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Royal Oak Approves
Human Rights Ordinance

LGBT Inclusive VAW
Act Passes U.S. House

“I should've
been a statistic.”
- Jewel



Not-So-Confidential HIV Testing

Michigan Health Dept Secretly Collecting Data From Testing Sites

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“PREJUDICE MAY NOT BE THE BASIS FOR DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW.”

– Obama Administration’s Amicus Brief, pg. 10

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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VOL. 2110 • MAR. 7, 2013 • ISSUE 806

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Phone 734.293.7200

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MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



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Training in Non-Violent Resistance Planned

On April 13 Inclusive Justice will present a training opportunity for people interested in non-violent resistance.

Activities run from 1 - 7:30 p.m. at Eastern Michigan University Student Center with registration beginning at noon. Dinner is included.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Cindi Love, executive director of Soulforce, who will discuss Pop-Ups, Flash Mobs & Digital Activism in Public Square.

Two additional workshop sessions are planned for the afternoon with breakout sessions ranging from social media usage to ending spiritual oppression.

Dinner is from 5 - 6 p.m. with a performance after dinner by Performance Art for Justice. Registration fees: Students \$20, Adults \$45, Patrons \$75 and Sponsors \$200. Scholarships are available.

Soulforce is a national organization which works to end the political and religious oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer LGBTQ/SGL people through relentless, non-violent resistance. Inclusive Justice is a state-wide, faith-based coalition that promotes greater acceptance and fair treatment of LGBTQ/SGL persons within religious communities and through public policy advocacy.

Learn more at www.inclusivejustice.org or call 248-424-9513.

Spring Break In New Orleans

If you or someone you know between the ages of 12 and 19, is interested in an alternative spring break experience in New Orleans Lower 9th Ward, then Dedicated To Make A Change wants to hear from you. Students will be travelling by train departing on Amtrack March 26 through April 7 and again on April 26 through May 5. This is a youth planned service work experience where housing will be dorm style and meals will be in a group setting. The teams work every day but Sunday.

Educator Gail Wolkoff says, "In 2010, I created an all inclusive youth organization, Dedicated to Make a Change. Our mission is to connect youth with the world to promote peace, greater understanding and a love of learning. We provide an experiential learning environment to learn justice, diversity, poverty, and social responsibility."

Anyone interested can contact her at www.dedicatetomakeachange.com.

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Royal Oak City Commission Approves Human Rights Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The Royal Oak City Commission voted 6-1 Monday to approve an inclusive non-discrimination ordinance, making it the 22nd municipality in Michigan to do so. The ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation and a number of other factors, in housing, employment and public accommodations. It also gives the Royal Oak Police the responsibility of investigating any complaints that may arise.

Commissioner Dave Poulton was the lone dissenter, referring to a public vote that failed 12 years ago and citing Rochester Hills as another city that has rejected the idea. He also questioned why someone's military service was not included as one of the groups protected. "I would have preferred that this go to the voters," he said, before casting the lone "no" vote.

There was nearly an hour and a half's worth of commentary from citizens, the majority of which were in favor of the ordinance. Among those who opposed it was Pat Wall, who brought graphic illustrations of what she thinks sodomy does to the body. She also said that homosexuals are a "special interest" and that other groups deserve protection from discrimination too, like sex offenders.

But for every naysayer there were multiple citizens in favor of the ordinance. Resident Frank Houston, who is in a bi-racial marriage, put the issue into historical context. "For me it hits home because I think about the fact that a little over 60 years ago when my grandparents were getting married, there were a lot of family members concerned that a Roman Catholic and a Lutheran person were coming together. I look at my wife and I, a couple that a little over a generation ago we wouldn't be able to get married in a lot of places, let alone have protections against discrimination. And I think that when we look at some of the concerns that have been raised, legitimate concerns about enforcement, costs, and how we go about it, these are things that we owe it to work through," Houston said, "This isn't just a symbolic statement. This is about equal protection under the law, and you have it in your power to guarantee that to everyone in Royal Oak today."

Jared Volz of Unity Michigan represented the voices of people and organizations statewide on the subject. "We work as a coalition to advance nondiscrimination policies statewide to make Michigan an attractive place to live, work and play," Volz said. He and an assistant revealed a stack of paper with 2,397 sheets – each one representing someone who had signed the group's online petition in favor of Royal Oak's adoption of the ordinance. "I want you guys to see what is happening across the state of



Above: Unity Michigan team delivers 2,397 signed petitions asking the Royal Oak City Commission to pass a human rights ordinance, which it did with a 6-1 vote. Below: Royal Oak resident Frank Houston shares his personal story and implores Commission to pass the ordinance. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire

This is a best practice among cities. This is a best practice among Fortune 500 (companies). This is the right thing to do just purely on the basis of remaining competitive – competitive for labor. Competitive for people

who want to come and live here. Competitive for young college students who want to feel comfortable in their community in which they live. ...More than that, this is an affirmation of our basic principles of equal protection of all of us.

"This doesn't allow gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to move to the front of the line, it allows them to be in the same line as everyone else and that's just fundamental fairness."

The ordinance takes effect this month and makes it illegal to discriminate based on 16 factors, including sexual orientation, age, height, weight, condition of pregnancy, gender identity and HIV status. Violations will be a civil infraction punishable by a fine up to \$500.

Royal Oak joins 21 other cities, including Ferndale, Dearborn Heights, Huntington Woods, Mt. Pleasant, Muskegon, Saginaw and Traverse City. Unity Michigan, a coalition of six member organizations that provides resources for communities that are considering human rights, or nondiscrimination, ordinances. Learn more at www.unitymichigan.org where you can also thank the Royal Oak Commissioners..

“This isn't just a symbolic statement. This is about equal protection under the law, and you have it in your power to guarantee that to everyone in Royal Oak today.”

-Royal Oak Resident Frank Houston

Michigan. I don't know how many other issues the City of Royal Oak looks at that garners this kind of statewide attention.”

Commissioner Jim Rasor explained why he introduced the ordinance and what some of his rationale is. "As a representative democracy, we want to hear what you think because our job is to pass legislation which is appropriate for this community, and that's what we're doing here today. This is the right place and the right time to do this for the community of Royal Oak," he said.

"This is an economic development tool.

Not-So-Confidential HIV Testing Occurring

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Since 2003, the Michigan Department of Community Health has been secretly collecting the names, dates of birth, risk categories, and other demographic information of people submitting for confidential HIV testing at grant-funded locations throughout the state and storing them in a massive database, a months-long investigation by The American Independent has discovered.

The database also includes the coded identities of people who have been identified as sexual and needle-sharing partners of persons living with HIV.

The state says this database is necessary to track the number of tests conducted using federal grants, as well as to determine reach and success of

targeted testing programs designed to draw in people who are at high risk for HIV infection.

All the information that is collected is maintained in the database “indefinitely,” said MDCH spokeswoman Angela Minicuci, and a person whose information is captured does not have a way to remove it.

While MDCH claims the database does not contain personally identifiable information, a recent study, published last month in the University of California Press’ journal *Social Problems*, has found that some Michigan local health departments with access to the database are using it to pursue both civil actions – known as “health threat to others” actions – and criminal prosecutions against people living with HIV.

The study, authored by University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate Trevor Hoppe, found that the database has been used specifically to identify and target sexual or needle-sharing partners of newly diagnosed HIV-positive persons where the infected person may not have disclosed his or her status to partners; women who are HIV-positive and have become pregnant; and HIV-positive persons who have been diagnosed with other sexually transmitted infections.

Michigan law requires that funded agencies provide two options for HIV testing. The first is anonymous testing, where a code is used in

place of a client’s name. The second option is confidential testing, where the state certified tester is given a client’s name along with other personally identifying information. Only those who opt for a confidential test will receive a piece of paper with their name and test results.

The department argues that this is not a names-based or identity-based database because the name, date of birth, and gender are

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encoded through a special formula in the database. The code, which is unique to each individual, is used to file testing and counseling information relative to that specific person. It is called a “unique identifying number” (UIN).

“There is no ‘path’ for ‘persons’ (if person refers to an individual who has received a confidential HIV test at a publically funded testing site


that enters data into the HIV Event System) to ‘remove their name and information’ from the HIV Event System because no names are saved in the system,” Minicuci said in an email to *The American Independent*.

“It is not possible for us to match a person (as defined above) to a HIV Event System record or records, using just her/his name and date of birth,” she continued. “We would also need the agency that the person was tested at, the date of the test, and additional information to ensure that the correct record was identified. It is highly unlikely that a person (as defined above) would have evidence to prove that they were tested at a specific agency, on a specific date, etc. In other words using just a name and date of birth would not allow us to guarantee that we had found that person’s record.”

But MDCH acknowledged that a user - for example, a local health department disease investigator - can, in fact, enter data for, say, “John Doe” into the computer program to create a UIN and obtain the corresponding number. With that UIN, an authorized user can search and read records for that person.

Minicuci said there is no way to be certain the records one is reviewing belong to a specific person, because the name does not appear in the system.

See HIV Testing, page 6





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SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO Puerto Rico Slowly Warms To More Gay Rights

(AP) - The advance of gay rights across the United States is spreading into Puerto Rico, making the island a relatively gay-friendly outpost in a Caribbean region where sodomy laws and harassment of gays are still common.

The governing Popular Democratic Party is pushing a bill through the legislature that would outlaw discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, a step taken by about half of U.S. states. Another bill would extend a domestic violence law to gay couples.

Soon after taking office in January, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed an order extending health insurance coverage to the live-in partners of workers in his executive branch of government, regardless of gender.

And a popular former conservative governor, Pedro Rossello, surprised supporters and foes when he stated last month that he unequivocally supports gay marriage.

"We're in a period where it's important to talk about human rights," said Rossello, who 14 years ago signed a law as governor to prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriages held abroad.

"This is extraordinary," said Pedro Julio Serrano, a Puerto Rican gay activist. "We've reached a point of no return in Puerto Rico ... Equality is inevitable."

"The issues that we're discussing publicly now would have been unthinkable a couple decades ago," said Osvaldo Burgos, spokesman for the Broad Committee for the Search for Equality, which represents more than a dozen local human rights organizations.

Gay rights activists also say they are encouraged that the island's Justice Department is prosecuting its first hate crime case for the killing of a hairstylist who was set on fire. governor's party, saying that children of gay couples should have equal rights.

NEW YORK Madonna To Present GLAAD Award To Anderson Cooper

(AP) - Gay advocacy group GLAAD says Madonna will present CNN's Anderson Cooper with an award for openly gay media professionals.

GLAAD told The Associated Press on Saturday that the singer has been chosen to give Cooper the Vito Russo Award at the 24th annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City on March 16.

GLAAD President Herndon Graddick says Madonna and Cooper are longtime friends who have both used their careers to support lesbian, gay and transgender people.

Cooper declined to speak publicly about his sexuality for years. But last July he gave blogger Andrew Sullivan permission to publish an email in which Cooper said he was gay and "couldn't be more happy."

Russo helped found GLAAD and wrote a book about gay people in the movies called "The Celluloid Closet."

