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COVER STORY

14 Sex, love & Liberace

Photo: HBO



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– Jinkx Monsoon, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” Season 5 winner, pg. 16



NEWS

- 4 Saginaw Equality float takes second place at Cinco De Mayo event
- 5 One Capitol Region plans to make Lansing area discrimination free
- 6 ‘Book-A-Palooza’ to benefit Common Language Bookstore
- 10 Outside the safety net
- 10 Contact theory changing hearts
- 11 Minn. legislators vote for same-sex marriage
- 11 California moves to comply with 2011 gay history law

OPINION

- 8 Transmissions
- 9 Parting Glances
- 11 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 16 Jinkx Monsoon storms Detroit
- 19 Screen Queen
- 20 Cool Cities: Birmingham
- 23 ‘August: Osage County’ at the Ringwald
- 24 Happenings

REAR VIEW

- 27 Classifieds
- 28 Dating Diet
- 30 Puzzle

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



‘Aida’ Trumps An Already-Great Season At MOT

“Julius Caesar” brought brilliant singing to MOT’s first Baroque opera production; “Fidelio’s” musicianship and the great Christine Goerke upped the ante. Last night the final hand was dealt, and it was a winner. Get the online-extra review for Michigan Opera Theatre’s “Aida,” at Pridesource.com!

CALENDAR



What Are You Planning For June Pride Month?

Planning a Pride-oriented event during the month of June? Get it on our calendar so we can help you promote! Send your info to our Calendar Editor Shelby at Shelby@Pridesource.com!

HELP WANTED



Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

BTL is seeking volunteers to assist in a community outreach project throughout the June Pride season. Volunteers will work with BTL to collect contact information from attendees of Pride festivals who are interested in furthering nondiscrimination policies.

E-mail Ben@pridesource.com for more information or to sign up.

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Saginaw Equality Float Takes Second Place At Cinco De Mayo Event

BY LEO ROMO

Alberto Jimenez, a 33-year-old openly gay Saginaw Latino, never planned to be an equality activist, but now everyone thinks otherwise. He created an "Equality" float with LGBT and Mexican symbols for Saginaw's 34th Cinco de Mayo Parade May 4. While he made parade floats for his family in the past, the equality float was different.

The parade's theme - Viva La Voz - means "Long live the voice" in English, so Jimenez wanted his "voice" to be heard. Well, everybody heard him loud and clear May 4.

"It's time for LGBT Latinos to stand firm and to keep pushing forward. Our struggles have been long and we never gave up. We stand up and are proud for our culture and our LGBT community," said Jimenez.

His equality float was a 6-foot rainbow-colored shape of Michigan with the word "Equality" in the center, riding atop a 16 foot trailer. He hung PFLAG Tri-Cities and Perceptions banners - his LGBT sponsors - on the sides and raised rainbow, Mexican and American flags on poles. He wore appropriately themed apparel - a green poncho with rainbow stripes along with matching lime shoes. Jimenez celebrated his Mexican culture and his sexual orientation comfortably and without shame. He was a wonderful role model for young gay Latinos - no - for

anybody watching.

What was the reaction from the mostly Mexican-Americans who watched the parade? They loved it. If people disapproved, then they remained silent. Most people waved and smiled as the rainbow float passed, and Jimenez's friends distributed candy and PFLAG and Perceptions information cards along the route. Many thanked him personally for being honest about himself and they also showed support for LGBT equality. In fact, La Union Mexicana Civica (aka Civica), the parade's sponsor and Saginaw's oldest Mexican American organization, approved Jimenez's equality float.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center, more Latinos now favor gay marriage. It seems Saginaw Latinos reflect the new reality, especially with the younger generation. As a part of that generation Jimenez said, "I want our rainbow family to be able to live with the right to marry and the right to work in any career with passion and without discrimination."

The equality float took 2nd place and it was the first LGBT-themed float in the parade's 34-year history. It was likely the first LGBT-themed parade float in Saginaw. Yes, times are changing. A Cesar Chavez quote is appropriate and captures this change, "Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures."

One Capitol Region Plans To Make Lansing Area Discrimination Free



BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – A coordinated campaign to pass nondiscrimination ordinances in three greater Lansing townships could result in expansion of protections for over 100,000 people who would be protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

At a May 8 press conference on the Capitol steps, Evan Hope, clerk of Delhi Township; Kenneth Fletcher, supervisor of Delta Township; and Angela Wilson, trustee of Meridian Township were joined by East Lansing Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett, State Reps. Andy Schor (D-Lansing) and Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) and openly gay Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope, announcing that each entity would introduce and pass comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinances.

Fletcher said he expects to begin discussions with his board this week, while Hope and Wilson indicated they expected to introduce draft ordinances as early as June.

The three townships would join East Lansing and Lansing in offering comprehensive protections and would join 22 municipalities in the state with such laws. The three officials made their announcement as part of a local coalition called One Capitol Region.

Meridian, Delta and Delhi Townships could pass these laws by the end of the year. Lansing has had a comprehensive ordinance since 2006 – after a decade without such coverage when a ballot initiative struck down the 1996 ordinance. East Lansing has had an ordinance since 1972 – the nation's oldest law of its kind.

If all three pass comprehensive laws, it will leave only Lansing Township – an oddly shaped municipality that wraps around Lansing on the west, north and east – without such protections in the greater Lansing region. The protections will also stretch deep into Republican controlled Eaton County, joining Grand

Ledge with Lansing through Delta Township.

“What makes the effort we've announced today notable, is that for the first time a group of communities is coming together to coordinate the passage of a common nondiscrimination policy across our entire region,” Triplett said in an email to Between

last year of Local Electeds Against Discrimination (LEAD), a coalition of local elected leaders dedicated to passage of nondiscrimination laws in Michigan, five municipalities have added nondiscrimination laws that cover LGBT residents, raising the number from 18 to 22.

“Today is a beginning, it starts the

“*When we're done residents and visitors to our region will know that anywhere they live, work, or play in the Capitol Region they are protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The value of that common approach to this important issue cannot be overstated. I hope it will serve as a model for other regions across our state.*”

- East Lansing Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett

The Lines. “We talk a great deal about ‘regionalism’ in Mid-Michigan. Too often ‘regionalism’ is just a word that is bandied about without ever being translated into meaningful action. This effort to pass local nondiscrimination ordinances on a regional basis will help position this area to compete for talent and send a message that collectively, as a region, we celebrate diversity and are open for business. When we're done residents and visitors to our region will know that anywhere they live, work, or play in the Capitol Region they are protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The value of that common approach to this important issue cannot be overstated. I hope it will serve as a model for other regions across our state.”

The Big Impact

The three townships that are actively pursuing adoption of comprehensive ordinances fit into a larger picture in Michigan. Since the inception

beginning of this process of adopting ordinances in these three communities and setting an example for other communities across the state and perhaps, more importantly, to the state legislature and the state capitol,” said Triplett during the press conference.

Two Michigan state reps agreed with Triplett. The momentum of local ordinances puts pressure on the state legislature to amend the state's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, the lawmakers said.

“I think as always, when the locals step up and the grassroots step up and lead the way it does put pressure on the legislature,” says State Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing). “It's an issue that has been brewing for some time now. I'm hopeful. I don't know if we can guarantee anything, but when the citizens stand up and say something, we definitely take notice at the capitol.”

State Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) agreed with Schor.

Source: Former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer Will Run For Governor

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer of Michigan will seek the Democratic nomination for governor, a source close to him confirmed May 7. The source spoke on background but is part of Schauer's decision-making circle and is currently acting in an



Mark Schauer

informal advisory position as the former lawmaker prepares for a run.

Schauer did not return calls seeking comment for this story. However, an elected official from Ingham County confirmed that Schauer had personally told him that he would seek the nomination.

The one-term congressman from Battle Creek has been mentioned as a possible candidate for months, with a growing chorus singing his praises and two recent polls showing he could likely oust

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder in November 2014.

On May 7, Politico reported on a polling memo strategically leaked by the Democratic Governors Association, which shows Snyder losing to Schauer.

“The bad news for Snyder is that undecided voters are much more likely to split for the Democratic candidate: they voted for Obama over Romney by 24 points and they are 18 points more likely to identify with the Democratic Party than with the Republican Party,” [Democratic pollster Geoff] Garin wrote [in the leaked memo]. “After hearing a brief positive description of Mark Schauer's background, voters prefer Schauer over Rick Snyder by 54 percent to 38 percent. When given this alternative to the incumbent, independent voters favor Schauer by 16 points.”

A similar poll by Lansing-based EPIC MRA in April had similar findings, reported MLive.com.

Snyder, a first-time governor and political neophyte, took a serious bruising in December, when he helped the Republican-controlled legislature pass a controversial “right to work” initiative without public hearings or much public discussion. He has also signed into law a massive tax cut, which shifted the burden of taxes from businesses to citizens by taxing senior pensions and eliminating the earned-income tax credit for lower income Michiganders.

Schauer served in Congress for one term, riding into office on the Obama sweep of 2008. He served Michigan's conservative 7th congressional district, which includes Calhoun and Jackson counties. He was ousted from that seat in the Tea Party sweep of 2010 by Tim Walberg.

Since leaving office, Schauer has been running the BlueGreen Alliance, a green-energy job consortium. He also worked closely with organized labor. In fact, during “right to work” protests in December, Schauer was pepper-sprayed by Michigan state troopers while attempting to move protesters away from the base of the state capitol.

Snyder's office was not immediately available for comment.

See Lansing Region, page 12

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter Announces Run

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter hopes to “keep Ferndale moving forward” as he prepares to run for election in November. Coulter was appointed by City Council in Jan. 2011 when former Mayor Craig Covey left office to serve as County Commissioner. Coulter had formerly been the County Commissioner for four terms, but had stepped down to run for a State Senate position.

Coulter hopes to continue the work that has been happening in Ferndale over the past several years. As Mayor he formed the Mayor’s Business Council to make Ferndale a more attractive place for entrepreneurs and companies to invest. He also helped create a Ferndale Clean Sweep program, a Blue Ribbon Commission on Ferndale Parks, and a major construction project along W. 9 Mile that will upgrade the water main and improve the streetscape.



“I never dreamed, more than 20 years after discovering Ferndale, that I’d have the honor of serving as Mayor.”

His political experience includes serving as Democratic Leader in the County Commission, working on the Community Center Task Force to create the Kulick Center, volunteering on the Human Rights Ordinance Committee in 1999, and serving as a Trustee on the Ferndale Library Board from 2004-2005. Coulter was the executive director of the Michigan AIDS Fund, a board member of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, and is currently Program Officer for the Children’s Hospital of Michigan foundation. He is also currently the Second Vice Chair of the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party.

“I never dreamed, more than 20 years after discovering Ferndale, that I’d have the honor of serving as Mayor. While much has changed since then, the best things about Ferndale are exactly the same. We make newcomers feel welcome, and make neighbors feel like family,” Coulter said in a statement. “I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished despite a tough economy – including a two-year balanced budget that trims another \$900,000 in expenses and yet still preserves police and fire staffing levels and invests in the services and programs that will keep our city strong.

‘Book-A-Palooza’ To Benefit Common Language Bookstore Event To Provide Critical Funds For Operations

BY BTL STAFF

ANN ARBOR – Friends of Common Language Bookstore will hold the Third Book-A-Palooza Used book sale to benefit the bookstore. The fundraiser will take place beginning May 17 and run through May 19, at 317 Braun Court in front of the bookstore, next to the \aut\ BAR.

The first bookstore dedicated to the literature of the gay and lesbian community was Oscar Wilde Bookshop which opened in Greenwich Village in 1967. Less than two years later, the defining event of the modern gay liberation movement occurred a few blocks away, in front of the Stonewall bar. Throughout the modern LGBT civil rights movement bookstores have been at the center of the action, as repositories of information, and a center of organization.

