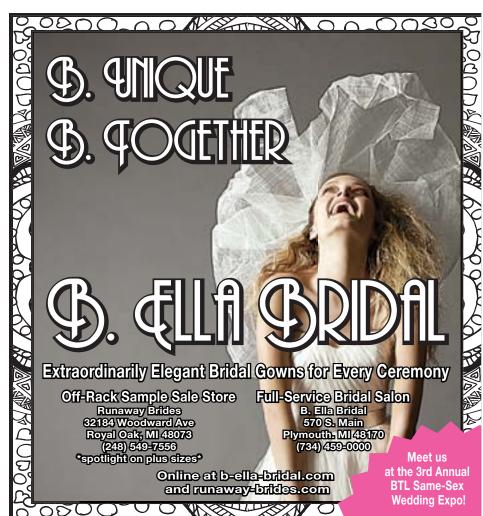


And So It Begins...

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Marriage Equality Arguments, Sparks Local Vigils, Rallies







Darius Milhaud's Oresteia of Aeschylus L'Agamemnon, Les Choéphores, Les Euménides

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A co-production of UMS and the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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Program

and the second se							
Haydn	Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4 ("Sunrise") (1796-97)						
Britten	Quartet No. 3 in G Major, Op. 94 (1975)						
Beethoven	Quartet in c-sharp minor, Op. 131 (1825)						

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COVER STORY

4 U.S. Supremes hear marriage equality arguments



In the **guise** of religious freedom,

SB **SB 136** would legitimize discrimination

against women and LGBT people, and denial of medical services could

have life or death consequence.



- Rev. Jill McAllister, pg. 6

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NEWS

- 4 Grand Rapids rally reflects mood of country
- Same-sex marriage by the 5 numbers
- Dangerous bill moves forward 6
- 7 Petition to end referendum-proof legislation begins
- Battle Creek Pride gets some 8 great new spaces

OPINION

- 9 Parting Glances: A voice on oause
- 10 Viewpoint: The morning after
- 11 My family and marriage equality
- 12 Creep of the Week: Sandy Rios

LIFE

- 14 Belinda Carlisle: Still Go-Going
- 19 Cool Cities: Ann Arbor
- 22 Hear Me Out
- 24 Happenings
- 25 When love and marriage are no horse and carriage

REAR VIEW

- 26 Puzzle & Classifieds
- 29 Big love for Lianne
- 30 Deep Inside Hollywood

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3



Third Annual Same-Sex Wedding Expo Returns April 7

Meet LGBT-friendly bakers, venues, florists and more at this fabulous event! Be one of the first 100 to RSVP to the third annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo, April 7, and get in for free. Not only will the Third Annual Same-Sex Wedding Expo supply you with a variety of fantastic LGBT-friendly vendors to plan your special day, but admission enters you in a contest to win one of six of our fantastic weekend getaway packages! Simply RSVP at http://GayBe.am/ME and we'll mail you your ticket.



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Marriage March Attracts Over 150 People

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

GRAND RAPIDS – On March 23, Vote Equal (formally known as Marriage Michigan PAC) hosted a March for Equality in downtown Grand Rapids. The March was made up of over 150 LGBT supporters and was one of many taking place this week around the country as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear two marriage equality cases. The group met at Rumors Night Club, 69 S. Division Ave., and marched the downtown sidewalks carrying signs in support of same-sex marriage and equality.

After the march, Vote Equal invited everyone back to The Apartment Lounge for a re-launch party, announcing their transition from the Marriage Michigan PAC to Vote Equal. Chris Silva, president, gave a speech to show Vote Equal's gratitude for the "constant, current and future support."

Under new leadership, Vote Equal eyes a 2016 ballot proposal instead of the group's previously stated goal to put it on the ballot in 2014. Vote Equal also hopes to help add sexual orientation to the state's Elliott Larsen bill protecting minorities from discrimination in housing, employment and public accomodations.

"Vote Equal will stand with the progressive community and support candidates that share our ideals and we are working for a more equal and fair society. And most important, we are in the midst of joining arms with the various



A Grand Rapids rally brought out over 150 local residents in support of marriage equality March 23. Photo courtesy of Vote Equal.

LGBT organizations in Michigan," said Vote Equal's Vice President Danny Hossler. "Without showing solidarity with our partners in the community we can never expect to see the type of change we all are working toward." Hossler was elated with the turnout.

"The overwhelming support from Michigan residents has been phenomenal," he said,

noting that as the marchers passed a heterosexual couple on the sidewalk, they turned to join them. "That was very heart-felt and genuine."

"Together we can truly make a difference," he said.



To find out more about Vote Equal, visit their

Wide Range Of Potential Outcomes On Marriage

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court can choose from a wide array of outcomes in ruling on California's Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriage and the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

The federal law, known by the shorthand DOMA, defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman and therefore keeps legally married gay Americans from collecting a range of federal benefits that generally are available to married people.

The cases will be argued Tuesday and Wednesday; rulings are not likely before late June.

The justices might come out with rulings that are simple, clear and dramatic. Or they might opt for something narrow and legalistic.

The court could strike down dozens of state laws that limit marriage to heterosexual couples, but it also could uphold gay marriage bans or say nothing meaningful about the issue at all.

A look at potential outcomes for the

Proposition 8 case and then for the case about DOMA:

Q. What if the Supreme Court upholds **Proposition 8?**

A. This would leave gay Californians without the right to marry in the state and would tell the roughly 40 states that do not allow samesex marriages that there is no constitutional problem in limiting marriage to a man and a woman.

Such an outcome probably would trigger a political campaign in California to repeal Proposition 8 through a ballot measure and could give impetus to similar voter or legislative efforts in other states.

Q. What if the court strikes down Proposition 8?

A. A ruling in favor of the two same-sex couples who sued to invalidate the voterapproved gay marriage ban could produce one of three possibilities. The broadest would apply across the country, in effect invalidating constitutional provisions or statutes against

gay marriage everywhere.

Or a majority of the justices could agree on a middle option that applies only to California as well as Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, and Rhode Island. Those states already treat gay and straight couples the same in almost every respect through civil unions or domestic partnerships. The only difference is that gay couples are not allowed to marry.

Prop 8: The narrowest of these potential outcomes would apply to California only.

This "eight-state solution" would say that the Constitution forbids states to withhold marriage from same-sex couples while giving them all the basic rights of married people. But this ruling would not implicate marriage bans in other states and would leave open the question of whether states could deprive gay couples of any rights at all. Colorado is poised to join this group and make the option a nine-state solution.

The narrowest of these potential outcomes would apply to California only. The justices essentially would adopt the rationale of the federal appeals court that found that California could not take away the right to marry that had been granted by the state Supreme Court in 2008 before Proposition 8 passed later that year.

In addition, if the Supreme Court were to rule that gays and lesbians are deserving of special protection from discriminatory laws, it is unlikely that any state ban on same-sex marriage could survive long, even if the justices don't issue an especially broad ruling in this case.

Q. Are there other potential outcomes?

A. Yes, the court has a technical way out of the case without deciding anything about same-sex marriage. The Proposition 8 challengers argue that the private parties

Same-Sex Marriage By The Numbers

About 9 million The number of

Americans who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, according to a 2011 study by a scholar at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute.

9 plus the District of Columbia The number of states that issue marriage

The number of states that issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The states are Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Washington.

30 The number of states, including California, that ban same-sex marriage in their state constitutions. Ten states bar them under state laws. New Mexico law is silent on the issue.

Almost 9 The number of years gay couples have been marrying in Massachusetts, the first state to allow samesex couples to wed. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November 2003 that it was unconstitutional to bar same-sex couples from marrying in the state. The court allowed weddings to start May 17, 2004. **49** The percentage of Americans who now favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, according to a Pew Research Center poll conducted in mid-March. Forty-four percent are opposed.

142 The number of days in 2008 that gay marriage was legal in California before voters banned it with Proposition 8.

About 18,000 The number of gay couples that married in California during the window when it was legal.

9 The number of justices on the Supreme Court. Six of the justices are married, all of them to people of the opposite sex. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a widow, Justice Sonia Sotomayor is divorced and Justice Elena Kagan has never married.

\$6,000 Tickets to the two arguments at the Supreme Court are technically free. But getting them requires lining up days or hours ahead, or paying someone else to. The first people got in line March 21, bringing the price

of saving a seat to around \$6,000. - Source Assoicated Press

Five of the most important turning points in the same-sex marriage debate:

1993: In a landmark case, Hawaii's Supreme Court ruled that the state can't deny same-sex couples the right to marry unless it finds "a compelling reason" to do so. It orders the issue back to the state legislature, which then voted to ban gay marriage. This was one of earliest debates on the issue at the state level, and was a precursor to the legal battles nationwide. Today, domestic partnerships and civil unions for same-sex couples are legal in Hawaii.

1996: President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, — which defines marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman. The law denies federal benefits to same-sex couples in the nine states where gay marriage is legal. Clinton said he signed it because it would have tamped down calls for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Only 81 out of 535 members of Congress opposed DOMA. Fast-forward seven years to March 2013, when Clinton urged the Supreme Court to overturn DOMA. He explained: "As the president who signed the act into law, I have come to believe that DOMA is contrary to those principles and, in fact, incompatible with our Constitution."

2004: President Bush championed a constitutional amendment that would outlaw gay marriage. It was needed, he said, to stop "activist judges" from redefining marriage. The idea found support among Senate conservatives, but its supporters couldn't gather enough votes.

5

By the way, all this unfolded during a contentious presidential campaign. Democratic White House hopefuls Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards opposed the amendment, but they also were against creating a specific law making same-sex marriage legal.

2012: For the first time, voters approved samesex marriage statewide at the ballot box. Similar measures had been rejected for years. Same-sex couples became free to marry in Maryland, Maine and Washington. Gay rights supporters also scored a smaller victory in Montana, where voters rejected a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Interestingly, support for same-sex marriage came from a mixed coalition of voters. Before 2012, six states had already legalized gay marriage — but via courts and legislatures — not voters.

2013: For the first time, the Obama administration joined the legal battle against California's 2008 same-sex marriage ban. The Justice Department made it official in February when it filed a brief to the Supreme Court. The Obama administration urged the high court to invalidate the ban. Obama said that if he sat on the Supreme Court, he would vote to strike down Proposition 8. The court document expressed the president's evolution on the issue. In a short time he evolved from a backer of civil unions to a supporter of equality in marriage. Dozens of high-profile Republicans also argued in favor of same-sex marriage, in a court brief.



www.PrideSource.com



Dangerous Moral Objection Bill Moves Forward In Senate

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Members of the Michigan Senate's Committee on Health Policy held a hearing on and voted in support of Senate Bill 136 March 21. The bill, if passed into law, would provide health care professionals with legal protections should they decide to discriminate against a patient or co-worker based "on religious beliefs, moral convictions, or ethical principles sincerely held by an individual or entity." The bill, whose primary sponsor is State Sen. John Moolenaar (R - Midland), is aimed at legalizing discrimination in Michigan on religious or moral grounds.