Extended briefs are available online at:
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► HIV Testing

Continued from p. 5

A state document (www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0675electronicversion_163987_7.pdf) created by MDCH explains that in Michigan test results are confidential. It specifically states that, "All positive HIV tests are reported to the health department." It does not disclose, however, that negative tests results are also being reported and collected by the state.

Multiple state-certified HIV testers confirmed with TAI that they are taught in mandatory certification training to tell clients that testing information is kept confidential but not to mention that the information is collected and maintained by the state. The testers, who are employed by various agencies receiving MDCH money to conduct HIV testing, spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for their funding.

"You have two options," one tester said she tells clients, based on state-mandated certification training. "You can test anonymously, where you don't give us your name, but you do give us your date of birth and ZIP code. Or you can test confidentially, where you do give us your name but that is not shared with anyone unless you test positive; and then it is shared with the health department."

"It is not standard practice to review with testing clients what data is entered into the HIV Event System, or how client data is encrypted using the Health Resources Service Administration algorithm," Minicuci said. "Clients must, under Michigan law, be provided with the option to be tested anonymously or confidentially. The difference between these types of tests are described and any questions the client has are answered before the counselor obtains the client's consent to be tested."

As of June 2012, the Michigan HIV Event System contained 701,281 entries, according to documents TAI obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. Of those, 579,990 are of HIV-negative test results; 483,628 of 701,281 entries are confidential tests keyed to a person's name with a UIN. In addition, 6,907 of these entries are from identified partners from partner services - a voluntary program to help those who are infected to contact current and past needle and sexual partners that they may have been exposed to the virus. And 4,041 of these partner-services entries are names-based UIN-coded entries.

The database became apparent when the department confirmed to The American Independent Network that it had initiated an internal investigation into whether the private health information of thousands of people with HIV and their partners had been improperly released. The state's investigation

found that a contractor had emailed some data within the HIV Event System from a protected government server - without encryption - to an email address at the company that created and maintains the database for the state. The state determined that no private information was released.

MDCH says information contained in the state database is intended to meet reporting requirements from the federal government. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it only requires anonymous demographic information for grant reporting.

Other states, like Indiana, also track information on people testing for HIV using an identity-linked coding system.

But others do not, like Minnesota, which collects demographic information on people who get tested for HIV but does not track that data linked to any identity-linked coding system.

No other reportable disease in Michigan

“There are certainly privacy rights involved, particularly when clients are not being told that the information they are providing is being put in a database which can be utilized to assist with criminal prosecution of people living with HIV.”

- ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan

has a corresponding database like HIV, Minicuci said.

According to MDCH, 785 people have access to some component of the database system. Of those, 13 users have access to all components of the database - partner services, HIV testing, and HIV-positive identification. The general users are employed by local health departments in positions such as disease investigators, or those persons employed by AIDS service organizations who conduct testing at various locations throughout the state.

Minicuci said that new users are taught how to use the HIV Event System by other current users, and that no standard protocols exist outlining who can access what information from the database, for what reasons, and what can be done with it. The system also does not track who has accessed which information in the database - a so-called "digital fingerprint," which Minicuci said "was not required" by the CDC in the development of the database.

All of this raises significant questions of privacy, civil liberties experts say.

"There are certainly privacy rights involved, particularly when clients are not being told that the information they are providing is being put in a database which can

be utilized to assist with criminal prosecution of people living with HIV," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan LGBT Project. "It's ironic that in its effort to try to prevent transmission of HIV as part of the HIV-testing process, this policy and practice will likely discourage people from being tested, because they fear criminal prosecution for having knowledge of their HIV status."

Rose Saxe, from the National ACLU AIDS Project, also weighed in on the issue. She said the state is collecting confidential health information, but also "deeply personal information."

"The state has a constitutional obligation to keep this information secure, and to protect the privacy rights of people testing for HIV," Saxe told TAI in an email. "Because of the sensitivity of this information, the ACLU believes it is critically important that the state have in place policies to ensure that this information is used appropriately. This includes safeguards to prevent inadvertent disclosure, and ways to ensure that it is only accessed for legitimate reasons by health department employees. If the state cannot or does not undertake steps to protect this deeply private information about people in Michigan, it has no business collecting and storing it indefinitely."

Saxe also raised a concern that those submitting for HIV testing are being misled about who will know that they have tested for the virus.

"Information we've received, however, suggests that the state is advising people that information will only be retained if they do have HIV," Saxe said. "Misinforming people about the data that's being collected is a breach of trust, and a violation of people's rights to make informed decisions about how and when to test for HIV." Kaplan said people being tested under government-funded programs have a right to know what information is being collected and for what that information will be used.

"I believe (those testing for HIV) should be concerned and they should be informed about what happens to the information that they provide and what that information can be used for," Kaplan said. "Under the current policy, to avoid having their info collected and used, they would have to either forgo HIV testing at local health departments, and seek out private testing sites (including their private physicians), both which may not be an option for everyone."

Saxe said she is confused about why the state is collecting information on people who do not test positive for the virus.

"We also have serious questions about why the state is retaining private information about people who test negative for HIV," she said. "Michigan would need a very good reason to justify keeping this information, and certainly should not be misleading people about what will happen with their private information."

Scientists: Baby Born With HIV Apparently Cured

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — A baby born with the virus that causes AIDS appears to have been cured, scientists said, describing the case of a child from Mississippi who's now 21/2 and has been off medication for about a year with no signs of infection. If so, it would mark only the world's second reported cure.

There's no guarantee the child will remain healthy, although sophisticated testing uncovered just traces of the virus' genetic material still lingering.

Specialists say Sunday's announcement, at a major AIDS meeting in Atlanta, offers promising clues for efforts to eliminate HIV infection in children, especially in AIDS-plagued African countries where too many babies are born with the virus.

"You could call this about as close to a cure, if not a cure, that we've seen," Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, who is familiar with the findings, told The Associated Press.

A doctor gave this baby faster and stronger treatment than is usual, starting a three-drug infusion within 30 hours of birth. That was before tests confirmed the infant was infected and not just at risk from a mother whose HIV wasn't diagnosed until she was in labor.

"I just felt like this baby was at higher-than-normal risk, and deserved our best shot," Dr. Hannah Gay, a pediatric HIV specialist at the University of Mississippi, said in an interview.

That fast action apparently knocked out HIV in the baby's blood before it could form hideouts in the body. Those so-called reservoirs of dormant cells usually rapidly reinfect anyone who stops medication, said Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She led the investigation that deemed the child "functionally cured," meaning in long-term remission even if all traces of the virus haven't been completely eradicated.

Next, Persaud's team is planning a study to try to prove that, with more aggressive treatment of other high-risk babies. "Maybe we'll be able to block this reservoir seeding," said Persaud.

No one should stop anti-AIDS drugs as a result of this case, Fauci cautioned.

But "it opens up a lot of doors" to research if other children can be helped, he said. "It makes perfect sense what happened."

Better than treatment is to prevent babies from being born with HIV in the first place.

About 300,000 children were born with HIV in 2011, mostly in poor countries where only about 60 percent of infected pregnant women get treatment that can keep them

from passing the virus to their babies. In the U.S., such births are very rare because HIV testing and treatment long have been part of prenatal care.

"We can't promise to cure babies who are infected. We can promise to prevent the vast majority of transmissions if the moms are tested during every pregnancy," Gay stressed.

The only other person considered cured of the AIDS virus underwent a very different and risky kind of treatment — a bone marrow transplant from a special donor, one of the rare people who is naturally resistant to HIV. Timothy Ray Brown of San Francisco has not needed HIV medications in the five years since that transplant.

The Mississippi case shows "there may be different cures for different populations of HIV-infected people," said Dr. Rowena Johnston of amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research. That group funded Persaud's team to explore possible cases of pediatric cures.

It also suggests that scientists should look back at other children who've been treated since shortly after birth, including some reports of possible cures in the late 1990s that were dismissed at the time, said Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, who also has seen the findings.

"This will likely inspire the field, make people more optimistic that this is possible," he said.

In the Mississippi case, the mother had had no prenatal care when she came to a rural emergency room in advanced labor. A rapid test detected HIV. In such cases, doctors typically give the newborn low-dose medication in hopes of preventing HIV from taking root. But the small hospital didn't have the proper liquid kind, and sent the infant to Gay's medical center. She gave the baby higher treatment-level doses.

The child responded well through age 18 months, when the family temporarily quit returning and stopped treatment, researchers said. When they returned several months later, remarkably, Gay's standard tests detected no virus in the child's blood.

Ten months after treatment stopped, a battery of super-sensitive tests at half a dozen laboratories found no sign of the virus' return. There were only some remnants of genetic material that don't appear able to replicate, Persaud said.

In Mississippi, Gay gives the child a check-up every few months: "I just check for the virus and keep praying that it stays gone."

The mother's HIV is being controlled with medication and she is "quite excited for her child," Gay added.

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Letters To The Editor

Dear BTL

I'm going to be honest with you – I'm not a professional. In fact, I'm the opposite: I'm a fifteen year old kid who steals her parent's Metro Times to read Savage Love, waits nerdily for the next Futurama or My Little Pony episode to come out on YouTube, and plays a ukulele while screaming Lady Gaga lyrics, specifically "Born This Way." Am I young and stupid? Well, yeah. But that is what you, dear Editor, need for Between the Lines. After all, when reading your publication, something that I've been doing since I came out (think of a twelve year old, straight faced, saying, "Mom, Dad, if you want to kick me out, you can, but I want some money first!"), I realize that it's written from a gay male viewpoint, as opposed to the whole LGBT community. We need everyone to be represented – first and foremost – but also, we need the youth. After all, we're the future of you guys. We'll be the ones to find cures for HIV and equality across the nation. We're going to be like the nuclear bomb after the last LGBT generation's warfare, and that's pretty impressive.

That being said, I, Evelyn Dykes (real name), would like to propose a column of to be written by myself that chronicles the lives of several LGBT teenagers and children. Please, please, please let me do this, because even though I don't have any credentials or anything that really screams "PICK ME!!!" it would be amazing to write an article for your publication, not to mention great for you to have some kids opinions and such thrown around.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Evelyn

Editor's Note: BTL will be publishing a column written by Evelyn, online and in print next week.

Dear BTL

With the article regarding the imminent departure of one of the greatest bosses, mentors and friends of my life (AIDS Partnership Michigan: Best Job...," BTL - 2/28/13, regarding Barb Murray, outgoing Executive Director), discussions of the recent rise in incidence among young MSM's locally and nationally (especially MSM's of color), and the alarm bells ringing concerning potential additional State and Federal cuts to HIV Prevention and Treatment funding under the potential "Sequester" situation (further decimating an already hemorrhaging ASO community), I am compelled to challenge everyone in our community to consider the possibility that the time has come to resurrect a very visible, motivated and ubiquitous ACT-UP effort!!

How many of our friends and family members have to die this time around before we declare that GOP hate and Democrat inaction must be upended?!

It's time to fight like our lives depend on it – Because they DO!

Thank you.

Tony O'Rourke-Quintana

We Can Make It There



Transmissions

OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

The City Council of Phoenix, Arizona recently voted on a bill to add sexual orientation as well as gender identity and expression to the city's existing anti-discrimination bill. The bill includes employment, housing, and public accommodations protections. Those that don't comply would be subject to a misdemeanor and a \$2,500.00 fine. Phoenix already provides protections based on sex, race, religion, age, national origin, and marital status.