At the same time, a new “out” culture and attitude emerged. An LGBT literary tradition blossomed, building on the early work of a few brave pre-Stonewall LGBT artists. LGBT bookstores were the means of dissemination of this new literary tradition. They brought the new literature to a public desperate for stories that reflected their lives, and often brought the authors and their reading public together.

“As people learned that they could come out, they needed safe spaces and information. Again, LGBT bookstores were there to assure anxious men and women that they were a part of a larger shared experience. Youth, especially, needed the safe space LGBT bookstores provided,” said Common Language owner Keith Orr.

He emphasized that nearly fifty years later the LGBT community still engages in political activism, still has a rich and varied literary tradition, and

still needs safe spaces. In other words, LGBT bookstores remain relevant.

Unfortunately dozens, including the Oscar Wilde Bookshop, have closed over the last ten years. Bookstores have been closing because of an online marketplace which does not have the expense of a bricks and mortar store according to Orr.

However, that online marketplace cannot provide the political, cultural,

19 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Used book donations are being accepted through Thursday night. Donations of fiction, gardening, travel, politics, and more will be gratefully accepted. (Please, no textbooks or magazines). Proceeds from the sale will help pay overhead expenses to keep the store open, as well as help defray the costs of replacing outdated equipment.

This year’s Book-A-Palooza



Bookstore owner Keith Orr and his dog Duke take a reading time out as they gear up for this weekend’s book sale. The fundraiser provides critical support to keep Common Language going. Photo courtesy of Keith Orr.

and social underpinnings of the LGBT bookstore. Orr stresses that Common Language Bookstore is committed to continuing to serve these important needs.

In order to buck the trend of bookstore closings, Common Language has embarked on a series of fundraisers over the last five years, including raffles, used book sales, and a signature literary cocktail party and auction titled “The Last Bookstore Standing.” These events have raised awareness in the local community, along with much-needed funds to keep the bookstore open.

Book-A-Palooza hours are May 17 from 5 p.m.– 10 p.m., May 18 from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., and May

will have two tents. The first tent will contain bargain used books of general interest. Hardcover are \$4, paperbacks are \$2 on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is bargain day with all books at half price. The second tent contains LGBT classics. These books will be individually priced. Book donations have been generous and include many hard-to-find out-of-print classics of the LGBT literature. Book-A-Palooza is a great opportunity to acquire great books and support a community treasure.

Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor, 734-663-0036. Visit www.glbttbooks.com

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And Minnesota Makes Three In Two Weeks

Minnesota will be the 12th state to join the marriage equality column, and the first Midwestern state to do so legislatively. (Iowa became a marriage equality state in 2009 thanks to a decision by the state Supreme Court.) Gay and lesbian couples will be able to wed in Minnesota beginning on Aug. 1.

“Be bold and be courageous and you will never regret a day in your life. (During final debate in a message to his children.)”

- Co-sponsor of the law to legalize same sex marriage, Republican Minnesota State Sen. Branden Petersen represents a district that voted to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the constitution in the Nov. 2012 election.

“To further deny equal rights to all people would be a black eye on this institution and certainly on my own career.”

- Last fall, 62 percent of voters in Aitkin and Crow Wing County, which State Rep. Radinovich represents, voted in favor of a constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality. Radinovich said his decision was influenced in part by widespread support for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples among younger voters

“The national momentum for the freedom to marry keeps rolling on with this joyous victory today in Minnesota...This has been a long journey of changing hearts and minds, of breaking down walls, of shining a spotlight on our common humanity. The many years of door-knocking, phone calls and poignant conversations about why marriage matters have made a difference.”

-Rea Carey, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Polling

Most Americans are in favor of the Boy Scouts of America lifting its ban on gay scouts and gay leaders within its organization, a new poll shows.

The Washington Post-ABC News poll posted on May 9 found that 63 percent of Americans support allowing gay scouts to join the organization, while 32 percent remain opposed. Fifty-six percent say the ban on gay adults serving as leaders should be lifted, while 39 percent of respondents agree with the current policy.



TRANSMISSIONS BY GWENDOLYN SMITH

Names Have Power

Consider this non-transgender example: You may have heard of Marion Morrison, but the name tells you nothing of the American icon that is John Wayne. You can argue that they are indeed the same person, but only one of those names is the person he was.

Some of the time this really can be an honest error: when a story is fresh, there may just not be a lot of information to go on, and they end up relying on police or others who may not know all the details of a person's life. Writers and editors are human, stuff happens, and they do make mistakes.

There's more to this, though. The AP guidelines I quoted above? I copied those from my old edition of the Associated Press Stylebook, copyright 2004. These guidelines are nothing new. And even without the AP Stylebook, there are plenty of other resources out there to give a reporter a sense of how to appropriately cover a story.

Or, of course, one could simply ask a transgender person or those close to them.

I started using the name above this column two decades ago. It's been my legal name for about as long. This is the name my lover calls me, the name my family puts on the holiday cards, the name my friends address me with.

I had a name before that, and while I don't take any pains to hide it, I also opt to not share

it. By the same token, I also would not opt to use a childhood nickname. There are plenty out there that know my old name, but they also have the good sense to know that it's a part of the past. To be honest, half the time I hear that old name, I forget it was once mine.

Yet I know from experience that when the media interviews me, one of the first questions asked will be about this old name of mine. They're always shocked when I decline to answer - but I know that if I do give it, they will “hang” the entire story around a first paragraph about my old name, and the story of a “boy who wanted to be a girl.” Such a narrative doesn't speak truth: it tells you nothing about who I truly was, and how much I had to do to be the woman I am.

Consider this non-transgender example: You may have heard of Marion Morrison, but the name tells you nothing of the American icon that is John Wayne. You can argue that they are indeed the same person, but only one of those names is the person he was.

Perhaps this is the key: names have power, especially those we choose for ourselves. My name is a big part of who I am, and the person I have chosen to be. To devalue me by using a name I long since discarded is to say - at the very least - that you do not trust who I am. Quite simple, you are saying that my core identity is a falsehood when I know so much better.

When you refer to Cemia Acoff by her birth name - and so many others - you do the same. Whether intentionally or otherwise, you make a statement that she isn't even trustworthy enough to choose her own name. To go a step further, to make an unspoken claim that you know who she is better than even she knew.

This is disrespect, this is devaluing, and this is wrong.

Gwen Smith: accept no substitutions. You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com

“Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics (by hormone therapy, body modification, or surgery) of the opposite sex and present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth. If that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individuals live publicly.”

This is what the advice the Associated Press Stylebook has, for many years now, given to journalists covering transgender people. It's not perfect, leading to many poorly written pieces where the writer shifts between “he” and “she” when trying to write a piece about a person before and after transition. It also focuses heavily on the medical transition, though does step back in the last sentence.

Yet the media as a whole routinely ignores even this. For example, when the body of Cemia “Ci Ci” Acoff was discovered in Olmstead Township, Ohio this April, the Cleveland Plain Dealer referred to her using her birth name and pronouns, declaring her an “oddly dressed man” in their coverage.

Activists swarmed in to respond to the Plain Dealer's reporting, causing the paper to publish a somewhat lukewarm response editorial and re-edit stories with references to Acoff's gender - while maintaining her birth name in both these stories and the editorial.

The editorial in question by Plain Dealer reader representative Ted Diadium, quotes the AP stylebook, but also notes that neither the original article's writer nor his editors were aware of these guidelines when the story went out.

The paper also cites that much of the information its field reporter, John Caniglia, cited was given by the local police. This is where the paper got the name and a pronoun.

“Mistakes were made here,” says Diadium, “but none was made out of malevolence or an intent to injure.”

The frustrating thing about this from my perspective, and why so many transgender people and our allies spoke out about the treatment of Acoff by the Plain Dealer is simple. This is a mistake that is made with regularity.

Nearly every time a news agency covers the story of a transgender person, living or not, we go through this same cycle: the paper misgenders, uses a birth name, and otherwise paints a lurid picture of the transperson in question. Then others complain about the coverage - and after some back and forth the paper apologizes and attempts to make good.



How's Your Lipogram, Mary?



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's one of our crazy, straight cultural givens that a high pitched "s" sound is associated with being gay. It's the lisp that goes with the limp wrist.

Any male who lingers a nanosecond too long in his pronunciation of out 19th letter of the alphabet is suspected of being a queen by those who constantly twirl the dials of their unlicensed gaydar.

It never seems to occur to these ham operators that the bleeps appearing on their "I can spot a gay a mile away" radar screen might just be caused by an overbite or a cracked upper plate rather than by sexual orientation.

Interestingly, a touch of falsetto or lisping sometimes is fashionable. Take Castilian Spanish for example. Urban legend has it that King Ferdinand of Spain had a pronounced lisp. Soon everybody at court was lisping "thinco" instead of "cinco". Today the sound is considered beautiful vocal brocade.

Any male who lingers a nanosecond too long in his pronunciation of out 19th letter of the alphabet is suspected of being a queen ...

But that hissing "s" sound bugs certain people. It certainly bugged the 6th century B.C. Greek poet Lasus of Hermione. He couldn't stand it, and was careful in his poetry to omit the letter whenever possible. He wrote a "Hymn to Demeter" without using the offending over-ring. (Whether the goddess deigned to notice the double s in Lasus's name – note here the additional apostrophe s – is not recorded for posterity.)

As a result, Lasus became the world's first lipogrammatist. A lipogram (not a Western Union kiss collect) is a literary work in which one or more letters are excluded. If there's a Lipogram Hall of Fame, its star is a long-forgotten – somehow justifiably ignored, herewith briefly resurrected for one-upmanship, cocktail conversation – author, Ernest Vincent Wright.

E.V.W. wrote a 267-page novel called, "Gadsby". He also wrote, "The Wonderful Fairies of the Sun" and "The Fairies That Run the World and How They Do It." (The pronoun is left to contemporary reader conjecture, whether it be sex or female impersonation.)

The merit of "Gadsby" (other than the fact that its rarity makes it a valuable book collectible) is that the novel was written without using the letter e, the most frequently occurring vowel in English (used 219 times in this PG). Claimed Wright, "the letter's just not that damned important."

"Gadsby" was brainstormed during an extended stay in a California home for World War I vets. Wright wired his typewriter e key shut. The five and a half months it took to write 50,100 words drove him over the brink. He blew a fuse the day his book was published in 1939.

A reviewer said "Gadsby" read as if "written by a wooden eared alien." Sample: "And so, coming to Broadway, a booming brass drum and sounds of singing told a small Salvation Army unit carrying on amidst Broadway's night shopping crowds.

"Gadsby, walking toward this group, saw a young girl, back toward him, just finishing a soulful oration, saying . . . 'and I can say this to you, for I know what I am talking about: for I was brought up in a pool of liquor.'"

E-gad! I'll drink to that.



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Outside The Safety Net

Report Looks At Exclusion of LGBT Citizens From Benefits

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

Social Security is the safety net that helps the elderly, the disabled and children of parents facing these struggles remain protected against

“This is a matter of simple fairness. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are vital members of the American workforce and contribute their equal share to the Social Security

According to the Williams Institute, LGBT people live in 99.3 percent of all U.S. counties, work in every sector of the economy, and are raising at least 250,000 children. There are 50,000 legally married same gender couples in the U.S., yet their spouses get none of the support the way a heterosexual spouse would.

the devastation of poverty. But for thousands of LGBT Americans, the system simply does not work.

A report out this spring by the Human Rights Campaign and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Foundation called *Living Outside the Safety Net: LGBT Families and Social Security* details the actual cost of the disparity.

Social Security began in 1935 “to create a social insurance program that would guarantee that workers would have a source of income after they retired,” and it has expanded to cover workers’ spouses and children, as well as people who can no longer work because of disability. It does not, however, recognize families of same-sex couples. In fact, the Federal Defense of Marriage Act specifically prevents these relationships from being recognized for Social Security family and spousal purposes, even in states where same gender marriage is allowed.

System with every paycheck. Now is the time to ensure equal access to benefits,” the report states.

