H. Lawrence
- 48 Member of the opposition
- 50 ___ City in America (26-Down, per "The Advocate")
- 53 Uranus and others
- 57 Do an impression of
- 58 An end to sex?
- 60 Use of a homophone, perhaps
- 61 Lucy of _Charlie's Angels_
- 62 Broadway musical about unhappy guys?
- 66 NCAA home of the Bruins
- 67 Tickle pink
- 68 Lorca's mouth
- 69 Student woe
- 70 Sondheim's staff members
- 71 British carbine

Down

- 1 Meaty Mexican dish
- 2 Ball of film and TV
- 3 Poker prizes
- 4 Caesar's question about a Russian singing duo?
- 5 Spelunkers' openings
- 6 "Diamonds ___ a Girl's Best Friend"
- 7 Dancer Reagan
- 8 First in a Latin threesome
- 9 Home of the Buccaneers
- 10 Comment about women living together in "Sister Act"?
- 11 Big ones in porn films, sometimes
- 12 Last word in a threat
- 13 Changes colors
- 21 Do-overs for Amelie Mauresmo
- 23 Pioneer automaker
- 25 Well-endowed old goats?
- 26 Put the letters in circles here
- 27 Drink from the land of the samurai
- 28 Very, to Verlaine
- 29 Cicero's singular
- 31 Dotterman's "Antonia's ___"
- 33 Travel around
- 34 Something to pump
- 35 Put on cloud nine
- 40 Cumming and others
- 41 Old people may take them out for a blow job
- 47 Early AIDS play
- 49 Rocker Turner
- 50 Full range
- 51 Lickety-split
- 52 "Lesbians ignite!" and more
- 54 Pass out
- 55 Dorothy, to Em
- 56 Her name is Anthony
- 59 Dog in "The Mask"
- 60 Guitarist Townshend
- 63 Stop fasting
- 64 Posed for Herb Ritts
- 65 Tiny balls

Solution on pg. 34

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► **Edward**

Continued from p. 25

on. It imagines what happens in a young relationship on the scale of the king of England. What happens when you are so far in lust that everything else is irrelevant, even the destruction of an entire nation?"

The play has been modernized while paying homage to Marlowe's language and the Elizabethan acting style. The space will be lit with candles, and everyone decked in period costumes to juxtapose the look with the sound of the contemporary language that Sebacher says he hears in the young gay party boy culture.

There are moments, though, when the emotion runs so high that the play transcends contemporary dialogue and moves into the poetry of Marlowe. The playwright chose the moments for their emotional explosiveness and the passages for their clarity.

"I'm writing very quick, natural sounding dialog in a poetic way," Sebacher explained. "They do speak Marlowe's text. I liken the Marlowe to a song in a musical. It is where the emotions are so high that for a moment we are taken out of the narrative and can dwell in this moment of Marlowe. Just briefly, for less

PREVIEW

Edward the Second

The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Previews 8 p.m. March 1-3; runs 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 8-31. Contains violence, strong language, sexual simulations, and nudity; audience members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. \$15 adult, \$10 student & industry. 734-961-8704
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than a minute, the moment is highlighted and we are dwelling in poetry."

These techniques combine to explore the theme of growing up when one wants to stay young. It isn't a story that frowns on Edward or those who are listless in finding their way, but rather one that asks questions.

"I want our audience to feel ambivalent about it, to side with him," Sebacher said. "He is young, but that doesn't make him a vapid, vacuous, villainous person that we pity. He's a human being who has growing pains. It is (a theme) that is specific to young gay men, but at the same token, it is a universal story that we all go through. When do I need to grow up and when does love have to replace lust?"



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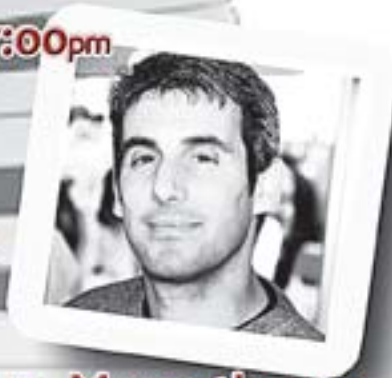
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