Testimony before the vote dragged on for five hours, with over 500 people packed into the Orpheum Theater to show their support or opposition to the bill. Religious leaders spoke out, gaining an exemption from the ordinance in the process.

As anyone who has watched the fight for transgender rights would expect, opposition to the bill dubbed it a "bathroom bill," boldly claiming that this would somehow allow sexual predators to gain legal access to cross-gendered restrooms. One parent even brought this up during testimony, fearing for the safety of his children.

In the end, the bill passed with a vote of five to three.

Before I go much farther, I need to come clean here. My mother was born and raised in Arizona, so "zonie blood" does run through my veins. I have many wonderful, early memories of traveling through Phoenix, Prescott, Flagstaff, and other parts of the state. I've friends and family there.

In spite of that, I've watched Arizona – particularly phoenix – gain a reputation for far-right governance. It's become sort of an anti-Berkeley, if you will, in popular culture. While Phoenix – and all of Arizona – shares a diversity of viewpoints, I do feel it fair to characterize the city and state as being predominately conservative.

Controversy has surrounded Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, particularly in the wake of her signing the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act (Arizona SB 1070). This was an anti-immigration bill that is most notable for requiring state law enforcement to determine the legal status of individuals during a lawful stop, detention or arrest" at any time there is "reasonable suspicion" that said individuals might be an illegal immigrant. SB 1070 was argued all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

Likewise, "Sheriff Joe" Arpaio, the elected

sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, has also been a lightning rod for controversies ranging from "birthiers" to a class-action suit over racial profiling. Perhaps of most importance to this column is Arpaio's insistence that prisoners in his jails be issued pink underwear as an attempt to emasculate and humiliate prisoners in his jails.

Yet, in a city so easily characterized as a bastion of conservative leadership, an anti-discrimination ordinance that covers the LGBT community can actually pass.

The passage was not without its challenges: aside from the sometimes-tense five hours of testimony I mentioned above, the bill has been kicking around the city council for about a decade. A similar ordinance from 1992 only covered those with city contracts and 35 employees. If transgender rights can pass in Phoenix, Arizona – and have previously in Tucson, Arizona, Salt Lake City, Utah, and other cities one can very quickly consider "conservative" – then why can't we pass such ordinances anywhere in this country?

In Massachusetts, in 2011, their legislature passed the Transgender Rights and Hate Crimes Bill (House Bill 502). Much like the fight in Phoenix – and many other places – this bill was characterized by its opponents as a "bathroom bill," and the infamous "bathroom meme" argument that extending public accommodation rights to transgender people would open the restroom door to sexual predators was trotted out.

House Bill 502 also passed – but language protecting against discrimination in public accommodations was stripped out before passage, leaving out a key part of the bill and failing transgender people in Massachusetts. Members of the Massachusetts transgender community are still fighting to get a public accommodations bill passed.

We have actually had pretty good luck with anti-discrimination ordinances, even with the current use of "bathroom bill" language by our opponents. According to the Transgender Law & Policy Institute, 143 cities and counties have laws on the books prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression. In addition, 16 states – and Washington, D.C. – have their own bills. There isn't yet anything at the Federal level, as a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) remains stalled and unpassed. President Obama's administration has added a lot of transgender support into the EEOC, HUD, and other relevant departments, but has still refused to sign an executive order to give ENDA-like protections to Federal workers.

I often speak out about the "bathroom meme" and the need for our community to defeat it. Yet in Phoenix, Arizona the meme was broken. All the same tactics that were used in Massachusetts and elsewhere failed – and, again, an otherwise strongly conservative state has passed an inclusive GLBT anti-discrimination ordinance.

GLBT activists in Arizona fought long and hard for this, but showed that you can win. Their success – even with a potentially questionable religious exception in place – should be a further call to action for our community to move forward and fight.

Indeed, this victory should serve as a lesson for Massachusetts as they struggle to pass a public accommodations bill. More than this, it should serve to bolster fights elsewhere for transgender anti-discrimination bills, as well as start new anti-discrimination rights struggles. To paraphrase Sintatra, if we can make it there, we can make it anywhere.

Gwen Smith is really tired of "potty politics." You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com



A Paine In The T-party



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

If one person can be truly said to have single-handedly pushed this country into a War of Independence from England it was patriot and pamphleteer Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809).

His book "Common Sense" provided a clarion call to open rebellion. When it appeared in January 1776 it sold 500,000 copies. One copy for every eight persons. Its stirring prose and cogent reasoning motivated Americans to defy King George III. We chose to fight for freedom.

Paine's second book (1784), "The Age of Reason" - a well-crafted Bible sandblasting - rebuffs today's Reiblican fundamentalists who in their misguided zeal would have us believe America's founding fathers were gung-ho for making this a Christian Nation, and to hell with separation of church and state.

The main reason Paine's name is drool on the parched and cracked lips of the biblical boob-ocrats is because Paine was a sharp-honed skeptic. "Every national Church or religion has established itself by pretending some special mission from God," he wrote.

"Each accuses the other of unbelief; and for my own part, I disbelieve them all. If someone claims to hear the voice of God, it is a revelation to that person only. When he tells it to a second person it becomes hearsay; and consequently no one is obligated to believe it."

Paine also questioned important Christian religious doctrines: "It appears that [Doubting] Thomas did not believe in the resurrection [of Jesus] and would not believe without ocular and manual proof himself. So neither will I: and the reason is equally good for me and every other person as for Thomas."

Paine identified himself as a Deist. He found God was revealed in Nature, Jesus was human not God, both the Old and New Testaments were replete with myths, contradictions, and errors. In the "Age of Reason" he gave many examples to prove it.

Other important American patriots also challenged established, Christian sovereignty. John Adams was a Unitarian (and you know what they're like) as was son, John Quincy. Thomas Jefferson put together his own version of the New Testament, editing out mythology and doctrine in favor of ethical content.

Jefferson urged his nephew to, "Question with boldness even the existence of God." (Would that he had said the same of slavery, as he owned slaves and fathered children by one.)

James Madison was jailed for criticizing the Episcopal Church when it was Virginia's established religion. Benjamin Franklin, another freethinker, was a Mason and a Rosicrucian occultist. He told many a true believer of his day to go fly a kite.

George Washington, nominally an Episcopalian, rarely attended church, although he spoke of the importance of religion in the life of the newly independent nation. Our first president was also a Mason, as were some 26 signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Come to think of it, instead of being a Christian Nation as political right-wingers like to claim these days, we are actually by heritage a Masonic Nation - with not six, but 32 degrees of separation.

I personally belong to the Fraternal Order of Rainbow Retirees myself. Or, is it the Lambda Outback of Older Odd Fellows Outspoken?

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Creep of the Week

Richard Land

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I've been critical of anti-gay folks for a long time. I've even been known to call them names ("creep," for example), but for as long as I've been following this column I believe I've used real discretion



when it comes to, say, comparing people who oppose marriage equality to the Ku Klux Klan. I mean, such a thing might come off as gratuitous

and, worse, distract from whatever closeted-conservative-caught-in-gay-sex-scandal joke I'm trying to make.

Thankfully, I don't have to make the comparison because Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention has made it for me during a February 26, 2013 interview on Istook Live, a radio show hosted by former congressman Ernest Istook. The show begins with, "Warning: this program features civility, celebrates freedom, and is focused squarely on the American Dream."

Then the show's intro music begins: Mötley Crüe's "Dr Feelgood," a song about cocaine dealing. Later we hear "Give It Away" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, a song about socialism. Whoever picks Istook Live's music has a great sense of humor.

It was against this backdrop that Land discussed the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gays, which he supports.

"Why would you put adult leaders and mentors in places of authority and leadership of a boys' organization when they have defined themselves as homosexual, meaning they are sexually attracted to males?" Land asks. "It would be the equivalent of allowing heterosexual men to be scout masters for Girl Scout troops. One does not have to assert that one group is more prone to pedophilia than another to say if you put men in mentoring positions of trust and authority in camp out situations with young teens to whom they are sexually attracted either heterosexually or homosexually, human tragedies will follow."

Apparently Land believes that all men are terrible sex-crimers who can't keep their hands off of kids. Considering Land is a man, I'm very worried about his personal mental and sexual health. Also, the Girl Scouts do not have a "ban men because they are pervs" rule like the Boy Scouts have for gays.

But don't get Land wrong. He's not a gay-hater.

"The Bible has told us to hate the sin and love the sinner," he says. "We're not talking about ostracizing people. I have relatives who are homosexual, I have friends who are homosexual and lesbian, and I treat them with dignity and with respect. They know that I do not approve of their lifestyle, they know that I believe the Bible does not

And don't get me started with this "I have gay friends" shit.

approve of their lifestyle. But that does not give me any reason to treat them any differently than I would anyone else when it comes to the workplace or when it comes to social activities."

It is kind of hard to wrap my brain around such a glaringly contradictory position. Because how's telling a kid "you can't be a Boy Scout if you're gay" and telling gay men, "You can't be troop leaders because you'll rape everyone" not ostracizing them? How's that not treating them "differently?"

And don't get me started with this "I have gay friends" shit. Friends don't accuse friends of being child molesters based on nothing but personal prejudice, then turn around and say, "Love the sinner hate the sin."

Wait, what am I saying? It's the gays who are intolerant ones.

"They do not believe in a live and let live philosophy. Let's be very clear about what their agenda is, their agenda is to have the homosexual lifestyle affirmed by society as healthy and normal," Land complains, "and to have those who disagree with that ostracized to the level of being Ku Klux Klansmen."

You know why the KKK is so reviled? Because they're wrong. They're hateful and disgusting and ignorant. So if Land wants to compare himself to them, be my guest.

Amicus Brief In Prop 8 Case Filed By Obama Administration

BY LISA KEEN

The Obama administration continues to back up its words of support for marriage equality with action, this week taking the seldom used strategy of submitting a brief in a Supreme Court case <http://www.scotusblog.com/2013/02/u-s-endorses-limited-gay-marriage-right/> in which the U.S. is not involved. The brief also urges the high court to view discrimination based on sexual orientation with the same sort of heightened scrutiny currently reserved for discrimination based on sex.

But the brief does not advocate for a dramatic ruling that all bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional. Instead, it suggests the court "can resolve" the lawsuit over California's ban on same-sex couples marrying "by focusing on the particular circumstances presented by California law and the recognition it gives to committed same-sex relationships, rather than addressing the equal protection issue under circumstances not present here." That strategy, notes veteran Supreme Court reporter Lyle Denniston, indicated "the administration is not yet ready to take a firm position on whether the 'fundamental right to marry' that the Court has recognized repeatedly is a right that should be open also to same-sex couples."

The Solicitor General's brief was well-received by many LGBT groups who were not sure the administration would submit any brief at all in the Hollingsworth v. Perry case, testing the constitutionality of Proposition 8.

But following weeks of speculation and some political goading, U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. submitted a brief Feb. 28 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down California's ban on same-sex marriage. The 33-page brief argues that Proposition 8 is based on "impermissible prejudice," an argument that implicates the Supreme Court's 1996 ruling, in *Romer v. Evans*, that laws cannot be based on animus.

