

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Royal Oak Ordinance
Thwarted For Now

Best Of Times At The
Same-Sex Wedding Expo

“How do I
become Beyoncé
with a guitar?”

- Del Marquis
of Scissor Sisters



**A SECOND
CHANCE
TO 'SHINE'**

Out Author To Speak On Troubled Past At DIA



4/18

**Bobby McFerrin
spirityouall**

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

The ten-time Grammy Award winner will always be the musician who sang "Don't Worry, Be Happy," but his "greatest gift to audiences may be transforming a concert hall into a playground, a village center, a joyous space." (The Los Angeles Times)

With his new project, spirityouall, Bobby pays homage to his father (the opera singer Robert McFerrin, Sr.) and the generations of African Americans who sang of shared joy and pain through spirituals.

Media partners: WOET 101.9 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one



4/20

Alison Balsom, trumpet & the Scottish Ensemble

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:00 pm
Hill Auditorium

Firmly established as one of the world's leading trumpeters, Alison Balsom makes her UMS debut with an evening of supremely beautiful music. Born in 1978, Balsom was recently crowned "Female Artist of the Year" at the Classical BRITs for the second time. She is joined by the Scottish Ensemble, the UK's only professional string orchestra and one that brings an energy and passion to every performance.

For the second half of this concert, Alison Balsom will perform on a natural trumpet. Natural trumpets are valveless, meaning that the player essentially creates each note off of various overtones obtained through the tightness or looseness of lip pressure. Hearing a live performance of this early instrument is a rare treat and one only the most highly skilled musicians can deliver.

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4/24

Ragamala Dance: Sacred Earth
Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy,
co-artistic directors

Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

"[Ragamala] shows how Indian forms can provide some of the most transcendent experiences that dance has to offer. This is an excellent company" (The New York Times)

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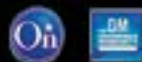
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COVER STORY

4 A second chance to 'shine'



“We danced because the tidal wave of history is definitely on our side, and we are riding the wave ... We danced because, when it comes right down to it, no one rocks a dance floor like family.”

– Dawn Wolfe, BTL Reporter, pg. 8



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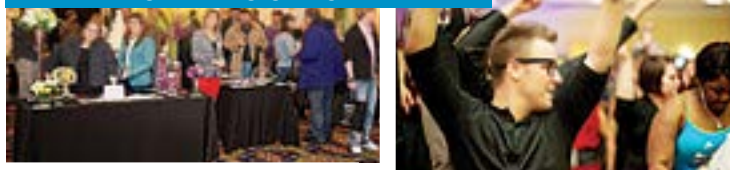
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Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

ONLINE PHOTO ALBUM



Don't Miss The Same-Sex Wedding Expo Photo Album

Whether you missed out on all the fun or just want to relive the memories, check out the marriage section of Pridesource.com to see tons of fantastic shots from BTL photographer Andrew Potter!

CALENDAR



Calling All Event Planners

Whether you're hosting a social night or planning a rally, the BTL Happenings pages and Pride Source Calendar are two fantastic tools to get the word out – at no cost! Submit your events today at PrideSource.com/Calendar.html

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A Second Chance To 'Shine' Out Author On Finding Her Way To The Other Side

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Author Rayya Elias says one of her favorite sayings is "the truth has legs, it always stands."

In her new book, "Harley Loco: A Memoir of Hard Living, Hair, and Post-Punk, from the Middle East to the Lower East Side," Elias tells the story of her life. It is her truth. "It may not be pretty, but I own it."

Elias, a Detroit native, launched her book tour this month and is journeying back home to visit the Detroit Institute of Arts at 7 p.m. April 18. "People in Detroit are so wonderful. I'm really excited to visit, especially the DIA. I've shared so much with that building," she said, adding that it was a place where she was able to find solace when her mother lost her battle with leukemia in November 1993.

Her best friend Elizabeth Gilbert, author of the famous "Eat, Pray, Love," will join Elias for a discussion and a book signing. "Having her anywhere anytime is a guaranteed good time," said Elias. "We're like Mutt and Jeff. We laugh so hard together. The depth of our friendship is so beautiful. It's the most amazing platonic relationship I've ever had. We remind each other of who we are."

So Who Is Elias?

She is more than a storyteller. She is a musician, a hairdresser, and a filmmaker who lives in Chelsea, a neighborhood on the West Side of the borough of Manhattan in New York City. She lives in an apartment with her pit bull, Little Ricky. Elias found him 12 years ago tied to a bench in Tompkins Square Park where in her past she spent many nights as a homeless woman.

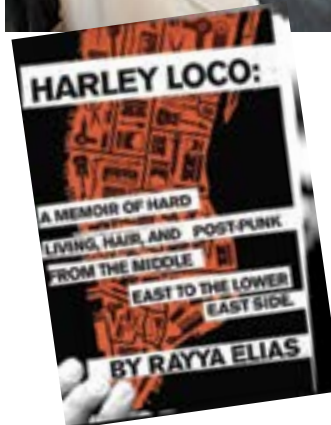
Elias was born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1960. She immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1967 to escape political conflict in search of "a better life." She is a lesbian Arab-American in her early 50s, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, and a friend.

She is also Harley Loco, a woman who has been to jail and institutions, and even nearly died a few times. Elias embraced that nickname, taking it with her from Rikers Island Prison Complex to the Women's Prison Association. "That name will always have a special place in my heart. It represents standing

up for and defending myself," she said.

American kids, who didn't understand foreigners, bullied Elias as a young girl.

"I knew as a young child that I was different from the rest of my family. I wasn't sure how, but nothing that I experienced seemed to fit in with their groove. I was always looking for something to light me up on the inside," said Elias. That something



became mescaline or acid, which she used on a daily basis by the end of eighth grade until cocaine became her drug of choice as a senior in high school. She continued struggling to navigate life with a language barrier and cultural differences.

"I guess drugs were the first thing that made me feel that fire, and though

misguided, gave me a sense of security and courage to dream big and follow through with my creativity," she said.

Elias is a natural artist. "Doing hair came easily to me."

Her talent secured Elias her first job and a chair at Heidi's Salon in Bloomfield Hills. It was also her ticket out of town to Darien, Conn., where she continued hairdressing. In her book, Elias explains that at the age of 23 she had to leave with only \$200 in her pocket, "to go where I could express my talent and my sexuality without the watchful and judgmental eyes of my family and their community."

Just a 45-minute drive from New York City she "jumped headfirst into everything new and exciting: the hair scene, the music scene, the art scene, and the club scene, which also happened to be a huge drug scene."

Throughout her book, Elias takes readers back in time to the East Village with vivid descriptions of her experiences finding friendships, struggling in relationships, sharing her first kiss with a woman, writing music, falling in love, having an abortion and dealing with heartache, all while becoming a drug addict.

She hustled on the streets in 1980s Alphabet City, risking her life to score different drugs including Ecstasy, Valium and Heroin. "I had single-handedly taken myself to the depths of misery," said Elias. "I was looking for a way out of having to feel

PREVIEW

DIA Event

Thursday, April 18, Detroit Institute of Arts
Reception, Reading, Discussion and Book
Signing with Authors Rayya Elias and
Elizabeth Gilbert

6 p.m. VIP Author Reception, Rivera Court
Tickets include a private reception with Elias
and Gilbert. Complimentary valet parking
at Woodward entrance, cocktails, light hors
d'oeuvres, one signed copy of Harley Loco,
reserved open seating for public reading and
discussion.

7 p.m. Reading, Discussion, Book Signing,
Detroit Film Theatre

Free with advance registration,
www.rayyaelias.com, www.dia.org

“Ride the edge and experience life on its terms. Don't numb it out. It's time for people to put their chin up and look forward. I just want to fucking shake people and say 'shine.' The biggest message I want to deliver is what I wish someone had said to me. Be yourself. You are enough.”

- Author Rayya Elias

the reality of life.”

In years of searching for herself, Elias had to confront her demons, weaknesses, strengths and spirituality. “Call it divine intervention, but somebody somewhere saved my ass,” she said in regard to her turning point. Elias has been clean since August 8, 1997.

“Sixteen years later, I continue to get well and had the opportunity to deal with my past and become whole again,” said Elias about her decision to write the book. “The book was cathartic. I've been single for four years. The book became my lover. I only wanted my voice to be heard with no influence from anyone else.”

“Harley Loco” contains an introduction from Gilbert, who gave Elias a medallion that she wears around her neck. “There's a quote from Oscar Wilde engraved on it. It says ‘every saint has a past, every sinner has a future,’” said Elias, who has future plans to go into institutions to talk

to people going through the same process today.

“I didn't know I could do this. I used to run from it all. The things I have personally experienced are not things that I would change because I wouldn't be where I am now without every one of them. Yes, I behaved treacherously, and it was very painful. I would advise anyone to do the opposite of what I've done, but they are weaved into a tapestry that is my fiber now, and I really like the person I am today. I get to experience all the ‘do-overs’ now and, trust me, it's a blessing,” she said.

“Ride the edge and experience life on its terms. Don't numb it out. It's time for people to put their chin up and look forward. I just want to fucking shake people and say ‘shine,’” said Elias. “The biggest message I want to deliver is what I wish someone had said to me. Be yourself. You are enough.”

An Open Letter To Affirmations And The Detroit LGBT Community

As a kid growing up in the seventies, I never felt the safety of a community, in fact quite the opposite. Coming from an Arabic background, I knew I would be shunned if I were to embrace my sexual identity. I couldn't imagine coming out to my family so I ran, physically and emotionally.

I moved to New York City and used many things including drugs that were outside of myself to help make my insides feel better. After many years of self-abuse, and then even more heartache and debilitating circumstances, I realized that who I was had always been enough. So I started my recovery process, not just from drugs, but also from self-doubt, transforming all of the negativity into hope and self-love.

Many people have shown up and helped me in this quest to embrace myself as a lesbian, Arab-American, and recovering addict.

The first place I went was the LGBT East Village meetings and the LGBT center in New York City, where I was welcomed and taken care of. When I came back to the Detroit area with just a few weeks of sobriety under my belt, I used Affirmations as a safe haven. I went to meetings and hung out afterwards with other people who had similar stories, and together we got better. This community has been a constant pillar for me to lean on, so I would like to extend myself back to you.

I would like to share my story with you. Join me on April 18 at the DIA for a VIP reception with Elizabeth Gilbert at 6 p.m. Or I hope to see you at my public reading with Liz at 7 p.m. at the DIA that evening.

Rayya Elias

April 3, 2013

www.dia.org/rayyaelias

Royal Oak Ordinance Thwarted For Now

Enough Signatures Submitted To Force A Ballot Fight In November

BY JAN STEVENSON

ROYAL OAK – It appears that enough petition signatures were turned in at Royal Oak City Hall April 2 to thwart a human rights ordinance - at least for now. The ordinance was set to go into effect last month but now may end up being decided by the voters in November. The new ordinance, passed by the city commission 6-1 on March 4, would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV and other characteristics.

Royal Oak resident Fred Birchard, 75, who campaigned to block a similar ordinance in 2001, told the Detroit Free Press that he turned in about 1,200 signatures, almost twice the minimum 746 signatures needed to block enactment of the ordinance.

If enough signatures are validated by the city clerk, then the city commissioners will take up the ordinance at their April 15 meeting. They can decide to either drop the ordinance altogether, or vote to place it on the November ballot.

Local residents, elected officials and business owners were not happy that the ordinance is now stopped.

Openly gay city commissioner Jim Rasor said that if the signatures are validated, he has a high level of confidence that the commission will vote to put the ordinance on the ballot in November.

“We have a democratic process and if that number of voters thinks it should be put to a vote in November, then so be it,” said Rasor. “In listening to Mr. Birchard, he thinks that God talks to him directly and that what he thinks God says to him trumps civil law.”

Rasor is also a well know attorney in Royal Oak who specializes in civil rights law. He said he is often hobbled in discrimination cases against LGBT clients because federal, state and local laws do not recognize basic rights of LGBT people. “If someone's boss walks into their office and fires them because the boss just found out they are gay, then I have no recourse under current federal and state law,” said Rasor. “That just feels un-American to me.”

“I'm not pleased it was thwarted,” said Keith Howarth, owner of Noir Leather in Royal Oak. “I feel it's a small minority of the older Royal Oak population and not representative at all of the new Royal Oak population. I think it is ignorant of the people who are thwarting it. It's 2013 and we need to understand that there is

diversity among us and everyone is welcome in Royal Oak.”

“My partner and I were proud as citizens of Royal Oak that the city commissioners had made a wise and just decision,” said Kate Wade who has lived in Royal Oak with her partner, Eileen Brandeis, for over 25 years. “We question why when a governing body has made a decision in favor of equality for a minority group it can be challenged by an individual and put to a majority vote.”