A similar bill was passed in the lame duck session of the house last year, but was not heard in the senate.

Currently medical professionals can decline to provide abortions based on a "moral objection." SB 136 extends the conscience clause to any procedure or prescription that violates one's religious beliefs. This could include denial of birth control or hormones, and may even be used to discriminate. Schools would not be allowed to deny credits to an individual in a medial or counseling program if that student refused to participate in learning about morally objectionable care.

The bill also has a provision for "payers," including employers, to have their religious beliefs imposed upon the patient through their insurance coverage, and allows insurance companies to deny coverage based on moral beliefs. It would also allow pharmacies to decline filling prescriptions that they are morally opposed to. This could include birth control, HIV medication, prenatal care for morally objectionable family circumstances, or hormones for transgender individuals.

The bill includes a provision protecting care providers from civil lawsuits, criminal action and licensing or administrative actions in response to their refusal to provide care. Although it specifically states that employers and schools who punish employees for refusing to provide care may be subject to a lawsuit.

Emily Dievendorf, director of policy for Equality Michigan said, "At a time when our Governor is working to reform and improve healthcare in Michigan, extremists within his own party are choosing to waste our money by doing the opposite and finding ways to keep



Protesters gathered outside State Sen. Tanya Schuitmaker's Kalamazoo office last week to encourage her to vote against SB 136. The bill could be voted on in as little as two weeks.

I In the guise of religious freedom, SB 136 would legitimize discrimination against women and LGBT people, and denial of medical services could have life or death consequences."

- Rev. Jill McAllister of Peoples

Church Kalamazoo.

people from potentially life-saving health care. In complete contrast with the Hippocratic Oath, Senator Moolenaar (R - Midland) is suggesting that we empower health professionals to first do harm by using a license to discriminate to turn away a patient based on any arbitrary criteria.

"Denying emergency room care to a Jewish patient, care over disagreements on religious text, is not what they had in mind when asking professionals to pledge to the Hippocratic Oath. This reprehensible bill must be stopped before it becomes embarrassingly clear that Michigan is a state which prefers hate over compassion."

Dievendorf said that three amendments were offered in committee which would protect against discrimination, but that all were rejected.

A rally was held last week in Kalamazoo in opposition to SB 136 at the

office of State Sen. Tanya Schuitmaker to encourage her to vote against the bill.

"In the guise of religious freedom, SB 136 would legitimize discrimination against women and LGBT people, and denial of medical services could have life or death consequences," said Rev. Jill McAllister of Peoples Church Kalamazoo. "SB 136 is designed to undermine the core principle of caring for all people and would represent an enormous step backwards in our state. Michigan families deserve quality healthcare, no matter where they work and where they seek care."

David Feaster, executive director of CARES said, "As it stands now, many individuals in our community with HIV experience hardships with the resources necessary for transportation, to necessary medical care. There are so few specialist treating this condition that if one physician refuses to treat a patient because they are gay, or transgendered, or of another religion, that might mean that that patient must travel another hour or more to receive the help they need. Our community members deserve to receive the closest treatment available. There are already so many barriers to healthcare, we don't need additional ones."

Equality Michigan, Planned Parenthood and the National Organization for Women are among the groups in opposition to the bill, which could be voted on in as little as two weeks when the State Senate returns from vacation.

Read the full text of the bill at www. legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/ billintroduced/Senate/htm/2013-SIB-0136. htm

A Ferndale Man's Petition To End Referendum-Proof Legislation Begins

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

"How many more times will we get something from our legislature that we can't undo?" That's the main question posed by Ferndale resident Bill Lucas. Lucas has started a petition to amend the state constitution by striking out language that allows legislation to be referendum-proof if there are appropriations attached.

The provision is historically intended to protect the budget process from being halted, since government needs the budget in order to function. However politicians have begun adding appropriations to bills that normally do not have anything to do with the budget just so they would not be subject to citizens' petitioning for repeal.

A well-known example of this was the recent Emergency Financial Manager law. Public Act 4 of 2011 gave the governor the right to appoint EMFs. Voters got enough signatures and votes to repeal the act. Later the legislature passed a similar act, but this time with an appropriation in it for administrative costs. Because of this change the public had no recourse.

Lucas has already begun the

process to change this. He's prepared a petition that he plans to circulate in the late spring into the early fall that would make a simple change to Article II Section 9 of the state Constitution. Currently it states, "The power of referendum does not extend to acts making appropriations for state institutions or to meet deficiencies in state funds and must be invoked in the manner prescribed by law within 90 days following the final adjournment of the legislative session at which the law was enacted."

Lucas' petition would eliminate the phrase "does not extend to acts making appropriations for state institutions or to meet deficiencies in state funds," meaning that the public could petition a bill even if there is an appropriation attached.

BTL | March 28, 2013

7



Bill Lucas

The recent Emergency Financial Manager law - Public Act 4 of 2011 - gave the governor the right to appoint EMFs. Voters got enough signatures and votes to repeal the act. Later the legislature passed a similar act, but this time with an appropriation in it for administrative costs. Because of this change the public had no recourse. This peition seeks to remedy the problem and once again allow public recourse.

> The petition has already been approved, and in mid-April he will begin the process of collecting over 323,000 signatures statewide that are required to get it on the ballot. He hopes to get bi-partisan support since the abuse of the existing provision could be done by either party.

> His interest began several years ago when a new law meant that retailers no longer had to price items in their stores.

> "That law came into place because of allegations of baiting and switching that was going on in the 1970s. People would go to check out and be charged more than the price on the shelf, and maybe they wouldn't notice or they wouldn't want to take the time to check on it. It was a big problem

then," he said.

For several decades consumers were protected against this practice, until 2011 when the Shopping Reform and Modernization Act eliminated the requirement to price individual items. Consumers throughout the state objected to this, yet because there was an appropriation attached there was no way to petition to stop it.

Lucas is also concerned that large bottling companies and distributers are lobbying to eliminate the deposit requirement for plastic and glass soda pop containers. He said that the refund system Michigan enacted incentivizes recycling. "We could have

dirty highways like we did in the 70s," he said. "Within one year [of getting the deposit law], it changed completely. People stopped throwing their bottles on the side of the road and it made such a difference. I don't want to go back to that."

Lucas started Voters for Fair Use of Ballot Referendum as a way to bring political power back to the citizens. If enough signatures are collected the issue will go on the ballot for 2014. Lucas is hoping to gain support from a variety of groups from all political persuasions.

Though he hasn't been particularly active in politics or activism, Lucas did serve on the Ferndale Charter Revision Commission in 1999-2000.

A more complex clarification to the law was also proposed in a Senate Joint Resolution C in Jan. of 2013 by state Senator Glenn Anderson, a Democrat who represents Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township and Westland. Instead of eliminating wording, the resolution would clarify that referendum-exempt bills would only have budgeting purposes, and not other lawmaking purposes.

To find out more about Voters for Fair Use of Ballot Referendum, check out Lucas' website at http://billucas.com.

The Goodlife Awards Comes To Detroit Save The Date: April 4

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Welcome to the Good Life. No, this story has nothing to do with Kanye West and the song of the same name. It's about an innovative, openly-gay minister named Michael Heard and his passion for recognizing people for their achievements. Heard is pastor of the Goodlife Church of Columbus, Ohio and creator of the Goodlife Awards, which this year will be holding awards ceremonies in Detroit, Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and, of course, Columbus.

"The purpose of the Goodlife Awards is to honor individuals who strive for excellence and success in whatever area of life they work in, volunteer in or commit themselves to," said Heard. "We like to place an emphasis on the LGBT community, although we don't only honor LGBT individuals."

The idea for the Goodlife Awards came to Heard several years ago.

"I grew up in church and, for me, honoring people was just always something that we did," Heard said. "We always had pastor's anniversary, first ladies day, minister of music's appreciation. So about eight years ago I wanted to do something that was different. I started out honoring first ladies. That took off and I was able to travel the country honoring women. Once I came out of the closet, a lot of those traditional church connections would no longer deal with me. But I knew I had the gift of putting together an event like this. So I decided I would create one for our community."

The awards ceremony will take place Thursday, April 4th, at the Westin hotel in Southfield. The first Goodlife Awards ceremony took place in Atlanta in 2011 and honored affirming pastors in the area.

The Honorees

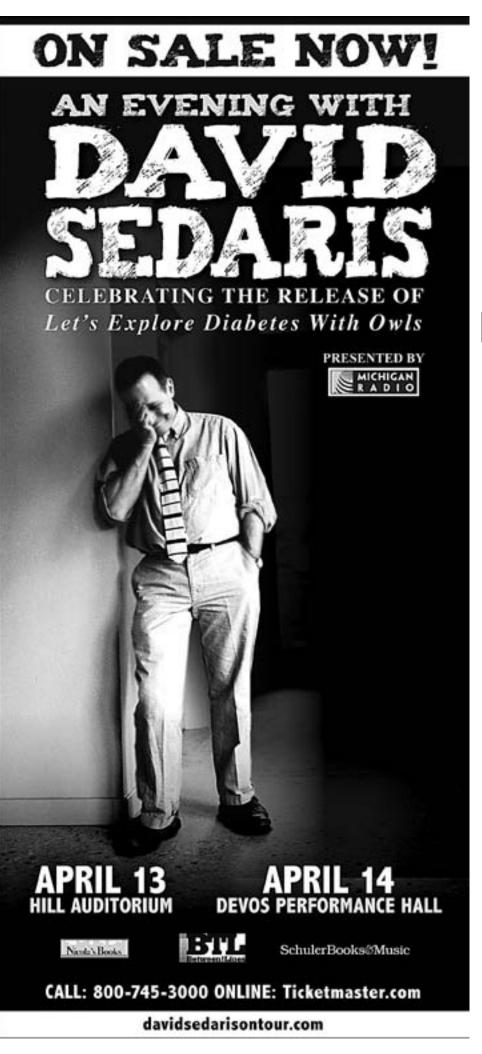
This year's honorees include Pastor Matthew Bode of Spirit of Hope; Dwain Bridges of Mpowerment-Detroit and the Michigan AIDS Coalition; Pastor Darlene Franklin of Agape Spirit Life Ministries; Walter Houston of Houston's Catering; Rodney Howell, owner of Hairshion Salon; Donte Jeffrey, owner of Foil Salon; Michael Matthews, founder of Red Tie for Youth; longtime Between The Lines writer and author Jason A. Michael; Dwight Rance; attorney Alicia Skillman; John Trimble, project coordinator for LGBT mobilization with the Kick Agency; Ray and Ryan Willingham; and Cornelius Wilson, founder of Men of Color Motivational Group and currently with the Detroit Health Department.

While in Detroit, Heard has something of an ulterior motive.

"This gives me the opportunity to see how the LGBT community would respond to having a Pentecostal affirming church," Heard said. "Detroit does not have a Pentecostal affirming church."

The mission of Heard's church in Columbus is to provide a safe place for all people to come and worship. "There's something that we say in our church every Sunday that's very powerful," said Heard. "This is the place of empowerment, enlightenment, education and encouragement. And that's what we strive for."