According to the Williams Institute, LGBT people live in 99.3 percent of all U.S. counties, work in every sector of the economy, and are raising at least 250,000 children. There are 50,000 legally married same gender couples in the U.S., yet their spouses get none of the support the way a heterosexual spouse would.

In addition to the 50,000 legally recognized couples, there are at least half a million couples who are not legally married, yet live together as a household. “The Social Security system recognizes that the death of a spouse is a financial as well as emotional loss for a family,” the report states. “Social Security benefits are designed to supplement families’ incomes and to provide surviving spouses with some level of financial stability. A surviving spouse is eligible to receive benefits on the decedent’s

See *Safety Net*, page 12

Contact Theory Changes Minds, Hearts One At A Time

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALÉ – In the fight for LGBT equality, swaying public opinion is essential. While large scale campaigns and educational programs are important, research shows that most changing of hearts and minds happens one-on-one, when individuals have meaningful interaction with a person in the minority group in question.

This concept is called “contact theory” and was the subject of a talk given at the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy “Waves of Courage” Conference at Affirmations May 4. Dr. Clinton Anderson, director of the American Psychological Association’s Office of LGBT Concerns in Washington, D.C., spoke about how contact theory works and how LGBT activists can use it to literally change the world one person at a time.

“It’s not just you changing your family’s beliefs,” Anderson said. “They may vote differently. They might encourage others they talk to to vote differently. We know that the ideals of your peers can encourage behaviors and the more support there is for an idea, the more it spreads.”

The key, he said, is knowing how to communicate in a way that “works” psychologically.

Understanding where other people are coming from can help LGBT and allied people know where to start in their approach. Is the person or group being spoken to in need of more knowledge? Or do they need relief from anxiety? Or are they more likely to be moved by empathy?

In some cases, knowledge is power. If someone is in the position where data drives their decision-making, such as legislators or business-minded people, presenting compelling facts can be the way to get them to see your side. Some people prefer logical information over emotional arguments. Knowledge can also be simply presenting the fact that LGBT people exist. It could mean showing someone that they have a gay friend or neighbor, or demonstrating that there are gay

scientists, gay artists, gay astronauts, or even gay professional athletes.

Other people are closed off from accepting knowledge because of some anxiety they have. They could have internalized homophobia they don’t understand. They could have fears that were imposed on them by the media or through a non-accepting church. They could fear AIDS, the breakdown of the family unit, rejection from society or even

have not,” Anderson said.

Contact theory can reach people in all three ways if the interactions are well-rounded and positive. They can increase knowledge and empathy and reduce anxiety. In the professional realm, there are ways LGBT people and their allies can communicate their psychological knowledge, including facilitating groups (such as in the workplace, school or church), working as community mental

“*The people who have spoken directly with a gay or lesbian friend or relative about the latter’s experience have significantly more positive attitudes than those who have not.*”

- Dr. Clinton Anderson, director of the American Psychological Association’s Office of LGBT Concerns in Washington, D.C.,

the vaguely oft-cited “gay agenda.” All the facts in the world won’t matter if someone is blocked by their fear.

Anderson encouraged the group to explore ways one could overcome anxiety in others, such as being open to listening to someone talk through their fears without judging them for it. One attendee even recommended having a casual discussion over food, since breaking bread is a long-recognized method of bonding.

Some people simply have no frame of reference on how to relate to LGBT people. They think they have never met a gay person, and they can’t imagine what being gay is like. Or they only have negative impressions of homosexuality. In these situations being able to put a human face to the movement can be effective. Connecting personally with an LGBT person brings empathy to people who were otherwise ambivalent.

“The people who have spoken directly with a gay or lesbian friend or relative about the latter’s experience have significantly more positive attitudes than those who

health interveners, and serving as an expert spokesperson to the media or by speaking to groups.

Whether it’s in the LGBT community, or between other “in” and “out” groups, research consistently finds that prejudice is reduced by contact between minority and majority group members. The quality of that contact matters as well.

Like Anderson, members of MPIPP understand the value of contact theory in the LGBT equality movement. Working in Michigan, the group has developed a speaker’s program called KUP - the Know Us Project. The project provides training for LGBT people and allies to speak to others, while also giving them the support they need to face whatever reactions might come of it. The program is based on the idea of contact theory and the need for members of the community to better communicate towards the goal of gaining support for equality.

To learn more about MPIPP, visit their website at <http://mpipp.org>.

Minn. Legislators Vote For Same-Sex Marriage

BY BTL STAFF

Minnesota will become the twelfth state to legalize same-sex marriage after the state Senate on Monday voted 37-30 in favor of approving it.

Gov. Mark Dayton signed the bill on the Capitol steps Tuesday afternoon.

The bill follows a failed attempt last year to define marriage as between one man and one woman with an amendment to the state constitution.

The state House approved the measure last Thursday.

The divisive issue drew crowds to Washington earlier this year when the Supreme Court heard arguments on a federal and state marriage law. The court heard challenges to the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman, and to California's Proposition 8, a ban on same-sex marriage approved by voters.

Minnesota becomes the twelfth state with marriage equality and the third state this month to pass marriage equality legislation, following Rhode Island and Delaware.

"Minnesota is a perfect example of the progress

we've made on marriage equality in America," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) president Chad Griffin. "Voters in Minnesota brought anti-equality efforts to a screeching halt on Election Day, and today state leaders in St. Paul made it clear that all Minnesota families are equal in the eyes of the law."

HRC contributed more than \$1.1 million to the historic 2012 campaign, which paved the way for this year's victory. In 2013 during the legislative campaign to win marriage equality, HRC sent over 170,000 emails and 6,000 text messages to HRC members and supporters in the state, generating nearly 7,500 messages and calls to key legislators.

"From defeating a marriage amendment to winning marriage equality, our families have changed the hearts and minds of families, friends, neighbors and now lawmakers in Minnesota," said Family Equality Council Director of Public Policy Emily Hecht-McGowan. "There are more than 1,600 same-sex couples in Minnesota raising more than 3,300 children and they want their kids to grow up with the stability and protection that comes with marriage."

You can learn more about the state by state work here at www.freedomtomarry.org/states

California Moves To Comply With 2011 Gay History Law

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - California education officials took the first step last week toward complying with a law that requires public schools to include prominent gay people and gay rights' milestones in the curriculum, adopting a set of classroom material guidelines that prohibit "pejorative descriptions" based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The California Board of Education on May 8 unanimously approved new standards stating that textbooks, workbooks and other teaching materials purchased with state funds must avoid "descriptions, depictions, labels, or rejoinders that tend to demean, stereotype, or patronize individuals" who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

"Materials should not convey the impression that persons of gay, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, or transgender identity, are any different from other people in their emotions or their ability to love and be loved," the standards read.

The criteria will be used by the state over the next few years to guide the adoption of new materials, which also will be evaluated to ensure they include the contributions of prominent gay and transgender people when it would be historically accurate to do so, California Department of Education spokesman

Paul Heffner said.

"A local district can make a decision of what materials are appropriate for use in their schools, but if they want to use state instructional materials, funds, they would have to choose them from materials on a state-adopted list developed using these social content standards," Heffner said.

The standards were last updated in 2000 and did not previously include a section outlining how sexual minorities are to be portrayed in the books and other resources handed out to students.

The changes adopted this week were made in part to implement a first-in-nation bill, passed by the California Legislature and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2011, requiring schools to teach the contributions of gay, lesbian and disabled people in social studies lessons.

The legislation, known as SB48, also prohibited the adoption of any materials that reflect adversely on gays or particular religions. It was supposed to take effect in January 2012, but because of budget cuts that have put state textbook funds on hold until 2015, few districts have moved to implement it.

The Capitol Resource Institute, a religious conservative group, mounted two unsuccessful efforts to qualify a ballot measure overturning the law, but was unable to secure the necessary signatures.

Creep of the Week

Noson Leiter

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Christian-dominated religious right in America is not exactly known for being BFFs with Jews. I mean, there's that whole "Your people killed Jesus" thing that some people take issue with. And, of course, every religion thinks they have the right answer and everybody else is just kidding themselves, and that's certainly at play when it comes to Christian/Jewish playdates.

However, if there's one thing radical Christians love it's someone who speaks their language of anti-gay ideology. And Noson Leiter of Torah Jews for Decency fits that bill just fine, thank you. After all, last year he blamed Hurricane Sandy on gays and lesbians.

On May 9 Leiter spoke during a Tea Party Unity conference call about how

First of all, NAMBLA is hardly a mainstream organization, though it is, in fact, real. However, saying that NAMBLA represents all homosexuals is like saying that the Westboro Baptist Church represents all Christians. Or like saying Noson Leiter speaks for all Jews.

But NAMBLA fits the anti-gay narrative folks like Leiter want so badly to believe is true and so they love to bring it up as if it is definitive proof. It isn't. Seriously, if NAMBLA was really a leader in LGBT rights movement, they'd have a more professional-looking logo and website. But it's not just children that gays are after. "They are after the bibles and guns that Americans cling to," Leiter claims.

In other words, gays may say they want things like marriage rights and protection from things like hate crimes and employment discrimination, but all gays really want is to snatch up the children of heterosexuals.

scary homos are and how there is no difference between homosexuality and pedophilia while he outlined a giant gay conspiracy against the rest of the country, which will be news to anyone who is actually gay.

"The end game is that we are the target," Leiter says. "It's not that they are stepping on all of our rights and basically advancing the cause of child molestation in order to get to some other goal, that is part of their goal."

In other words, gays may say they want things like marriage rights and protection from things like hate crimes and employment discrimination, but all gays really want is to snatch up the children of heterosexuals.

"The nature of radical pederasty basically involves the victimization of kids," Leiter says. He then trips all over himself trying to bring up the North American Man Boy Love Association. "The acceptance of NAMBLA, National Association of Man Boy Love, uh, the National Man, uh, I think it's North American Association, the Man Boy Love Association, something like that, which has been traditionally accepted by mainstream homosexual activists in their marches historically, that reflects more than just the radical fringe, that reflects the unstated agenda, ultimately that's what these people are after: they are after our kids."

I, personally, did not get this memo from Homo Headquarters. I've been trying to figure out when I'm going to have time this week to mow my lawn and do some laundry, and now I've got to go from house to house rounding up bibles and guns? I don't have time for this shit and neither does any other LGBT person I know. OR DO WE? (Cue evil laughter.)

Seriously, though. Leiter is totally serious. He claims that "homosexual activists ... will not rest until all of their opposition is totally eliminated, and co-opted and converted to their side." Leiter goes on later to rant about "homosexualist terrorism."

Uh, woah. Who is this guy talking about?

You know that Dove "Real Beauty" commercial where the sketch artist draws women how they describe themselves and then draws them how another person describes them? I would like to see that commercial redone using actual gays and lesbians describing themselves compared to Leiter and his ilk describing gays and lesbian. Because those pictures are going to be very different. I'm talking horns and fangs different.

Then again, I can joke all I want about how disconnected Leiter is from the real world. He, and people who think like him, are a scary reality.

► Safety Net

Continued from p. 10

Social Security record when he or she reaches retirement age or at any time if he or she is disabled or is raising the worker's child. On average, a retirement-age surviving spouse receives \$1,184 monthly. For many survivors and their children, Social Security benefits ensure that they can remain in a family home... Same-sex surviving spouses are denied this option, potentially reducing the household income substantially, especially if the surviving spouse was not the primary breadwinner."

According to the report, the average monthly

laws, thousands of same-sex parents across the country remain legal strangers to the children they are raising."

A child becomes eligible for Social Security benefits when a parent becomes disabled, retires or passes away. Many children with disabilities are also eligible based on their parent's work history. But this is only true for "legal" parents.