The brief also argues that

Proposition 8 does not serve any important governmental interest and that it violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

And in an equally important aspect, the Obama administration's brief argues that laws, such as Proposition 8, which disadvantage citizens because of their sexual orientation, should receive heightened-or tougher--scrutiny from the courts. Such scrutiny is much tougher to satisfy than the basic rational scrutiny that

“ Proposition 8, by depriving same-sex couples of the right to marry, denies them the 'dignity, respect, and stature' accorded similarly situated opposite-sex couples under state law and does not substantially further any important governmental interest. ”

- states Obama Administration Brief

gives legislatures considerable deference. But heightened scrutiny is less tough than strict scrutiny, reserved for laws disadvantaging people based on race, which are nearly impossible to satisfy.

There has been discussion and speculation for weeks over whether the Obama administration would submit a brief in the Proposition 8 case. As a *New York Times* article pointed out Feb. 4, the solicitor general's office had ample precedent to stay out of the case to which it was not a party.

Ted Olson, who was solicitor general under President George W. Bush in 2003 when the *Lawrence v. Texas* case in the Supreme Court, did not file a brief in that case, regarding laws that banned same-sex couples from having intimate relations. Thurgood Marshall, who was solicitor general under President Lyndon Johnson during the 1967 *Loving v. Virginia* contest, did not file a brief in that case,

challenging laws that banned interracial marriage. And Charles Fried, solicitor general under President Ronald Reagan, did not file a brief in the 1986 *Hardwick v. Bowers* case that initially upheld sodomy laws.

In submitting the brief Thursday (February 28), the Department of Justice issued a statement from Attorney General Eric Holder, saying, the government brief "seeks to vindicate the defining constitutional ideal of equal treatment under the law."

"Throughout history, we have seen the unjust consequences of decisions and policies rooted in discrimination," said Holder. "The issues before the Supreme Court in this case and the Defense of Marriage Act case are not just important to the tens of thousands of Americans who are being denied equal benefits and rights under our laws, but to our Nation as a whole."

The brief notes that, like California, seven other states have laws limiting the rights of same-sex couples to "domestic partnerships." Those states -including Illinois, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, and Rhode Island-- could be affected by the Proposition 8 ruling, should the Supreme Court accept the reasoning of the solicitor general.

"Proposition 8, by depriving same-sex couples of the right to marry, denies them the 'dignity,

See Prop 8, page 11

Equality Michigan Joins With 27 LGBT Organizations In Prop 8 Amicus Brief

'Red State' Coalition Sends Message

On Feb. 28 Equality Michigan joined a broad nonpartisan coalition of equality organizations which have filed amicus briefs in support of the plaintiffs in the landmark *Perry v. Hollingsworth* and *Windsor vs. United States* cases. The coalition brings to the Supreme Court the perspectives of LGBT people who live with dignity in every state without basic legal rights and protections.

Leaders and representatives from national Republican, labor, business, health care, faith, and military organizations have come together to file briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the freedom to marry and against the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. Among the coalition are 28 LGBT organizations from 23 states demanding equal treatment for LGBT communities under the law, no matter where someone lives.

The *Perry v. Hollingsworth* case challenges the constitutionality of discriminatory

"Prop 8" legislation in California that eliminated the right for same-sex couples to marry in California. The *Windsor vs. United States* case challenges Section 3 of the DOMA, which excludes same-sex couples from the federal protections and benefits automatically granted to other married couples. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the cases on March 26 and 27.

"Equality Michigan is proud to be joining 27 of our colleague organizations in 23 diverse states where the laws do not currently reflect the growing support for LGBT issues. Laws like the ironically titled Defense of Marriage Act delegate LGBT people to second-class status and are not only unconstitutional, but harmful to every American. Equality Michigan calls on the Supreme Court to make the most of this opportunity to further dismantle these systems of discrimination," said Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan's director of policy.

“Laws like the ironically titled Defense of Marriage Act delegate LGBT people to second-class status and are not only unconstitutional, but harmful to every American. Equality Michigan calls on the Supreme Court to make the most of this opportunity to further dismantle these systems of discrimination.”

– Emily Dievendorf

► Prop 8

Continued from p. 10

respect, and stature' accorded similarly situated opposite-sex couples under state law and does not substantially further any important governmental interest," states the brief. "It thereby denies them equal protection under the law."

"The Government's action today is a powerful statement that Proposition 8 cannot be squared with the principles of equality upon which this nation was founded," said Adam Umhoefer, head of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which organized the lawsuit against Proposition 8. "It is an unprecedented call to action by our Government that it is time to recognize gay and lesbian Americans as full and equal citizens under the law."

"The President has turned the inspirational words of his second inaugural address into

concrete action by urging our nation's highest court to put an end to discrimination against loving, committed gay and lesbian couples and their families," said AFER founder and current president of the Human Rights Campaign, Chad Griffin.

During his second inaugural address, President Obama said, "Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law - for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

On Feb. 22, the solicitor general submitted an anticipated brief in the second big marriage equality case before the Supreme Court. In that case, *U.S. v. Windsor*, the court will decide whether the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) violates the constitutional rights of legally married same-sex couples by denying recognition of their marriages in relation to federal benefits.

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Va. Pastor: God's Law Reigns In Same-Sex Dispute

AP - A Virginia Mennonite pastor facing up to three years in prison says he is being judged because of his faith and conscience for helping a woman and her daughter flee the country rather than share custody of the child with her former lesbian partner.

Western society is seeking to re-engineer and redefine marriage, family and parenthood, Kenneth Miller, of Stuarts Draft, Va., said in a four-page letter to the federal court judge who will sentence him Monday. He said that's why he helped Lisa Miller and daughter Isabella flee the country in 2009 after the woman went to him begging for help.

"If it is true that my actions flow out of my faith in Jesus, and from my deeply held moral beliefs - and I sincerely think they do - then it must follow that whatever judgment is being brought against me by the United States of America, is judgment on my faith and conscience and deeply help moral beliefs," he wrote.

"I was faced with a woman in distress who needed help to protect her daughter from what seemed to be an inhumane court decree," Miller said, writing from the jail where he has been held for refusing to tell a grand jury about other people involved in the case.

Kenneth Miller, 47, was convicted last summer on a charge of aiding in international parental kidnapping. During the four-day trial, prosecutors laid out how he arranged for Lisa Miller and Isabella to be taken by car from Virginia to Buffalo, N.Y., where they crossed into Canada and were met by an Ontario Mennonite who took them to the airport in Toronto. From there, they flew to Mexico and on to Nicaragua, where they are still believed to be in hiding.

The Millers are not related.

Lisa Miller and Janet Jenkins were joined in a Vermont civil union in 2000 and Isabella was born to Lisa in 2002. The couple split in 2003. The Vermont family court gave custody of Isabella to Lisa Miller and gave Jenkins regular visitation.

Lisa Miller then returned to Virginia, became a conservative Christian, renounced homosexuality and sought full custody of the girl. She stopped following court-ordered visitation schedules. Two months after Lisa Miller and Isabella fled to Nicaragua, a Vermont family court judge transferred custody of the girl to Jenkins.

Jenkins' attorney, Sarah Star, said Jenkins would not be in court Monday.

Prosecutors have asked Judge William Sessions III to sentence Kenneth Miller to 21/2 to three years in prison, the maximum. His attorneys counter he should not be jailed because he had no previous criminal record and has been an upstanding member of his community. They have asked that the sentence be delayed until an appeal can be heard.

-BY WILSON RING

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

Inclusive Violence Against Women Act Passes House

BY LISA KEEN

In a major victory for Democrats, the U.S. House voted Thursday (Feb. 28) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with a bill that includes language to ensure that victims of domestic violence can receive assistance from federally funded program regardless of their sexual orientation. The vote was 286 to 138.

The legislation originally passed the Senate Feb. 12 on a 78 to 22 vote, but House Republicans initially introduced their own version of the bill - one that excluded the language to include gay victims and to provide greater protections for Native American and immigrant women. White House and Democratic leaders in the House expressed their disappointment about the exclusion of LGBT provisions and others.

"The Administration is disappointed that the House bill does not ... explicitly protect LGBT victims of crime from discrimination when they seek services or protections funded by VAWA," said a White House statement Feb. 26.

Following Thursday's vote, President Obama issued a statement saying he was "pleased to see the House of Representatives come together and vote to reauthorize and strengthen the Violence Against Women Act."

"Today's vote will go even further by continuing to reduce domestic violence, improving how we treat victims of rape, and extending protections to Native American women and members of the LGBT community."

An unidentified aide to an unidentified House Republican leader told a Washington Post blog early in the week that a House version of the bill, which excluded language protecting LGBT people, did not discriminate against LGBT people. The aide criticized the Senate version of the bill for "enumerating actual categories of people that are covered" in a way that "requires constant updating."

"We're giving the states the resources they need, and we're also making sure no one is discriminated against," said the aide. He did not explain how the House version ensures no one is discriminated against.

On the floor of the House Thursday, many Republicans echoed the point, saying there was no language in the bill to exclude anyone.

"I would just ask my colleagues on other side of the aisle to please point to anywhere in the House bill that coverage for anyone is denied," said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers

(R-Wash.). "The House bill covers all victims. It does not exclude anyone for any characteristic. In fact," she said, "it directs the Attorney General to make a rule regarding anti-discrimination efforts as he sees fit." And she said the grants associated with the VAWA are "authorized to permit funding to go toward men as well as women."

“The Administration is disappointed that the House bill does not ... explicitly protect LGBT victims of crime from discrimination when they seek services or protections funded by VAWA.”

- White House Statement, Feb. 26.

To some extent, debate over the inclusion or exclusion of LGBT victims of domestic violence was conducted through discussion of protecting "all women" or "all victims," rather than LGBT people - including gay men - specifically.

Eric Cantor (R-Va.), the House Republicans' majority leader, repeatedly emphasized on the floor Thursday his desire to help "all women" through reauthorization of the VAWA program, but he limited his support to the House Republican version of the bill which does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Twice, Cantor seemed to correct himself - changing "all individuals" and "all people" to "all women."

Openly gay Rep. David Cicilline (D-R. Is.), while mentioning members of the LGBT community, also emphasized the importance of protecting "all women." House Democratic Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) emphasized the importance of passing the "fully inclusive" version of the bill protecting "all" victims, as did numerous other Democrats.

But some Democrats were more direct.

"I don't believe that my Republican colleagues, if they saw a lesbian woman being beaten by their neighbor, that they would not want to have that violence stopped," said Rep. Joe Crowley (D-New York).

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) noted that all members of the House seemed to be against violence against women, "but the question is which women?"

"The Senate bill protects LGBT victims, but the House bill strikes LGBT women as underserved communities and strikes the language that would have them as a protected group," said Moore.

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) spoke forcefully in support of protecting LGBT people, asking, "Do they not feel the same pain?"

Many Republicans, including Rep. Charles Dent (R-Pa.), did speak in favor of the inclusive Senate bill, as did the national Log Cabin Republicans group.