Royal Oak would have been the 22nd city in Michigan to enact a non-discrimination ordinance. Neighboring city Ferndale passed an ordinance several years ago, and Pleasant Ridge is set to move on a similar ordinance at their city council meeting April 9.

“I'm disappointed that residents went the petition route,” said Dave Coulter, mayor of Ferndale who specifically addressed a frequent objection to non-discrimination ordinances that enactment uses valuable policing resources. “I spoke before the Royal Oak Commission (when they were considering the ordinance) and shared our experience in Ferndale. There have been very few incidents that involved the police. In fact quite the opposite. Passing the ordinance is one of the reasons that Ferndale has been as successful as we have been because it says to everyone that we are diverse and welcome everyone.”

If the ordinance goes to a popular vote in Royal Oak next fall, the campaign to educate voters on the importance of the ordinance will fall to residents, business owners and activists.

“The challenge to the ordinance represents a small number of voters in Royal Oak. Royal Oak overwhelmingly supports fairness and equality, as the commission did and voters will in November,” said Jon Hoadley, director of Unity Michigan Coalition, a group that represents six of the largest LGBT organizations in Michigan.

“I can't speak too much (about anti-LGBT sentiments) because Five 15 does so well with our alternative show,” said Gary Baglio, owner of Five 15 Store in downtown Royal Oak. “Our Drag Queen Bingo is so wildly popular that I hope it will help educate people as to why it's so important to support this ordinance.”

Royal Oak City Commission will meet on April 15 to vote on whether to put the issue on the November ballot.

Between Ourselves: Eddie Mulak

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

The Director of Security for Ferndale Pride is a 30-year-old former farm boy who came to “Faggoty Ferndale” at 18 so he could freely be himself. Now, a dozen years since graduation, he looks at how things have changed, and how working on Motor City Pride and Ferndale Pride has helped him grow.

1 Where did you grow up and why did you move to Ferndale?

I grew up in Armada, Michigan. It’s a fairly small farming community located about 40 miles north of Detroit. I grew up on a 23 acre farm. We raised chickens and rabbits when I was younger and then eventually leased the land out to be farmed by area farmers. In 2001, when I was 18 years old and a senior in high school, I had finally accepted that I was gay and began to look around on the Internet for others like me.

I came across Triangle Foundation’s website. 2001 was the first year that Triangle had taken over Pride (and brought it to Ferndale). Back then it was known as Metro Detroit Gay & Lesbian PrideFest.

I had recently become familiar with Ferndale when I was doing my clinical rotations. I was riding with a crew and as we were driving down Woodward to a hospital in Detroit. My partners on the rig told me we were passing through “Faggoty Ferndale”.

I found myself falling in love with Ferndale. When I volunteered for security at PrideFest that year, I met amazing people at Triangle like Kevin McAlpine, Fred Huebener, Sean Kosofsky, and Jeff Montgomery.

2 What have you learned from the long-time activists that you get to work with?

Wow. I’ve learned so much and have been so very, very fortunate to work with all of the great men and women in our community. I learned how to organize a protest from the late Heather MacAllister at Triangle Foundation. I remember the first protest I was part of was against a church in Wayne that was hosting an anti-gay “Hell House”. It was freezing outside, but we strapped on our angel wings and hoisted our signs and picketed.

Meeting other wonderful people back in the early 2000s like Dave Garcia and hearing his story of discrimination by the Swartz Creek School District. The opportunity to meet Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard’s mother, was inspiring. I have learned how to successfully organize events and demonstrations from some of the greats. I am very lucky to get to work with Craig Covey, Julia Music, Greg Pawlica and Monica Mills on events throughout the year.



Eddie Mulak (center) volunteers in Ferndale.

3 Why did you decide to get involved in Ferndale Pride?

One of my favorite Margaret Mead quotes has always been, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” I think that the City of Ferndale has exemplified this every day.

The gay and lesbian community practically came in and rescued this town from the brink. From the moment that PrideFest was held in Ferndale, it just felt perfect. When the other Pride event left Ferndale to move to a larger location, it just left Ferndale empty. Ferndale needs to celebrate its diversity and pride. I’ve been friends with the organizers of Ferndale Pride since I first hit the scene in 2001. We’ve all worked together on projects ranging from the Blues Festival to the Pub Crawl. I was approached by Craig Covey who asked if I’d be interested in assisting in security and safety aspects of the event. My answer was “Absolutely, yes.”

To be able to feel that love and acceptance is just truly, truly wonderful.

4 How have things changed since you were in high school?

You know, it’s funny. I hear stories from friends who have kids that are in high school, or I’ll meet people at Pride events who have recently graduated and it’s always interesting to hear their stories of what it was like in school. Things have changed so dramatically since when I was in high school.

The speed at which information is put out is just amazing. Geez, I sound like my grandparents... It’s only been around 12 years since I was in high school, but how much has changed is just mind-boggling to me.

Bullying has become something far more intense than what it was for me in school. It’s changed vastly... a student doesn’t have to

just target you in class with a few insults. He or she can follow you all the way home now with Facebook on smartphones and the internet being everywhere.

Bullying is everywhere and kids can’t escape from it. That’s what’s alarming to me. When I was in school, I could at least get in my car and drive home and be free from all of it. I think it’s also important to note that my mom and sister have come leaps and bounds from where they were before. They’re far more accepting of me than they were at first. I think society in general has come in that direction. With more and more people coming out, the vilification by the “Christian” right has been disproven. We (gays and lesbians) are not these horrific monsters they made us out to be.

5 How did it feel seeing old classmates changing their Facebook pictures to red?

I was absolutely overwhelmed to see my former classmates and straight allies changing their Facebook photos to the red HRC logo. It brings tears to my eyes even now just thinking about it. Growing up in a farm-town where I grew up with my classmates from Kindergarten to

graduation and being surrounded by a lot of narrow-minded views, I was just absolutely in awe when I saw friends and loved ones supporting me and my community in our fight for equality. The most amazing part is that one of my Facebook friends was my music teacher. She was our music teacher from kindergarten all the way up through high school. She changed her profile picture to the red equal sign and I just started crying. To be able to feel that love and acceptance is just truly, truly wonderful.

Eddie and his security team will be keeping Ferndale Pride safe on June 1. Find out more about this event at www.ferndalepride.com. You can find an extended version of this interview online at www.pridesource.com



YPSILANTI

Soul Force Conference This Weekend

Inclusive Justice Michigan, a state-wide, faith-based coalition that advocates for equitable rights for all LGBTQ individuals, will host “A One Stop Pop Up Shop for Justice” conference April 13 at Eastern Michigan University.

The event will feature the Rev. Dr. Cindi Love, Executive Director of Souforce, a national organization that uses non-violence to confront and end discrimination against the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer community. Dr. Love will discuss the changing face of activism in her keynote speech: “Pop Ups, Flash Mobs and Digital Activism in the Public Square.”

The conference will also feature interactive seminars, focusing on social and digital actions and media strategies, led by Souforce Director of Development Haven Herrin. Dr. Love serves on the Faith and Religion Council for the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C., and the Compass to Compassion coalition, which works in support of LGBTQ rights throughout the world. The author of *Would Jesus Discriminate? The 21st Century Question*, she was part of Clergy Call on Washington, which lobbied for passage of the hate crimes bill and the employment non-discrimination act, and she is the former director for Metropolitan Community Church, where she is an ordained minister. Dr. Love also has a long history in the business world and was named one of the Top 50 Entrepreneurs in North America by Inc. Magazine in 1990. In 2008, she was honored as one of the “most loved women” in the United States by Go Magazine. A native of Abilene, Texas, Dr. Love has worked throughout Texas and in West Hollywood, Tel Aviv and Paris, France.

Souforce is well-known for its Equality Rides, which travel to and seek dialogue with colleges and universities with policies that do not support LGBTQ rights.

The full day conference is \$45 (\$20 for students). To register visit www.inclusivejustice.org or call 517-416-4608.

McMillin Uses Fear Tactics To Oppose RO Ordinance

BY JAN STEVENSON

ROYAL OAK – Michigan State Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills) has voiced opposition to Royal Oak’s recently passed human rights ordinance, citing his fear that trans people will use bathrooms and make other people uncomfortable.

“Why the city would want to force places like schools, businesses and fitness centers to allow men to use a women’s restroom or locker room – and allow boys to access girl’s restrooms and locker rooms in schools, is beyond me,” he said in a press release.

However, Royal Oak Commissioner Jim Rasor said that McMillin need not fear the city’s bathrooms because the ordinance exempts religious organizations and schools.

“If Rep. McMillin would have taken the time to read our unique human rights ordinance, he would have noticed that the exceptions we enacted to the ordinance protect religious organizations and schools from the type of doomsday scenario that he is trying to scare Royal Oak voters into thinking could occur,” Rasor wrote in a Facebook post. “There is no possibility of the ridiculous and inflammatory scenarios which he would like to scare voters with occurring.”

LGBT activists said they are familiar with the anti-LGBT tactics that focus on bathroom usage.

“It’s the same mis-informed fear-mongering we’ve seen over and over. As a transitioned woman I most definitely am not a guy pretending to be a woman – a guy wearing a dress,” said Amy Hunter, president of Equality Michigan Pride PAC and a leader in Michigan’s trans community. “Nobody has anything to fear from us. It’s the ‘othering’ thing, to make us the object of people’s fears. It’s a tried and true tactic.”

“I’ve been telling everyone I could that they are going to turn this into a bathroom

“It’s the same mis-informed fear-mongering we’ve seen over and over. As a transitioned woman I most definitely am not a guy pretending to be a woman – a guy wearing a dress.”

- Amy Hunter, president of Equality Michigan Pride PAC and a leader in Michigan’s trans community

bill,” said Michelle Fox, executive director of Gender Identity Network Alliance. “What I’m worried about and really scares me is if Royal Oak decides to strip out gender identity just to get it passed.”

Readers of BTL might remember McMillin as the legislator who introduced HB 5039 in October. If approved it would prohibit municipalities from extending “special rights” to those not covered by the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976.

The Elliott-Larsen Act protects people on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, weight, height, familial or marital status. But it does not offer protection on the basis of sexual orientation. Some municipalities have approved their own ordinances that extend the act’s protections to LGBT citizens. This House bill says municipalities could “not adopt” such ordinances.

/ Lori Edelson,
LMSW, LMFT

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“... There is a real pulse of community here.”

– Eric Swanson, co-founder of the professional music ensemble Motif

BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Nobody Moves Like Family Joy In The Face Of Stupidity At Wedding Expo

OPINION BY DAWN WOLFE

As a journalist for BTL and, back in the day, the first Director of Communications for the former Triangle Foundation, I've witnessed a lot of the heartache and tragedy caused by what can only be called stubborn and persistent stupidity.

I've interviewed hate crime victims. Reported on people losing their homes when anti-LGBT "in-laws" swept in after the death of a long-time, beloved partner. I was with BTL when, in 2004, the anti-LGBT industry outright lied to change our state's constitution to enshrine every possible discrimination against Michigan's same-sex couples.

Even when the news is great – like the recent national tidal wave turn in favor of LGBT equality – it's hard not to also remember that these rights, these equal rights, are our due as American citizens. Not something we should have had to fight for, but something that is ours by everything but law.

So how can I describe last Sunday's Same-Sex Wedding Expo except to say it was like a breath of fresh air in the midst of a field full of bull?

Outside the walls of the Detroit Marriott Livonia there are still people who believe – or claim to believe – that LGBT people are second-hand human beings. But inside those

walls... couples openly held hands, hugged, kissed, and strolled casually from one vendor to another eager to help make their special day magical. Mutual respect wasn't a surprise, it was assumed from the moment each of us walked in the door.

When the music came on, we danced – I danced, in public even! – with easygoing joy.

We danced because the tidal wave of history is definitely on our side, and we are riding the wave. We danced because we know, no matter what stupidity comes from the mouths of the Agemas and Glens and Phelps of

Couples openly held hands, hugged, kissed, and strolled casually from one vendor to another eager to help make their special day magical. Mutual respect wasn't a surprise, it was assumed from the moment each of us walked in the door.

the world, the light bulb of understanding is finally, really, going on over the heads of our fellow Americans.

We also danced because, when it comes right down to it, no one rocks a dance floor like family. And while we of the LGBT communities may have our differences, and while we may still be climbing uphill in our struggle for equal rights, for three hours on Sunday April 7 that's all we were. One big, very happy, family.