Tickets for the Goodlife Awards are \$20 for regular admission and \$40 for VIP and must be purchased in advance. For more information, visit thegoodlifeawards.com





Volunteers have begun the process of cleaning up two new spaces, a residential facility for LGBT people in need, and a location to house the Battle Creek Gay Lesbian Resource Center at 16 E. Van Buren. Father Brian Coleman of St. Thomas Episcopal Church came up with the idea to use the basement of the church.

Big News for Battle Creek Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

BATTLE CREEK – While many were expecting Battle Creek Pride's big project to be moving their annual Pride celebration from a picnic in the park to a full-blown downtown celebration, those plans have been put on hold. Instead the group is celebrating two windfalls of generosity and expanding into the first community center and the first Pride House for their community.

The first stroke of luck came when an old Habitat for Humanity house became available in the city. According to Battle Creek Pride President Larry Dillon, the family that had lived there stopped paying on their low-interest mortgage and abandoned the home. The home was left "trashed," and Habitat for Humanity wanted to find a charity to donate the house to.

"This just fell into our lap," Dillon said. He and the 13-member Battle Creek Pride Board decided to accept the house, and have been hard at work cleaning it up. As of now it seems their plan is to turn it into temporary housing for LGBT people in need.

"We thought it would make a great community center, but because it's in a residential area we can't have meetings there or our offices," Dillon said. "So now we are

Wishilist

Clean-up has also begun on this space, and members are searching for donations to make the center function. Their wish list includes: Carpet, Curtains, Desk Chairs (2), Desks (2) (one available from Denise), Conference Table, Couch & Comfortable Chairs, Folding Chairs (20), Coat Rack (holding 30 coats), Pool Table, Coffee table, End Tables (2), Filing Cabinets (2), Floor Lamps (2), Desk Lamp, Ceiling Light Fixtures (6), Storage Cabinet, 6' Folding Table (2), Waste Baskets (2), Large Trash Receptacle, Large Bulletin Board, Small Bulletin Board, White Board, Large Guest/Sign in Book, Long Partition, Office Cubicles, Movie Screen, Large Flatscreen TV, Refrigerator, Microwave, Magazine Rack, Phone and Answering Machine, Laptops (3). looking into what it would take to have it be a Pride House. our dream is that LGBT people will be able to seek shelter there if they have no place to go. For example, if a young person came out to their parents and says, 'Hey mom and dad, I'm a lesbian,' and they say 'we don't want you in our house,' then someone refers them to the Battle Creek Pride House. There would be a trained resident there who can give them a bedroom for a couple of days while they figure out where they will go next.

'Another example is, say there is a gay couple and they break up their partnership. Often one will have control over the resources and the other may leave with nothing. That partner could come here instead of going to a rescue mission where he may not be as welcomed."

There is still much research and planning that needs to be done before Pride House can blossom into a functioning facility, but having the building donated is a huge first step. The windfall also led to their second big announcement. "When we were giving thought to what to do with a house, we considered having a community center, but we couldn't in that location," Dillon said. The articulation of that idea opened up another door for the group, as Father Brian Coleman of St. Thomas Episcopal Church came up with the idea to use the basement of the church as the Battle Creek's first LGBT Community Center.

For a small monthly rental fee to cover expenses, the "Battle Creek Gay Lesbian Resource Center" will be located at 16 E. Van Buren, with hours yet to be determined. Dillon said the space will be adequate for many social gatherings, office space, testing facilities, rallies, planning meetings, educational functions, board meetings, support groups, Pride Festival Office, and more.

To donate or to get involved, contact Larry Dillon at LarryMDillon@aol.com, and follow Battle Creek Pride on Facebook.

A Voice On Pause ...



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

t happened suddenly. One minute I had my voice. The next minute it was gone. There was no temperature. No nausea. No dizziness. (No more dementia than usual.) Somehow my voice just came and, poof! went. Friends said I sounded like Tallulah Bankhead in a fog.

To say that the loss was disconcerting is an understatement, and most curious. I wasn't shouting Go Blue! I wasn't yelling, Ice that puck! I wasn't ordering some Piston player to dribble into an opposing team's high-hanging basket. I wasn't in the midst of a heated argument in hopes of warming up during annoying, lingering, over-staying, persistent, oh no, not-one-more, winter day.

I can only assume that I had caught whatever droplet drone was going around, misguided this time of year, to bug gay senior citizens.

The only other time I went speechless was when I was five. I had my tonsils removed at the Burt Shirley Hospital, then located on Adams Street across from Detroit's Grand Circus Park. I was encouraged for days afterward by my folks not to talk, and for two pampered weeks I was fed tapioca pudding, ice cream, oat meal, orange juice, Vernor's Ginger Ale. School wasn't a problem. It was summer. The doctor said I was a real trooper.

(I was given ether as an anesthetic, told to repeat I'm sleepy, and had a brief clockwise spinning dream of a boy skating round and round, round and round, on a small ice pond. That I didn't go into figure skating is an hallucinogenic incentive missed. That I do have a thing for Brian Boitano and Patrick Chan isn't. I know a pair of well-defined axels when I see them.)

Affecting a cure of my laryngitis has been vigorous and creative. I've dosed myself non-stop with Burt's Bees Honey drops, Menthol & Eucalyptus Oil lozenges, Cepacol tablets, Fisherman's Friend discs, Altoids mints, vitamin C capsules, Mucinex DM, drunk green tea laced with Chinese mustard sauce. Is it worth it to get my voice back asap? Silence isn't golden.

It's all a temporary loss so I'm told by others who have similar vocal short circuits. Said one, "It's took me a month to get mine back, and I have classes to teach." "My voice came back after six weeks. I didn't talk to anybody if I didn't have to. It was frustrating and scary," confided a karaoke devotee. "My partner, however, seemed unusually happy."

The voice is the outward expression of hearts, minds, life experiences. Each unique voice provides instant recognition – sometimes in the dead of a season's night. Voices linger in our memory. Voices of family, friends, passing personalities who are no more. AIDS voices still so sadly recalled.

Yes, I can "hear" those who were supportive, caring, cautioning, through my own lifetime, and with whom one way or another I had been intimate. They may not be around, but they exist with what's left of me mentally as timbre, tone, tenderness; haunting but fleeting inflection.

Remembrance of times past; times hopefully never to be forgotten. Or, to be silent over.

Charles@pridesource.com



9 BTL | March 28, 2013

www.PrideSource.com

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on LGBT Health Awareness Week

Monday, March 25, 2013

Shortly after the Affordable Care Act was enacted, President Obama asked me to identify steps we could take at the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans. As we mark the beginning of LGBT Health Awareness Week, I am proud to say that we have been working hard to ensure LGBT Americans have the same rights and protections as other Americans.

For example, we have released rules requiring Medicare and Medicaid-participating hospitals to allow visitation rights for same-sex partners. This means LGBT Americans now have the same opportunities as other Americans to be with their families and loved ones when they are sick.

LGBT Americans have experienced – and continue to experience – health disparities and are more likely than other Americans to be uninsured or underinsured. Now, because of the Affordable Care Act, our major national health surveys are beginning to include data on LGBT populations. This will give us the information we need to target and reduce disparities among this group going forward. We have also formed an internal working group to ensure we're developing and coordinating policies targeted at increasing access to care for LGBT Americans and addressing their special health care needs.

Globally, we are leading efforts to advance a World Health Organization resolution supporting the health of LGBT populations around the world through equal access to health care services and by breaking down stigma and discrimination that create barriers to care.

In addition, like all Americans, LGBT individuals will continue to benefit from the Affordable Care Act. Beginning in January 2014, Americans will have access to quality, affordable coverage through the new Health Insurance Marketplace—where they can begin to shop for and easily compare health insurance plans starting in October 2013.

Starting in 2014, Americans will no longer be denied coverage or locked out of the health insurance market just because they are sick or have a preexisting condition. And millions of Americans with private insurance and Medicare already have access to preventive services like blood pressure screenings at no cost to them.

You can learn more about the new Marketplace and sign up for updates about enrollment—by visiting www.HealthCare.gov/Marketplace.

Moving forward, we remain committed to improving the health of all Americans, including LGBT Americans, and we look forward to continuing this work during LGBT Health Awareness Week and beyond.

Follow HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Twitter @Sebelius



ver the years I have often paraphrased Martin Luther King Jr. when saying how I, as an LGBTQ African American, didn't want special rights just the same rights as every other American. I want to one day, live in a nation, where I and all children for generations to come would not be judged by the color of our skin, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender identity, but by the content of our character.

I honestly didn't expect to see it in my lifetime, but I was constantly haunted by the question posed by my friend and mentor James Boggs, "What can we be that our children might see?" That question just wouldn't go away.

Isn't that a part of the American dream, for each generation to leave a better world for the next? Isn't that the promise of America?

Each time I heard of a young person, LGBTQ or not, bullied to the point of suicide, I would hear Jimmy's voice asking, "What can we be that our children might see?" I knew I had to do more than just say, "It gets better."

Each time I met a young veteran who chose military service as much as an economic option as for patriotism, come home traumatized not only by what they had seen but, for LGBTQ vets, living under the fear of "Don't ask, don't tell," to unemployment, poverty and discrimination, I'd hear that question.

In many states we can still be fired not just for being LGBTQ, but for being perceived as LGBTQ. Laws denied our families the basic rights and protections afforded other American families. We were far from being the society, community, country that we should want our children to see let alone leave to them.

Silence was not an option, nor empty words. We had to say it with our actions because saying those words to them didn't mean anything. And over time we've seen change.

Like dominos, the tiles of discrimination began to fall. The repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," more states supporting marriage equality, local human rights ordinances, presidential evolution, an inclusive democratic national convention, And, at last, we – the LGBTQ community will get our day in court, the U.S. Supreme Court, as it hears a challenge to California's Prop 8 and a New York court ruling striking down a centerpiece of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Tammy Baldwin goes to the senate (I know there were other openly gay politicians elected to various offices, but I love Tammy Baldwin – ok!), a strong coalition of women and LGBTQ activists pushed an expanded Violence Against Women Act through that includes greater support for LGBTQ victims, immigrants and Native American women who have been traditionally underserved.

And, at last, we – the LGBTQ community will get our day in court, the U.S. Supreme Court, as it hears a challenge to California's Prop 8 and a New York court ruling striking down a centerpiece of the Defense of Marriage Act.

The LGBTQ community collectively is holding its breath. We've seen the polls. We hear the talk, but could it actually be time - time for our families, our love, our communities to be afforded the rights and protections of every American family?

Is this the beginning of the age where the "Dream" is fulfilled? When our children for generations to come will be judged by the color of their skin, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender identity but by the content of their character? And how incredible would it be to begin this new age of LGBTQ equality as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington where Dr. King uttered these words? While I am encouraged by the progress in our fight and excited about the future for our community; at the same time I am saddened as I look around at the casualties of this long march towards equality. Those who only in their hopes and dreams made it to that mountaintop to look out at the promised land of equality. Those on whose shoulders we have and continue to stand on. Those who lived openly and those who lived closeted lives, fearful of being their true authentic selves. We must never forget.