"Today, many Republicans are taking a stand for a more modern and inclusive GOP. Our leaders in Congress should be weary of leaving the LGBT community out of legislation that is intended to protect all

Americans from domestic violence," said Gregory Angelo, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

"Including LGBT provisions merely codifies equal protection and clarifies an area in which there was confusion regarding the application of prior versions of VAWA to LGBT individuals," said Angelo. "The Republican Party must continue to be the party of equal rights for all Americans."

Prior to passage of the Senate version of the bill, the House defeated the Republican version of the bill on a 166 to 257 vote.

"It's tremendous that both Republican and Democratic leaders came together to ensure that all domestic violence victims, including those who are LGBT, will not face discrimination when they seek services," said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin.

D'Arcy Kemnitz, executive director of the National LGBT Bar Association, issued a statement noting that 61 percent of LGBT victims of domestic abuse had been turned away from shelters and 85 percent of service providers working with LGBT victims had observed discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

"We are grateful," said Kemnitz, "that the Violence Against Women Act will now be a powerful tool to protect our community and ensure justice is served."



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BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jewel's life is the best kind of It Gets Better story. Even though the famed music-maker recorded a video to offer hope to struggling teens, she didn't need to; to be inspired, one only has to look at how she went from living out of her car – and almost dying – to being a Grammy-nominated, chart-topping singer-songwriter. Jewel became so unbelievably successful, in fact, that she recently released a “Greatest Hits,” a collection of songs going back to her first mega 1996 single “Who Will Save Your Soul” and spanning her entire multi-genre career.

We caught up with Jewel to chat about the queer-cowboy reality show she wants to make, how she threatened to kill the man who became her gay “manny” and the time she performed a not-so-conservative song for a group of Republicans.

What do you remember from your time here in Michigan and at Interlochen Center for the Arts?

It was a great place for your art. I was really inspired by the level of dedication that so many other young people at such a young age were showing for their craft. It was a heck of an adjustment, too. I had moved out when I was 15, and then going to boarding school at 16 is really strange. (Laughs)

How long were you here?

I was there for two winters.

“Pieces of You” was released 18 years ago. Do you relate to that album anymore, or does it feel like a stranger to you?

I never go back and listen to any of my albums ever. Once they were mixed and mastered, I've never gone back. But it feels like yesterday. I remember it so vividly. It's such a big part of my heart.

And a big part of your career.

A huge part of my career. Having moved out at 15, and being homeless at 18, I should've been a statistic. The fame should've just fueled every insecurity I had. Thankfully I was aware of that, and I worked really hard at trying to manage my neuroses and my insecurities so that fame didn't completely act like fuel to the flame.

That (album) really is just an honest portrayal of who I am and was at that time. I was accepted for who I was for the first time, and it was on a mass level. What a strange thing to go from being an outsider your whole life to suddenly having the whole world say, “We value your thoughts.” It wasn't that people thought I was pretty, it wasn't that people thought I was clever or cool; people actually valued what I was thinking and they valued my emotions and they valued my earnestness, and that was pretty remarkable. It was actually very healing and it changed my life. I can't even tell you in how many ways: not just psychologically and emotionally, but financially. It changed everything for me.

The Family Jewel

Musician Talks Being An Outsider, Queer Cowboys & Her Unusual Encounter With Gay Bestie

Photo: Rhino Records

INFO

Jewel

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Your entire life really is an It Gets Better story.

Aww. Yeah, it's really true. You can't live without hope. You can live without money, you can live without so many things, but you really can't live without hope. It's so hard to be able to look down the road and see that there are possibilities. As long as you feel like there's a possibility, there is hope. It's important for people to feel that.

I know what it's like to get stuck in those moments, but sometimes it's the littlest things. For me, sometimes it was somebody smiling at me kindly for no reason when people usually just looked at me like I was a leper because I was homeless. You never know what will touch somebody and give them that little something to keep going and keep fighting for what's unique about them.

What in your life made you feel less like an outsider? Was it music?

It was writing. Reading authors that were really honest and didn't use art as propaganda to make themselves seem more perfect; they showed their flaws. At age 14, to hear somebody talk about being less than perfect made me feel a lot less alone. You do find people you feel accepted around, and then you get out of high school and life goes on and the weirdos are always the ones who end up influencing pop culture – so god bless us! (Laughs)

Who was your first gay friend?

Doug. I think we were in eighth grade. I was so terribly in love with him. He was the only guy who smelled nice and dressed good and was actually kind. I kept trying to turn him straight but it never worked. (Laughs) Doug's parents kicked him out when he came out and I had one friend – this black guy – and he hated gays. He said, "I'm not gonna let you be friends with Doug." I saw Arthur, the black kid, years later walking on the beach – holding hands with a guy! Isn't that typical?

"Pieces of You" really resonated with the gay community – especially the line, "You say he's a faggot, are you afraid you're just the same?" – but some people missed the point of that song.

I can't tell you how many people walked out of a room for, like, a political abstaining without getting the freaking lyrics. (Laughs)

Well, the word "faggot" carries a lot of weight. People really thought you were homophobic then, didn't they?

It's hard to think that anybody earnestly thought it, but I was written up during New York Fashion Week. When I sang "Pieces of

You," you could hear forks dropping. Half the audience was gay and the other half was Jewish – and then there were pretty girls there. Nobody actually listened to the lyrics, and I was written about the next day as homophobic. It's just so funny to me. But for the most part, I think people really got it. I wrote it from a very personal standpoint.

What inspired the "faggot" line?

All of my gay friends. Not anyone in particular. It just made me look at the nature of hate. It was a personal exploration of trying to figure out the root of my own insecurities – and, actually, that was right around the time my friend Arthur walked down the beach.

Would you ever write a song as socially charged?

I had a song called "Jesus Loves You" that was kind of like that. I had just written it and I had a private gig where I was hired, but I forgot it was a very Republican room that I was in. I was in Austin and I sang that song not thinking it was that political and then I realized it was a Jesus song that's completely offending everybody there and I was never asked back again. (Laughs) And so there was that!

I don't know. I'll just have to see. But that song is definitely probably the most shocking of mine, and it's probably harder to get away with that nowadays.

It was hard then, though, right?

Yeah. I was just fascinatingly too ignorant to know better. (Laughs)

When you look back on your hits, some of these probably feel like old friends. Any particular memories that returned to you while putting together this "Greatest Hits" collection?

All of them have such a story. I was hitchhiking to Mexico when I was 16, when I wrote "Who Will Save Your Soul," and I ended up on a Mexican drug bust by accident when I was 18 and wrote "You Were Meant For Me." All of them are really like having a yearbook.

Did you always have Kelly Clarkson in mind for "Foolish Games"? How did that come to be?

Yeah, I really wanted to recut some of these songs, and some artists have been so sweet about saying that my music's influenced them – something you don't think about when you're making music. It was sweet to hear stories of Kelly saying she sang "Foolish Games" at talent shows when she was a kid. She's a really cool chick with a killer voice.

You started out at biker bars, where you performed for lots of lesbians. Are there a lot of lesbians in your life now?

You know, I don't have any lesbians right now. I used to when I lived in San Diego, but in Texas, it's been a little bit slim on the lesbian front. (Laughs) But what's really cool is, I have to do a reality show about the gays



See Jewel, page 23

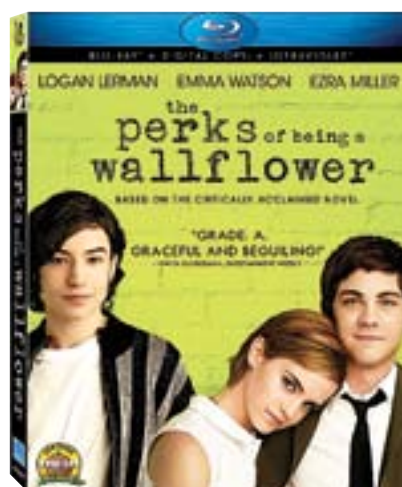
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Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



The Perks of Being a Wallflower

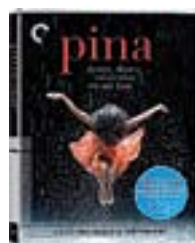
First-time director Stephen Chbosky sensitively explores high school self-discovery and outsider hardships in his big-hearted teen drama about the pains of youth and the people who help us through them. Based on Chbosky's semi-autobiographical book, Charlie (Logan Lerman) is a troubled loner who sits by himself in the school cafeteria, until a band of misfits – two in particular: an out gay class-clown (Ezra Miller) and his charming stepsister (Emma Watson) – open their hearts to him and demonstrate love, kindness and the transcendental power of friendship. With sophisticated and sympathetic performances all 'round, Miller especially emerges as a major talent-to-watch, bringing levity, spunk and a sad secret pain to his award-worthy portrayal of Patrick. Chbosky's emotionally poignant screen gem – a film that the Academy Awards unjustly snubbed despite, at the very least, deserving screenplay recognition for its sincere, zeitgeisty writing – is one of the best of last year and a clear all-time standout in the coming-of-age genre. Hearing the author-turned-filmmaker thoughtfully reflect on specific scenes during one of two commentaries – the young cast engages in friendly banter during the other – is almost as inspiring as seeing these teens prevail in a broken world.



Cabaret

For its first time on Blu-ray, the big mama of musicals, Bob Fosse's stylish romp "Cabaret," gets a vibrant restoration that's as lively as Liza's beaming cat eyes. Any good gay

knows the story: Set in 1931 Berlin, a freewheelin' tryst emerges between cabaret ingenue Sally Bowles (Minnelli, as magnetic as ever) and two men: the new kid in town, Brian Roberts (Michael York), and a rich playboy, Maximilian von Heune (Helmut Griem). Inside the Kit Kat Klub is fancy dancing, live music and a playfully freakish MC; outside, Nazi thugs attack anyone against their regime. "Cabaret" isn't just chic and immaculately crafted, from Fosse's flawless direction to Minnelli's star-making performance; for a film over 40 years old, it was also remarkably revolutionary in tackling not just totalitarianism but abortion, bisexuality and threesomes. A new Liza interview is featured during "Cabaret: The Musical that Changed Musicals," during which York reflects on his character's swinging sexuality and Neil Patrick Harris narrates. With the classic looking better than ever in this near-perfect transfer, and housed in a divinely illustrated Digibook, life really is a cabaret, ol' chum.



Pina

The legacy of late modern-dance icon Philippina Bausch is preserved in this mesmerizing and life-affirming dance doc that rightfully earned an Oscar nomination last year. Shot in the German city of Wuppertal, where, at just 68, "Pina" died of cancer in 2009, the exquisitely performed bits of unbelievable physicality – captured through director Wim Wenders' stream-of-consciousness style of filmmaking – celebrate humanity in all its dark, ugly and beautiful forms and are vividly captured with a wonderfully immersive use of 3D. Its genre-specificity (see: dance, dance and more dance) won't appeal to everyone, but an appreciation for total body dexterity isn't necessary to recognize the lovely poeticism of "Pina." A zest for life, though, certainly is. The peerless Blu-ray presentation – of course it is; it's a Criterion Collection release – is suited with an array of supplements that further observe and honor Pina's artistic influence on her dancers' lives. Besides an interesting making-of feature and the thorough book companion, Wenders' commentary complements "Pina" with striking context not present in the visual feast of the film.