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Best Of Times At Third Same-Sex Wedding Expo

BY DAWN WOLFE

LIVONIA – Where can you find caterers, lawyers, insurance agents, ministers, DJ’s – not to mention free beer and wine and a rockin’ dance floor – all under one roof? On Sunday, April 7, all of the above and more (more than 200 more, in fact) gathered to celebrate Marriage Rites for All at the Detroit Marriott Livonia during BTLs’ third annual Same-Sex Wedding Expo.

The event featured everything – literally, everything – a couple could want to make their wedding an event to remember, with jewelers, photo booths, caterers, a limousine service, and churches all hosting booths to show their support for – and do business with – LGBT couples.

“Unlike other expos and events I’ve done, there is a real pulse of community here,” said Eric Swanson, co-founder of the professional music ensemble Motif. Swanson and Motif definitely contributed to the “pulse” of the event with periodic performances that had couples and singles alike swinging.

Kristy Hutchings, who was at the

Expo for Jeff Zak catering, said that the gay-owned and operated business attended to support the community. And support the community they did, with a thirst-quenching sparkling water and fruit juice drink that was a huge treat for this thirsty reporter.

According to Marriott Catering Sales

“All of these people, every race, color, creed ... everybody getting together to have fun!”

– Majorie Beasley

Manager Julie Emerson, the idea for the Expo came to the facility’s staff a bit over three years ago when a same-sex couple came to her for a place to hold their wedding ceremony. “They asked if I would do that sort of thing, and I thought ‘Why wouldn’t I?’” she remembered. Emerson and Marriott Director of Sales Danielle Bastianelli reached out to BTL

Publisher Jan Stevenson, and the Expo was born.

Jim Ankofski of the Pastry Palace in Wixom summed up the feeling of many of the vendors at the Expo. “This is a big, untapped market,” he said. “I’m a member of the gay community and I think that if people do the right thing in the government and legalize same-sex marriage this market will take off.”

“We just need the government to do the right thing,” Ankofski added.

While the vendors were all smiles, what about the people the event was created for – same-sex couples thinking about getting hitched?

Eric DeVore and John Petrucello of Detroit said that, while after twenty years together they feel married, they also feel it’s time to make their relationship official. DeVore said that the pair were at the Expo to get ideas and were happy to have so many vendors to choose from. “Otherwise we’d have to do a lot of running around and have to figure out who’s OK with gay couples.”

See Expo, page 10



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Haven Recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Denim Day Will Take Place April 26

BY BTL STAFF

BINGHAM FARMS – According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the U.S. have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it.

Although April is SAAM, HAVEN works year-round to aid those affected by sexual violence and works to prevent future sexual assaults. HAVEN is nationally-recognized nonprofit leader in Oakland County, promoting a world of safe, equal and accountable communities where sexual assault and domestic violence do not exist.

Julie Frawley, 52, an Oakland County resident, knows firsthand how the programs at HAVEN help. She is the survivor of a rape, which occurred in 1986.

“After experiencing the trauma of a vicious rape that occurred during a home invasion, I knew that I needed help coping,” Frawley said. “At HAVEN, I met caring individuals who helped me to heal by listening to my fears and concerns with empathy and understanding. They have helped me and other survivors of sexual assault to rediscover the strength and courage we have within us to reclaim the



respect and dignity that all women deserve.”

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has declared Friday, April 26 Denim Day in Oakland County to raise awareness of victims of sexual assault. Patterson encourages Oakland County businesses, schools and local governments to participate in the campaign.

“As county executive and former prosecutor, I’ve seen firsthand the emotional and physical toll of sexual assault on its victims,” Patterson said. “Denim Day is a very visible way to take a stand against rape.”

Patterson has also declared Denim Day a special casual day for county employees. Those who work in participating county departments may wear jeans to work on Friday, April 26 for a \$1 donation. Funds

raised that day will go to HAVEN, which is organizing the fifth annual Denim Day locally.

“Denim Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to raise awareness throughout the community about the horrible crime of rape and sexual assault,” said Beth Morrison, president and CEO of HAVEN. “Rape does not discriminate - it impacts all segments of our community and therefore the entire community needs to become aware and take a stand.”

HAVEN urges readers to support sexual assault survivors and take the opportunity this month to take action against this horrific and preventable crime. You can make a donation to HAVEN. Talk about healthy sex with your sexual partners and friends. Encourage your

employer to support Oakland County’s Denim Day on April 26. Be there for someone who might be struggling through an unhealthy relationship. If you or someone you know needs help, contact HAVEN’s Crisis and Support Line at 1-877-922-1274. Visit www.haven-oakland.org for more information.

About Denim Day

In 1997, a 17-year-old girl in Rome, Italy was picked up by her 45-year-old driving instructor for her first lesson. An hour later he abandoned her in an alley after raping her. She reported the incident and the case was prosecuted. The driving instructor was convicted of rape and sent to prison. A year later, the driving instructor appealed his sentence. The Italian Supreme Court overturned his conviction. In a statement released by the chief judge, he said, “because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them... and by removing the jeans... it was no longer rape, but consensual sex.” Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans on the steps of the Parliament building. Since then, annual Denim Days to protest sexual violence and to raise awareness have been organized throughout the U.S.

► Expo

Continued from p. 9

First-time Expo guests Karen Fitzpatrick and Majorie Beasley, also of Detroit, were also looking for wedding ideas and said that, among other things, they loved, “...the photo booth and the beautiful cakes.”

Also, “All of these people, every race, color, creed ... everybody getting together to have fun!” Beasley said while looking through shots she and Fitzpatrick had taken in one of the two photo booths.

Markey (who asked that her last name not be used) was in Michigan from Hawaii and decided to check the Expo out while in town. Markey, who identifies as gender-fluid, isn’t in a relationship but said that she was enjoying herself, “Everybody’s friendly, everyone’s upbeat,” she said.

A Bit of Canada In Michigan

Thanks to a bit of Expo magic, all anyone who wanted to experience a bit of Canada here in Michigan had to do was visit the

Expo’s Windsor Experience, courtesy of Caesar’s Windsor and Tourism Windsor. With free wine flowing and periodic music and dancing thanks to Star Trax Event Productions from Southfield, the Windsor Experience combined a party spirit with a welcome chance to unwind.

More importantly, the room was a reminder that, unlike the state of Michigan, Canada affords equal protection under the law to same-sex couples.

Mike Cardinal of Civil Marriage Celebrations said that, in fact, he and partner Joe McParland serve, “...probably two-three dozen couples a year from Michigan and the U.S. in general.”

One thing that many U.S. couples seeking to wed in Canada don’t know, said Cardinal, is just how easy the process is. “As long as both members of the couple haven’t been previously married or divorced in the states, the paperwork takes about a half an hour,” Cardinal explained, and added that unlike in Michigan there is no mandated waiting period between obtaining the license and holding the ceremony.

Couples where one partner or the other have been divorced in the states do face some bureaucracy, though, with about a four-five week wait until the paperwork goes through.

Celebrations – and Protections

While the Windsor Experience reminded guests that there are places where same-sex couples are respected by the law, that respect is still sorely lacking in Michigan. With that in mind, the Expo featured insurance representatives and attorneys who specialize in the sometimes-complex paperwork dance that sexual minorities have to deal with to protect their relationships and assets.

Amanda Shelton of the law firm Shelton & Dean summed up the situation, “This event (the Expo) gives us the chance to really talk to people and help them understand that right now they’re getting caught up in their ceremony – but they have to see us to be protected.”

While that need for special protection is a

“... If people do the right thing in the government and legalize same-sex marriage this market will take off.”

– Jim Ankofski, Pastry Palace in Wixom

constant reminder of the legal discrimination same-sex couples face in Michigan, that fact wasn’t anywhere near enough to put a damper on the high spirits of virtually everyone at the Expo. Kisha Avinger said that she and her wife, Sherry Broom, were at the event to find a caterer – and a chocolatier – for their wedding during Motor City Pride at Hart Plaza this June. “We aren’t into drinking, but we love to get ‘chocolate wasted!’,” Avinger said with a smile while choosing between luscious treats from AG Chocolates.

Author Will Discuss Guide To Adoption For Male Couples

April 12 Event Examines Book 'Jesus Has Two Daddies'

BY DAWN WOLFE

ANN ARBOR – If Jesus could have two daddies, why can't other children? That's the question being asked and answered in the new book, *Jesus Has Two Daddies*, by Michigan author Tom McMillen-Oakley.

McMillen-Oakley, who will be at Common Language Bookstore starting at 7 p.m. April 12 to sign his autobiographical how-to guide to gay fatherhood, took some time for an interview with BTL recently about the challenges for gay men in becoming parents, the sorry state of Michigan's laws, and making a splash in the Middle East.

Let's start with the most obvious question – why this title?

The title is from a children's sermon given by the former minister of the church we used to attend. She was preparing the kids in the church for our daughter's arrival and made the analogy that God asked Joseph to take care of his son since he couldn't. So in a sense, like



Author Tom McMillen-Oakley

Anna, (and the couple's son, Eli) Jesus has two daddies.

You and your husband Todd are have full-time jobs and you're both full-time dads. What prompted you to find time to write a book on top of all that?

When we first started this (the process of adopting their children) there were very few books out there for dads starting a family. The only one we found helpful was Dan Savage's (*The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant*, Plume, 1999). There were books on the turkey baster method for women, but nothing for us (male partners). When we started (the adoption process) I started taking notes. My hope is to get this out there so that other male couples who are looking to become parents can have a resource.

What advice do you have for male partners who want to become parents?

My first piece of advice to anybody looking to adopt is to be sure you have a stable relationship with

your partner and the funds to do it. It's not cheap to make it happen. Anna's (biological) mom's lawyer was \$500 an hour. You and I have been on the phone for twenty minutes; that would be \$250 billed.

My first piece of advice to same-sex couples in Michigan is, why Michigan? We're not an LGBT-friendly state. If they have a choice I'd advise them to go elsewhere.

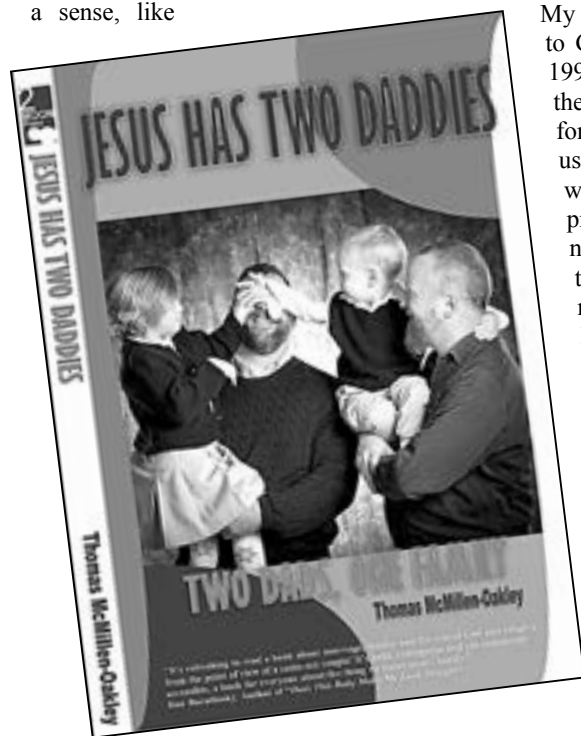
What kind of reception has your book gotten so far?

It's been good; our sales are good online for both the digital copy and hard copy. I had someone in the Middle East, when the digital copy dropped in December, buy fifteen copies to give away to friends during the holidays. This person messaged me saying this (the book) is great and he hopes he makes a difference sharing it with his people.

The turnout for the book's opening in Jackson was astounding. Quite a few people came who have gay relatives. One woman talked to my mom for quite a bit – she has a gay son who lives in Wisconsin with his partner and they want to do this (start a family) so she bought the book for him.

She and my mom were crying and sharing tissues – she thanked me and said more people need to know this is possible -- she thought she'd never be a grandmother with (her son). If one person can get some reassurance (from the book) for what they're doing or give help to one of their family members, I think it would be a beautiful thing.

Common Language Bookstore is located at 317 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. "Jesus Has Two Daddies: Two Dads, One Heart" was published in March 2013 and is available online from 2 Moon Press: www.800publishing.com/v5/thestore/title/215/



Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Louie Gohmert



There are few topics that raise the collective temperatures of Americans on all sides as much as gun control and gay marriage. At first blush, it seems like the two debates are separate without much to connect them. I mean, shooting people and marrying people are pretty different things. So it would take a real master of rhetoric to combine the two in one astounding argument.

Ladies and gentlemen, meet United States Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-Texas, duh), member of the newly minted Tea Party Unity organization.