Nationwide about 4.4 million children receive approximately \$2.4 billion each month in benefits based on when a working parent retires, dies or becomes disabled. The average amount a child receives upon death of a parent is \$785 a month, or \$330 a month if the parent becomes disabled. A child

In cases where one person made the bulk of the earnings, the non-married partner would not be eligible for their partner's benefits, and on average lost \$675 monthly compared to their married heterosexual counterparts.

retirement benefit for a worker who retired at full retirement age is around \$1,350. In cases where one person made the bulk of the earnings, the non-married partner would not be eligible for their partner's benefits, and on average lost \$675 monthly compared to their married heterosexual counterparts.

When children are involved the situation gets more complex. "Many same-sex couples use adoption to form their families. When one parent is the biological parent, or when joint adoption is not permitted under state law, second-parent adoption is the only option that allows a same-sex partner to legally adopt his or her biological or adoptive child while leaving the rights of the 'first parent' intact," the study stated. Only 18 states allow second parent adoption, and "in the absence of fair adoption

with no legal relationship to a parent that retires, dies or becomes disabled receives \$0, even if that parent is the primary breadwinner of the family.

On average if a parent leaves the workplace or passes away, the loss of family income would be an average of \$4,044 annually, each year until the child turns 18.

HRC and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Foundation came up with three recommendations to fix the Social Security Act. The first is to expand access to spousal benefits. The second is to expand access to child benefits. And the third is to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

To learn more check out the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Foundation at <http://www.ncpssmfoundation.org>.



Nathan Triplett, Mayor Pro Tem City of East Lansing, addresses a press conference in front of the state capitol on Wednesday. Behind him (left to right) are Curtis Hertel Jr., Ingham County Register of Deeds; Kenneth Fletcher, supervisor Delta Township Board of Trustees; Evan Hope, clerk of Delhi Township; Andy Schor, State Representative from Lansing; and Angela Wilson, trustee of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees. BTL Photo: Todd A. Heywood.

► Lansing Region

Continued from p. 5

"I think there is a level of pressure that gets put on the state legislature whenever local communities add on – and we've been seeing that happening across the state," Singh says. "I'm hopeful that in the state legislature we will be having this kind of conversation in the coming months."

Delhi Township

The 2010 census put the number of residents of Delhi at just under 30,000 people. The township is often referred to as Holt, because of the school district located therein.

A brutal Republican primary for supervisor post in the last election pitted local pastor Jeff Hall against 10-year incumbent Stuart Goodrich, a local optician. Hall bested Goodrich, resulting in a battle between Hall and Democrat C.J. Davis.

Hall runs the nondenominational Community Faith Church. The church hosted meetings of Grassroots Michigan, a Tea Party organization. Hall was slammed by Republican supporters of Goodrich for being a Tea Party supporter during the August primary, an allegation he denied to the City Pulse newspaper.

Despite this, Hall tells BTL that he has no plans to be involved in opposing the proposed law, noting that he is planning to move from the township in the next month.

“Businesses locate where they can find the talent pool they need. We need to attract and retain the best and brightest workforce in Michigan... We can't do that if we tell the LGBT community that they won't be protected from discrimination.”

- Kenneth Fletcher, supervisor of Delta Township

Delhi Clerk Evan Hope said he was not concerned about Hall and the Tea Party group organizing against the ordinance.

"If a group wants to try to fight this, they're only going to show how out of touch with the mainstream that they are. I don't think they'll gain any traction in Delhi Township," Hope told BTL.

He says the majority of the Board supports the proposal and expects to introduce a draft ordinance in June.

Delta Township

Laying to the west of Lansing, this region digs deep into Eaton County, featuring the Lansing Mall and an attendant shopping region surrounding it. The 2010 census found the township had a population of 32,408 people.

On May 13, the township will begin the process of discussing a comprehensive

ordinance according to an agenda item for the body's meeting.

"These proposed ordinances are also important from an economic development point of view," Kenneth Fletcher, supervisor of Delta Township said during the Capitol press conference. "Businesses locate where they can find the talent pool they need. We need to attract and retain the best and brightest workforce in Michigan... We can't do that if we tell the LGBT community that they won't be protected from discrimination."

Fletcher noted that many do not see the boundaries of municipalities when they consider the greater Lansing community.

Meridian Township

"Every day we hear stories of women and men being discouraged and even turned away from renting or buying homes because they are gay or transgendered right here in our communities," said Meridian Township Trustee Angela Wilson. "This inequality has got to stop. Every person's right to work and provide a home and living

for themselves and their family must be protected."

As a member of the Meridian Township Board, Wilson says she will spearhead an ordinance through the board beginning in June. The township, located to the east of East Lansing and featuring the Meridian Mall, has a population of just under 40,000 people. It also boasts two school districts, Okemos and Haslett.

Lansing Township

As of mid-May, Lansing Township is the sole hold out in the move to make the entire Lansing metro area a discrimination free zone. But Kathy Rodgers, supervisor for the township of just over 8,000 residents, says she does not oppose a nondiscrimination ordinance. She said her board had not discussed an ordinance, but it might.

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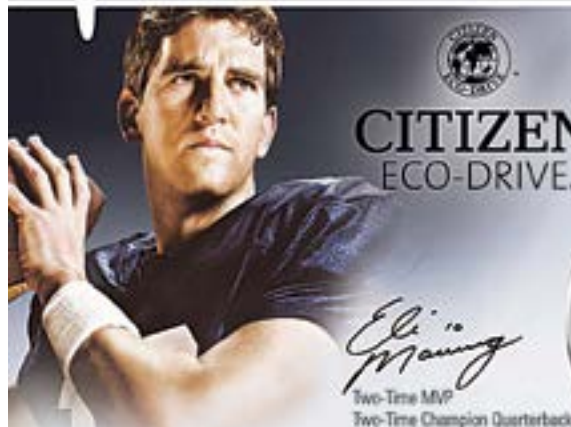
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Matt Damon and Michael Douglas in "Behind the Candelabra." Photo: Claudette Barius/HBO

Sex, Love & Liberace

Inside The Gayest Movie Of The Year

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Steven Soderbergh knows who's significantly responsible for the major success of his male-stripper romp "Magic Mike": gay men eager to ogle the barely-covered bits of Channing Tatum and his hunky posse. The Oscar-winning director's upcoming feature will obviously court the same audience – and not just because Matt Damon lets it all hang out, too.

"Behind the Candelabra" is so gay that major Hollywood studios would have nothing to do with the Liberace film. Premiering May 26 on HBO, the revealing biopic stars Michael Douglas as the shiny showman who died of AIDS complications at age 67 and Damon as his much younger

beau, Scott Thorson.

In our interview, Soderbergh spoke in depth about their real-life relationship, the "flamboyancy scale" used to guide the actors' gayness onset, diversity in film and why Damon wanted to flaunt the junk in his trunk.

Steven, you've made the gayest movie of your career.

That was my intent.

Was it?

In a way. It was an opportunity to make use of all the hours that I've spent watching melodramas like "Sunset Boulevard" – anything connected to a certain aesthetic that we associate with camp or just glamour.

I had spoken to Michael about it conceptually when we were doing "Traffic," but when I started researching Liberace, I was really having trouble figuring out what the angle should be. I didn't want it to be a traditional biopic.

It was a friend of mine in New York who made me aware of Thorson's book ("Behind the Candelabra: My Life with Liberace"). Once I read that, it solved all my problems. That was six years ago. So we're sort of experiencing everything through his eyes. He's Alice going down the rabbit hole.

What did you know about Liberace before reading Thorson's book?

I'm old enough to have seen him on TV when he was still performing. I

was, however, young enough to not really be able to articulate what was distinctive about him. (Laughs) But I remember my parents always made a point of turning on that channel if they knew he was going to be on somebody's show or if he had a special. I had this vague sense of him being a very flamboyant entertainer.

In 2000, as I started to learn more about him and gather material, what was great was discovering that he was an amazing technical musician, an incredible keyboardist. I found it fascinating that somebody with that sort of skill set was very happy to hide it behind a real genuine desire to put on a very popular and entertaining show. He wouldn't have been as interesting to me if it turned out that he was a so-so keyboardist.

How did Michael pull off the piano-playing parts?

Oh, lots of tricks.

Then you fooled me, because at one point he's playing 16 beats to the bar for "Boogie Woogie" and you can clearly see Michael's hands on the piano.

In my mind, that was a very important scene. Because if we don't sell that, then we have a problem. There was a lot of effort expended on that particular scene. Michael had to spend a lot of time making sure that he was doing the right thing so that the effects would work properly. He couldn't just sit there. He had video of the pieces and he had to make sure his hands were very close to being perfectly

placed so that we could make it work.

Did you discuss with Michael how flamboyant he could go with Liberace?

Sometimes I'd use a number. I'd go, "Oh, I think he should be at a 7 here."

A 7 on the flamboyancy scale?

Yeah. But more often than not, he and Matt would both tell you that once you put on the outfit and the hair and everything, you're kind of there. I don't remember having to really talk about how gay I wanted them to be. (Michael) would just show up in that outfit with that hair and it was happening.

Was there a scene where you told them to take it to a 10?

The first meeting where Lee (the name close friends called Liberace) first meets Scott backstage, I would've said to Michael, "OK, this is about as far as I want you to go. Take it as far as you feel comfortable."

The sexual tension was so palpable my screen was sweating.

(Laughs) One of the things I liked about it is this sort of "Sunset Boulevard" dynamic in terms of the age difference and the fact that Scott shows up and Lee's giving him elevator eyes.

Matt had said that it's a challenge creating chemistry with someone you wouldn't normally be attracted to. As the director, was it a challenge to make this relationship seem real?

The key, which they understood intuitively, was: The chemistry was going to come from the comfort level, and the more comfortable they felt with each other and the more that it seemed, "Oh, this is how people act when there is not a camera around," that's what would sell it. Just being totally inside of it and never stepping out of it and looking back at it. You have to just jump into the hot tub, and that's what I think really sells it when I see the movie. They seem so comfortable with each other.

And only one take for the sex scene where Matt is on top of Michael – really?

(Laughs) I said, "OK, Mike, you've gotta be able to reach the amy nitrate, so you should be here. Matt, you're gonna be on top of him here. I'm gonna drop the camera down here." We did a take, there was a long pause and I was just like, "I don't have any notes. That's that."

Not that I was counting, but there were three Matt Damon ass shots. When is an ass shot necessary and when is it gratuitous?

In this case, it would've been more awkward and distracting if you somehow didn't show it. But none of that was planned. Matt's in his robe and he gets into bed, and in another scene he's getting out of the hot tub. It's all stuff that was motivated; I guess that's really what it comes down to.

"Gratuitous" means they're doing something they wouldn't normally do to create an ass shot, and that's not how we were thinking. Though

I certainly had it in mind when Matt came to the set and said, "You're not gonna believe the Brazilian tan line I got from the spray guy. The world has to see this." (Laughs)

Studios turned down the film because they said it was "too gay." What exactly is "too gay"?

They weren't convinced that anybody who's not gay is going to want to see it. That was really their attitude. It's not like, "We don't like gay people." They had concerns about how to sell it. And when you're just looking at it on paper, and then when you see what Michael and Matt did, I get why they couldn't see it. I was just frustrated that they didn't believe that we could see it.

What do you think it says about Hollywood and society when a movie about two gay men won't get picked up by a major studio but a movie that exploits violence does?

That's more about the culture at large than it is about the studios. They don't give a shit. If movies like this were making a lot of money, that's all they'd be making. The reason you don't see more movies made with non-white protagonists as leads is because, in our culture, non-white audiences go in significant numbers to see movies with white protagonists, but white audiences do not return the favor. It's not reciprocal, and that's the only reason that movies lack so much diversity.

Did you know going in that a movie about Liberace would be a tough sell?

Yeah, I knew it would be tough, but I didn't think it would be impossible. If it wasn't for HBO, I don't think we would've been able to get it made.

How did you perceive their relationship?

I took the relationship at face value, and I believed that it was a real relationship and that they did love each other. It's a very weird environment in which to maintain any relationship, but I felt that it was a sincere relationship and that they were both broken but in different ways, and so there was a kindred feeling somehow.