I optimistically believe the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in our favor, but then what? It's a huge step and everything won't be perfect overnight.

There will be challenges and even more work to be done, but as Dr. King said in his last speech on April 3, 1968, "We've got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end."

These days, I still hear Jimmy's words whispering to me. I think about what we might be that our children might see, but I also think about the world LGBTQ community and families will design, build and lead in this brave new world.

Michelle E. Brown is Public Speaker, Activist and Author follow her at www.mychangeiam. com and www.twitter.com/mychangeiam



The Morning After: Equality, DOMA and Beyond



David (left) and Lee Neubecker with their children Braiden and Michael. Courtesy of the Neubecker family.

My Family And Marriage Equality

BY BRAIDEN NEUBECKER, AGE 10 1/2

who people love, as long as they are happy. Everyone should have the right to marry who he or she wants. You may not like two men being married, but for them, it's normal.

My two dads should be able to be married and have the same rights as any married couple. How would you feel if you couldn't marry someone just because the government said you weren't allowed to. If I loved someone and wasn't allowed to marry them, I would be really sad. My family has taught me that even if you don't agree with someone, you should still be kind and respectful. The government should too. Also, my church tells me that you should treat other people the way you want to be treated.

My dads are very unique. We do lots of silly things like having hot cocoa every single time it snows. Every summer we go to the same place in Florida with one dad's whole family. Our family knows how to have fun. We do lots of road trips. Also, we have gone on cruises. I really enjoy traveling with my dads. It is very fun. One of my favorite things to do as a family is family game night. ILOVE this family and I love every single thing we do as a family.

Before I lived with my two dads, my life was horrible. My old family never treated me well. They wouldn't stand up for me. If my foster sister fought with me, my old mom would just sit there and watch me get hurt, so I would have to fight back. Each time I was at foster home, the foster parents promised me Before I lived with my two dads, my life was horrible. My old family never treated me well. They wouldn't stand up for me.

they would keep me safe and treat my brother and I equally.

But they always broke their promise. I moved five times until my dad and daddy found me. They also promised that they would always love me and keep me safe and they would treat me equal to my brother. I was 4 when I met them. Now I am 10 and they have kept their promises. They do so much for me. They never hurt me or my brother. I feel so safe. I believe I can do anything with my two dads. Would there be any purpose to ban the marriage of two men or two women when they can treat children the same or even better than other couples. I hope that you will do the right thing and let anyone marry who they want to.

About the Author: Braiden Neubecker, age 10-1/2, said she lives with her brother "and my two perfectly good dads. I am probably the happiest girl in the world to have two dads that love me." They live in the near west suburbs of Chicago. She wrote this essay for school and received minor help from her teacher in crafting her original draft into an essay.



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Creep of the Week

Sandy Rios

f there's one thing kids in America hear too often it's how totally cool and fantastic homosexuality is. Once upon a time there was a lot of anti-



gay hate in schools: kids would call other kids "fag" and teachers would just look the other way, samesex couples

weren't

Sandy Rios

allowed to attend prom together, students would have to fight an uphill battle to get a Gay Straight Alliance in their high

Hmm... If it's sexual abuse to tell a kid that gays aren't uniformly disgusting and going to hell, then I wonder what Rios would consider the the shopping side of marriage, largely hostile school environment so many gay kids are subjected to.

school, anti-discrimination policies didn't cover sexual orientation.

Thankfully that's all in the past and homosexuality is presented to kids as the new normal. Straight kids have been forced into the closet where they belong.

This is apparently the alternate universe the American Family Association's Sandy Rios spends most of her time. Where homosexuals have all the power and the heteros have none. Where all the cool kids are trying out gay sex positions with their friends while straight kids are doing something boring like reading the Bible.

And this is why, Rios argues, so many young people are okay with marriage for same-sex couples. Because they've been desensitized to it's scarv dangers.

"We hear so much first of all about young people being in favor of gay marriage and ... I believe those stats are probably for the most part true and I believe it makes sense because our children, for the most part, have heard nothing but positive things about homosexuality and its effects; it's kind of fun."

You hear that? Homosexuality is the funniest! And kids just love to have a

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

gay old time. Never mind that by some estimates kids hear anti-gay slurs at school about 25 times a day. Not to worry, I'm sure they're hearing pro-gay slurs way more often. In fact, when you read about the alarmingly high rate of LGBT kids who attempt suicide they most common reason given is that the kid was just tired of hearing how awesome he was because he was gay. It's a burden. Rios has a novel target of blame for all

of the pro-homosexuality shenanigans of late: Say Yes to the Dress, a show that Rios confesses she loves.

"We see 'Say Yes to the Dress,' which by the way I love, and we see the gay characters on that," she muses. "[I]t is the face of the homosexual community that is only painted with a positive brush.'

Now I have not seen Say Yes to the Dress, but from what I can tell it has to do with marriage, specifically and what could be gayer considering how gays have basically taken over marriage these days? It only makes sense that Bravo would devote an entire reality TV series about gay men and fag hags and wedding dresses. Amirite?

Rios does worry, however, that Say Yes to the Dress shields viewers from the 'very dark side" that is "not a good thing for people ultimately in their lives and ... a destructive force." Surprisingly she is not talking about the ego-maniacal brides featured on the show. She's just bitching that the show doesn't make gay people look terrible enough.

"My concern," she laments, "is for the raping of the innocence of our children."

Yes, you heard that right. If children today are not likely to grow up to be as bigoted as Rios, then it's obviously because gays keep raping their innocence.

Rios claims that homosexuals are "forcing" their issues "in public schools, forcing little children to be educated, they call it educated, I'd say sexually abused by information their little ears are not ready to hear."

Hmm... If it's sexual abuse to tell a kid that gays aren't uniformly disgusting and going to hell, then I wonder what Rios would consider the largely hostile school environment so many gay kids are subjected to. I suspect she would call that "fair and balanced."

6 RI Mayors Join Push For Gay Marriage Bill

BY DAVID KLEPPER

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) -Six Rhode Island mayors called on Rhode Island's state Senate on Monday to pass legislation allowing gays and lesbians to marry, joining a growing list of those backing the effort to join the rest of New England in allowing same-sex wedlock.

Angel Taveras of Providence, Donald Grebien of Pawtucket, Daniel McKee of Cumberland and James Diossa of Central Falls gathered at Providence City Hall to announce the creation of Mayors for Marriage Equality. Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian and North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi are also members of the group but did not attend Monday's event.

"I believe this is a critical moment in our history," Taveras said. "I want my daughter to be able to know her father was on but took no action. the right side."

McKee said personal or religious opinions about gay marriage aren't relevant to whether gay and lesbian couples should be granted the same marriage rights as straight partners

"I see it as a classic church and state issue," he said. "When somebody comes to my Town Hall for a marriage license, I don't ask where they are going to get married."

A bill to legalize gay marriage passed the Rhode Island House in January, but its fate remains unclear in the Senate, where a vote has yet to be scheduled.

Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee held a nearly 12 hour hearing on the legislation where 650 supporters and opponents signed up to speak. The committee heard testimony

Most of the mayors in the coalition are Democrats, though Avedisian is a Republican. The group is the latest group to join the push for gay marriage in Rhode Island. Other groups endorsing the legislation include the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and a group calling itself the Rhode Island Business Leaders for Marriage Equality.

Ray Sullivan, campaign director of Rhode Islanders United for Marriage, said the mayors lend "a tremendous voice" to his side of the debate.

"There is an unrelenting sense of momentum behind the effort." he said

Nine states and the District of Columbia now allow gay marriage.

Mo. Sen. McCaskill Supports Gay Marriage

BY DAVID A. LIEB

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) – Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill says she now believes that gay couples should be allowed to marry, a change from her previously nuanced stance during last year's re-election campaign in which she defended the right of Missouri voters to outlaw same-sex weddings.

The Democratic senator's support for gay marriage is a matter of both personal belief and public policy, her spokesman said Monday. McCaskill declared her position on her blog Sunday evening in advance of U.S. Supreme Court arguments on the topic later this week.

"I have come to the conclusion that our government should not limit the right to marry based on who you love," McCaskill said on her Tumblr site. "While churches should never be required to conduct marriages outside of their religious beliefs, neither should the government tell people who they have a right to marry."

The court is to hear a challenge Tuesday to California's voterapproved ban on same-sex marriage, then arguments Wednesday concerning a part

of the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act that bars samesex couples who are legally married from receiving federal tax, pension and other benefits available to other married people.

Missouri voters overwhelmingly adopted a constitutional amendment in 2004 defining marriage as between a man and a woman. During her unsuccessful campaign for governor that year, McCaskill said she opposed gay marriage but also opposed the constitutional amendment, because Missouri already had a similar state law.

"I just didn't think it was an appropriate thing to put in our constitution," McCaskill said during an October 2004 gubernatorial debate.

McCaskill has generally shied away from discussing gay marriage during her Senate campaigns. But she defended Missouri's right to ban gay marriage when asked last June about a federal appeals court decision striking down certain parts of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

"It's been decided in Missouri. It's in our constitution. I don't quarrel with that decision," McCaskill said nearly 10 months ago. "I, for one, think it's much better for these decisions to be made at the state level, like we have here in Missouri.'

McCaskill acknowledged in her Sunday posting that "my views on this subject have changed over time."

"But as many of my gay and lesbian friends, colleagues and staff embrace long term committed relationships, I find myself unable to look them in the eye without honestly confronting this uncomfortable inequality," McCaskill said. "Supporting marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples is simply the right thing to do for our country, a country founded on the principals of liberty and equality.'

President Barack Obama announced his support for gay marriage last year. Other politicians also have recently followed suit, including former Democratic Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Republican Sen. Rob Portman.

Former President Bill Clinton signed the federal Defense of Marriage Act – which requires the federal government to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages - but he recently wrote an op-ed saying it's time to overturn it.

► Outcomes Continued from p. 4

defending the provision - members of the group that helped put the ban on the ballot - did not have the right to appeal the trial judge's initial decision striking it down or that of the federal appeals court.

The justices sometimes attach great importance to this concept, known as standing. If they find Proposition 8's proponents lack standing, the justices also would find the Supreme Court has no basis on which to decide the case.

The most likely outcome of such a ruling also would throw out the appeals court decision that struck down the ban, but would leave in place the trial court ruling in favor same-sex marriage. At the very least, the two same-sex couples almost certainly would be granted a marriage license, and Gov. Jerry Brown, D-Calif., who opposes Proposition 8, probably would give county clerks the go-ahead to issue marriage licenses to samesex couples.

Q. Are the possibilities for the DOMA case as complicated?

A. No, although there are some technical issues that could get in the way of a significant ruling.

Q. What happens if the court upholds Section 3 of DOMA, defining marriage for purposes of federal law as the union of a man and a woman?