While discussing gun control in a recent conference call he addressed the idea that the number of rounds in a magazine should be limited to, say, ten, because, fun fact, you can kill and maim an awful lot of people in a very short amount of time when you don't have to stop and reload.

Gohmert responded, "Well, once you make it ten, then why would you draw the line at ten? What's wrong with nine? Or eleven? And the problem is once you draw that limit. It's kind of like marriage when you say it's not a man and a woman any more, then why not have three men and one woman, or four women and one man, or why not somebody has a love for an animal?"

Yes, indeed it is "kind of like marriage" if you equate vowing to spend the rest of your life with someone and being legally recognized as a family with a large capacity magazine being emptied out into the bodies of people in order to kill them. And if Gohmert doesn't see the difference between those two things then I think he and his wife should really get some counseling, quick.

Of course, Gohmert isn't content to just make a comparison between gun control and marriage control, he's got to bring polygamy and bestiality into it, too, to show off his command of the slippery slope argumentative fallacy, a favorite among anti-gay conservatives. Because if two women can get married then why not three men and four wives and six goats and a partridge in a pear tree? You can't argue with - or follow, for that matter - logic like that.

Gohmert continued, "There is no clear place to draw the line once you eliminate the traditional marriage and it's the same once you start putting limits on what guns can be used, then it's just really easy to have laws that make them all illegal."

Got that? Lines are hard and confusing! And in Gohmert's world are apparently all drawn in chalk in the middle of a rainstorm. He seems to be forgetting that humans draw lines all of the time and, for the most part, all hell does not break loose. Take speed limits for example. States set the limits, we follow them, and if we don't we can get pulled over and given a ticket. Speed limits also have changed over time, which is why Sammy Hagar's "I Can't Drive 55," a cutting edge lament in 1984, is but a rock and roll relic today.

So you see? "Lines" (also known as laws) such as these are drawn and redrawn over time and the process does not involve humans having sex with animals of any kind. Unless, of course, they do things differently in Gohmert's district in Texas.

“Here in Royal Oak we’ll be partying like it’s 1969, still trying to obtain the very simplest of civil liberties.”

Letter: Royal Oak Ordinance

All the recent hope n’ hoopla about gay marriage pretty quickly dissolves when one hears that “progressive, hip” Royal Oak can’t keep even the most basic of anti-discrimination ordinances in effect for more than a few weeks. It’s not just the sole old-fart homophobe who started the petition that upsets me, it’s the 1000+ signatures he quickly collected, that have now put the measure on hold until a November ballot election. So, all you gay leaders and supporters, scurrying around making so many fabulous news bites: go ahead and plan all your Lansing & Washington rallies for such a high-fallutin’ concept as marriage equality. Here in Royal Oak we’ll be partying like it’s 1969, still trying to obtain the very simplest of civil liberties whose ongoing struggle makes me ashamed of the community I’ve lived in for the past 20 years.

Bob Arene, Royal Oak

GOPers: Dear Agema Resign!

“Dave Agema should resign after Facebook post citing a Holocaust denier. Having chosen to use the work of Dr. Fields, the author of the pamphlet Agema posted is – at best – a highly reckless and inflammatory hack whose drivel is nonetheless doggedly defended by an elected officer of the Republican Party. Agema should have resigned already, but he’s had some strong supporters backing up the substance of that thoughtless post.”

MLIVE: Column by Republican Ken Braun: www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/04/ken_braun_dave_agemas_facebook.html

“GOP committeeman must step down after vitriol about gays. Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema should immediately resign. If he won’t, the state and national Republican Party leaders must remove him.

LIV: Op-ed by former U.S. Rep. Jerry Vorva [R]: www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130407/OPINION01/304070306

Find more Op-Ed compilations on Agema at www.pridesource.com

The Thrill Of It

Remembering The Crazy Beauty Of The Coming-Out Years



Thinking Out Loud

OPINION BY ABBY DEES

Last night my partner and I watched *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, the sweet, slightly retro coming-of-age film featuring Emma Watson in her big post-*Potter* debut. The plot was more or less about teenagers hanging out after curfew at the park or in cars, talking about lives they’d yet to live. My partner mused, “Remember how amazing those little things were when you were young?” Oh, absolutely. The film took me back to a time when sharing a contraband cigarette with a kid who was cooler than me could lift me up for a week before I’d revert to being a miserable adolescent. I think this is what 16-year-old superblogger Tavi Gevinson meant recently when she said that amidst the inevitable horribleness of being a teenager, there were “moments of gleaming joy and beauty.”

At what point then did the deliciousness of being slightly delinquent with my friends become merely boring? If I hung out at a park at midnight with my friends now, we’d probably get arrested – if we didn’t fall asleep first. Sadly, and just as inevitably, at some point in adulthood that exquisite brew of limitless possibility, hormones and fear morphs into acceptance, equilibrium and experience. More useful, but far less exciting.

The last time I remember feeling that magic was in the first few years of being “out” as a lesbian. After a while things, though, got ordinary, and going to clubs or Pride marches became predictable, though pleasant enough. My hormones mellowed, my world expanded and being gay stopped being so notable, which is how it should be, I suppose, with the passage of time.

Most of us, no matter how old we are when we come out, briefly experience a kind of adolescence, if you will: a few years when the most mundane moments take on epic meaning. The doors open and we step over the threshold into blazing Technicolor, after what felt like an age trapped in muted tones and waiting...for something. All fear and trepidation (there’s lots of that) get completely mowed over by

the thrill that we are, at last, totally alive.

It’s easy to forget what that feels like until something (e.g., Emma Watson standing up in the open sun roof of a racing car while Bowie’s grand gift to freaks, “Heroes,” blasts through the stereo) triggers old memories. And it’s easy to smirk at those newbies who are “all gay all the time” as if it’s no big deal to be out, even though “f@#got” continues to be a ubiquitous and vicious slur.

When my friend’s 13-year-old son came out of the closet (not really to anyone’s surprise), he turned right into a miniature Harvey Milk. It was kind of annoying to be lectured about LGBT history that we all remembered first hand, and which he’d only just discovered on the Internet. Nonetheless, I told my friend to resist the urge to ask her son to talk about anything other than being gay. He was both a teenager and newly out, I argued, and was entitled to enjoy those moments of passionate discovery – or “gleaming joy” – for a little while more.

But most of the time I forget to cut people slack for still being in the throes of discovery. I think it embarrasses me to remember the moment when I realized I might find someone to love after all, or when I learned that I wasn’t the only one

But most of the time I forget to cut people slack for still being in the throes of discovery. I think it embarrasses me to remember the moment when I realized I might find someone to love after all, or when I learned that I wasn’t the only one who felt how I did.

who felt how I did. I imagine how it looks to straight people who wonder why gays are so obsessed with being gay, and I don’t want anyone to think that LGBT people actually regress when we come out.

It’s not regression, after all, when we never got to experience some of those key moments of belonging, of first crushes, or tell-all friendship that others got to. And yes, there comes a time when it’s important to move on into the ordinary world. Right now, though, if you’re still caught up in those simple moments of endless possibility, I admit that I’m a little envious. Promise me that you won’t forget it later.



Mark Your Calendars: Urgent!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

The following items - for reasons happily positive, homophobic negative - recently made their uncharted way to my educational, ecumenical, and sometimes egregious email address.

I feel it my journalistic duty as a senior citizen of time-honored, distinguished gay lineage - Alexander the Great - to share these come-ons with you beloved PG readers. Pox, er, pax vobiscum.

First, this from the Southern Comfort American Baptists, by way of Pray Bashers for Jesus, LDS, in their joint monthly, Second Coming. Author

Rev. Richard 'Dick' Shuttlecox.

"There's little doubt, true believers, that we are living in the Last Days. The signs are all there. The president - Mr. Obamination - of this once-glorious, God fearing country - once blessedly bannered by a flag of 13 halo stars and Calvary-inspired stripes - for Jesus and his 12 disciples - is of dubious pedigree and birthright.

"Hawaii is, if little else, a pagan country. Too much sunshine. Too many alohas. Too many natives, male and female, hula-hulaing in grass skirts.

"This president so-called has also aligned himself with the anti-Christ, a secret coalition of 666 LGBTQA 'queer' co-conspirators whose collective goal is to make same-sex marriage and/or its approval a prerequisite for citizenship for thousands of illegal immigrants - most of whom are not true, born-again-here Christians - now flooding America! Their sacrilegious password: Get you, Mary!

"Let's be honest - as God's elect we are commanded to be 'gentle as doves but sly as serpents' - it's time to tell all and sundry that homosexuals are an Obamination and the cause of every natural disaster since Pompeii, all wars since 1812, artificial sweeteners and speed colas, every X-rated porno site (including man-woman sex not in the Bible-based, Missionary Position), and idolatrous worshippers of the Great Whore of Babylon, Lady Gaga (see Book of Revelation 17:5).

"Yea, verily, brothers and Sisters, the Southern Comforter Baptists humbly ask you to send Pray Bashers for Jesus, a tax-deductible check in the amount of \$777, one dollar for each number contained in that sacred, Revelation revealed divine mystery configuration, to save this holy country from a rainbow - black, brown, non-white, pinko - take over.

"In return for your prompt response you will receive by Fed-Ex(gay) a year's subscription to our publication, a red-white-and-blue WWJH? bracelet (or, if you prefer, WWJGB?), and a coupon to have your picture taken with your favorite T-bag, ultra conservative, Fox News reporter and/or anchor, or Fred Phelps (no relation to Michael).

"Remember these words of wisdom: When homosexuals say marriage, they mean Adam & Steve, Eve & Eydie, He/she & Tee/he. God loves a cheerful gay basher. Give from the top of your bottomless heart! Amen, not Gaymen."

And this on a more positive note: "The Michigan State House and Senate both have unanimously passed a Proclamation, soon to be signed by Gov. Spyder, setting aside the Month of June as, Michigan Take A Dyke to Lunch Month.

The historic document honoring an unsung segment of Michigan movers and shakers reads: "In honor of the incalculable good that these womyn have done for sports - softball, tennis, bowling, pool, roller derby, Harley Davis expressway biking - citizens are encourage during June to pick up the tab for a neighborhood dyke or a suburban stone butch. Keep Michigan on the Winner's Side."

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Study Looks At Why Students Say ‘That’s So Gay!’

Results Suggest Phrase Isn’t About Homophobia

BY DAWN WOLFE

ANN ARBOR – Following up on his 2012 research into the harmful effects on LGBT college students of hearing the phrase “That’s so gay!” on campus, the University of Michigan’s Dr. Michael Woodford has come out with a new study looking at why male students use the phrase.

One highly surprising result of the latest study suggests that straight males who say “That’s so gay!” aren’t doing so because of anti-gay bias. In fact, they don’t seem to relate the phrase to the gay community at all.

“Among the heterosexual male undergraduates surveyed, attitudes about the acceptability of same-sexuality were unrelated to using the phrase, but levels of discomfort with feminine men were related. The more respondents were uncomfortable around feminine men, the more likely they were to report saying the phrase,” according to the

UofM press release.

In other words, straight college men don’t say “That’s so gay” because they have a problem with lesbian or gay people - they say it because they’re uncomfortable around any male, regardless of sexual orientation, who seems feminine.

“Studies find that perpetuating LGB hate crimes and gay bullying is strongly correlated with homophobia. Therefore, it is commonly assumed that homophobia is linked to saying ‘That’s so gay,’” said Woodford in the press release published in January. “However, our results suggest otherwise.”

“Attitudes about male gender norms are really playing a role while aspects of same-sex sexuality were not related (to using the phrase),” said Woodford, who responded to BTL’s questions via email. “This is really about gender policing - not females but males and male gender expression.” Woodford is an associate professor with the UofM’s School of Social Work and the lead author of the study.

But while anti-gay bias doesn’t motivate students to use “That’s so gay!” to mean stupid or lame, hearing others use the phrase does.

“Hearing ‘That’s so gay’ was one of the most powerful predictive factors in saying it,” Woodford explained during his BTL interview. “It becomes one of the norms - and maybe I’m

just repeating what I see in the environment. If it’s so popular on the campus, just by immersion you pick it up ... especially if it’s something people don’t see as harmful.”

Although those who use the phrase don’t see it as being anti-gay, or as harmful, Woodford’s 2012 study confirms that LGBT students who hear the phrase are definitely experiencing harm.

“We found LGBT students who were hearing it (‘That’s so gay!’) were reporting

not feeling accepted on campus,” Woodford explained. “Students who hear the phrase are more likely to report headaches and stomach problems...”

Woodford and a UofM colleague, Professor of English Dr. Anne Curzon, agree that students need to be educated about the harm they’re doing with their words.