And that last scene really brings authenticity to the relationship.

When I read the book, it convinced me that this was worth doing, because it really surprised me. The way the movie lands emotionally is really unexpected – and in the book, I just found that scene incredibly moving and sad.

Do you see this film and Liberace's life as a cautionary tale at all?

No. I guess when I look at it, there's just more of a frustration that there was this added pressure because of the time period – the pressure of hiding the relationship and then, of course, the threat of mortality that was circulating amongst the gay community during that period. I mean, I lived for nine

See *Liberace*, page 18



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Jinkx Monsoon Storms Detroit

'Drag Race' Winner Talks Music, Alter Ego & Spreading Like Marshmallow Fluff

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

During the final leg of the fifth season of reality competition "RuPaul's Drag Race," the queens were neck and neck. Pageant girl Roxxy Andrews served body-oddy for days. Alaska proved she was too big to sit in anyone's spooky shadow. And Seattle's premier narcoleptic Jewish drag queen Jinkx Monsoon flooded out the competition with every drop of her charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talent.

Ultimately, it was Jinkx who sashayed away with the crown.

Having just become America's sweetheart and Next Drag Superstar, there's the question of what's next for Jinkx Monsoon. The obvious answer, besides her upcoming Detroit gig at Menjo's on May 23: release a debut single.

"Definitely by this summer I will have at least two singles out, one a kind of dance track and one a kind of torch song," she tells BTL just after championing "Drag Race." "I hope to eventually produce an album. A lot of drag queens try to go for the clubby dance song but I'm going to try to produce an album of standards, like Broadway standards and original music by my music partner, Richard Andreesen. I also have a rap that I wrote that is based on my mantra 'water off a duck's back.' Then I have a couple parody songs that I wrote ... but I don't think I could release those as singles."

The new music she has coming up isn't the first time she's stretched her surprisingly not-Auto-Tuned vocal chops. In "Jinkxalicious," her raunchy parody of Fergie's "Fergalicious," she showed off her quirky vocal talents and certification as a Grade-A MILF who has no problem giving your boyfriend's penis "the twitches."

"I call it 'the pre-boner tingle,'" she says. "Even though gay men are not attracted to women, there's something about being a drag queen in a bed with 15 other men in their underwear and various states of undress. It's kind of dirty and raunchy and it feels wrong, but you love it."

Just because she's fond of sharing her bed with a host of hot boys



doesn't mean she spreads like peanut butter. Instead, she spreads like something slightly creamier.

"Jinkx Monsoon, I wouldn't call her peanut butter," she says. "That's actually Roxxy's thing; she's definitely peanut butter. I say Jinkx Monsoon spreads like Marshmallow Fluff: a little bit more pale, a little bit

sweeter ... a little bit more sticky."

If the old adage is true, you attract more flies with honey. In that case, it's no wonder why Jinkx, who prides herself on being sweeter than honey and easier than Sunday morning, is attracting a lot of male attention. Even long before her Goddess Moment, she's been the

focus of many wandering hands.

"I was 17. I used to host shows at Escape Nightclub in Portland. When I do drag, I just look five to 10 years older than I actually am. This one guy, who was in his early 20s, didn't think I was a drag queen. He thought I was a trans woman and he was very into me. I thought he was joking

INFO

Jinkx Monsoon

May 23

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around for the longest time until he finally put his hand on my butt and made his intentions very clear. I had this moment of 'I can't believe that just happened ... but I'm not actually against it.'"

Despite her remarkable dedication to the art of slut, Jinkx Monsoon and her everyday-drag persona Jerick Hoffer don't exactly share the same anal dedication to ho-ish perfection.

"I grew up in Portland, which is very liberal and progressive," she says. "Now I live in Seattle, which is even more so. I consider myself very sexually liberal. Our lives are too short to not try the things we want to try. I'm not the biggest whore around but I'm no prude. Jinkx Monsoon is the opposite; she just wants it all. She doesn't care. She wants every boy in the room. She doesn't want just the cutest one, she wants every boy in the room to have his eyes ... hands ... legs all over her."

Just because Jinkx loves to have a good time with one or 15 underwear models in the privacy of a public bathroom stall doesn't mean she's not looking to settle down ... just not too soon.

"It's funny, because as much as I love portraying Jinkx as an older woman, I'm very much a boy in his early 20s," Jinkx says. "I'm in no hurry to grow up as Jerick. So, I'm not looking to settle down with any one person anytime soon and I'm not looking to be a mommy yet."

"I hope to have a husband, and I hope to get married legally and have it recognized in all 50 states in our goddamn country. One day, I want to have one son; I want to adopt him from Russia and I want to name him Wolfgang. I just want to raise one person to turn around and continue to make this world a better place. I want to raise him with all the intellect, know-how and respect for his fellow

See Jinkx, page 20



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Director Steven Soderbergh.
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► **Liberace**

Continued from p. 15

months with my sister in San Francisco during the summer of '80 through the spring of '81 on Market Street. If I was gay, I'd be dead. That was ground zero.

What was that experience like for you?

It was interesting to be 17 and walk down the street and have somebody look at me in the way that I'd be looking at girls. (Laughs) That was the first time being exposed to that, but it wasn't a problem. The friends I did have that were gay and sexually active were really, really paranoid and being super safe. They were scared.

It's a classic case of everybody realizing everything too late. I always wish we could think 50 years in the future when we look at what's going on right now in terms of equal rights. I'm just sitting here going, "50 years from now, we're going to be wondering why we were even arguing about this." Why can't we just pretend that it's 50 years later and just end it now?

On behalf of the gay community, I would like to thank you for "Magic Mike."

(Laughs) It's so funny, because that was such a huge part of the success of the film – the attention it was given from that community from the minute it was announced. It was such a chatter magnet and, honestly, that was part of the reason why Warner Bros. came in while we were shooting and picked the movie up. This is not something they typically do.

This was an independently financed movie that they came and bought while it was shooting. I can't even tell you the last time they did that, and that was because they had a feeling that this thing was going to have some cultural traction because of all the Internet attention it was getting.

With "Magic Mike 2," have you thought about where you want the story to go?

We actually just had a meeting about it the other day. It's getting pretty far along. They've got a good idea. There were some stories and events that Channing lived through that we just couldn't fit in the first one. One of them is a really hilarious and very cinematic idea that we reluctantly didn't put in the first film, because it was such a big idea you could build a whole film out of it – but we didn't want to build *that* film out

of it. It's perfect for this, though.

How involved will you be?

I want to help. I have some proprietary feelings about it, obviously. I want to make sure it gets done and done well, so we meet every couple of weeks to talk about where it's going. But it's gonna be good. It's a good idea. It's not a retreat. And there will be more time spent with the characters – all of them.

You're not gonna tell me the idea, are you?

Yeah, I don't want to share the details.

Is the original cast returning?

Oh yeah!

What did you make of the flack you received for the lesbian-killer character in "Side Effects"?

I knew that was coming. I thought, "Look, these kind of things swing in both directions." You get people who are so on guard that it's hard for them – especially, when they're looking at a piece of art – to drop the ideology and look at the macro of it. They're just reacting with their amygdala instead of their prefrontal cortex and they're crying foul and you go, "No, actually, if you break this down, you only got halfway there before you started yelling."

Yeah, there was a bit of a flash mob about it initially. I was trying to explain that – actually, she's not a lesbian. She's just a fucking opportunist! (Laughs)

"Side Effects" was supposed to be your last film. What made you put retirement on hold for "Behind the Candelabra"?

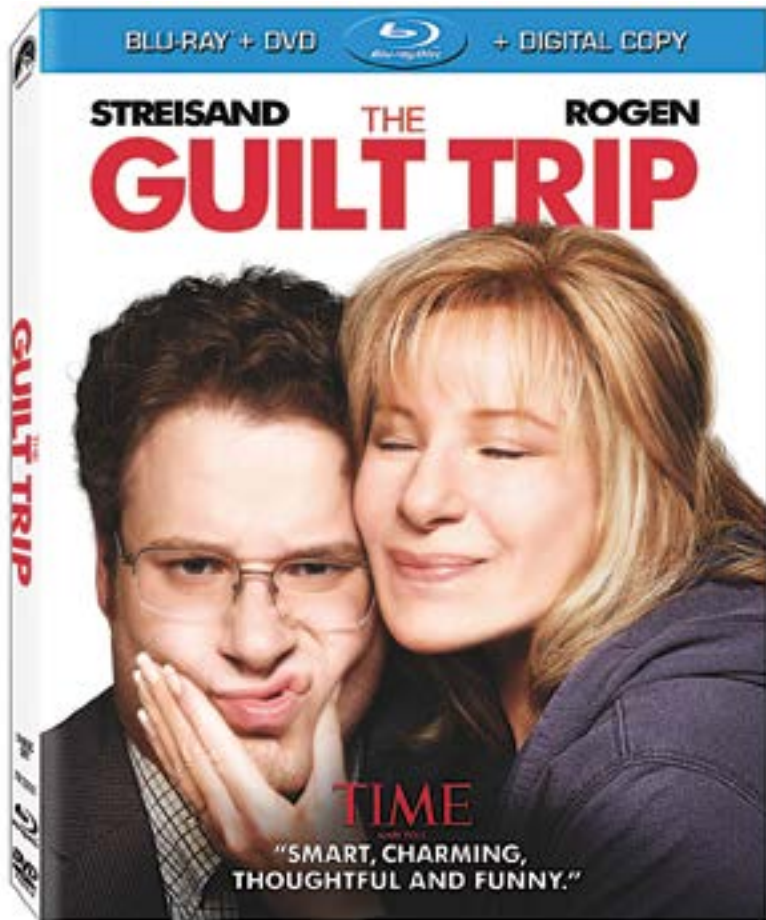
The movie was supposed to happen earlier and it didn't. I decided that, actually, this is great if this were – and I'm not saying it will be – the last movie I ever made. I would be very happy. I feel like it's connected in a lot of ways to the first film I ever made, and it's also a progression.

Can you talk about the connection between this film and "Sex, Lies, and Videotape"?

The connection is that it's completely relationship driven, and most of it is about two people in a room ... except the room is now a hot tub. (Laughs) It's a progression in the sense that it's a much more mature piece of work than my first film – obviously, it ought to be – but I'm able to do things, having done it for 24 years, that I wasn't able to do back then.

Are you still retiring?

In terms of movies, it's going to be a break. I don't know how extended. I'm just taking a break from that specific kind of work for a while to see if I can tear everything down and rebuild it. See if I can come back different.



The Guilt Trip

Playing down the divadom, Barbra Streisand masticates a mammoth steak and wears mom jeans for her first leading-actress role since 1996's "The Mirror Has Two Faces." Babs nags, dotes and hilariously attempts hipness as Joyce Brewster (she's so "cool" that she has a lesbian Pilates instructor), a brash Jewish mom who's the tag-along on her grown son's cross-country trip to hawk his new invention (or so she thinks). Cue the awkwardness: They (her son, Andy, is played by Seth Rogen) wind up at a strip joint, they listen to "Middlesex" in the car and, when they get to the Grand Canyon, they wonder how long they're required to admire all those ... rocks. This tomfoolery is a hoot, sure, but not all of "The Guilt Trip" — directed by Anne Fletcher ("The Proposal") — just wants you to grin and giggle at the uncomfortable shtick of a mom-and-son road-trip flick. Moments of tenderness (read: old family videos and the "aww" ending) abound. If you hate this, and plenty of critics did, then you also hate puppies. The extras: set interviews, deleted scenes, five minutes of bloopers and a short feature all about Babs. After all, it *is* her movie.