A. Upholding DOMA would not affect state laws regarding marriage, but would keep in place federal statutes and rules that prevent legally married gay Americans from receiving a range of

benefits that are otherwise available to married people. These benefits include breaks on estate taxes, health insurance for spouses of federal workers and Social Security survivor benefits.

and tax breaks resulting from more than 1,000 federal statutes in which marital status is relevant. For 83-year-old Edith Windsor, a New York widow whose case is before the court, such a ruling would give her a refund of \$363,000

in estate taxes that were paid after the death of her spouse, Thea Spyer.

Q. What procedural problems could prevent the court from reaching a decision about DOMA?

A. As in the Proposition 8 case, there are questions about whether the House Republican leadership has the right to bring a court case to defend the law because the Obama administration decided not to.

House Republicans argue that the administration forfeited its right to participate in the case because it changed its position and now argues that the provision is unconstitutional.

If the Supreme Court finds that

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Sacramento, California, November 22, 2008: Protest against the passage of Proposition 8 banning gay marriage. Photo Karin Hildebrand Lau / Shutterstock.com 0. What if the court strikes down the

DOMA provision?

A. A ruling against DOMA would allow legally married gay couples, or in some cases, a surviving spouse in a same-sex marriage, to receive benefits

it does not have the authority to hear the case, Windsor probably would still get her refund because she won in the lower courts, but there would be no definitive decision about the law from the nation's highest court and it would remain on the books.

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March 29, 2013 from 3 to 5 pm

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BTL

Belinda Carlisle: Still Go-Goinz

Singer Talks 'Sexually Adventurous' Days, Gay Son & Feelings On Doing A Pop Album

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

n the '80s, Belinda's Carlisle's career demonstrated that, for some, heaven really is a place on earth. As the lead singer of the supremely successful girl group The Go-Go's – they had the beat, the looks and the talent – the now-54year-old eventually embarked on a solo venture. Four albums and numerous hit singles later, Carlisle's new "ICON" collection is a celebration of the singer's best that also includes her first U.S. pop single in over 15 years, "Sun."

> Carlisle chatted recently about not wanting to do another pop album, telling her gay son about her own "sexually adventurous" experiences and the reason she cares about gay rights now more than ever.

Which song of yours has the most significance to you?

Oh gosh. The first one that comes to mind is "Heaven is a Place on Earth," only because it was so huge and it really established my career not just in this country but all over the world.

The song you wish you didn't have to sing ever again?

Um, yes. There are a few of them. But they're songs that people insist on hearing. (Laughs) I don't like doing "Heaven" in rehearsal. I don't like doing "We Got the Beat" in rehearsal. There are certain songs I get lazy about in rehearsal, but when I do them live, just the reaction from the audience makes it OK. But yeah, there are some songs you're like, "Uh, next!" (Laughs)

Hardcore fans seem to agree that "Runaway Horses" is your greatest solo album.

I think so, too.

Oh yeah? You agree?

I love some of the songs on there. "Summer Rain" makes the whole album for me. That and "Mad About You" are my two favorite songs of my career. "Voila" is my other favorite, but for different reasons. The production of "Runaway Horses" just kind of captured a moment.

It's been six years since your last studio album, "Voila," which was in French. Is the new single, "Sun," the beginning of a new pop album?

I don't know. I don't know what I'm doing, actually. (Laughs) Honestly, I have some amazing opportunities that have come my way for some amazing projects, and I might do something in English, I might do something in French, I might do a yoga

Photo: DT Ltd

album – I don't know.

I'm at a really good point in my career where I can kind of do what comes from the heart, and that's the only way I can work now, so it's whatever really feels right. I can't make a pop album just because I can. I don't like to work that way anymore, so we'll see. I'm sure I'll do something. I just don't know what that will be.

Are you not interested in doing a pop album?

Not really, no. Uh-uh. (Laughs) But maybe. I mean, in the past three months, people have approached me to do a pop

album in English, and I have to think about it; it's a big commitment, not just in the studio but a big commitment in the prep work and also after it's released. There's promoting and touring for it. You can't just put it out and not tour. It's a good two years at least. so I don't know. I'm just

gonna wing it and see what happens. If it's something that I really wanna do, then I'll do it.

Kathy Valentine recently left The Go-Go's. I can't not ask what happened there.

Well, it's kind of sensitive, but I will say that for a band and a band member to go separate ways after 30-odd years, there has to be some pretty significant reasons - and it's not all for nothing. That's as far as I can say, because it's very sensitive at this time.

Will you miss her being a part of the group?

Of course I will. She was a really important part of the beginning. She wasn't a founding member, but she was there for (our debut) "Beauty and the Beat," and it's definitely going to be strange without her.

If you could relive any part of the '80s, what would it be?

Oh god, I don't know if I'd want to relive any of the '80s. I think I did the '80s really well, so I think it's time for me to move on from that. There's not really one thing I'd like to repeat, to be perfectly honest.

Especially not the clothes, right?

(Laughs) Definitely not the fashion, that's for sure

BTL | March 28, 2013

Do you still have any of the clothes from that era?

There's one dress that I have. I used to wear it out up until about 15 years ago. It's like a square dance dress, but now I would just look like some scary bag lady if I put it on, like someone trying to be young and fresh. (Laughs) It's in my closet, and it's still really cute, but I don't think I could wear it again.

How does being the mother of a gay son change the way you see your gay fans? Is it like an extended family now?

Actually, it kind of is. You know, I've always kind of gotten it, because from

I think about how the world is toward gay people, and although it's better, we're still not 100 percent accepting.

> the beginning, my friends have been 90 percent gay and lesbian. That's just the way it's been for me. So I'd rather have a gay son than a straight son, let me just say that. But now, I look at it differently, because I know that when my son told me, it was like, "What's life gonna be like for him?" "Is he going to be treated equally wherever he goes?" I think about that for any gay person now, and I never really thought about that before. Now I think about how the world is toward gay people, and although it's better, we're still not 100

If you've been around gay people your whole life, what about James coming out shocked you?

percent accepting.

Well, it shocked me and it didn't shock me; I had little clues along the way. So I was driving the car and he goes, "I like boys," and I had to pull the car over. It was like someone socked me in the stomach, although it was totally fine. The first thing I thought about was, "How am I gonna tell your father?" I was fine with it. (James) said something really smart: "My sexuality does not define me." For a 14-year-old to say that, that's pretty unbelievable. For me, the hardest part was thinking, "What is the world going to be like for him as a gay person?" I had to go to my therapist because I went through all those stupid things: Was it something I did? Something I said? Things I'm sure any parent kind of goes through, and I knew it wasn't. This is just the way it is. He was born gay.

I don't think it's uncommon for parents to be like, "Was it my fault?" "Did we watch too much 'Golden Girls'?"

It's normal. And it's funny - he loved "I Love Lucy," he went to "Phantom of the Opera" and loved Andrew Lloyd Webber. We laugh about it now. When I look back on it, there are funny little clues, but there are other things that were more telling and very peripheral that I really can't go into, but still, I thought, "What have I done? Did I indulge him when I went to get his costume at The Disney Store for Sleeping Beauty and Snow White?"

My therapist said that I should have my son tell my husband, but I thought, "No." Instinctively, it's something that

I need to do, because what if he had a bad reaction, even though I knew he wouldn't, but you never know. When I told him, he was like, "It's just a phase," and for a year afterwards they went at it back and forth, but now my husband and I can't imagine

having it any other way.

You've hinted at being sexually adventurous back in the day, while performing with The Go-Go's. Everyone was in the '80s. Exactly.

I recall reading interviews where you didn't want to get into details about that time because James reads your interviews. You've been so open about most aspects of your life, though, including your drug addiction, so why do you want to shield him from this? I think most gay kids would think it's cool, and might feel more accepted, if their parent had a same-sex experience.

I know. It's just funny, I guess, him and I being from different generations and me being more modest with that. He does know that I was adventurous in that way and we kind of joke about it. I don't necessarily want to go into details, because I want to keep my more conventional secrets secret, too.

My son and I butt heads about anybody's sexuality, and he thinks that everybody who's gay and in the closet should come out; it's their responsibility. And I say no. I think if a person doesn't want to come out, it's their business. They have their reasons. That's kind of the way I feel about myself, too. But he knows. We laughed about it the other day. I think everybody does (have those experiences) and nobody likes to talk about it, that's all.



Road has served our community since 1987.



The 3rd Annual BTL Same-Sex **Wedding** Sunday, April 7, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Detroit Livonia Marriott 17100 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia



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The Top Ten Reasons to put this year's Expo in your calendar:

Get away for the day - and earn a chance to win a getaway later! Caesar's Windsor and Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island are offering six weekend getaways featuring all sorts of tasty extras and the Detroit Marriott Livonia is chipping in with weekend trips too!

Other Prizes! We have more than fifty giveaways available, and all you have to do to qualify for a chance at winning is register and have fun at our party. Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch - and we have it for you at the Expo. Oh - and did we mention the return of AG Chocolates' amazing chocolate fountain for your treat-dipping pleasure?

This party isn't just for queers. Or couples. If you're an ally, LGBTQIAO(ETC), single and hoping, single and not caring, engaged or disengaged, you're still welcome to join the fun! Where else can you interview a prospective attorney or caterer over a glass of champaign?

The Windsor Experience Lounge. Get a taste of Canadian hospitality and Canadian equality while learning everything you need to know to tie the knot, officially even, in Windsor. A free workshop on protecting your joint finances. Michigan still isn't out of the Stone Ages as far as equality is concerned, but you can still learn how plan your future!

A look at the State of LGBT equality in Michigan. We may have a great Supreme Court decision just in time for the Expo (and what a wedding gift that would be)! This workshop is a chance to find out what's next for equality in Michigan - and how to make things better.

8 Support the businesses that support you! When we spend money on LGBT and allied companies, those companies return the favor. Did you know that more than 100 corporations signed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to strike down California's anti-marriage Prop 8? That's the power of our dollars talking.

Q Can't wait for Pride in June? The Same-Sex Wedding Expo is like Pride in April! Because, really: who wants to wait until June for a great party?

1 O Speaking of parties, this year's Expo just happens to be the start of BTL's 20th Anniversary celebrations! Raise a toast with us to acknowledge all that has come before and look ahead to a more equal future.

For Vendor Information Call 734-293-7200 ext. 15

WW.GAYBE.AM/ME



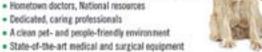
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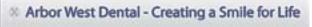
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Bookstore Takes Ann Arbor Social Media By Storm

Literati Owners Plan To Complement Existing Market

BY DAWN WOLFE

ANN ARBOR - One of downtown's newest businesses has more than 1,500 Ann Arbor-area Facebook "friends" and a blog that has seen more than 2,000 hits – and it's not even open yet.

What is this business that has made such a large, local social media splash? Perhaps ironically in the age of e-readers, the business is called Literati Bookstore – and it will be downtown Ann Arbor's first general bookstore since the close of Borders in 2011. According to the Literati blog, the closing of Borders was one of the events that convinced Hilary Lowe and her "fearless fiance and business partner," freelance sports writer Michael Gustafson, to come back to Michigan from Brooklyn to open their store.