“It is important to remember that words can do real damage, whether someone intends them to or not. Part of respecting other people is using respectful language, including identity terms,” said Curzon. “I have been interested in and impressed by the ad campaign over the past few years called ‘Think B4 You Speak,’ which has both famous (including NBA players) and not famous people asking viewers/listeners not to use the ‘gay’ to mean stupid.”

Woodford would like to see college leadership take a more active role in educating students about the harm caused by the phrase and discouraging them from using it.

“We need public codes of conduct saying that these kinds of phrases will not be tolerated,” he said. “We need to put in programs and policies that say discrimination is more than just blatant sexism and homophobia ... and media campaigns we can use to get people to be more purposeful and intentional around the language we are using.”

“It is important to remember that words can do real damage, whether someone intends them to or not. Part of respecting other people is using respectful language, including identity terms...”

- Dr. Anne Curzon, professor of English at UofM

‘Faggot’ Still Acceptable

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Last November BTL reported on a website tracking derogatory terms called www.nohomophobes.com. Here Tweets with the words “so gay,” “faggot,” “dyke,” and “nohomo” are aggregated into a feed and tallied. While the innovative website continues gathering data about this language use, researchers from the project are moving forward with a campaign to help make people aware of how use of these terms is hurtful.

Dr. Kristopher Wells, assistant professor and associate director of Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta in Canada, heads the project.

“We no longer tolerate racist language, we’re getting better at dealing with sexist language, but sadly we still see and hear homophobic and transphobic language in our society,” Wells said. “While this language might not always be meant to be hurtful, we must not forget that words like ‘faggot’ contribute greatly to the continued alienation and isolation of sexual and gender variant (LGBTQ) people, especially our youth.”

A Canadian TV commercial was produced

with generous support from Global Television. “We are proud to be part of this campaign,” says Tim Spelliscy, Senior Regional Director Global News Edmonton and Prairie Region. “This is a pressing social issue that has been swept under the surface for far too long.” Dr. Wells, who worked closely on the development of the campaign stressed that “the use of casual homophobia must end. We are all responsible to stop it. The lives of our youth and the humanity of our society depends upon it.”

The TV commercial is a 30 second spot that bleeps out several words deemed offensive except for the words “gay faggot,” which triggers viewers to question why the use of homophobic language is still used and accepted by society. The commercial also directs viewers to {URL www.nohomophobes.com}, the site that tracks homophobic words on Twitter.

The website, and the commercial all help draw attention to the need to change this type of casual acceptance of these words. For more information on the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services visit www.ismss.ualberta.ca.



As of Feb. 16, the total number of references for each word have been:

Faggot: 7,922,967
No homo: 2,781,178
So gay: 2,514,115
Dyke: 951,158





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Soulforce is a national organization which works to end the political and religious oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer LGBTQ/SGL people through relentless, non-violent resistance.

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KISS & DEL



Scissor Sisters Guitarist Talks ‘Ego Baby,’ Band’s Hiatus And Being Beyoncé

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Derek Gruen, aka Del Marquis, is happy to let his fellow Scissor Sisters eclipse his nerd-cool presence on stage. Now, though, as the band takes some time off, all swoony eyes – and ears – are on Marquis and his latest solo project, “Cosmos,” released under the moniker Slow Knights (take that, Jake Shears).

Marquis recently chatted about teaming with Prince’s legendary backing band for the new release, the “unique relationship” he has with the Scissor Sisters and his mission to be Beyoncé ... with a guitar.

What do I call you: Derek or Del?

You can just stick with Del. I know I’m confusing everybody.

What do you like most about doing these side projects without the Scissor Sisters?

I’m not really one of the main songwriters in Sisters. I come in and put down guitar parts over structures and ideas that are existing, so this really gives me more validation – considering I went from a world working as a designer into music, where I wasn’t sure I was creating enough. I had to kind of do these projects to feel like I had my own

little ego baby; basically, in a really trite way, I wanted to build something from the ground up, so on this second project I definitely felt more confident and got to the point where the record I finished was what I had in my head the whole time. I didn’t really feel like I did that the first time.

With the series you released in 2008 and 2009?

Yeah, I had never written lyrics and I’d never sang to my own music, so it was really part experimentation and blind fury. I look back and think, “God, I would’ve worked a little harder on that. I would’ve finessed those lyrics. I would’ve cut

that song down by a minute.”

How would you describe this album to a Scissor Sisters fan?

I set out to make an R&B record that went to outer space. It’s a groove record, but it’s a decidedly different sense of taste. Obviously, doing a record like this, I have a bit more control and it’s through my own filter as opposed to a band’s.

Do you like having that control, or would you prefer having three band members who can make decisions for you?

There are bonuses to both. I can’t say I did everything myself on this

record, but if I worked on a song with someone else, I just said to approach it in a way that maybe isn’t typical of their own work, because I have a certain sound I’m looking for. So can you write from a different point of view than you normally would? Just keeping it so that with all these different contributors and different singers, it still sounds like a cohesive record and not some weird anomaly.

So, in a sense, you get to be the frontman and call the shots.

Yeah, I mean, I’m the art director. (Laughs) I’m the creative director of the project. Being a creative director is very different from being

a front person, and I'm actually the opposite. I chose four or five other people to be the front person to sing each song, which is the true focus for the listener, or most listeners, so I actually remove myself from the center of attention.

I was happy to kind of be a Dave Stewart and just wear sunglasses and hide a little bit, because I actually don't feel very comfortable in front of a mic. I'm not a true singer, and giving the song to other people to sing allows me to enjoy them. I can distance myself enough from them by hearing someone else's voice so I enjoy the record I've made.

You're a lot like Jake, because he obviously doesn't feel comfortable in front of a mic at all. He doesn't?

I'm teasing.

(Laughs) I'm actually that gullible. I'm like, "What are you talking about?" I don't think I've ever known anybody more attuned to be there (than Jake) – and you know what, seeing that is clarity enough to know when it doesn't feel right. Because it should feel natural. Everyone has a role they are destined to fill whether they know it or not, and I have just enough attention on me as a guitar player. Anything more and I'm not sure I'd thrive like that.

I can understand wanting to blend in.

You get moments of glory and that feels great, but then if you're in a bad mood you can get kind of skulk in the darkness and no one is that bothered.

Is that Madonna's "Holiday" on "Under Attack" that I'm hearing?

It's just a coincidence. (Laughs) You know. It evokes a sense of childhood, maybe.

Happy accident, then?

That was a happy accident. Sometimes those songs are just in our DNA, and I don't know. If people want to make a comparison, I'm fine with that.

How did you come to work with Prince's former backing band, New Power Generation?

I had basically made a bedroom record like many people do, but I just felt like there was something missing. I'm not a great bass player, so I really felt like in order for these songs to sound authentic to my ears, I needed people to play them who are true players. When I played the demos to my engineer, he said, "I know the guys who used to play in New Power Generation and I'm sure I can set this up," and we did. I flew out to Minneapolis and had a one-week session and it was by far my favorite part of the process. I just had to communicate very little. I just let them do what they do and it was so much fun. When people are that connected to an instrument, music is their language.

Are you a big Prince fan?

Yeah, I don't really know anybody who isn't appreciative in some aspect. Beyond liking the songs, I definitely like to study people who perform, because I didn't feel like I was a natural performer. So I always kind of looked at different people's movements, whether it was Nancy Wilson or Prince or Beyoncé. Prince, who was able to move while playing a guitar in these outfits – people couldn't believe that he was playing a solo while riding on his back or doing a split. I was like, "How do I get to that point? How do I become Beyoncé with a guitar?" (Laughs) I definitely love studying live tapes of him and have taken inspiration from him, especially with the new romantic stuff and some of his outfit choices. It's nice to study and, through my own lens, I've appropriated

See Del, page 18

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► Del

Continued from p. 17

some things.

Study or stalk?

I don't want to stalk him. He's a Jehovah's Witness! I don't want anything to do with him. (Laughs) And I'm an adult. I'm not interested in stalking people.

But don't you have a history of stalking famous musicians?

Yeah, I was a teenager music fan like anyone I know who's in a band or works in publishing or in whatever position they've attained in music. The best people were once crazy fans. They were silly teenagers who made collages and stole set lists and waited outside of hotels. I mean, all the best that you want to work with as adults were insane teenagers, but you know, most people grow out of that and they say, "How do I find a way to get closer to music that's not so disturbing for someone past the age of 20?"

How long do you expect the Scissor Sisters' hiatus to last?

I have no idea. And I think that's how it should be. If and when it feels right we would do it in a second, so whatever that means.

Do you think breaks are important to a band's longevity?

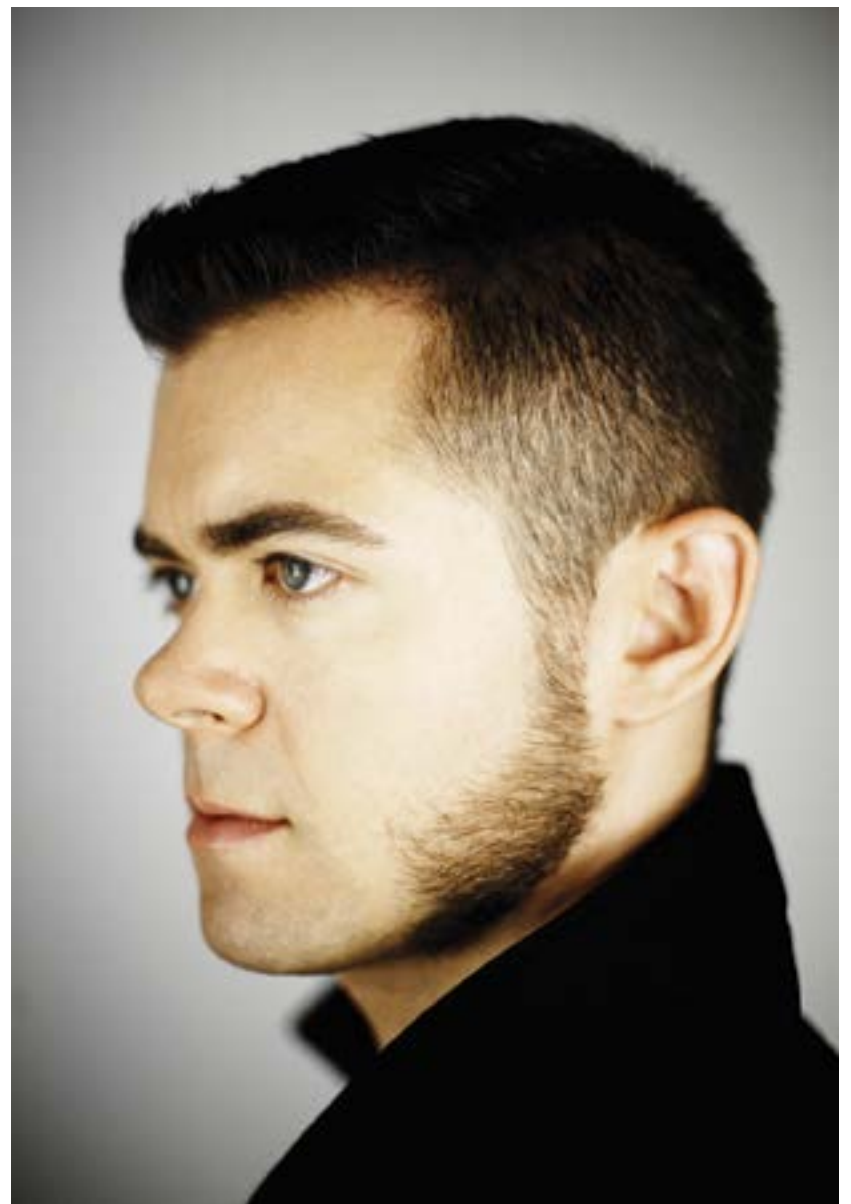
There's no other reason to take one. As a live band, we've never been very lazy. We always put a lot of effort into performing and that is really exhausting, and touring is becoming more and more difficult, so as a band – and we're talking not two DJs with, like, one tour manager and a laptop – you're traveling with a huge group and you're freighting all this equipment, and it's very expensive. It's a lot of work to travel the globe. We just felt a little burned out. Like, "Let's stop so we can enjoy it in the future rather than absolutely destroying ourselves to the point where we never want to see each other again."

When's the last time you saw them?

In person?

Yeah.

I don't know. We text and email and tweet. I've seen everybody at least once since last fall. It's just something where you can feel comfortable not seeing them for years and then you just walk into a room and we'd feel like no time had passed. It's a unique relationship that's difficult to explain unless you've



been in a band. It's this strange hybrid of family and friendship and ex-lover.

What are the challenges of releasing an album independently versus one you've done with Scissor Sisters?