Django Unchained

It had to be Quentin Tarantino who turned the spaghetti Westerns your dad loved into this, the savage beast of slavery cinema. In his own sideways style, the uninhibited filmmaker hangs racial intolerance on a cross and tributes the cowboy genre with a classic Ol' West spirit. Tarantino's wildly entertaining, blood-soaked satire is his most ambitious work since "Pulp Fiction" (see: anal raping); it's a pouring of old-school romance, uproarious comedy and "what goes around comes around," and casts ex-slave Django (Jamie Foxx) as a badass vigilante — later coined "fastest gun in the South" — shooting up oppressors to get back his lady (Kerry Washington). Foxx doesn't just slay a bunch of white supremacists; he slays the role. So do the other "Django" players: Leonardo DiCaprio as a heinous against-type slave keeper (subtext suggests he's a little gay), an outrageously game Samuel L. Jackson and Christoph



Silver Linings Playbook

Craziness masks the rom-com formula percolating in "Silver Linings Playbook," director David O. Russell's comic vehicle for Bradley Cooper and Jennifer

Waltz, the Oscar winner who plays the silver-tongued German bounty hunter with a biting sharpness. Features on the art production, costume design and a short doc on the stunt horses are it in the special features department. What's missing? A Tarantino commentary.



The Impossible

Confession: Never before have I sobbed harder during a movie. I'm talking uncontrollable nose-running, stomach-sinking, a-dam-that-just-broke-open waterworks. Suffice it to say, J.A. Bayona's harrowing disaster film, "The Impossible," about the tsunami that devastated Asia in 2004 (Bayona's replica puts you dead-center), cuts deep. It's the true story of a family who survived — some barely — while vacationing at a beachside resort when the water swallowed the land. In Bayona's nail-biter, the most powerful film of last year, that family is played by Naomi Watts (who should have won the Oscar) and Ewan McGregor, as Maria and Henry, the parents to three young boys (Tom Holland, as older son Lucas, is remarkable) — all of whom are separated from each other when the tsunami comes crashing in. "The Impossible" is raw, riveting and tough to watch, a gut-wrenching tear duct-drainer that's about overcoming the odds and finding hope when all hope seems lost. The commentary features Bayona offering scoop on filming, and it's boasted by real accounts from the woman Watts plays, Maria Belón. A short clip looks at the incredible feat of using actual water to recreate the tsunami.



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'Come On Ouevre' To The Robert Kidd Gallery



Left: Otto Duecker's "One Second Later." Center: Duecker's "Newtown's Apples." Right: Stephen Duren's "Untitled No. 2511."

Birmingham's Robert Kidd Gallery will host artwork by Otto Duecker, Stephen Duren, Andrew Krieger and Dennis Wojtkiewicz in "Come on Ouevre." This vibrant collection of paintings presents a fresh look at contemporary realism, representing the energetic coming of spring. Two of the artists hail from Michigan, with Grosse Pointe native Krieger presenting his

creative constructed forms, known for appearing as optical illusions.

Robert Kidd Gallery was founded by Cranbrook graduates Robert Louis Kidd and Ray Frost Fleming in 1976. The two-level gallery is known for its expansive exhibition space, its promotion of notable emerging contemporary artists and its presentation of 20th century masters such as Milton Avery and

Helen Frankenthaler. Services for acquisition and de-accessioning of artwork is also available.

The "Come On Ouevre" exhibit will run through June 1 at the Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. For more information, visit www.robertkiddgallery.com or call 248-642-3909.

► Jinkx

Continued from p. 16

human beings so that he can pick up where I leave off."

The lady is a tramp with a heart of gold sequins and it extends to the gay community as a whole. To her, drag isn't just about chasing tail (or having her's

chased), it's also about using her lady-boy powers for good.

"This might sound weird, but I think drag queens make our community a more vibrant, safer, more accepted community in America at large," she says. "I think drag queens play the role of the soldiers, the ambassadors for the gay community. We kind of split the difference between straight culture and gay culture because

almost every drag queen is some sort of amalgam of straight female celebrities, but then we're also gay men dressed as women.

"We have this opportunity to be who we want to be and say what we want to say. I feel like we have the most ability – out of anyone in our community – to get up, get seen and speak out."


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► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 19

Lawrence's budding relationship with each other and their respective neuroses. Pat (Cooper) has lost everything except his bipolar disorder and those rage tendencies; Tiffany (Lawrence, who won the Oscar for her role) is an emotionally unstable widow with a sex addiction. Dysfunction is everywhere, for everyone. (Robert de Niro, as Pat's dad, gets the OCD.) "Silver Linings" uses insanity as a dupe to distract from the inevitability of the happy-ending closing reel. And unless you derive no comic value from seeing people yell feverishly at each other (and then yell some more) and go off the rails every time "My Cherie Amour" plays, the getting-there might be the most fun you'll ever have experiencing mental illness. The climatic dance scene with Cooper and Lawrence gets two special features: a short glimpse into rehearsals and a how-to for anyone eager to give it a go themselves.

Also Out



This Is 40

What makes a mustache gay? Besides raising that crucial question, Paul Rudd's movie – because, let's face it, even with the great Leslie Mann, every movie with Paul

Rudd is a Paul Rudd movie – looks at that point in parenthood when the bathroom becomes a dad's only escape. Rudd and Mann play a couple experiencing the highs and hiccups – and debating Lady Gaga's artistry – of that dreaded age when the kids get older, money gets tighter and weird bodily things happen where weird bodily things shouldn't happen (in this case, on Rudd's rump, offering an enjoyable spread-eagle shot). Judd Apatow directs this oft-hilarious but 30-minutes-too-long observation on the awfulness of middle age. Filled with more features than you could imagine, this is a buy for fans.



A Monster in Paris

A monster creeps the streets of Paris in this peculiar cinema delight. He's fangy, he's not so attractive ... he's a giant flea?

He also wouldn't hurt a fly – or anything else, for that matter. The cloaked insect is

the harmless, misunderstood and musically gifted (no, really: He's Liberace with six legs) creation "conceived" by two nerds in French director Bibo Bergeron's big-hearted, little-seen razzle-dazzler. The Parisian animation is delicious, and lounge performer Lucille (voiced by Vanessa Paradis) has a Kylie Minogue stage quality that's purely magical. If Tim Burton did a version of "The Phantom of the Opera," it'd be something like this: weird, wonderful and charming enough to not make a bug about the shortcomings. The biggest gaffe on the 3D Blu-ray, though, is the complete absence of extras.



Bachelorette

Imagine "Bridesmaids" with the meanness of "Mean Girls" and crackheads, and you kind of have Leslye Headland's dark comedy

"Bachelorette." Bride-to-be Becky (Rebel Wilson) gathers her gal pals for her walk down the aisle. The big day is derailed when the girls – Regan (Kirsten Dunst), Gena (Lizzy Caplan) and Katie (Isla Fisher) – go out on the town and trash Becky's lily-white gown (blood, semen, whatever comes out of a vagina, you name it) in a hit-or-miss string of crass girls-just-wanna-have-fun gags. Bonus: Andrew Rannells strips. Besides an engaging Headland commentary on the film's blow-job monologue and the story as an allegory, there are brief interviews with the leading actresses and a humorless gag reel.



Funny Girl

To coincide with Barbra Streisand's silver-screen comeback in "The Guilt Trip," Sony Pictures gloriously restores the icon's very first film: the 1968 classic

musical-dramedy "Funny Girl." Babs, who won an Oscar for her buoyant role as stage performer Fanny Brice, was the irresistibly charming presence in William Wyler's film adaptation of the Broadway hit. Looking at the legend in stunning hi-def still calls for the utterance of Babs' own famous words: "Hello, gorgeous!" Because this 45th anniversary edition lacks extras, it rains on everyone's parade. All we get are a vintage peek at Barbra shooting the famed scene at the Jersey Central Railroad station and "This Is Streisand," a minor intro to the then-twentysomething, now-legendary diva.

A Family In Crisis, A Family Divided

'August: Osage County' Rivets At The Ringwald

BY JOHN QUINN

"Life is very long" – T. S. Eliot

"August: Osage County" is also very long and worth every minute. Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for Best Play, it demonstrates that sometimes they do make things like they used to. Playwright Tracy Letts, a regular at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, takes hints from the playbooks of masters Eugene O'Neill and Edward Albee as he writes on one of the great classic motifs of tragedy, the dysfunctional family. It's audacious for a small theater like The Ringwald to undertake a challenge of this magnitude, but director Joe Bailey and company have produced a marvel.

"August: Osage County" is a tough work to pigeonhole, but it's been described as a "tragicomedy." A play that begins and ends with quotes from Eliot's bleak poem "The Hollow Men" is likely to be a downer, but Letts injects a lot of levity into his script; the better to soften the effect of some really unlikable characters. But ultimately, he's written a classic, three-act family drama that pays homage to O'Neill's "A Long Day's Journey into Night." That a three hours-plus running time can breeze by is due to a happy union of script, director and actors.

It's fortunate for theater patrons that the Ringwald family is happier than the Westons of Pawhuska, Okla. Beverly Weston (Dan Jaroslaw) is an aging poet, a one-hit wonder and alcoholic, who has spent decades writing his second book. Beverly disappears. The Weston clan, with assorted entourages in tow, assembles to lend support to the family matriarch, Violet (Jane MacFarlane), a victim of oral cancer who is heavily addicted to prescription drugs. We meet the Weston daughters – first, Barbara (Kelly Komlen), in from Colorado with her philandering husband, Bill (Travis Reiff), and their rebellious daughter, Jean (Katie Terpstra). Middle child Ivy (Jamie Warrow) didn't have far to travel – she's a spinster and still living in town. Karen (Melissa Beckwith) flies in from Florida with a contemptible companion – her fiancé, Steve (Bryan Lark). Also in attendance are Violet's waspish sister, Mattie Fae (Jan Cartwright), her docile husband Charlie (Patrick O'Lear), and their adult son, Little



"August: Osage County" runs through June 3 at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre. Photo: Heather Sejnow.

PREVIEW

August: Osage County

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through June 3. \$10-22. 3 hours, 10 minutes; 2 intermissions. 248-545-5545.

www.theringwald.com

Charles (Joel Mitchell).

So much family under one roof is bound to create critical mass, and the explosion is inevitable. Old grudges are revived, secrets revealed, true characters burst to the surface. While

So much family under one roof is bound to create critical mass, and the explosion is inevitable. Old grudges are revived, secrets revealed, true characters burst to the surface.

the audience can be sympathetic toward this sad family, there is the urge to stand above the fray and simply observe – as does the housekeeper, Johnna (Amy Probst), and Deon Gilbeau (Jamie Richards), Barbara's old beau.

"August: Osage County" explores the clash between generations: mother versus daughters, but specifically, Violet versus Barbara. While all the actors in this production bring a raw honesty to their characters, we are

inevitably drawn to the outstanding performances of Jane MacFarlane and Kelly Komlen. Violet is a bitter, vindictive woman, and MacFarlane wrings out every character flaw, both as sober tyrant and drug-addled mess. Komlen executes a dramatic build to Barbara's anger, culminating in the explosive, "You don't get it, do you? I'm running things now!" as she and her mother struggle for dominance.

Kudos to scenic designer Adam Crinson, who has managed to cram three-and-a-half playing areas in the tight space of The Ringwald, a feat akin to parking a Bentley in a walk-in closet. This was accomplished by throwing convention to the winds and putting the audience three quarters round and setting a massive dining room table among us. Joe Bailey took full advantage of the arrangement; when the entire family sits down to a rancorous meal officiated by an out-of-control Violet, we onlookers share the experience – and the tumultuous emotions – as an unholy communion.

The press release for "August: Osage County" reads in part, "Capping off a successful 'Season of Family,' The Ringwald has indeed saved what is arguably the best for last." They sure got that right. And, to thoroughly taunt T. S. Eliot, "This is the way the season ends. Not with a whimper but a bang!"