"I was deeply saddened upon hearing that Shaman Drum was closing in 2009," wrote Hilary in the couples' first post on the Literati Bookstore blog in July 2012, "and even more distraught to learn of Borders' closing nationwide, which was headquartered in Ann Arbor. Ann Arbor is lucky to have many wonderful niche bookstores downtown including Aunt Agatha's, a mystery specialty store; Crazy Wisdom, a spiritual bookshop; Common Language, an LGBT bookstore; and a few great used and antiquarian stores. Nicola's Books, a few miles outside of town, is a great independent. However, in the walkable downtown area there isn't a general bookseller."

"We thought, 'How can an engaged, intelligent community such as this be without a general bookstore in their downtown?""

The "engaged, intelligent community" in question seems to agree wholeheartedly. As of the deadline for filing this story, 907 people were listed on Facebook as talking about the Literati Bookstore page out of the 1,605 subscribers. Posts on the page are highly popular with more than 400 "likes" being common.

The excitement is carrying over into "real life," too – during a recent interview with BTL, Lowe and Gustafson said that they have already had several would-be customers stop by hoping to shop while the two are still putting books on the



Literati Bookstore's Facebook wall and Twitter feed is filled with Instagrammed photos of the venue's renovations and preperations for their opening this April. Photo courtesy of Literati Bookstore.

shelves.

According to the couple, a January story on the news site AnnArbor.com was the spark that started their local social media presence. "The social media has been huge," Gustafson said. "It's created a plunge that's been totally effective; we've spent zero dollars on traditional advertising."

Lowe is quick to add that the couple plans to support local print advertisers in their second wave of publicity after the store opens some time in early April. "We want to support the local publications that have been good to us – and we don't want to rely on another company's (i.e. Facebook's) marketing to promote our business," she explained, and added that not everyone who would like to know about the Literati uses social media to get their news – including one of their current employees, who heard about the new store from a friend. It only takes a few moments spent on the couple's blog or in conversation to realize that Lowe and Gustafson are committed to making Literati Bookstore a true community asset, including to the area's other bookstores. The couple purchased shelving units from the old downtown Borders, and they are quick to explain that they are avoiding stocking items that customers can get from other downtown booksellers.

"We don't want to carry a big LGBT section (because that would compete with LGBT bookstore Common Language), or carry a lot of books on spirituality because Crazy Wisdom has those," Lowe said. "We're being careful not to stock mystery titles being offered by Aunt Agatha's, either. That doesn't mean, for example, that we won't carry items that are linked to the LGBT community in some way – but

See Literati, page 20



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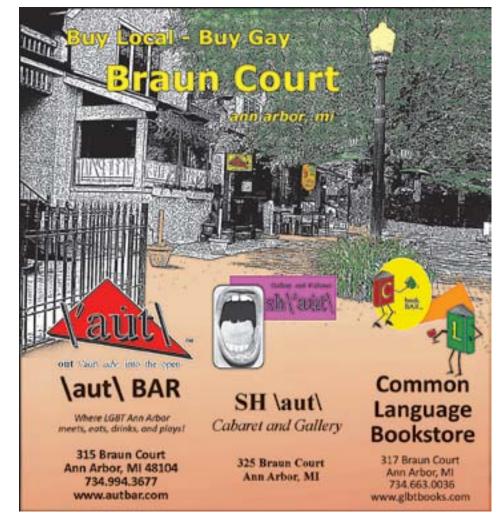




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Hilary Lowe and Michael Gustafson decided to return to Michigan from Brooklyn after Borders closed in 2011. Photo courtesy of Literati Bookstore.

Literati
Continued from p. 19

we're here supporting each other instead of cannibalizing the same market." Likewise, Literati will carry only new titles so as not to infringe on the business of the area's used bookstores.

So what will their new store carry? "There's a real lack of general fiction, literary fiction, history and kids' books downtown," Lowe said, "so we're focusing our efforts there as well as on magazines, newspapers and cookbooks." She added that Literati will be the only downtown bookstore offering new children's titles.

Gustafson said that he and Lowe are devoted to supporting the local economy by hiring only local people to work at the store as well as local artists and printers for decorations and marketing materials. "We're really trying to stay local with everything we do, or at least make sure the things we're buying are made in the U.S.," he said.

"It's not the cheapest option to do it this way, but it's the right thing to do."

FoolMoon Returns To Downtown

Oh, that's right, the Fools are back in Ann Arbor town, so get ready for a festive, Foolish, frolicking, fun time. WonderFool Productions will present the third ever FoolMoon on Friday, April 5, from dusk till midnight, on Washington and Ashley Streets in downtown Ann Arbor. Join the Fools starting at 6 p.m. in the Grizzly Peak-Blue Tractor-Jolly Pumpkin FoolBrew Tent. On Sunday, April 7 from 4-5 p.m. is the seventh ever FestiFools tricks time on Main Street, with a fresh Foolish crew of amazing puppets and entertainment.

"Foo(L)d" is the theme for the FoolMoon, a Luminary Spectacle of Light and Laughter performing right in front of Grizzly Peak on Washington Street. Think luminous orbs of fantastically oversized glowing "Foo(L)d" luminary sculptures dancing alongside lusciously large futuristic "Mouths" as they cavort between hundreds of glowing "MoonPops" of every size and color.

Luminary creators, with their families and friends, come together at one of three Constellation Stations (Kerrytown, Slauson Middle School, and in front of the U-M Museum of Art) at 8 p.m. to join one of three magical processionals. As dusk falls, the processionals step out and meander through town arriving downtown (in front of Grizzly Peak) to cheering crowds of fellow Fools.

But wait, there's more! Innovative community

groups and area artists spent their long winter hibernations concocting luminous, never-beforeimagined wondrous entertainments and activities simply to amaze and delight FoolMooners. Theo Katzman (former My Dear Disco frontman) will perform live (no lip-synching) from the Fool's Main Stage right after Dan Henig kicks this year's deLightFool FoolMoon show into gear. Treetownsound's DJ Matt Altruda will then kick it into high gear so you can be a dancin' prancin' Fool all night long.

Make sure to get a good night's sleep on Saturday, because Sunday, the seventh ever FestiFools brings a brand-new legion of gigantic papier-mâché puppets to life once again! University of Michigan students and community volunteers have been working feverishly, crafting huge-mongeous papier-mâché puppets to bring to life the one-hour spectacle known as FestiFools. This celebration takes place in downtown Ann Arbor on Main Street between Williams and Washington at 4 p.m. and only lasts until 5 p.m.

This year's theme is Time Foolery, so get your imagination in gear and create your own ticktock headdress and timelessly Foolish outfit, or just sign up to volunteer and come have the time of your life helping to animate the big puppets at FestiFools.

For more information, visit www.festifools.org.









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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI **Justin Timberlake, Kacey Musgraves**



Justin Timberlake, 'The 20/20 Experience'

Sexy's back, but not like you remember it: After seven long, hard, long years without Justin Timberlake at the popscene forefront, the creative chameleon finally gives acting a break and gets back behind the mic on his own terms, with a novel project that's risky and rewarding. But not at first. It seems, initially, the "The 20/20 Experience" might just be the longest Robin Thicke album ever (cooey come-ons, slinky beats and a 70-minute running time, that's why), but over time, it becomes clearer: Timberlake has this niche of sophisticated ladies' man pop down, bucking any comparisons the deeper he reaches with every falsetto dip, meandering beat or old-school sweep. Point is: JT owns the hell out of this album. Having been out of the game for so long, Timberlake rarely succumbs to fab gimmicks or tries to recreate his solo debut, "Justified," or its visionary follow-up, and his career pinnacle, "FutureSex/LoveSounds," Justin's evolution is still a retro affair. as demonstrated by the chic Motowninspired throw-down "Suit & Tie" and the baritone harmonizers on the brassy '70s-styled slow jam "That Girl," but the real appeal is Timberlake's innate ambition: Even though he's artistically misguided – not every epic wannabe warrants a seven-minute drag-out, and coda "Blue Ocean Floor" turns Frank Ocean into parody - his innovativeness and just plain irresistibility on songs like the beat-embellished Miami Sound Machine-ish "Let the Groove Get In" and endearing JT throwback "Mirrors" can't be ignored. By rethinking a tried-and-true format, Timberlake doesn't just reenter the pop fold with inspired ideas and infectious poise. He challenges you to believe in him all over again. Grade: B





Pot smoking, hookups, homosexuality

you won't hear Reba McEntire, and probably not even Taylor Swift, taking on that taboo trifecta. Kacey Musgraves, though, is a rebel with a cause - think Miranda Lambert and she's about to change country music one fearless tune at a time. The 24-year-old's major-label debut, "Same Trailer Different Park," first made noise with its buzz-worthy first single "Merry Go 'Round" last year,

and not just because it wasn't another I-love-my-truck, boys-rule, beerguzzling good time, or a PSA power ballad made for the Carrie Underwood crowd. Instead of romanticizing smalltown life, Musgraves fully exposed it and, in turn, introduced herself as an artist boldly going where no country artist had before. She goes there a lot with this set of playfully important and tragedy-inclined songs, showcasing an abundance of charisma, candor and fresh-faced talent. The matter-offact songwriting is just wicked good. "Follow Your Arrow" embraces nonconformity despite social disapproval - hook up with a boy (or a girl, "if that's something you're into") or smoke a joint if you want (she would) - but reveals more than just a gal who'd gladly go to a gay bar with you: As progressively anti-country as she may let on, this old soul likes her music more Loretta Lynn than Taylor Swift. That kind of traditional sound masks the casual-sex theme of "It Is What It Is," and also turns the little ditty "My House" into the trashiest, most endearing love song you've ever heard. Move over, Reba. Kacey Musgraves is the future of country music. Grade: A

Also Out



Megan Hilty, 'It Happens All the Time' With "Smash" given the dreaded

now's the time for breakout star Megan Hilty to jump musical-show ship. Off she goes with "It Happens All the Time," making a wimpy impression that fails to establish the thespian's solo career outside of the fact that she can sing like a pro (we knew that) and has an impressive iTunes playlist. Besides a few so-so originals, "No Cure" standing out most (and that's not saying much, considering the others are tepid, too), Hilty's covers are bold leftof-center choices that her vanilla voice can't capture: "The Blower's Daughter" and "Safe and Sound" require rawness that's just not there. Get this girl some Broadway tunes to belt ASAP.