How diversified social media is. Just to create a new name for this project, I had to start over with everything from the basics of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram – and then I'm not very active as it is. I'm almost like a technophobe, so for me this administration of being up on my Twitter – using exclamation points and being informative and funny – it's like I can really barely muster the energy. I'd much rather be working in the garden or riding my bike and whistling at the clouds. (Laughs) I really have a tough time doing this groundwork.

Knowing that I made a great record is enough for me, and then it's like, "Oh wait, I have to tell people about it." I don't want to do any of that. It's awful. (Laughs) I have people helping me set up some bells and whistles. Gosh, I

sound like a fucking Golden Girl.

You need to call Taylor Swift. She's mastered social media.

(Sarcastically) Oh my gosh, I just need to be dating teenage boys and then breaking up with them. I'm sure that would *really* help.

There you go. New marketing plan.

Yeah, that's it.

How good are you with the hashtags?

I keep forgetting. It's like, "Do I need to hashtag?" I tweet when appropriate, and occasionally –

When inappropriate?

Yes, occasionally inappropriately, if I've had something to drink.

That's the way you sell yourself.

I know. But why does everything have to be funny? I mean, Twitter really only works if you've got wit. And I do consider myself occasionally witty, but I didn't know that to be a pop star you also have to be a comedian.

Old Town Lansing Brings The Scrap Back June 1

Ten thousand pounds of scrap metal, 20 teams, two weeks and one intense competition. That defines the Old Town Lansing Scrapfest. Artists interested in participating in the fifth annual Old Town Scrapfest, a competition in which teams of artists, welders and creative community members use recycled scrap materials from Friedland Industries in Old Town to create new works of art, can now complete an application and return it before Friday, May 10.

Old Town is an advocate of green solutions, and Scrapfest aims to provide participants with a creative way to use old materials and resources. On June 1, up to 20 teams will be given one hour to collect 500 pounds of scrap metal at Friedland Industries.

Teams then have two weeks to reuse, repurpose and redesign their materials into a unique sculpture that will be displayed during Old Town's popular Festival of the Moon & Festival of the Sun, which attracted more than 4,000 visitors to Old Town last year. While on display, the pieces will be judged by accomplished artists and community members and later auctioned off during the festival.

Not only is Old Town Scrapfest a fundraiser supporting public art projects in the historic Old Town district, but a portion of the proceeds from the auction also will go back

to the artists.

Applications are available at www.oldtownscrapfest.com. Competition rules and guidelines also can be found online. Completed applications can be sent to the Old Town Commercial Association at 1232 Turner St., Lansing, MI, 48906, or emailed to oldtown@oldtownmainstreet.org.

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"Sons of the Prophet" continues at The Ringwald Theatre through April 29. Photo: The Ringwald

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A Prophet-able Evening At The Ringwald

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

PREVIEW

Sons of the Prophet

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through April 29. 1 hour, 40 minutes; no intermission.
\$10-20. 248-545-5545.

www.theringwald.com

Joseph Douaihy is a long-distance runner who never got very far. A regional champion in high school, he was preparing for the Olympic trials when he suffered a knee ailment that may presage something more serious. Now 29, he lives in the northeastern Pennsylvania home where he grew up and works for a woman who was also on her way to somewhere when illness intervened.

That would be Gloria, clinically depressed (by her own admission) and suffering the after-effects of her husband's suicide. Once a New York publishing executive, she runs a two-person (herself and Joseph) business putting together book deals back in her native Pennsylvania.

Then there's Joseph's younger brother, Charles, 18 or so, who was born with only one ear. Whether evident or less so, every character bears scars in Stephen Karam's "Sons of the Prophet"; to one degree or another, everyone is suffering. "Prophet" is about loss. It's also about place, about identity, about family, about passion, compassion, hurt and forgiveness. Annette Madias' Ringwald Theatre production smoothly delivers all of the play's complexity and impact – and its considerable humor.

It's difficult to say whether "Sons of the Prophet" is a comedy, or a drama with a lot of laughs; the distinction doesn't really matter. As for its title, that refers to the fact that the brothers Douaihy, their infirm, curmudgeonly uncle Bill and their late father are distantly related to Kahlil Gibran, author of "The Prophet." The Douaihy's are Lebanese-American Maronite Christians, and there is much about their distinctive ethnicity in the play. But like Eugene O'Neill writing about Irish Americans, Wendy Wasserstein writing about Jewish Americans or Tennessee Williams writing about Southern Americans, Karam uses ethnic, religious and geographic particulars to get at more universal truths.

The principal plot line involves the auto accident that led to the recent death of Charles and Joseph's father. He swerved to avoid a fake deer placed in the middle of the highway as a prank by a high school football player. The judge in the case is letting

the football player finish out the season before he goes to jail; Uncle Bill is outraged, the Douaihy brothers are more forgiving. Meanwhile, a male TV reporter working on the story is very much taken with Joseph (who is gay, as is Charles), and Gloria wants to make a book, called "Sons of the Prophet," out of the family's remote connection to Gibran.

Keeping his head – except when he's dealing, hilariously, with a hospital's maddening automated phone-answering system – is Sean McGettigan as Joseph. His performance is natural and understated, providing nice balance to Lisa Melinn's loud, overshadowing Gloria (this is not a criticism), Robbie Dwight who plays up, but doesn't overplay, Charles' stereotypically gay mannerisms, and Marty Bufalini's gruff, touching lion-in-winter portrayal of Uncle Bill enduring the indignities of frailty and old age.

Christopher Tucker is believable as Vin, the football player, and Richard Payton has the right touch of superciliousness as the preppy TV reporter.

Joe Plambeck and director Madias, sharing credit for sound design, deserve special mention for coming up at germane moments with recordings in Arabic of "9 to 5" and "Something Stupid." Very clever.

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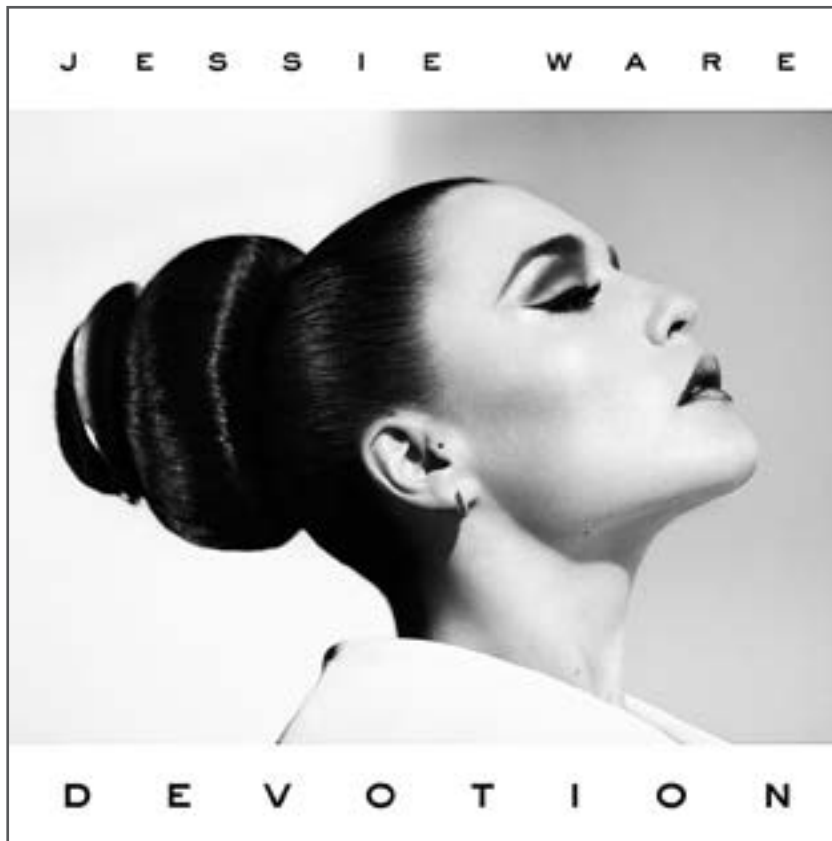
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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jessie Ware, Ashley Monroe



Jessie Ware, 'Devotion'

If you've heard British breakthrough singer Jessie Ware's "Wildest Moments" (and if you haven't, what are you waiting for?), you know she has one helluva voice. She could belt and whip that thing around like a weapon. But she doesn't. Her debut, "Devotion," finally making its way to the States after a successful run overseas, is careful not to overindulge in vocal acrobatics, setting her apart from Adele, rising powerhouse Emeli Sandé and a sea of other singers competing for Longest Note Ever. Ware does it her way, and her modesty, the fact that she's not clamoring to be the next big thing, feels genuine. Keeping the melismatic runs to a minimum, "Devotion" decidedly goes for a sophisticated old-school soul sound that makes for an accomplished vocal showcase and, all together, an impressive first outing. "Sweet Talk" is reminiscent of what Solange did on "Losing You": It's a throwback to the '70s style of Motown, with groovy R&B guitar and vocal chicness. "No to Love" captures that smooth Sade sound, pairing Ware's supple voice with funky electro flourishes and just enough electric guitar. "Taking in Water" stuns. Dedicated to her gay brother, it's a heartfelt manifestation of loyalty and support for her struggling sibling. She's fully in command of the song, but conveys

emotion with simplicity and warmth. "Running," too, never wails those riffs – the instinct of most singers. "American Idol" hopefuls, take it from Jessie Ware: Less is sometimes more. *Grade: A-*



Ashley Monroe, 'Like a Rose'

The new trend with the country-girl crowd: weed. Yup, you read right. Marijuana,

Mary Jane, "medicinal numbing agent": however you wanna put it, these gals are singing about it (Willie Nelson, aren't you proud?). Kacey Musgraves suggests smoking a fat one on her great genre-buster "Same Trailer Different Park," and now it's Ashley Monroe, one of Miranda Lambert's bandmates in the trio Pistol Annies, who's huffing and puffing and getting her freak on. "Weed Instead of Roses" sounds like an old-timing Music Row ditty – the honky-tonk guitars and piano solo give it a rockabilly feel – but it's not exactly the country music that got your grandma two-steppin': "Go call your no-good brothers, we both know what he's been growing / I'll be waiting with the whipped cream, and baby, let's get going." It's a total hoot. "You Ain't Dolly (and You Ain't Porter)" is similarly

playful as she and Blake Shelton get flirty over a classic-sounding country track, but it's nothing more than novelty. Chemistry? Not so much. It's only a letdown because the eight songs beforehand – all at least co-written by Monroe – set the bar so high: the personal title track laments family death and addiction like she's coming clean to a therapist, "Two Weeks Late" shows off the Dolly spirit in her voice and "She's Driving Me Out of Your Mind" is a traditional country weeper. With humor and heart, and a blunt between her fingers, Monroe isn't just blowing smoke. She's the real deal. *Grade: A-*

Also Out



Crystal Bowersox, 'All That For This'

One of the most unlikely finalists on "American Idol" – Crystal Bowersox wasn't exactly sweeping in votes from the Kelly Clarkson crowd during her ninth season run – has a clearer sense of her musical self on "All That For This." Improving significantly on her directionless, label-controlled debut, Bowersox's superb sophomore album sees an artist letting her true colors show. The farm girl from Ohio was always more rough around the edges than "Idol" probably wanted her to be, and the songs here – from the bluesy bite of "Til the Whiskey's Gone" to hooky roots single "Dead Weight," and especially standout heartbreaker "Shine" – finally fit the voice singing them.

'The Music Is You: A Tribute to John Denver'

To honor the legendary John Denver, you don't just pick any ol' singer. You get folks like Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Dave Matthews to take on the campfire king's songbook. And you don't mess too much with the songs themselves. Brandi Carlile knows this when she, with Emmylou sweetening up the harmony, stays relatively faithful to the great sing-along "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Williams finds the heart of "This Old Guitar," retaining that sparse lonesome-cowboy feel, and Kathleen Edwards' bittersweet "All of My Memories" haunts. And "Leaving on a Jet Plane," performed by My Morning Jacket, has never sounded this sad. Have tissues ready.

Not Just 'Women's Territory' At Two Muses

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

In the good ol' days of my youth, no one had their hair cut by a stylist at a unisex salon. Rather, men went to the barber shop, while women had weekly appointments at the local beauty parlor with their favorite hairdresser. What went on there we men never knew, but hours after their visits our mothers, older sisters and neighbors would return looking gorgeous and up-to-date on all the neighborhood gossip.