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through the seventh generation.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 16

Walk, Jog or Running Group 6:30 p.m. We can walk/run around the park area so if we all go at our own paces we will still be together. It doesn't matter what shape you're in. Just get out and join us! Get Out And Live!, **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Pittman-Puckett Gallery Opening Reception 7 p.m. An exhibition and performance space intended for the presentation of work by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender artists. The gallery includes a growing permanent collection of original works and features rotating shows with specific focuses. 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, May 17

Designer Gurhan's Truck Shows and Personal Appearances 1 p.m. World-renowned jewelry designer Gurhan will personally showcase his collection at trunk show. Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, 6337 Orchard Lake Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-932-7700. Tappers.com

LAHR Friday Night Dinner group 6:30 p.m. Meets at a different Lansing area restaurant each month. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Garyatmsu@aol.com lahronline.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Running on Empty Dreams-At this point in her life, Sydney thought she'd be living the dream, instead of feeling smothered and trapped by a marriage she'd rather not be in. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Pride with a Purpose: A Benefit for Anti-Discrimination 7:30 p.m. Special surprise guest. Surprise new musical group. 21+. Admission: \$4+. Vote Equal, 819 Ottawa Ave., **Grand Rapids**. Voteequal.com

Saturday, May 18

Garden Workshop 8 a.m. Learn to make a vegetable container garden with a master gardener! Tips and tricks will be shared. Tickets \$10. Kalamazoo Pride, 5071 Market St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234.

Free Health Conference 9 a.m. The conference will include informative workshops and presentations, free HIV/STD testing, and blood pressure and diabetes screenings. Michigan AIDS Coalition, 7733 E. Jefferson, **Detroit**. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.org

Spring Crisis Line Training 9 a.m. Seeking compassionate volunteers to become Crisis Line Counselors. Ozone House, 1705 Washtenaw Ave., **Ann Arbor**. ccanady@ozonehouse.org

Third Annual Wag & Walk 9 a.m. Dog contests, prize giveaways, silent auction, games, and dog related presentations. Free refreshments. Tickets: \$15-40. K9 Stray Rescue League, 530 Pontiac St., **Oxford**. Dogsaver.org/k9srl

Transgender Development Forum-Be All You Can Be! 1 p.m. Workshops on Self-Esteem, Voice and Presentation. Free. Transgender Michigan and Detroit

Legal Services, 429 Livernois St., **Ferndale**. 800-842-2954.

Spring Tea Party 4 p.m. Admission: \$10+. KICK, 6426 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Around the World in Gaiety Days 8:30 p.m. Washtenaw County's original mixed LGTBTA chorus. Tickets: \$12+. Out Loud Chorus, 530 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. Olconline.org

Sunday, May 19

Girls on the Run Mid-Michigan 5k 9 a.m. 5k, sponsor expo, happy hair station, team photos, and photo booth. Girls on the Run, 765 E. North St., **Owosso**. 989-723-6329. Gotmidmichigan.org

Bicycle Ride at Maybury State Park 10 a.m. Sign up and register for bike workshop. Free. Get Out And Live!, **Northville**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Book-A-Palooza: Third Annual Used Book Sale 10 a.m. 3-Day Event! Used books from good to like-new condition. Two

Church, 3633 W. Big Beaver Road, **Troy**. 248-644-5920. Troynorthminster.org

Volleyball 1 p.m. With warm weather. Located north of the Lansing Mall. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. beachlerb@sbcglobal.net

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion group with facilitator-LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over-join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Of all the words used to describe you, which one do you like most? Which do you like least? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, May 20

Career Club Two 1 p.m. Focused on planning and accountability to help move job seekers along in the process. Appropriate for any point in the job search. Highlights include goal setting, the job search toolkit, action planning, and evaluation of your process. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org



members are non-auditioned and strive to have fun and work hard together to make good music and put on a great show. The chorus has been active since 1995, and continues to unite the Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and surrounding areas in song and community.

Concert will be held at 8 p.m. May 17 and 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. May 18 in the Michigan Union's Kuenzel Room, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Saturday afternoon show is kid-friendly. Tickets range from \$12-18 and are available online at www.olconline.org or at Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor.

tents: LGBT Favorites and Best Bargains. Hundreds of books have already been collected! Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0036. Gltbstaff@gmail.com <https://facebook.com/events/510624195668309/>, gltbbooks.com

Dykes on Bikes-Cement City 11:45 a.m. You must ride in-group formation and use hand signals. (Handouts are available.) Rides are designed for all riding skill levels. Everyone is welcome to ride with us. We stop for lunch. If rides have additional cost it will be noted. Must have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement designation "CY" and be insured. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Ronda102003@yahoo.com

Battle Creek Pride Bowling Party 12 p.m. Family friendly event. Refreshments available for purchase. Tickets: \$8. Battle Creek Pride, W. Columbia Ave., **Battle Creek**. 269-420-8170. battlecreekpride@yahoo.com

Shower of Stoles Project 1 p.m. Originating in 1996 when founder Martha Juillerat, who had worked for years as a closeted Presbyterian minister in Missouri, chose to set aside her ordination when faced with the threat of being defrocked by the church in 1995. She had asked her LGBT friends and colleagues to send a stole to hang at the presbytery meeting on the days she set aside her ordination. Refreshments will be served. Northminster Presbyterian

Hotter than July Planning Meeting 6 p.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. e-kick.org

Adult Support Group 7 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Healthy Lives support group is free and open to all LGBT adults and their allies. It is professionally facilitated and designed to provide a safe, therapeutic, and LGBT-affirming environment for participants to talk freely and find the support they need. Transportation may be arranged with advance notice and driver availability. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

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

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus 7 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1020 S. Harrison Road, **Lansing**. Haoston@lccu.edu lahronline.org

Bowling Night 8 p.m. Post-bowling cocktails at Woody's Oasis, East Lansing, for "Gay Night." Michigan Pride, 3103 East Grand River Ave., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Tuesday, May 21

SWEAT 6 p.m. A weekly support/social group to encourage those of us who need to achieve wellness and or weight loss. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/

Talk Tuesdays 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Euchre at Esquire Club 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., **Lansing**. 517-487-5338. Lahronline.org

Michigan LGBT & Straight Allies of Faith Working for Justice for All 6:30 p.m. Different Lansing spiritual places each month. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. 586-801-5427. kspelman@afsc.org

Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. info@glgmc.org

Battle Creek Pride Public Issues Forum Meeting 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride, 28 Garrison, **Battle Creek**. 269-420-8170. battlecreekpride@yahoo.com

Coming Out Over Coffee 7 p.m. Casual discussion group about "coming out." Welcomes anyone at any point in their journey. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

St Mary's Lesbian and Gay Outreach Ministry 7 p.m. Affirming ministry teaching LGBT Catholics to reconcile

Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor's Out Loud Chorus will present their spring concert "Around the World in Gaiety Days." The show will involve songs of distant shores and faraway lands for a musical trip.

Out Loud Chorus is a mixed community group composed primarily of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals, though it's open to all allies and members of the LGBT community. All

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

ACT 7:30 p.m. Allies of the LGBT community coming together for support, education and action. Allies of the LGBT community coming together to support each other and our LGBT loved ones. To educate ourselves, our community and advocate for a more inclusive world. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511.

Wednesday, May 22

Coping with Disabilities Group 1 p.m. An ongoing discussion group for people who have any physical or mental illnesses who struggle with day-to-day issues such as applying for benefits, relationships, being with people who understand. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Speakers Bureau: Shirin Neshat 6 p.m. Shirin Neshat is an Iranian American artist whose widely-acclaimed video installations and photography create rich narratives that confront the complexities of gender, power, politics, and identity. Using visual metaphor and compelling sound as key elements in her work, Neshat embraces both the depth of Islamic tradition and the Western

See Happenings, page 26

MAY 30 TO JUNE 23, 2013

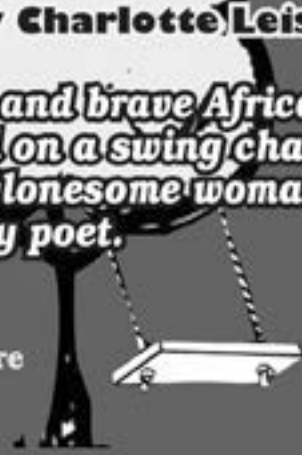
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Editor's Pick

The internationally acclaimed Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit's "Hastings Street" is a lively play with music set in Detroit's historic Black Bottom neighborhood and Paradise Valley entertainment district in the 1940s. "Hastings Street" will conclude its run May 17-19 at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the DIA.

Packed with high energy performances and the best in jazz, swing and blues, "Hastings Street" explores the lives and experiences of teenagers living in Detroit during the 1940s, an era where African-Americans first flourished in the Motor City in the face of widespread bigotry. "Hastings Street" is an exciting celebration and tribute to Detroit's rich, cultural past," said Rick Sperling, Mosaic's founder and CEO. "This poignant play is sure to touch audiences, whether they're remembering a time they hold dear or learning about this rich chapter of Detroit's (history) for the first time."

Performances are at 8 p.m. May 17 and May 18 and 4 p.m. May 19. For tickets (\$15-\$22), call 313-833-4005.

Happenings

Continued from p. 24

concepts of liberty and individuality.18+. Detroit Institute of Arts, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. Dia.org

Beloved Hearts Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. We cannot change what has happened, but we can support and walk beside you as you grieve. We can give you hugs, help you cry and be the soft place for you to fall when you feel like you cannot take another step. For LGBT and allies grieving the death of a loved one (including pets). GOAL, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Getoutandlive.me

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

Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., **Lansing**. 517-487-5338. Lahronline.org

Thursday, May 23

Jinx Monsoon Jinx Monsoon from season five of RuPaul's Drag Race performing live.18+. Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. Menjosbar.com

Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance 5:30 p.m. Bingo after at Esquire. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. spennyj@lcc.edu lahronline.org

20 Somethings 7 p.m. Social group for young adults. Followed by an evening out. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Ferndale Pride-Volunteer Planning Meetings 7:30 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony" Program: MENDELSSOHN Octet in E-flat major. ELGAR Serenade in E minor for String Orchestra. MOZART Symphony No. 35 in D major, "Haffner." Tickets: \$10+. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. May 16. 248-661-1900. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Power of Dreams Night". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. May 19. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Beaumont String Quartet" With guest pianist, Louis

Nagel. Priscilla Johnson, violin. Judith Teasdale, violin. Susan Schreiber, viola. Stefan Koch, cello. Louis Nagel, piano. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 22. 734-763-4186. Kerrytown.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Beaumont String Quartet" Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 22. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "Kaleido" Tickets: \$8+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. May 18. 734-996-8555. Blindpig.com

Caesars Windsor "Scotty McCreery: Weekend Roadtrip Tour 2013" All ages. Tickets: \$20+ Canadian. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. May 18. 800-991-7777. Caesarswindsor.com

Club Five15 "An Evening of Italian Music" Performed by Jeffrey Willets and pianist, Elisabeth Wagner. Broadway, Opera and Pop standards. Italian food can be ordered. Bring your own wine. Free. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. May 19. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Detroit Institute of Arts "Wendell Harrison's Swing Band" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 19-May 19. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Lennon & McCartney" The Detroit Symphony Pops and Michael Krajewski "Come Together" for a tribute to John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Tickets: \$19+. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 17-May 19. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Tim McGraw with Brantley Gilbert and Love and Theft" Tickets: \$29+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. May 19. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Elektricity Nightclub "Designer Drugs" 18+. Free with RSVP. Elektricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. May 23. 248-599-2212.