Celeste and Jesse Forever

With inside jokes and gushy gag-me "I love you" gestures, Celeste and Jesse don't seem like they're about to sign divorce papers, but they are, indeed, on the road to splitsville. Even their closest friends don't believe they're acting enough like sad-sack divorcees – and, actually, neither do Celeste (Rashida Jones) and Jesse (Andy Samberg). So they start dating other people. When Jesse gets serious with another woman, Celeste falls into a pool of self-pity, cynicism and the kind of bleakness that derailed Kristen Wiig in "Bridesmaids." (Hey, at least it's good comedy.) You know you've reached a low when a strange street-roamer dressed up as a teddy bear hugs you and it's adorable and sweet instead of awkward and creepy. "Celeste and Jesse Forever" is sometimes weird like that, but always charming as it zigzags through the rom-com formula with genre-busting flair; the pleasing-but-nonconformist ending defies expectations and a surprising level of chemistry exists between Samberg and Jones, who also wrote the screenplay. To boot, Elijah Wood finally goes gay as Celeste's queer-challenged co-worker. Extras include a Jones/Samberg commentary and a behind-the-scenes feature.



Bully

Lee Hirsch's sobering and revealing look at the effects of youth-targeted bullying in schools was part of a larger initiative to curb such awful hate. Controversy that initially counteracted the film's intentions when it was released last year gave "Bully" necessary buzz once the MPAA wised up and swapped the unbecoming R for a PG-13 rating. A version edited for a younger audience is included on this release – and will probably, and hopefully, be used for educational purposes – but the real-life language isn't anything kids haven't heard on the playground. "Bully" mostly

See Screen Queen, page 23

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The OutField

US Soccer, And All That Trans Jazz

BY DAN WOOG

Born a male, Jazz began to live as a girl at a young age. Thanks to supportive parents, she was well-adjusted and happy – except for one thing. For more than two years, the Florida Youth Soccer Association prohibited her from competing as a female player.

Her birth certificate said she was a boy. Her passport called her a boy. FYSA would not budge.

Jazz and her parents took their case up through various administrative levels. When it got to the US Soccer Federation, the board of directors almost unanimously agreed to let her play as a girl.

Then, US Soccer set about devising a formal policy, to cover future transgender players, too.

It sounds like a straightforward case of a clear-thinking, objective board making a decision based both on 21st-century realities, and what's right for athletes who have not had a voice or advocates in the past.

And it is. But US Soccer's decision is very rare. In fact, it may be the only national sports governing body with a blanket policy covering transgender athletes.

Shortly after voting to allow Jazz – then 11 years old – to play as a female, US Soccer appointed a committee to study the broader issue of transgender soccer players. The chair was Dr. S. Robert Contiguglia. A former president of the organization, and a noted Colorado nephrologist,

he and the committee pored through an enormous amount of literature and scientific data.

They studied what other sports bodies were doing about trans issues. Most were silent. The United States Olympic Committee, for example, has no policy. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), meanwhile, has what Contiguglia calls “draconian” rules.

Then Contiguglia brought three outside experts to an all-day meeting in Chicago. Led by Helen Carroll – sports project director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights – the trio helped the US Soccer task force understand the broad spectrum of sexuality.

It was not difficult. “By the time we got in the room, they were already pretty well versed on everything,” Carroll says.

The result was a draft of a policy



“As a physician, having had transgender patients, this was all pretty clear to me”

– Dr. S. Robert Contiguglia

that, Contiguglia says, can be boiled down to a few simple words: “We don’t discriminate. We accept who you say you are, so long as you follow the rules.”

The policy lists a variety of ways for players to identify themselves. Those include government documents like passports (which the United States issues to trans-identified individuals), and notes from doctors.

If there is a challenge to a player’s gender identity, it is heard immediately by a US Soccer-appointed committee. There are no intermediate steps, involving club, state and regional levels.

“It’s a self-determination policy,” Contiguglia says. “The bottom line is, we want all athletes to be able to play.”

The policy does not apply to national team members. As a member of both the IOC and FIFA – soccer’s international governing body – US Soccer must abide by their rules.

IOC policy says that an athlete must have undergone surgery to compete as a different gender. “The trend in the U.S. is toward chemical transition,” Contiguglia notes.

After US Soccer passed its policy – with only a few concerns from youth representatives – it was posted on the organization’s website. The next step is formal ratification by the national council at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Contiguglia expects little opposition.

“As a physician, having had transgender patients, this was all pretty clear to me,” the committee chair says.

“There were some misperceptions that someone born a male would have an unfair competitive advantage playing against girls. But that’s not true.”

As the coach of an Under-13 boys team, Contiguglia says, he regularly sees girls the same age who are “6 inches taller than our guys.”

An important part of US Soccer’s policy is educating its members about transgender issues. “We haven’t taken that step yet,” Contiguglia notes. “That comes next.”

“US Soccer did this the right way,” Carroll says. “They set up a task force and are going through the legislative process.”

“They’re the first large sports organization to put a policy into place that includes all recreational athletes, in every state. I hope this is a model for all other organizations, and that when they look at it, they’ll see how well it works.”

Soccer’s national governing body was not looking to be a leader in transgender sports, Contiguglia says. But when the issue arose – thanks to Jazz in Florida – the organization responded.

So far, no other groups have asked for US Soccer’s advice. “This is not the only thing we do,” Contiguglia explains. “But I think it’s important we’ve done it. And we’re happy to share what we know with anyone who asks.”

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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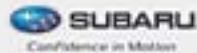
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► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 16

focuses on the lives of three young kids in rural America who are victims of bullying: Alex is ostracized for the way he looks; Kelby's not accepted because she's lesbian; Ja'Maya fights back with a gun. Missing, though, is the film's namesake: the bully. Hirsch's harrowing footage of schoolyard browbeating would've been more effective if the actual problem had a face, too. "Bully," then, isn't so much a great film as it is an important one. Important enough to get Meryl Streep to endorse the doc in a short talk, where she recalls being bullied herself. Other extras include additional footage, follow-ups on Alex and his Sioux City community, and a short feature on a middle school's involvement in The Bully Project's 1 Million Kids campaign.



Peter Pan: Diamond Edition

I've always been more partial to the pretty Disney princesses, but a forever-boy in tights who flutters about with a

fairy sidekick still appeals to all my gay instincts. Here's why: He has his fruit fly, he's a little effeminate and, in musicals, he's often a girl in drag. You know, if Peter Pan did ever grow up, he might grow up to be gay. We can continue to speculate his could-be gayness now that "Peter Pan" pops more than ever in flashy hi-def with new extras that include 15 minutes of never-before-seen footage and a feature doc on the core animators. The whimsical story itself, even six decades later, still registers a sweet simplicity – and the blatant bigotry of those Indian scenes – but it can't hold a flame to many of the greater Disney classics. The storytelling lacks the memorable hook – I'm not talking Captain Hook – of an oft-told love fable or a triumphant lion life-lesson; instead, it's the legendary characters that turn J. M. Barrie's book into an enchanting burst of childhood nostalgia and magical make-believe.

► Jewel

Continued from p. 15

in Texas, because there's this whole gay culture in this really cowboy town that I live in that when guys break up, it's like, "I'm gonna come get my cows off your place!" "Well, I'm gonna take down the fence I built!" "You better come get your mineral feeders!"

You're living "Brokeback Mountain" down there.

It really is like that. And thank god for Grindr, otherwise they could never find each other! When I was 14 and hitchhiking in Alaska, this guy picked me up and he said, "You're really pretty; you shouldn't be hitchhiking." And I was like, "Thanks; I hear that a lot." And he said, "No, you're 'really' beautiful." He kept saying I was beautiful over and over, and I was getting really freaked out. I had a knife in my boot and I pulled it out and I stuck it under his chin and said, "Are you gonna fuck with me?" And he laughed! And I realized the second he laughed that he was just the nicest gay guy on the planet earth, and we've been friends ever since. He lives with me in Texas now and he helps me take care of my baby. We call him the "manny." He's amazing. He's just a treasure in my life and I don't know what I'd do without him.

Do you always carry a knife in your boot?

Not anymore! (Laughs) I showed up to Interlochen with a large skinny knife on my belt just because that's how I was raised; everybody in Alaska does that. I almost got kicked out my first day.

You were so hardcore.

(Laughs) I didn't mean to be.

When you made the shift to country music, did you feel like the odd one out because your politics on gay issues don't generally align with what is thought of as "conservative values"?

No. I have one friend who definitely had a problem with gays, but I like to say that I'm so open-minded that I'm open-minded enough to have friends like that. You can't control what other people think. All you can do is live your own life and see what makes life worth living. See what you believe in and what you think is right. I try to live my life according to that.

You were part of a wave of female singer-songwriters – Sarah McLachlan, Tori Amos, Ani DiFranco – who really owned the mid-'90s, from record sales to tours like Lilith Fair. Do you miss that time in music when you could sell millions of records and just write really good songs?

Yeah, everything has changed. Music is like that. Everything is cyclical. I was almost embarrassed when they were making such a big deal out of us because of Carly Simon and Joni Mitchell – and even before them, there were these amazing artists. It's always cyclical and I feel so fortunate that I was able to sell the records in the time that I did, because those days are gone. We'll never sell records like that again.

My whole goal is to have a long career. I never thought I'd get as popular as I did; I hoped to have a career like John Prine or something like that. I knew when I got as big as I did

that it wouldn't last forever. I grew up in nature; there's nothing that's immortal.

Would you ever return to the dance genre you explored on 2003's "0304"? The gays gotta know.

Yes, I want to service my gays. (Laughs) I'm doing a bunch of remixes for this "Greatest Hits." A lot of them are club remixes. "Standing Still," "Two Hearts Breaking" and one of "Foolish Games." But it's been so hard to get the label to value my remixes. I think they don't really look at it as sales, but to me, it's so important. I love reinventing the songs; it's such a creative outlet.

What's the status on the movie you shot for Lifetime, "The June Carter Cash Story"?

It hasn't released. It's out this summer sometime.

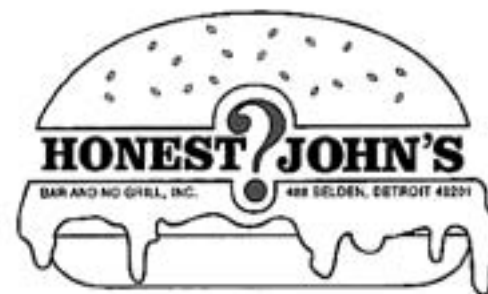
I know you've acted before but never in a lead role of this caliber. What was the most challenging part for you?

It was a big part. And I tried to tell them I wasn't an actor! (Laughs) It was scary. Acting is scary. It's hard, because it's not my first craft. But I really got the bug this time. It felt creative for the first time instead of just terrifying. I hope to honor her memory and give John Carter (June's son) something I didn't completely mess up.

I imagine it's a difficult transformation. You're not creating the character.