Their secret was revealed when playwright Robert Harling wrote "Steel Magnolias" as a way of sorting through his emotions following the death of his sister and best friend Susan from diabetes. The genteel comedy/drama, set inside Truvy's Beauty Parlor beginning in June 1986, focuses on a handful of women in a small town in northwest Louisiana whose friendship and love for one another are built, strengthened and reinforced by their interactions at the beauty shop. What took so long for a women-focused theater company to produce this all-woman play I don't know, but the production now onstage courtesy of Two Muses Theatre is a stylish cut and polished to near-glossy perfection.

It's an atypical morning inside Truvy's Beauty Parlor. It's Shelby's wedding day, and the bride (Liz Jaffe) arrives to have her hair styled – followed in short order by her mother M'lynn (Barbie Weisserman) and a handful of townswomen, all of whom are longtime friends and customers of the shop. Although their attention is focused primarily on the bride, it doesn't take long for the conversation to meander into other territory – and we learn much about the women's families, their shared histories, and the town they live in. New to the mix, though, is the mysterious Annelle (Emily Caffery), a shy young woman who moved to town recently and was hired that morning by Truvy (Brenda Lane) to work in her shop.

Suddenly and without warning, Shelby falls into diabetic shock while having her hair worked on. (She's a Type 1 diabetic.) It's then revealed that Shelby's doctor has warned her not to have children because of the stress pregnancy would inflict upon her body. The three scenes that follow jump through time and explore both Shelby's life journey and the women at Truvy's Beauty Parlor whose lives are also changing.

Initially staged off-Broadway in 1987, "Steel Magnolias" explores the tight bonds shared by a group of women who have traveled alongside one another through their good times and their bad. Even an occasional dustup does nothing to keep these strong women from helping and supporting each other when trouble comes calling.



Liz Jaffe (Shelby) realizes she cannot conceal her physical condition when Brenda Lane (Truvy) gives her a manicure and Margaret Gilkes (Ouiser), Emily Caffery (Annelle), and Diane Hill (Clairee) catch a glimpse of her arms. Photo: Steve Hill

PREVIEW

Steel Magnolias

Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Friday-Sunday through April 28. \$15-18 in advance; \$2 more at the door. 2 hours, 10 minutes. 248-850-9919.

www.twomusestheatre.org

And that's where director Nancy Kammer's production especially shines: Much attention has been paid to the development of each character and how one relates to every other – and from the moment the show begins, the camaraderie and love these six characters share is apparent and believable. Their banter is easy and familiar; the looks and touches are sincere and revealing. And it all builds to a climactic fourth scene that left the opening night audience totally quiet and fully engaged on the action unfolding before them.

For me, what stands out are the little things Kammer and her cast accomplished through hard work and diligence. One thing in particular I watched closely – and was thoroughly impressed by – was Kammer's choice to have the beauty chair downstage center, with the audience serving as the mirror. With such a distraction before them, it would be easy for Lane's focus – and the focus of anyone sitting in her chair – to wander throughout the audience. But Lane – who, with the perfect hairstyle and costumes by Weisserman, looks like she came directly from Central Casting – never waivers; her eyes were totally fixated on SOMETHING, which perfectly created the illusion that her full attention was on her client's reflection at all times and nothing else. (With several theatergoers sitting directly in front of her, shifting in their seats, coughing and doing who-knows-what else, I'm sure that was tough to pull off!)

Equally impressive is the aforementioned final scene in which five sets of eyes become glued on Weisserman. It's the play's most intense moment, and none of the five broke their concentration and stole attention from where it needed to be; instead, the emotions flowing from all six actresses on opening night were raw and palpable. And Weisserman's performance was heartbreaking.

Overall, Kammer and her ensemble – which also includes Diane Hill as Clairee and Margaret Gilkes as Ouiser – all do fine work, especially showing the passage of time on their characters, a task that requires more than simple costume changes and make-up adjustments. (Caffery's growth over the three-year period isn't as pronounced as it could be, however, based on what we learn from the dialogue.) Most, however, need to pay better attention to their Southern accents, which faded in and out quite often, especially later in the opening night performance.

Not only does Two Muses provide roles for women actors, much of the technical work for "Steel Magnolias" was performed by women as well, including lights by Lucy Meyo and stage management by Emily Pierce. One of the few guys involved, Bill Mandt, designed the colorful set that looked very much like the beauty shop my mother patronized for many years in the 1970s and '80s. (Was the wallpaper universal in such places, I wonder?)

A line early in the performance pretty much sums up Two Muses' latest production. "It takes some effort to look like this," Truvy says of her colorful outfit and hair. And it's a sentiment that Kammer and company took quite seriously – and it shows in this night of entertaining and engaging theater (for men and women alike).

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Ministry 7 p.m. Affirming ministry teaching LGBT Catholics to reconcile faith with orientation. A safe space for discussion and prayer. Meets the third Tuesday of every month. St. Mary's Student Parish, 331 Thompson St., **Ann Arbor**. Thies@Umich.edu

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster)

7:45 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. CuteSubToy@yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

Yossi 8 p.m. JGI film night: Ten years after "Yossi and Jagger," the tragic love story of two IDF officers serving in Lebanon, director Etan Fox returns to find out what has happened with Yossi. Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. JCCDet.org

Wednesday, April 17

Co-Gender Rap Discussion 6 p.m. Light refreshments and good fellowship between men and women, young and seasoned. Meets every third Wednesday of the month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

KGLRC Walk/Jog/Run Group 6 p.m. The Resource Center's Health and Wellness Committee is proud to offer our very own group devoted to walking, jogging, and/or running. Everyone is welcome, regardless of physical ability and/or sexual orientation. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 4143 N. 10th St., **Kalamazoo**. KGLRC.org

Wild Wednesday 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18 interested in hanging out with other kind and supportive youth in a safe environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, 319

Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

Beloved Hearts 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group (LGBT and allies) for those who are grieving the death of a loved one (including pets). Meets every Wednesday. Call for information and address. Get Out And Live!, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.comorbillyray92@comcast.net GetOutAndLive.me

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

Thursday, April 18

Retirement Income Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Auto Workers, join Ameriprise for an educational event about how to decide if a pension buy-out is right for you. This is a major decision that could impact you and your family for years to come. Call now to RSVP. Lunch will be served. Ameriprise, 600 E. University Dr., **Rochester**. 248-799-5935. Jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

Livingston County PFLAG Meeting 7 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Please park behind the church, use the handicapped entrance, and follow the signs to Room 127. All are welcome! Livingston County PFLAG, 400 E. Grand River Ave., **Brighton**. 517-548-0839. LivingstonPFLAG@aol.com Facebook.com/pages/Livingston-County-PFLAG

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

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

Friday, April 19

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

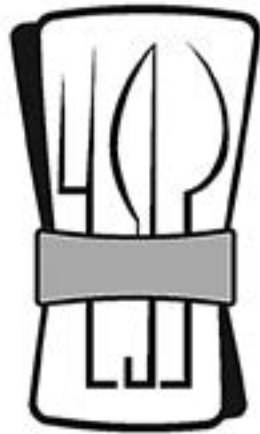
Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Chicago. Roxie hungers for stardom but ends up in the slammer, where superstar Velma is doing time for shooting her cheating husband. When Velma's lawyer makes Roxie a tabloid sensation, he sets up a musical catfight between the all-too-willing rivals. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Sunday, April 21

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting 2 p.m. Third Sunday of every month. Attendees may park in the back of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. President@PFLAGAA.org Pflagaa.org

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2 p.m. Midland, Bay City and Saginaw area PFLAG. Meets the third Sunday of every

See Happenings, page 29



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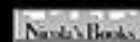
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Editor's Pick

Spring Bash, Affirmations' premier event of the year, returns April 13 and will once again raise significant funding in support of the center's vital programming and services. This 14th event is guaranteed to be the most talked about evening among the more active and influential members of metro Detroit's LGBT and ally community.

With this year's theme "Mission Possible," Affirmations will highlight its plans for 2013 and unveil its newest additions to their growing programs and services.

This black-tie gala begins 7 p.m. April 13 at the Westin Book Cadillac, 1114 Washington Blvd. in Detroit. Tickets are \$225 for General Admission and \$325 for VIP. VIP admission includes special recognition in the program, an exclusive VIP reception in the Italian Gardens, and some exclusive entertainment yet.

For more information, contact Mark McMillan, events and volunteer manager, at 248-677-7224.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 26

month. Offering support, education and advocacy for LGBT individuals and families with group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeyer Road, **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Handel's Water Music" Program: Mozart's Serenade No. 6 in D major, "Serenata notturna," and "Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra. Handel's Suite No. 2 in D major from Water Music. Haydn's Symphony No. 44 in E minor, "Mourning." Tickets: \$10+. Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. 8 p.m. April 13, 3 p.m. April 14. dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Xiao Dong Wei with DSO Chamber". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 12. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Mad About Chamber Music" Students from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance perform. Free event. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 16. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Oakland Choral Society, Friends of the Opera of Michigan, Jackson Choral "Verdi's Requiem" Verdi's Requiem and Quinto Millito's Kyrie. Tickets: \$20-35. St. Hugo in the Hills Catholic Church, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. 7:30 p.m. April 13. 248-644-5460. OaklandChoralSociety.org

CONCERTS

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Dragon Songs Lan Lang in China" A plane is shot down during WWII, a concentration camp prisoner survives the crash and finds the one soldier who also survived, a former childhood friend, now a Nazi. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. April 16. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

Caesars Windsor "Boz Scaggs" His 1976 album "Silk Degrees" was one of the landmark pop titles of the decade. Owner of one of the most distinctive voices in popular music, Scaggs continues to delight his fans with live performances and classic hits. Tickets: \$20+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. April 13. 800-

991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

DeVos Performance Hall "An Evening with David Sedaris" Ticket: \$32.50-55. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. April 14. 800-745-3000. Devosperformancehall.com

The Ark "Gardenia Bluegrass & Roots Festival" Tickets: \$25. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 13. TheArk.org

The Ark "Josh Ritter & the Royal City Band" With special guest Martin Sexton. Tickets: \$24-45. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 17. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Arsenic and Old Lace \$16-\$18 in advance; \$2 extra at the door. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. April 12 - 28. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

As You Like It \$10-\$15. Korda Artistic Production at Kordazone Theatre, 2520 Seminole, Windsor. April 12 - 20. 519-562-3394. kordazone.com

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

Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. \$5-12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. April 19 - 28. 586-268-8400. WarrenCivic.org

The Cover of Life \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. April 12 - 28. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

Time Stands Still \$7-19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 19 - May 4. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

August: Osage County \$10-26. U-M Department of Theatre & Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. Through April 14. 734-764-2538. umich.edu

Bat Boy: The Musical \$20-25. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 12 - 21. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

Funny Girl \$15-20. Michigan State University Department of Theatre, Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 19 - 28. 800-WHARTON. Theatre.msu.edu

Kiss Me Kate \$5-20. Western Michigan University Theatre at Shaw Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. April 11 - 20. 269-387-7222. WMUTheatre.com

Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White \$9-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre, Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, Ypsilanti. Through April 14. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

33 Variations \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through June 1. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

35MM \$15. The AKT Theatre Project at Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 19 - May 4. 734-258-8370. www.akttheatre.com

A Cabaret Showcase \$10-20. University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company at Grounds Coffeehaus in the Student Union Building, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. April 12 - 21. 313-993-3270. <http://theatre.udmercy.edu>

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

Aga-Boom \$15. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 13. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

American Idiot \$25. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 9 - 11. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

Cell Phone Shakespeare Puzzle Piece Theatre, Detroit. April 20. 313-303-8019. PuzzleStage.org

Crane Maiden \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through April 27. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Fidelio \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. April 13 - 21. 313-237-SING. motopera.org

Fish Dinner: Second Helping \$10.

See Happenings, page 30

A Conversation with Apple Award Recipient ELAINE STRITCH 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, 2013

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LIVE15

Editor's Pick



WSU's Bonstelle Theatre presents the rock 'n' roll cult classic "Bat Boy: The Musical" for two weeks only, April 12 through 21. Based on the grocery store tabloid, Weekly World News, "Bat Boy: The Musical" is a rambunctious musical comedy that closes the season with a bite.

A supernatural half bat/half boy creature is discovered in a cave in West Virginia and brought to the home of local veterinarian Dr. Parker.

The Parker family decides to take him in and teach him to behave as a normal human, attempting to integrate him into a narrow-minded town. As he tries to fit in, romantic sparks fly and he decides to run away with the veterinarian's daughter. But happiness is shattered as the town hears the shocking story of Batboy's unholy origin.