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







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Happening

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 28

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

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

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

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

An Evening of Dialogue, Dance, and **Community** 8 p.m. An evening of dance and dialogue focusing on gender, sexuality and race. Tickets: \$5. The University of Michigan Department of Dance 1310 N University Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-763-5461 Aionkman@umich.edu

Friday, March 29

Game Night 7 p.m. Join the fun and help kick off the grand opening of the Affirmations Store. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 Goaffirmations.org

Polyqueer Womens Group 7 p.m. Open meeting to lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women who are polyamorous or curious about womencentered polyamory. Meets the last Friday of the month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. PolyLezzie@Yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

Reiki Open House 7 p.m. Registration is free. Please RSVP by email; send your name and number in your party to gia@ giacilento.com. Feel free to drop in even if you haven't RSVPed. Learn about Reiki and meet teachers. Gia Cilento, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 954-696-6130. Gia@giacilento.com Giacilento.com

Todd's Easter Reunion Retro 80s

Dance Party 9 p.m. Join hosts Stirling & Sue Static with DJs Charles English and DJ Greebo for a night of retro fun featuring 80s classics all night long. \$6 Cover Static Network 1716 Michigan Ave., **Detroit.** 313-964-5103. Info@ staticrecords.com Corktowntavern.com

Saturday, March 30

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

"Other" An Evening of Dialogue, Dance, and Community 8 p.m. Evening of dialogue, dance, and self-expression focusing on combating silence and building community. Admission: \$5. The University of Michigan Department of Dance, 1310 N. University Court, Ann Arbor. 734-763-5461. Ajonkman@ umich edu

Sunday, March 31

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion group with facilitator, LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over - join us each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: What is something you pretend to be but are not? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@vahoo.com

for spouses, partners, family and friends of transgender people. Ages 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender SOS 7 p.m. A safe space

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

Editor's Pick

Concerts

In the past year, Suzanne Westenhoefer has ended up on the cutting-room floor of a movie in post-production, gotten a divorce, and reentered the insanity of the dating world - all of which have created more laughter-inducing opportunities than she ever thought possible. She's bad, and she knows it.

Suzanne's a brand-new woman around town with striking insights based on a jilted year that has finally — thankfully — ended. Stick

with her, and she'll take you for a ride on the wild side with plenty of Pinot to keep it interesting. All aboard!

Suzanne Westenhoefer's groundbreaking career as the first openly gay comedian ever to appear on television includes appearances on Letterman, HBO, Bravo, Logo and GSN, as well as performances across the U.S. in popular theaters, clubs, and fundraisers. Westenhoefer performs at 8 p.m. March 29 at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., in Ann Arbor. For tickets and more information, go to TheArk.org.

GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, April 1

398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, April 2

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral

290 W Nine Mile Boad Ferndale 248-

SWEAT 6 p.m. A weekly support/social

to achieve wellness and or weight loss.

The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand

KGLRC Walk/Jog/Run Group 6 p.m. The

Resource Center's Health and Wellness

own group devoted to walking, jogging,

and/or running. Everyone is welcome,

Resource Center, 4143 N. 10th St.,

Wild Wednesday 6 p.m. A group

for youth ages 12-18 interested in

Dedicated to Make a Change 319

supportive youth in a safe environment

Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792.

Beloved Hearts 6:30 p.m. Grief Support

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Kalamazoo. KGLRC.org

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Wednesday, April 3

group to encourage those of us who need

group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations,

Thursday, April 4

1434. s3safesexstore.com

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

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations 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 Court, Ann Arbor, 734-995-9867. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org JimToyCenter.org

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

Sunday, April 7

3rd Annual Same-Sex Wedding Expo 1 p.m. Back by popular demand, the Third Annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo will paint the Detroit Marriott Livonia rainbow-colored once again. Over 40 vendors and weekend getaway giveaways ago, four young boys were flashed across national television screens on what was meant to be a one-time shot at "the big time " Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 7:30 p.m. April 6. 586-286-2222 MacombCenter com

Olympia Entertainment "Easter Jazz Spectacular" Tickets: \$45 50-85 50 Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 30. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark "Carrie Rodriguez" Tickets: \$15. April 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Suzanne Westenhoefer" Tickets: \$26. The Ark. 316 S. Main. Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 29. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

Film & Video

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "The 15th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival" Tickets are \$11 each. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 12 a.m. April 7. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Beware of Mr. Baker" Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. March 29 - March 31. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Celine and Julie Go Boating" Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit, 7 p.m. April 6, 1 p.m. April 7. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

OTHER

Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Dealers Association "57th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show" Admission: \$4.50,

See Happenings, page 27

every half hour. Between The Lines, 17100 N Laurel Park Dr., **Livonia.** 734-293-7200. Pridesource.com

MUSIC & MORE

Caesars Windsor "The Doobie Brothers"

Tickets: \$25+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E.

Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. March 29.

800-991-7777, CaesarsWindsor.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Sonas For

Kerrvtownconcerthouse.com

Survivors" Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert

House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m.

March 31, 7 p.m. March 31. 734-763-4186.

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts

"The Osmond Brothers" Five decades

When Love And Marriage Are No Horse And Carriage

BY JOHN QUINN

William Somerset Maugham was no George Bernard Shaw, and "The Constant Wife" is no "Major Barbara." But both playwrights employed sparkling wit and compelling characters to deliver rather Marxist shots at society's inequalities. Ethel Barrymore, who played the title role in the play's 1926 premiere, considered "The Constant Wife" a "nasty play." This had less to do with its blasé treatment of adultery than with her aversion to the theme: conventional marriage is based on economic inequality, leading to women's subservience. If that sounds like an early feminist battle cry, it is indeed. Revived by Meadow Brook Theatre, Maugham's comedy of manners is medicine for an ailing society; the pill is coated in a sweet, colorful shell that hides the bitterness beneath

It would seem that everybody knows about Dr. John Middleton's affair with his wife's best friend, Marie-Louise (Leslie Ann Handelman) - except Constance Middleton herself. Her friends and family are loath to tell her because, after all, a man is meant to stray, even though it reflects badly on his wife. The tattle-tale could be her vounger sister, Martha (Allison Schubert), whose sharp tongue and suspicion of men may have a lot to do with her spinsterhood. But Marie-Louise's husband, Mortimer (Glen Allen Pruett), discovers the affair and confronts the adulterers.

Far from being the naïve victim, Constance covers for the lovers. She's known all along; considering her loveless marriage and her shocking opinion that a modern wife is "a prostitute who doesn't deliver the goods," she will not berate the "good" doctor. She has other options.

The return to London of a spurned suitor (Stephen Blackwell), coupled with an offer of partnership in an interior decorating business from her friend, Barbara (Melynee Saunders Warren), may give Constance the opportunity to serve her revenge cold.

If in the age of Twitter, the critic were to be reduced to a one word description of "The Constant Wife," that word would be "style." Karen Sheridan, stage director and Oakland University



professor of theater, has paradoxically kept this production modern by adhering to the conventions of drawing room comedy. All the performances are larger than life, both in line readings and gestures. But the beauty here is the variety of said performances.

248-377-3300

mbtheatre.com

PREVIEW

Cheryl Turski's Constance, the axis around which the plot revolves, creates a formidable, restrained character which beautifully balances Chip DuFord's fussbudget take on her harried husband. Her character is so grounded that lesserseen characters. like Marie-Louise and Mortimer, can be delivered with full bombast. It's the little touches that keep this performance fresh, even something as trivial as letting Bentley the butler, played by Michael Gillespie, perform the minor set change in Act I in character, as if it were just another day in the drawing room.

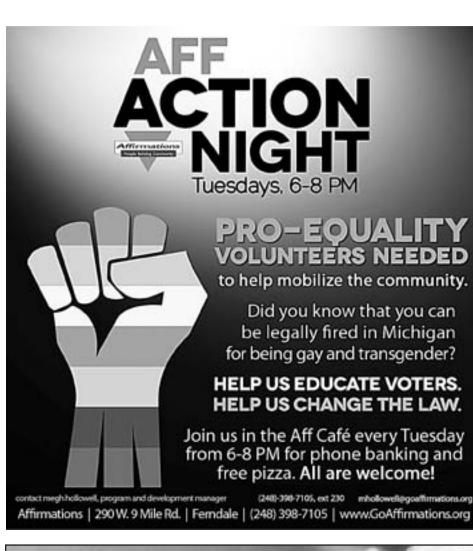
find that "style" still neatly sums up the production.

I would be remiss without mentioning audience favorite Dominique Lowell, who plays Constance's mother. Maugham has given her some of the best bon mots. Lovell tosses them off with a weary acceptance of the status quo. Mrs. Culver, whose philosophy is as dated as her choice in couture, is still fast on the uptake. When Constance asks, "How does one know one is in love?" she answers, "Could you use his toothbrush?"

"The Constant Wife" is as English as high tea, with a boiling plot and characters as crisp as scones and rich as fresh butter. Yet the comedy is remarkably timeless and pertinent to the modern sensibility. You've come a long way, baby!

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Across

1 Poet Adrienne 5 GLAAD concern 10 "Don't preach," Madonna told him 14 Chocolate sandwich 15 Meat-filled treats 16 Thames school 17 Start of a quote from Betty White 20 Makeup maker Lauder 21 "What was ____ was saying?" 22 Some like it hot 23 More of the quote 26 The Gay '90s, for one 29 Cocteau contemporary Maurice 30 Get up and go 33 Queer letter 36 Climb up 39 More of the quote 40 Soaring seafood lover 43 More of the quote 44 Version 47 More of the guote 49 Novelist Marcel 51 Not promiscuous? 54 Word on Warhol's can 55 LuPone Broadway role 59 Flintstones' pet 60 Solo among the stars 61 End of the quote 63 Greek T

64 Thespians do it 65 Dakar's nation 66 Joe holder 67 Porter's "____ Shouldn't !?" 68 Advance trial 69 Hanging spot

Down

1 Garb for Troy Perry 2 Gershwin and Levin 3 Boston cager, for short 4 Targets for Patty Sheehan 5 Suffix that changes senor's aender 6 Mel pretended to be gay for her in "What Women Want" 7 Like Feniger's vinegar 8 Date steadily 9 Language ending 10 Tearoom possibility 11 Opposite of loads 12 Water lily home 13 "Showboat" cap'n 18 Match a poker bet 19 Off-rd, transport 24 Crack code-cracking org. 25 Life-beach connection 26 Larry Kramer, for one 27 Eng. flyers 28 Sedaris of "Strangers with Candv'

30 Kind of Buddhist

31 P-town's Crowne Pointe, e.g. 32 Palm Pilot, e.g. 34 Bravely endured 35 "You Are Sixteen, Going On Seventeen" and others 37 Bound by oath 38 Paddled in the stern, perhaps 40 College e-mail address ending 41 Fit your first mate's mast 42 Unknown degree 45 At no time 46 Nocturnal lizards of Tennessee Williams 47 Charles Laughton's ship of mutiny 48 "I'm coming!" 49 "I don't believe that!" 50 Butt in the mouth 52 Catch in a trap 53 Like a chicken hawk's prey 56 Weathercock 57 "And this is the thanks ____?" 58 Buster Brown's pooch 61 Biter of Marc Antony's girlfriend 62 Cockpit abbr.

Solution on page 28



Editor's Pick

On Thursday, April 11, the community is invited to "Cabaret for a Cause," a fundraiser for Northville Sprouts Autism K-5 program. The first \$1,000 in donations will be generously matched 100 percent by the Northville Educational Foundation.

Guests will enjoy a five-course, family-style

Italian dinner, dessert and all non-alcoholic beverages. EMU's CTA music director Ryan Lewis is creating a cabaret-style show specifically for this event, with choreography by professor and Broadway veteran Phil Simmons. The event includes a silent auction featuring Red Wings tickets, professional photography package, spa package, and more!