Yeah – and playing the part that Reese (Witherspoon) won an Oscar for! The odds are already stacked against me. (Laughs)

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Happenings

OUTINGS

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. 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, genderneutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. J.Jenkins@GoAffirmations.org

LGBT Professionals Mixer 6 p.m. Join the Kalamazoo LGBT Professionals Network for an early St. Patty's Day. Kalamazoo LGBT Professionals Network, 804 W. Vine St., Kalamazoo. Kalamazoolgbtnetwork.com

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

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

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

LGBTQA Gender Explorers Group 8 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Spectrum Center, 3200 Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Pajeho@med.umich.edu

Tuesday, March 12

Retirement Income Workshop 11:30 a.m. Auto Workers: Join Ameriprise for an educational event about how to decide if a pension buy-out is right for you. This is a major decision that could impact you and your family for years to come. Call now to RSVP. Lunch will be served. Ameriprise, 2800 W. Big Beaver Road at Somerset Mall, Troy. 248-799-5935. jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion 5 p.m. 3Ci is a coalition of faith leaders, medical professionals, students, teachers, youth and community members dedicated to creating an inclusive, open and welcoming community for LGBTQ youth and adults alike in Calhoun County. 3Ci is led by PP Mid and South Michigan and was formed in 2008. 3Ci meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion, 2855 Capital Ave., Battle Creek. Inclusion.coalition@yahoo.com Ppmsm3ci.org



Editor's Pick

In the 1960s, Motown's stable of dazzling girl groups was unequaled on the pop music scene – in Detroit or anywhere else. Responsible for a non-stop avalanche of hits, The Marvelettes, The Vandellas, The Velvettes and The Supremes were crucial to Motown's ascent as the country's most successful independent record label; as were the invaluable studio contributions of The Andantes, who made everyone on the label sound better with their sweet gospel-imbued harmonies.

In a brand new exhibit at the world famous Motown Museum – aka "Hitsville, U.S.A." – these pioneering women will have the spotlight all to themselves. The exhibit – which includes never-before-seen photographs, early show posters, stage costumes, 45-rpm records and even an original program from Dick Clark's touring "Caravan of Stars" – honors four of Motown's most famous girl groups, and one who never quite got their due.

This exhibit runs through March and April. Motown Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is located at 2648 W. Grand Blvd. Detroit. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children. For more information, go to www.MotownMuseum.org.

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. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, March 11

Media and LGBT Visibility 3:30 p.m. Garrett Glaser, retired television journalist and founding member of the National Lesbian/Gay Journalists Association, is the featured speaker. Mr. Glaser will discuss his experience as the one of the first broadcast journalists to come out publicly as well as the current conditions for LGBT people and issues in television news media. Center for the Study of Human Rights, 128 Quirk, Ypsilanti. 734-487-3032. Emich.edu/Equality

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

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. Women's discussion group. Plans a monthly group activity such as dinner, movies, games. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/calendar/

Wednesday, March 13

Confident Retirement for the LGBT Community 12 p.m. Join a webinar series on how to create a confident retirement by solving your unique financial challenges. RSVP by phone or e-mail. Ameriprise & The Pointe Law Group, Detroit. 248-799-5935. Jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

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

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

Wild Wednesday 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18 interested in hanging out with other kind and supportive youth in a safe environment. 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. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com or billry92@comcast.net GetOutAndLive.me

TransCend 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Tracy@kalcrc.org Kalcrc.org

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

Friday, March 15

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: A Love to Keep; Teachers Pilar and Elvira fall in love during the final years of Francisco Franco's despotic reign, but their happiness is short-lived in this moving Spanish import. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Saturday, March 16

Clinical Issues and Sexual Orientation Training Opportunity 8:30 a.m. Register to receive training on social development, legal and health issues, coming out, clinical considerations and more. This event is aimed toward social workers, addictions counselor, psychologists, school counselors, physicians and students. Register via e-mail. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Klatosch@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

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Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Rite of Spring Centennial" Dvorak Symphony No. 8 and Stravinsky The Rite of Spring. Tickets: \$15+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 14 - March 16. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Classical Roots" The Classical Roots Concert has celebrated African-American contributions to classical music. The black-tie Celebration was founded to honor select African-American composers, musicians and educators for lifetime achievement, and raise funds to support the DSO's African-American music. Tickets: \$15+. 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 8 - March 9. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Oakland University Wind Symphony "Flint Institute's Wine Tasting Event" Along with the unique wine selection, enjoy live jazz by the Jeff Price Trio and gourmet fare from area restaurants and bakeries. Tickets: \$60-105. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. March 9. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor "Neil Sedaka" Tickets: \$20+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. March 9. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Farmington Players "Blackthorn in Concert" Beloved Blackthorn return for two evenings of Irish music, tight harmonies and a wide variety of popular and traditional songs. Tickets: \$17-19. Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. March 8 - March 9. 248-473-1856. FarmingtonPlayers.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Giraffe" Guitarist Alex Anest, Bassist John Sperendi, and Drummer Dave McWilliam have collaborated in bands ranging in style from jazz and rock to roots and country, but in January 2010 the three unveiled their newest project; an instrumental electric trio known as Giraffe. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 8. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Naima

Shamborguer" KCH welcomes this Detroit jazz heroine to its stage. Celebrate her KCH debut with a glass of cheer served at a cash bar provided by sponsor SEMJA. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 15. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Olympia Entertainment "Chris Tucker" Tucker is best known for playing the role of Detective James Carter in the Rush Hour film series. In the 1990's, Tucker was a frequent stand-up performer on Def Comedy Jam. He came to prominence in the 1995 cult classic Friday, alongside Ice Cube, and then appeared in Luc Besson's The Fifth Element before beginning work on the highly commercially successful Rush Hour films. Tickets: \$45.50-75.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 8. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Bill Burr" Tickets: \$29.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 10 - March 10. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Circa Survive, Minus The Bear" Tickets: \$25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 6:30 p.m. March 12. 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 "Swearingen & Kelli" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 11. 734-761-1800. TheArk.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 "Anais Mitchell" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 16. 734-761-1800. TheArk.com

FILM & VIDEO

Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Dragon Songs Lan Lang in China film in HD" Heralded as the hottest artist on the classical music planet by the New York Times, the star, Lang Lang has played sold out recitals and concerts in every major city in the world. Dragon Songs takes you back to China for an evening of outstanding classical music that should be seen on the big screen! Tickets: \$13-16. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. March 13. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Holy Motors" The first feature film in 13 years from France's Leos Carax is a visionary, unclassifiable and altogether stunning fantasy set in a dreamlike Paris. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Jan. 25 - March 10. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

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

Almost, Maine! 18-20. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. March 8 - 23. 1-888-71-TICKETS. StDunstansTheatre.com

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \$11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 14 - 17. 734-971-2228. A2CT.org

Dreamgirls \$18-30. Park Players at North Roseadale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. March 15 - April 6.

See Happenings, page 27

www.PrideSource.com



MaryJo Cuppone, Suzi Regan and Ruth Crawford in "Good People." Photo: Performance Network Theatre

'Good People' Is Good, Indeed

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

There's a rueful old joke about how people in Harlem in the 1930s never knew there was a Depression. Substitute Recession for Depression and the same might be said of South Boston in the 2010s, the hardscrabble neighborhood that Margie Walsh calls home in what may be the great play of the 21st century so far: David Lindsay-Abaire's "Good People." Director David Wolber gives it the production it deserves at Performance Network.

Rooted in place and time, "Good People" resounds far and deeply; even if you've never suffered a devastating job loss or been close to someone who has, you're hooked. And as the play begins Margie (short for Margaret and pronounced "Mahggy" with a Boston accent and a hard "g") isn't just losing a job, she's losing a job at a dollar store. It may not be rock bottom, but it's a couple streets away.

OK, I've given away a slight secret but the attentive playgoer will catch on almost immediately; playing Margie, Suzi Regan works up a convincing case of restless leg syndrome and delivers her lines with a desperate energy, as if by talking and talking she won't ever have to hear what her boss is about to tell her.

It's a strong opening scene, beautifully directed, with tension and pathos and what

PREVIEW

Good People

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through March 31. 2 hours. \$27-41. 734-663-0681.

www.PerformanceNetwork.org

Margie herself might call a bleepload of humor (only she wouldn't say bleep).

That's the thing about "Good People." It has enough laughs to qualify as a comedy, enough working-class realism to qualify as kitchen sink drama, enough hard luck to flirt with tragedy, sufficient plot to keep an audience wondering what will happen next.

The intrigue kicks off when Margie's pal Jean (the scene-stealing MaryJo Cuppone) mentions that Mikey Dillon (Alex Leydenfrost), Margie's old friend (possibly more than that) who escaped from Southie to become a doctor, is back in town. Maybe he'd have a job for her. What ensues is a multifaceted clash – of past and present, of classes, of outlooks on life, of good and...less good.

Class is a major theme of "Good People," economic, yes, but also class in the sense of who does the right thing even at personal cost. Luck, too, is prominent, especially the role luck plays in determining someone's future; it's no coincidence that bingo, the

essence of luck, is the major entertainment for Margie and her friends.

Mike worked hard and became a successful physician. Margie worked hard and became an unemployed dollar store cashier. In a particularly affecting speech Margie rattles off a set of circumstances that explains how skipping a meal to save a little money led to losing a job.

Regan, with a convincing Boston accent and a vibrant physical presence, is the glue that holds the play together. No matter what befalls her, Regan's Margie never, ever feels sorry for herself. Leydenfrost's Mike is at home in his upper class surroundings, his Southie accent left far behind, except for occasional flare-ups when Margie gets his goat. Qamara "Peaches" Black ranges from coquettish to fierce as Mike's much younger wife, Kate. And Cuppone seems like the genuine article as Jean, part-time banquet waitress, fulltime loyal friend, lifetime South Boston resident.

Daniel C. Walker's inventive set does quintuple duty as cityscape, working-class kitchen, church bingo hall, doctor's office and upscale living room. Costume designer Christa Koerner garbs everyone appropriately, from Margie's dated party dress to Jean's low-cut Red Sox T-shirt.

And Wolber and whoever else may have worked on dialect certainly nailed the accents. I used to live in that part of the country and it felt mighty familiar.

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By Smith RICH

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MARCH 21
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MARCH 22
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& 8 p.m.

MARCH 23
at 8 p.m.

MARCH 24
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Classifieds

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 Pinecrest. Closed/
Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay
AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S
Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

Diversity Wednesday Al- Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in
basement)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
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Solution to puzzle from page 28

C	A	S	T	P	A	I	R	S	P	A	H	R			
R	U	L	E	O	K	R	A	C	L	I	M	E			
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D	O	W	N	T	O	N	A	B	B	E	E	Y			
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Editor's Pick

Anyone who has planned a wedding will appreciate the wish of the young couple in Stagecrafters' current musical to have a simple, no-fuss ceremony. But a wedding forces a struggling family to examine their lives in the 2nd Stage production of "A Catered Affair," featuring a book by Harvey Fierstein and music and lyrics by John Bucchino. The show runs through March 10 at the Baldwin Theatre in downtown Royal Oak.

"A Catered Affair' isn't a typical musical," said the show's director, Jay Kaplan. "There are no big dance numbers or opportunities to stop the show. It's realistic and unadorned by razzle-dazzle. This is a small, intimate musical that will play well in the snug confines of the 2nd Stage while giving us an amazing opportunity to present real and human characters."