Tickets are \$20-\$25 and are available by calling 313-577-2960.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 29

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through April 20. 313-365-4948. PlanetAnt.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through April 27. 248-327-0575. gocome.com

Gem of the Ocean Previews April 19. \$25.50-\$32. Plowshares Theatre Company at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. April 19 - May 12. 313-744-3181. Plowshares.org

Lead Me A Tenor \$25-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through April 14. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Macbeth \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. April 18 - 28. DogStoryTheater.com

Marat/Sade \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 19 - May 11. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Memphis \$34-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 9 - 21. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

Mrs. Mannerly \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Through May 5. 248-347-0003. Tippingpointtheatre.com

Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom \$15-25. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. April 13. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

On Golden Pond \$16-\$18. What's That Smell Productions at The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. April 12 - 27. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

Peter Pan \$30-\$70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 19 - 21. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Pookie Goes Grenading \$10-15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. April 18 - 28. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

Scoby-Doo Live! Musical Mysteries \$19.50-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 13 - 14. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Shirley Valentine \$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. Through April 29. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

Steel Magnolias \$15-18 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through April 28. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocome.com

Tapdance! \$15 opening night; \$18 all others. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. April 12 - May 11. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

The 39 Steps \$23-27. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 12 - 28. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

The Animals and Children Took to the Streets \$45-50. University Musical Society at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 10 - 14. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

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

The Flying Karamazov Brothers \$19-39. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. April 20. 810-237-8689. TheWhiting.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Potential 2013" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 13 - May 12. 734-994-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 2 - June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 1 - June 30. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Reflections on Water in American Painting" 1120 E.

Kearsley St., Flint. April 6 - June 16. Flintarts.org

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home "Visions of Africa" African Safari Photographer William Cowger will have a showing of his African Safari photographs on exhibit at Goldner Walsh Garden and Home. The event is free and open to the public. Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 7 p.m. April 12. 248-332-6430. Goldnerwalsh.com

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

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

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Reflections: African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 2 - May 26. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

Michigan State University Museum "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22 - April 14. Museum.msu.edu

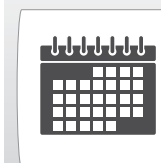
Motown Museum "Girl Groups: The Grit, The Glamour, The Glory" 2648 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 1 - April 30. 313-875-2264. MotownMuseum.org

River Gallery "big triumph X majestic land" 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. March 30 - May 11. 734-433-0826. ChelseaRiverGallery.com

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 "Laurie Anderson: From the Air" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 6 - Aug. 11. 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



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Classifieds

309 EMPLOYMENT - PROFESSIONAL

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Full Time Social Services Worker; Please submit resume and salary requirements to Ruth Ellis Center 77 Victor St, Highland Park 48203 or via email at info@ruthelliscenter.org; Please do not call about this position; Qualifications: A master's degree in social work, sociology, psychology, guidance and counseling, business administration, criminal justice, or public administration and 2 years experience in a child caring institution or child placing agency; or a bachelor's degree in sociology, social work, criminal justice, or guidance and counseling and 4 years experience as a social service worker in a child care organization. Two years of the 4 years of experience shall be in a child caring institution. Strong verbal and written communication skills, public relations and marketing skills are required. Cultural competence required. Must have reliable transportation and a valid MI driver's license and current auto insurance.

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4. "LEAD'S WHY MIDDLE-OF-COURSE NOT?"

5. "AFTER ALL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT UNCLE 'LEATHER' JUNK ERIC AND JOEY ARE INTO BUT I'VE NEVER CRITICIZED THEM."
6. "I EVEN TRIED TO BE SUPPORTIVE WHEN THEY GENUINELY MANAGED TO GET SOME INTERESTED IN WEARING ALL OF THAT."
7. "BUT DON'T YOU TOO GET HER STARTED ON SPANDEX... UNDERSTAND?"

Solution to puzzle from page 34

R	I	D	E	U	S	S	R	P	E	S	T		
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Sara Gilbert moonlights with 'Bad Teacher'



Ari Graynor. Photo: Focus Features

Success breeds success. As a child star on "Roseanne," Sara Gilbert won over the coveted sullen teen demographic with her portrayal of the smartass Darlene and now she's got daytime TV-watching moms on board for "The Talk," a show she created, executive produces and co-hosts. But the siren song of sitcom stardom has ways of making already-hard-working people double down to the point of exhaustion, so off she goes back to the prime-time well with "Bad Teacher," based on the 2011 Cameron Diaz film. Ari Graynor ("For A Good Time, Call...") will star as a spoiled former trophy wife with a bad attitude now teaching school. Gilbert, cast against her former type, will play a shy, introverted English teacher. Look, if Kelly Ripa can do it so can Gilbert. But seriously, if this pilot goes to series she's just going to make all the other celebrity lesbians look lazy.

while it seemed like the whole thing might be dead in the water. But now the project pulses with new signs of life: a director in newcomer Michael Gracey and a script from Lee Hall ("Billy Elliot," "War Horse"). The story will follow John from his boyhood as a piano prodigy to stardom with lyricist Bernie Taupin, featuring plenty of detours into elaborately choreographed "Moulin Rouge!"-style production numbers. Now, if only Timberlake, whose film career is, at this point, pretty well established, would take on the part like all those premature reports promised, if for no other reason than it would be really cool to see him wear those "Pinball Wizard" shoes from "Tommy." And, you know, that Donald Duck costume. Oh, all right, and to see him makeout with guys.

Mamie Gummer to play lesbian cop on 'Backstrom'

Like mother, like daughter. Meryl Streep played a lesbian in Woody Allen's "Manhattan" and Stephen Daldry's "The Hours" and now her daughter Mamie Gummer is doing it herself for TV. This fall's cop drama "Backstrom" will star Rainn Wilson as an out-of-shape, offensive, difficult detective (think "House" minus the Hugh Laurie charm) whose self-destructive impulses get the better of him and Gummer will take the female lead role of Nicole Gravely, a lesbian detective dealing with the breakup of her longterm relationship. OK, maybe it's less "House" than it is "Rizzoli and Isles," if only one of them were a man and one of them an actual lesbian, but you get it. And whatever shape the eventual series takes, Gummer will have plenty of time for it since her former series, "Emily Owens, M.D.," was canceled.

'Rocketman': about Elton John, by Elton John

As far back as 2005 Elton John's Rocket Pictures has had a biopic of John in development. Originally the rumors were that Justin Timberlake would play the outlandish pop star as an adult, then the plans went on the back burner and for a

Even more Yves Saint Laurent films coming soon

The universe has decided that three documentaries about legendary fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent ("YSL: His Life and Times," "Yves Saint Laurent: 5 avenue Marceau 75116 Paris," "L'amour fou") were not enough. So now there are two additional French-language narrative feature biopics in the works. "Yves Saint Laurent," from director Jalil Lespert, will star Pierre Niney as the designer and Guillaume Gallienne as Pierre Berge, Laurent's longtime partner in life and business. This one's already been picked for American distribution by The Weinstein Company. But strangely enough, it's the other YSL film with bragging rights to bigger acting names, featuring acclaimed French star Jeremie Renier ("Atonement") playing Berge and Gaspard Ulliel ("Hannibal Rising") taking on the role of Laurent. No doubt it too will find a home in American arthouses eventually. But so it goes: in America we get competing asteroid, volcano and terrorists-attack-the-White-House films; in France it's dueling projects about flamboyantly famous designers. They always could one-up us like that.

Romeo San Vicente doesn't mean to be mean, but that outfit would look much better on him. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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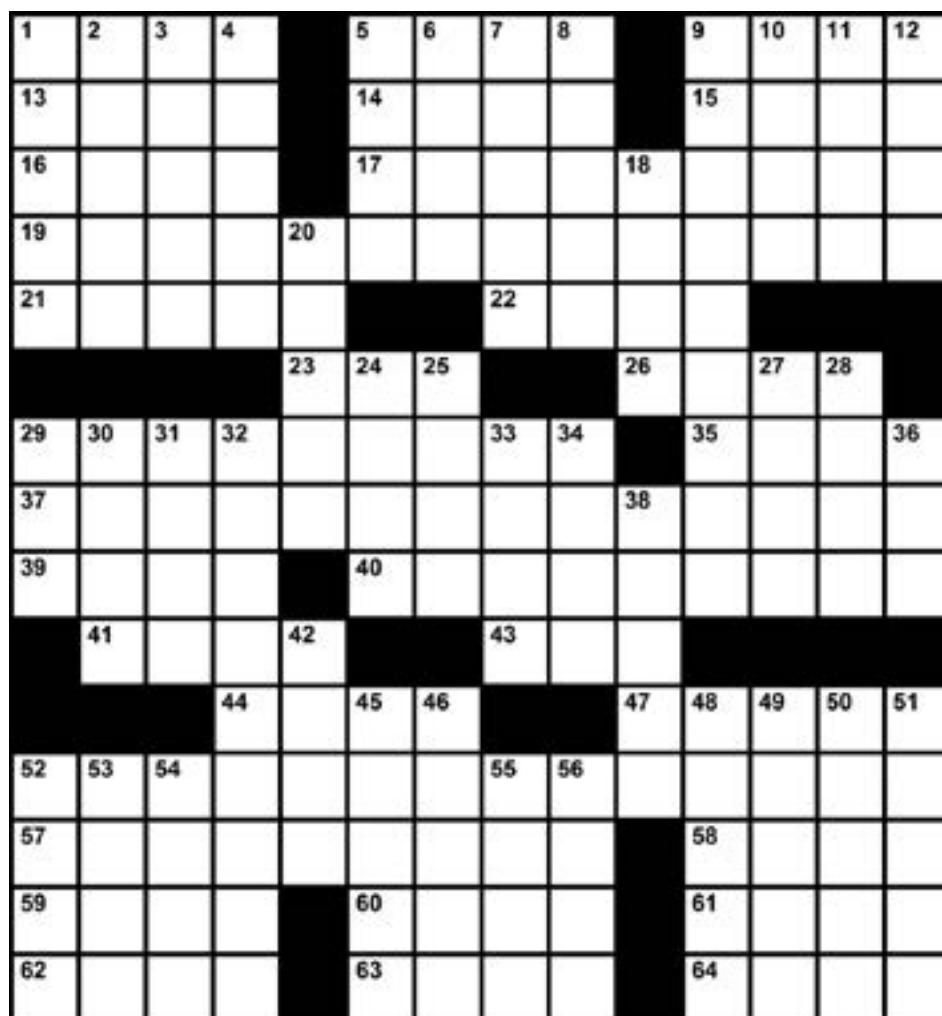
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You Said A Mouthful



Across

- 1 Disneyland feature
- 5 R. Nureyev's land, once
- 9 Bug spray victim
- 13 Bucatinsky's "All ___ the Guy"
- 14 Icy coating
- 15 Buffalo's lake
- 16 Silents vamp Theda
- 17 Boy Scout ties
- 19 Start of a rebuke made to Thomas on "Downton Abbey"
- 21 Sulu portrayer George
- 22 Twin to Jacob
- 23 Drop of the head
- 26 "Why should ___ you?"
- 29 Portland daily, with "The"
- 35 Russian river
- 37 End of the rebuke
- 39 Milk-colored gem
- 40 Witches in "Macbeth," e.g.
- 41 They get lipstick lesbians started
- 43 Marseilles moniker
- 44 Dust Bowl refugee
- 47 Bridge declaration
- 52 Response to the rebuke?
- 57 Appetizer from the land of Pasolini
- 58 Serious sign
- 59 ___ all-time high
- 60 Hawaiian wedding party, perhaps
- 61 Merge metals
- 62 "Star Trek" villain
- 63 "___ we forget"
- 64 The L.A. Sparks strip them

Down

- 1 Man with a steel rod
- 2 An ex of the Donald
- 3 McDreamy on "Grey's Anatomy"
- 4 Use a rubber
- 5 Bear that may be a minor
- 6 Ledge
- 7 Word from Bruce Weber, perhaps
- 8 Some used cars
- 9 Real swingers?
- 10 Switch end
- 11 www.stopaids.org, e.g.
- 12 Della's angel
- 18 1957 movie river
- 20 Tipplers
- 24 Heavy burden
- 25 Bas relief of Eleanor's husband
- 27 Stats from "A League of Their Own"
- 28 Bit of filming
- 29 Mrs. Lennon
- 30 Style of gold chain
- 31 Series ender
- 32 Like a stallion in a hurry
- 33 Baldwin's "The ___ Corner"
- 34 Roman fiddler
- 36 "___ Miserables"
- 38 Fork over
- 42 Bound gaily
- 45 "I knew ___ along!"
- 46 Come next
- 48 Popular resort, briefly
- 49 Singing Mann
- 50 Refine metal
- 51 Turns on
- 52 Sad-sounding European auto maker
- 53 Not taken in by
- 54 "Sex and the City" creator Darren
- 55 Schedule guesses, briefly
- 56 Mark through

Solution on p. 31

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