Dinner starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. at Genitti's Hole-in-the Wall restaurant and theater, located at 108 E. Main St., Northville.

Tickets are \$35. For reservations, call 248-349-0522.

Happenings

Continued from p. 24

children 13 and under free. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 9:30 a.m. April 7. 517-332-0112. Curiousbooks.com/shows.html

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Broadway Bound \$23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 5 - 20. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

Dreamgirls \$18-30. Park Players at North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Through April 6. http://ParkPlayers.WordPress.com

Leaving Iowa \$17-19. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 6. 734-971-2228. A2CT.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Ariadne Auf Naxos \$10-26. U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University Opera Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. March 28 - 31. 734-763-5213. Umich.edu

Time Stands Still \$10. The Studio Theatre, Downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. March 28 - April 6. 313-577-2972. Wayne.edu

Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White \$9-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre, Sponberg

Theatre, Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, Ypsilanti. April 5 - 14. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

33 Variations Previews March 28-30 & April 3-4 (\$22-32). \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. March 28 - June 1. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

A Thousand Circlets \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. March 28 - May 19. 313-868-1347. DetroitRepTheatre.com

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

Detroit \$12-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 5. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com Fish Dinner; Second Helping \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. April 5 - 20. 313-365-4948. PlanetAnt.com

Good People \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through April 7. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Lend Me A Tenor Previews March 28 (\$18). \$25-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. March 28 - April 20. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

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

Measure for Measure \$40. The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through April 27. 313-454-1286. elizabeththeater. com

Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth \$45-65.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 a.m. April 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Rain \$29.50-49.50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. March 29. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

Shirley Valentine Previews March 28 (\$15-\$25), \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through April 21, 517-655-SHOW. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Sons of the Prophet \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 5 - 29. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

Steel Magnolias \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. April 5 - 28. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

The Constant Wife \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through April 14. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

The Cross and The Light \$32-97. Nietro Productions at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. March 24 - 31. 313-887-8501. crossandlight.com

The Weir Free; pay-what-you-can. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through April 6. Theabreact.com

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Ruth Gilmore Langs: The MOCEAN Paintings" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. March 8 - April 7. 734-994-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org **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 Artists Market "2013 Annual Detroit Artists Market Scholarship and Exhibition Program" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 1 - April 6. 313-832-8540. DetroitArtistsMarket.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

Epiphany Glass Studios "Epiphany Glass Open Studio" 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 4 p.m. April 4. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

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 "The Arts of China and Japan: Selections from the Collection" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 1 - June 9. 269-349-7775. KIArts.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" MSU Museum Heritage Gallery, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22 - April 14. Museum.msu.edu

Motown Museum "Girl Groups: The Grit, The Glamour, The Glory" 2648 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit. March 1 - April 30. 313-875-2264. 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

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Lakeshore Watercolors" 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. March 15 - May 4. 269-857-2399. SC4A.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Francis Alys: Guards" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 15 - March 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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. Umma.umich.edu

WonderFool Productions "FoolMoon" Ann Arbor, Washington St., Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. April 5. Festifools.org





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Photo: Alex Lake

Big Love For Lianne Chanteuse Performs April 2 In Ferndale

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Remember Alicia Keys before she became a big enough name to revive the BlackBerry brand and hold her own in a Jay-Z collaboration? Back in 2001, when she released her critically lauded Grammywinning debut, "Songs in A Minor," she was a no-frills soulstress with impressive piano deftness. She was the next coming of Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder. She was like nothing at the time.

She was a lot like Lianne La Havas, the London import who headlines April 2 at the Magic Bag in Ferndale, just one of 18 shows on her current tour. I haven't known of Lianne for long: I caught the singer on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" just last week and immediately shot an email to the show promoter, gushing. Her funky Alicia-circa-2001 soul style as she performed her debut's intoxicating title track, "Is Your Love Big Enough?," left me so rapt I was upset to find out of its release ... in 2012!

Why hadn't I been listening to this already? The 23-year-old's sophisticated R&B sound should've been consuming me months before I finally had her album on my iTunes. Seven whole months gone (the LP was released in August). We made up for lost time this past week, when I let "Is Your Love Big Enough?" consume every bit of me and rule over everything else in my Recently Played list (sorry, Justin Timberlake). The album is made for NPR endorsements (which it received) and Best New Artist accolades (Grammys, are you listening?), because Lianne is the kind of modern musician able to find her place in 2013 while also sonically acknowledging the names who got her there. These people: Lauryn Hill, Jill Scott and Sade, all of whom consciously, or innately, influenced the jazzy folk-soul sound of "Is Your Love Big Enough?"

You half expect "Don't Wake Me Up," which breaks in the album with just a mesmerizing a cappella opening, to tear through the seams with a hip-hop baseline, but no. She resists. The song evokes a smokey groove as guitar and piano gently massage the music into a sexy little piece of heaven. Not that she takes herself too seriously for anything other than adult-contemporary fare. "Forget" would fit the bill for Beyoncé's "4" album; it's just experimental enough to still get radio onboard. "Age" is playful music-wise and also lyrically: "I kind of know this other guy, but he's rather old enough to be my father."

Throughout, Lianne's voice is comfortably supple and mellow, a chanteuse sure of her instrument but also completely aware of just how far she can go with it – something Alicia Keys lost track of (diva runs? really?). I'm already eager to see where she goes from here, because you know I'll be making sure her next album makes it into my collection. This time, on the day of release.

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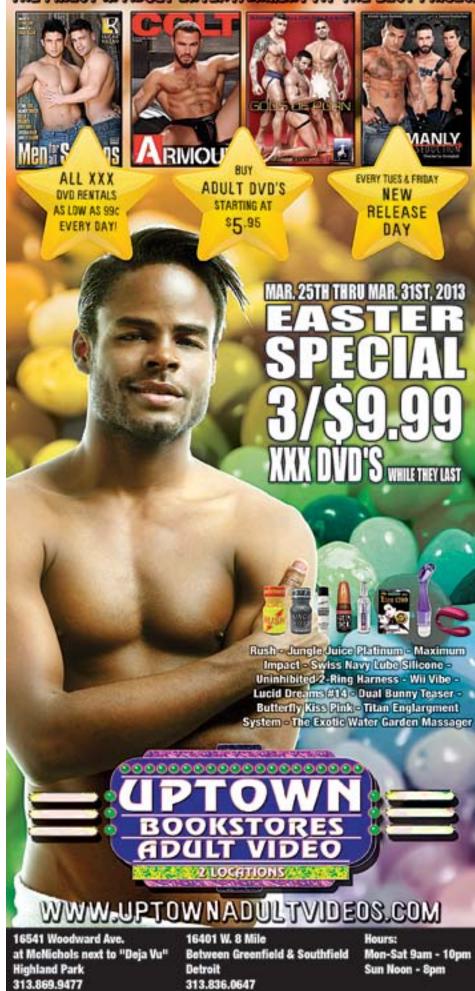
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Geography Club' meets soon

Brent Hartinger's highly successful young adult novel "Geography Club" is the little gay engine that could. The sweetly unassuming story of closeted high schoolers who find each other through a clandestine gay student group known under the code name "Geography Club" became a runaway hit, then a play adapted by the author and, now, a feature film from the writing-directing team of twin brothers Gary and Edmund Entin. Wrapped in 2012 for a 2013 release, the movie stars up-and-comers Cameron Deane Stewart ("Pitch Perfect") and Ally Maki ("Step Up 3D"), with established support from Scott Bakula, Nikki Blonsky, Marin Hinkle ("Two and A Half Men") and Ana Gasteyer. Gay-themed movies for families are few and far between, so be on the lookout for this one very soon at a gay film festival near you before it finds its home on cable. That's where its intended tween audience will have a fighting chance of seeing it.

'Super Troopers 2.' That's right, 'Super Troopers 2.'

There are two kinds of people in the world: people who know that "Super Troopers" is the funniest movie of the past decade or so (OK, yes, "Anchorman," we know, relax) and people who've never seen "Super Troopers." From the admittedly quality-variable comedy team known as Broken Lizard (you really don't want to see their follow-up film "Club Dread," trust that) the absurdist 2001 cop comedy featured drug eating, cat impersonating, bisexual swinging and maple syrup drinking, to roll call just a few of its idiotic charms. And now it's back to the well for more bad policing for director Jay Chandrasekhar and his fellow Lizards Kevin Heffernan, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter and Erik Stolhanske. It's early stages yet - that buzzkill word "development" lingers over the project at the moment - but it's really never too soon to get excited over this idea. If you're not it's because you're in the sad majority of Earth-dwellers who need to catch up on the first low-brow masterpiece. The rest of you, begin guzzling the nearest bottle of Mrs. Butterworth's.

Saffron Burrows facing her share of 'The Troubles'

It's entirely possible that you've given fewer passing thoughts to the career trajectory of Saffron Burrows than you should, but the bisexual Brit actress has already done so much to entertain you – including a brief stint dating fellow bi actor Alan Cumming – that you kind of owe her a moment of attention, don't you think? Well, here's the latest breaking Burrows bulletin: the former model and star of "The Bank Job" will appear in a U.K. crime thriller later this



Ana Gasteyer. Photo: Featureflash / Shutterstock.com

year called "Crossmaglen" (stumped? It's a town in Northern Ireland). Co-starring Ben Kingsley, Michael Gambon and Vinnie Jones, it focuses on an IRA gunman (Scottish character actor Tony Curran) who accidentally kills a woman and her children on Christmas Eve. Obviously, life gets much worse for him from that point forward, so abandon all hope that it somehow turns into a cuddly Irish remake of "It's A Wonderful Life." Look for this troubling "Troubles" drama in December, the jolliest calendar month featuring the year's most depressing films.

'Shoplifters of The World' unite and take over the multiplex

Who doesn't love The Smiths? Unnaturally happy people, yes, but few others. Since the early 1980s, Morrissey and Johnny Marr, the mopiest U.K. guitar heroes of their generation, have captured the loyalty of millions of lonely listeners even though they broke up not long after they began. And therein lies a tale. It seems that a troubled young American fan, heartbroken over the 1987 demise of the Morrissey/Marr alliance, held a heavy metal radio DJ hostage at gunpoint and forced him to play hours of Smiths songs (and it would take a gun to make a metal dude switch from "Reign In Blood" to "Frankly Mr. Shankly"). And now that bizarre story is a movie, "Shoplifters of The World," a comedy from gay director Stephen Kijak ("Scott Walker: 30th Century Man") starring "Downton Abbey"'s Jessica Brown Findlay, Thomas Brodie-Sangster ("Love, Actually"), Jeremy Allen White ("Shameless") and Will Poulter ("Son of Rambow"). Currently still in production, you'll have to content yourself with the ongoing feud between Moz and every other living non-vegan for entertainment until the finished product rolls into theaters. Lingering thought, though: Where is that DJ today and did he ever learn to love "There Is a Light That Never Goes Out?"

Romeo San Vicente has only ever stolen the lustfilled hearts of every man he meets. Believe it. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