Performances are at 8 p.m. March 7-9 and 2 p.m. March 10.

Advance tickets are \$16. Tickets may be purchased online or by phone at 248-541-6430.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 24

<http://ParkPlayers.WordPress.com>

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

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

The 39 Steps \$8-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. March 14 - 24. 517-482-5700. Riverwalktheatre.com

The Kitchen Witches \$22-25. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. March 8 - 17. 517-264-SHOW. Crosswell.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

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Louise Heck-Rabi One-Act Festival \$5. WSU Studio Theatre, Downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 9. 313-577-2972. Wayne.edu

Macbeth \$5-20. The University Theatre of WMU at Williams Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. March 14 - 24. 269-387-3227. WMUTheatre.com

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later Free reading March 9. \$5-10. Lansing Community College, Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing. Through March 23. 517-372-0945. 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

Action Sports News \$20; \$10 March 26 only. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. March 8 - 30. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

All The King's Women \$12-18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. March 8 - 24. 877-636-3320. DetroitEnsembleTheatre.org

Dare to Dream \$18-65. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. March 14 - 17. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Dreamtigers \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through March 23. 313-961-7777. PuppetArt.org

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

Fertile Beach \$7-10. Crawspace Eviction at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. March 15-16. 269-599-7390. Crawspacetheatre.com

Good People \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through March 31. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Hooray For Hollywood \$50-55. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 16. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

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

Making Porn \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 18. TheRingwald.com

Marriage \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 6. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Next to Normal \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through March 10. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Of Mice and Men \$36. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. March 16 - March 18. 248-661-1900. theberman.org

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

Postcards A world premiere. \$17 advance, \$20 day of performance. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 17. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience - A Parody by Dan and Jeff \$35-75. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through March 17. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

State of Emergency Free. Shop Floor Theatre Company at The Masonic Temple, 755 Saginaw St., Flint. March 8 - 9. 810-424-5453. Shopfloortheatre.com

The Book of Mormon \$49+. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 12 - 24. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

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 Garden of Joy \$10-25. Wharton

Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 15 - 16. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

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

The Meaning of Almost Everything \$18.50 - \$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 9. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

ART'N'AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Dec. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 30. 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 "Around the World with 80 Objects" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 1 - June 30. 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. Kigrc.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: The Transgender Community of Istanbul" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22 - April 14. Museum.msu.edu

Motown Museum "Girl Groups: The Grit, The Glamour, The Glory" In a brand new exhibit at the world famous Motown Museum - aka "Hitsville, U.S.A." - the pioneering women of girl groups will have the spotlight all to themselves. Motown Museum, 2648 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit. March 1 - April 30. 313-875-2264. www.MotownMuseum.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 1 - March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 2 - May 5. 734-763-4186. umich.edu

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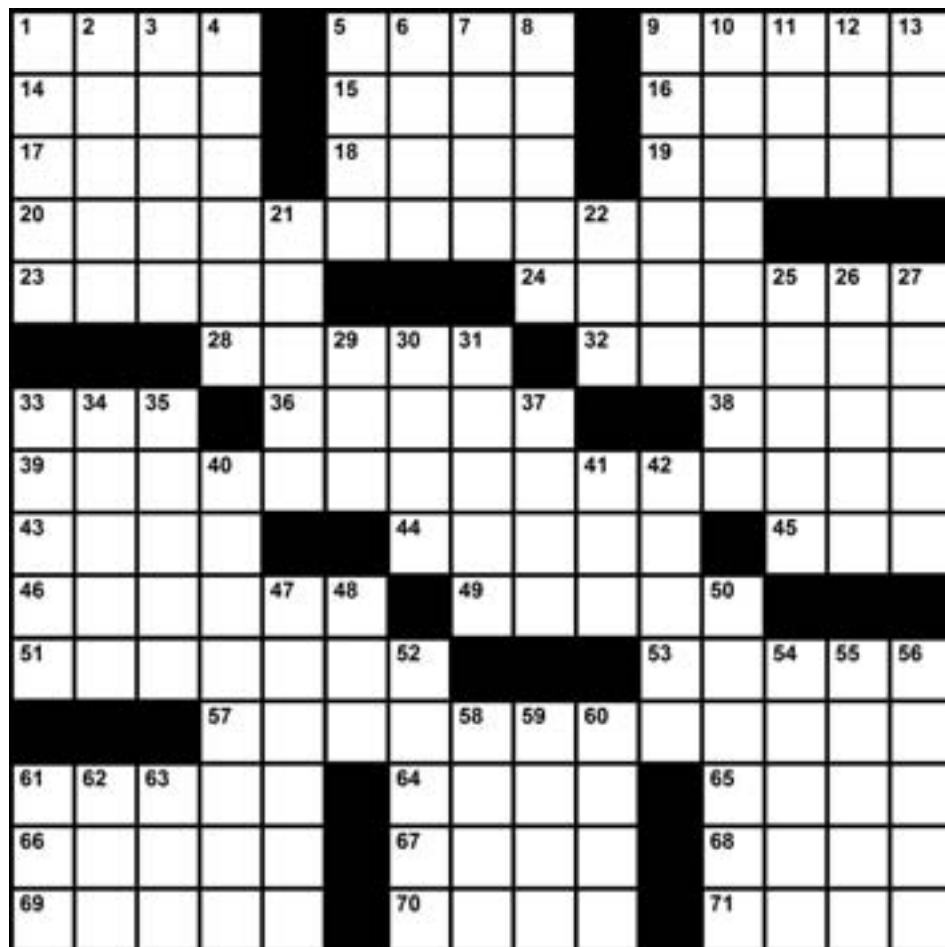
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45 Dr. of the rap world
46 Places for fans
49 Make changes to
51 Top angels
53 What a Greek sleeper catches?

- 57 Deliciously evil under butler of 20-Across
61 Reagon of the Big Lovely band
64 Dog in "The Thin Man"
65 Spongy earth
66 Out in front
67 Offend the nose
68 Court doings
69 Black pussy cats, e.g.
70 Strip in the locker room
71 "Maude" producer Norman

Down

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2 They're driven
3 Hits the brakes
4 Amelie Mauresmo's game
5 Game played astride the well-hung
6 Similar in nature
7 La Douce role of Shirley
8 Steven Greenberg, for one
9 Diagram
10 Broadway circular
11 Earhart's milieu
12 "I'm thinking ..."
13 Hi-___ graphics
21 Tony Orlando backup singer Hopkins
22 Stonewall Inn, for one
25 "Let me repeat ..."
26 Not the first recording
27 Catch in a trap
29 "___ Spartacus!"
30 Threesome minus one
31 Commercial bovine
33 Geometry calculations
34 Peter on the screen
35 Mammy Yokum's lad
37 Bait and switch, for one
40 "Coming Out" author Katz
41 Vein filler
42 "The Great Caruso" star Mario
47 Sap suckers
48 "The L Word" network
50 For skin
52 On the ball
54 Brief moment
55 Primary blood carrier
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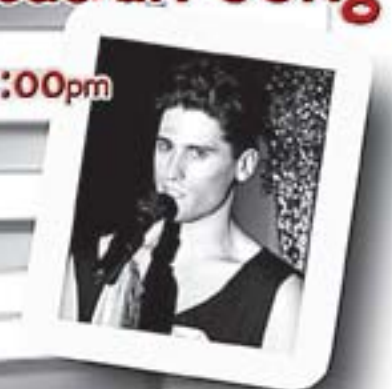
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

The sun'll come out tomorrow for Jane Lynch

And that sun will stay out for exactly eight weeks. That's how long "Glee"'s mercurial Sue Sylvester, aka Jane Lynch, will star as fearsome orphanage meanie Miss Hannigan in the ongoing Broadway revival of "Annie." She'll take the boards beginning May 16 and will end her temp run in July, just in time to shoot more "Glee" episodes and begin her stint as host of Sean Hayes' new primetime game show, "Hollywood Game Night." Lynch will oversee contestants as they make their way through Hollywood cocktail parties, mingling with celebrities and competing for cash. We're still not sure how this game will work, or how knocking back martinis with "Dancing with the Stars"-level celebs constitutes a heated battle for game show dominance, but the unknown is enticing, isn't it? Meanwhile, it's just good to see Lynch diversifying and looking past "Glee," lest that tracksuit become a corset.



Jane Lynch. Photo: S Bukley

Matt Bomer heats up 'Winter's Tale'

Every time a hot young actor comes out and keeps working in high-profile projects it further destroys the perception that openly gay men can't succeed on screen without the closet. So here's to Matt Bomer and his next movie, a little thing called "Winter's Tale," co-starring nobodies with names like Will Smith, Russell Crowe and Colin Farrell. The fantasy feature is based on Mark Helprin's novel set in both 19th century and present day Manhattan and it involves a young thief, the dying visionary girl he loves and a flying white horse named Athansor that helps him ride into the future through a cloud wall. Or something like that. Anyway, it's to be directed by screenwriter/producer Akiva Goldsman ("A Beautiful Mind," "The Da Vinci Code") and also stars Jennifer Connelly, William Hurt and screen legend Eva Marie Saint ("On The Waterfront").

Kelly McGillis rides into a different kind of danger zone

Kelly McGillis is back, both the 1986 and the 2013 versions of her. With a 3D IMAX re-release of "Top Gun" drawing the retro-minded curious (and diehard Kenny Loggins enthusiasts) back into a smattering of theaters, McGillis is currently popping off screens nationwide. But the older and wiser McGillis (she made news for refusing to comment on fellow lesbian thespian Jodie Foster's recent Golden Globes speech) is also back in acting action in a creepy new film that just hit the Sundance Film Festival. It's called "We Are What We Are" and it's based on a 2010 Mexican film of the same name. This

version, from filmmakers Jim Mickle and Nick Damici, is transplanted to New York state but the key disturbing elements remain the same: It revolves around the adventures of a family of ritualistic cannibals. Fun! Picked up at the festival by eOne Distribution, it should hit indie and arthouse-minded theaters later this year. And who knows, with this and last year's unnerving Ti West horror film "The Innkeepers," McGillis may become a middle-aged scream queen. There are much worse career paths.

Jonathan Groff's 'Untitled' career move

We've already reported that Jonathan Groff ("Glee," "Spring Awakening") will star in "C.O.G.," the indie feature based on a David Sedaris story from his bestselling book "Naked." And later this year Groff will voice the male lead in the latest Disney animated feature, "Frozen," based on a Hans Christian Andersen tale, which co-stars Kristen Bell and his fellow "Glee" colleague Idina Menzel. But it's the project with the least – and yet most intriguing – amounts of information that has us the most excited right now. Groff is starring in what is now known only as the "Untitled Michael Lannan Comedy," which wouldn't be of interest unless you already knew that Lannan is one of the producers of the buzz-making James Franco Sundance entry "Interior. Leather Bar." (the half-real, half-fake documentary about finding the missing footage from William Friedkin's "Cruising"). And the soon-to-be-actually-titled project has found a director in Andrew Haigh, the man behind the acclaimed (as in the Criterion Collection has already included it in their DVD release roster) gay indie feature "Weekend." We figure it'll be about something gay. But that's just an informed hunch.

Romen San Vicente's own weekends are always acclaimed. And sometimes filmed. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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