Fox Theatre "Legends of Hip Hop" Featuring Big Daddy Kane, Doug E Fresh, MC Lyte, Slick Rick, Sugarhill Gang, Rob Base and Whodini. Tickets: \$39.50+. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 18. 313-471-6611. OlympiaEntertainment.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Stephanie Boyd Composers Recital" Tickets: \$5-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 20. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Riverside Arts Center "Unframed" Michigan Dance Project presents an evening of contemporary dance choreographed and performed by local professional artists. Tickets: \$10-15. Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron

Street, Ypsilanti. May 17-May 18. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Jesse Cook" All ages. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. May 17. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Mary Chapin Carpenter" An acoustic evening with Mary Chapin Carpenter and Shawn Colvin. Tickets: \$30-60. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. May 21. 734-764-2538. TheArk.org

The Ark "Anais Mitchell and Jefferson Hamer-Child Ballads & Mike & Ruthy" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 16. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Stick "El Ten Eleven & Michna" All ages. Tickets: \$10-12. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 19. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Magic Stick "Lady Lamb The Bee Keeper & Xenia Rubinos" All ages. Tickets: \$8-10. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 16. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Majestic "Bennyfit 3" Featuring Phantasmagoria, Seven Birds One Stone, Ghost Heart, Katie Grace, Maria Rose and the Swiss Kicks, The Bell Beat, Six and the Sevens. All ages. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 18. 313-833-9700.

OTHER

Dearborn Symphony "Symphony Home Tour" Tickets: \$15+. Dearborn Country Club, 800 N. Military. Dearborn. 10 a.m. May 18. 313-565-2424. Dearbornsymphony.org

I Love Old Town "Pickin' in the Park" Weekly social affair and jam session for artists, musicians, and residents in the heart of Old Town. Burchard Park in Old Town, Lansing. May 7-Sep. 24. loveoldtown.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER **9 to 5, the Musical** \$15-35. Croswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through May 19. 517-264-7469. croswell.org

A Little Night Music \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Through May 19. 313-561-8587. Playersguildofdearborn.org

Anne of Green Gables \$5-8. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Junior Theatre at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. May 18-19. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

See Happenings, page 29

Classifieds

109
ANNOUNCEMENTS -
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF AFFIRMATIONS

A Michigan Nonprofit Corporation

TO: Members

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of Affirmations, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, will be held at the Affirmations community center, located on 290 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, Michigan 48220, on May 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., to consider and act on the following:

1. To present the annual report to members by the President and Executive Director; and
2. To amend the articles of incorporation, and to amend and restate the bylaws

Copies of the current and proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws will be made available as soon as possible at www.GoAffirmations.org and upon request at the Affirmations community center

Per the bylaws, members may not act at the annual meeting of members by proxy, except that a member may use a special form of proxy 'a mail ballot' for the purpose of electing directors or voting on amendments to the bylaws or articles of incorporation. Proxies for voting members are available at the Affirmations community center upon request. Voting members who do not expect to be present personally at the meeting are urged to obtain a proxy, read the proxy statement, and to complete, date, sign, and return the proxy to the Affirmations community center by mail or fax at (248) 541-1943.

Quorum at any meeting of members is 15 members, or a majority of current members, whichever is less. Therefore, in order for the meeting to be held, we encourage every member to return the proxy, even if you plan to attend. If you attend the meeting, this will void your proxy.

Questions are welcomed and should be directed to either: Mark Blanke, President or David Garcia, Executive Director.

112
ANNOUNCEMENTS -
VOLUNTEERING

Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

The Unity Michigan Coalition and BTL is seeking volunteers to assist in a community outreach project throughout the June Pride season. Volunteers will work with UMC and BTL to collect contact information from LGBTQ and allied attendees of Pride festivals who are interested in furthering nondiscrimination policies throughout the state and would like to keep informed on how they can become involved.

Call at 734-293-7200 ext. 14 or e-mail Ben@pridesource.com for more information or to sign up.

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE

- For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. \$10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. <http://www.trymassage.com>

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Contact Dave at message4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

A Couple of 80's
"THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME JOIN THE PARTY HERE, ANNEVEE."
"NO PROBLEM, RYAN."
"I MEAN, I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS AT FIRST, BUT THE OVER IT NOW."
"NERVOUS?"
"YEAH, I'VE ONLY BEEN TO ONE OTHER COSPLAY PARTY, AND WHILE, BUT THEY SEEM LIKE PRETTY EASY-GOING PEOPLE."
"THEY ARE."
"AND YOU'LL REALLY LIKE TOMORROW'S GROUP. IT'LL BE MORE OF A MIXED GROUP THAN LAST TIME."
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN... 'MIXED'?"
"MORE GAY PEOPLE? MORE WOMEN? MORE STRAIGHTS?"
"MORE SUPERVILLAINS."
"TOMORROW, THE WORLD!!"
"KNOCK YOU OUT!"

Solution to puzzle from page 30

H	A	I	R	C	R	O	W	P	L	O	D	S		
A	R	N	E	H	I	F	I	A	I	M	A	T		
R	I	T	A	I	G	O	T	L	L	A	M	A		
P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	T	R	A	I	N	E	R
S	L	O	O	P	D	I	E	T						
	N	E	E	R	C	L	I	P	S	O	N			
S	C	T	A	G	I	G	I	A	R	O	M	A		
T	H	E	B	I	G	G	E	S	T	L	O	S	E	R
R	E	A	L	M	H	E	M	I	C	O	N	Y		
A	T	L	E	A	S	T	S	P	A	R				
	G	E	O	S		S	E	N	S	E				
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U	N	I	O	N	C	I	N	C	T	H	I	S		
N	O	T	R	E	U	R	G	E	E	R	M	A		
K	N	E	E	D	E	K	E	D	S	U	E	Y		



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Dating Diet

You Like Me. You Really Like Me.



Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Can someone tell me the name of the guy my friend Pete is dating? I want to find him on Facebook, but Pete won't give me any leads. He thinks I'll go blabbing about it in my column. He's like, "I don't want the country knowing what I put in my butt."

And I'm like, "Don't be so full of yourself. It's not like you're putting anything significant up there." That's when Pete stopped returning phone calls. The other day, I was informed he's ignoring me by spending nights huddled up on a couch with his new man and a Netflix subscription. He doesn't need me. That is 'til tonight when he blows up my phone. No "hello" or "how are ya?" – he gets right down to business.

"I can't take it," he says. "Get this: My boyfriend's mad because I won't accept his friend request on Facebook."

"Then just do it."

He huffs. "That's something a man has to earn."

I can't help but laugh. "Let me get this straight. You'll open the floodgates to your ass but..."

He interrupts. "I keep a healthy boundary online. I don't have time to explain my life to him."

Pete is talking about the photos and updates about past boyfriends that he'd rather keep secret. It's a sticky situation, allowing a virtual yearbook to follow your every move. What will his new man think when he sees pics of drunk and slutty Pete in the Keys? Are those Pete's balls slipping out of his Speedos? Whoops! Pete usually finds it humorous until a new man comes along and questions his ethics. In the past, Pete has lost boyfriends due to racy pics and posts. So he's cautious about his online presence. He studies it, edits it, but ultimately admits he's too egotistical to remove flattering pics that get tons of likes. Even if his balls are showing.

"My abs are tight in that ball pic," he reminds me on the phone. "I worked out all summer for those results. I'm not taking it down. A girl can get away with a nip slip so..."

"So what's the problem?"

He hesitates. "I know where letting him on my Facebook page will lead. Next, he'll want me to update my status to state that we're in a relationship. Then what? We become that boring couple? I can't keep him by getting pregnant. I'm not that fortunate."

Still, fearing a breakup, Pete caves the next day, allowing his new man on his page. He tags him in a beach pic where he refers to him as the "the next big thing." It's a nice gesture 'til it leads to more drama.

"See? This is how Facebook ruins relationships," he says. "I announce that I'm in a relationship and I get two likes."

"Perhaps nobody saw the pic," I say. "Who cares?"

"I do. My relationship is worth more than two likes." He pauses, thinking for a second. "Shit. What if nobody thinks he's cute?"

I gasp. "I can't believe you just said that. You're basing the worth of your man on likes?"

"Yeah, it's stupid. But think about it. On Facebook, my balls are more popular than my

boyfriend. How am I supposed to live with that?"

The next day, Pete deletes the pic of his man, saying it was an unflattering pic anyway. He plans to edit it with colorful lighting, saturating the skin tones. When he removes the imperfections he'll repost it for a better response. The thought makes me cringe, but this is why Facebook added the "like" feature. It's a virtual reminder of the human competitive spirit. It keeps people coming back – the need to be included, to feel as if one's life is worth watching. But when you're wasting time and energy on your online persona do you lose what's important in the here and now? I've seen so many magical moments interrupted for a photo op. It's nice to keep friends updated on your life. But to let them determine how you look, who to date, and how to live – isn't that going too far? Pete has come to believe that people only like him if his life, his body, looks perfect. Is that common?

"I reposted the pic," Pete boasts over coffee the next day. "It got 25 likes." I merely nod, remaining neutral. "I noticed you didn't like it," he says.

"I liked it the first time you posted it," I remind him.

"Yeah? What's different?"

"I could see the real you."

“See? This is how Facebook ruins relationships. I announce that I'm in a relationship and I get two likes.”

Camelot \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Through May 19. 248-644-2075. Birminghamvillageplayers.com

Legally Blonde \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through May 18. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Rabbit Hole \$14-\$16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre's 2nd Stage, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through May 19. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Ragtime \$15-50. Ann Arbor in Concert at Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 18. 800-745-3000. a2ic.org

Robin Hood \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 17-25. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

The Beauty Queen of Leenane \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through May 19. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

The Dining Room \$5-\$12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. May 17-19. 586-268-8400. warrencivic.org

The Fox on the Fairway \$10-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Through May 18. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

The Gangster Priest \$11-\$15. Spotlight Still Got It Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. May 22-26. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

PROFESSIONAL

10:53 Previews May 16-19 & 23 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. May 16-June 16. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

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

Aida \$25-115. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. May 11-19. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

August: Osage County \$10-22. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 10-June 3. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Beauty and the Beast \$24-69. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 18-19. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com

Brimstone and Treacle \$20; \$10 May 28 only. Planet Art Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 1. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Captain Buffalo \$12-18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

Through May 19. 877-636-3320. Detroitensembletheatre.org

Catch Me If You Can \$35-80. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through May 19. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Hastings Street \$15-32. Mosaic Youth Theatre at Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 10-May 19. 313-833-4005. mosaicdetroit.org

Life Could Be a Dream \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through May 19. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

My Name is Asher Lev \$38-45. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through May 19. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest \$20; \$10 May 18, and pay-what-you-can May 23. What A Do Theatre, 4701 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through May 25. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

Staged Reading Festival By donation. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. May 24-26. magentagiraffe.org

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

The Maids \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through May 18. 313-408-7269. magentagiraffe.org/

The Mountaintop \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 2. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Turtle Island \$10 adult, \$7 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through May 18. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

ART'N'AROUND

Ariana Gallery "Annual Glass Show". Ariana Gallery, 119 S. Main St., Royal Oak. April 26-May 31. 248-546-8810. Arianagallery.com

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Anders Ruhwald at Saarinen House: The Anatomy of a Home" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 28-Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Youth Tour Explores Outdoor Art" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield

Hills. May 19-Oct. 20. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

DAM "Line by Line: Drawing Explored". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 18-May 24. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistmarket.org

Dennos Museum Center "Larry Cressman: Line Work" 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City. May 1-June 2. 231-995-1055. Dennosmuseum.org

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

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 31-June 30. Flintarts.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30-July 31.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Creativity Uncorked: Improv Chop Shop" May 16-June 13. 616-831-1000. Artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Visiting Artist: Sondra Freckleton Watercolor Workshop" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 13-May 17. 269-349-7775. Kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "May Gallery Exhibit" Rita Malone-Painter. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 30-May 28. 734-763-4186. Kerrytown.com

Krasl Art Center "Noontime Videos" 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 2-May 30. 269-983-0271. Krasl.org

Michigan State University Museum "Sun-Up to Sundown" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. April 23-June 16. Museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 11-July 28. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Society "Joe Zajac: New Work" Exhibit featuring contemporary ceramic art. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit. April 10-May 26. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

Riverside Arts Center "WISD". Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. 9:30 a.m. May 17. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

Robert Kidd Gallery "Come On Oeuvre" Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. May 3-June 1. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Florencia Pita/FP mod" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 1-June 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Intro Class: Clay Planters & Pots" Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. May 19-June 9. Uica.org

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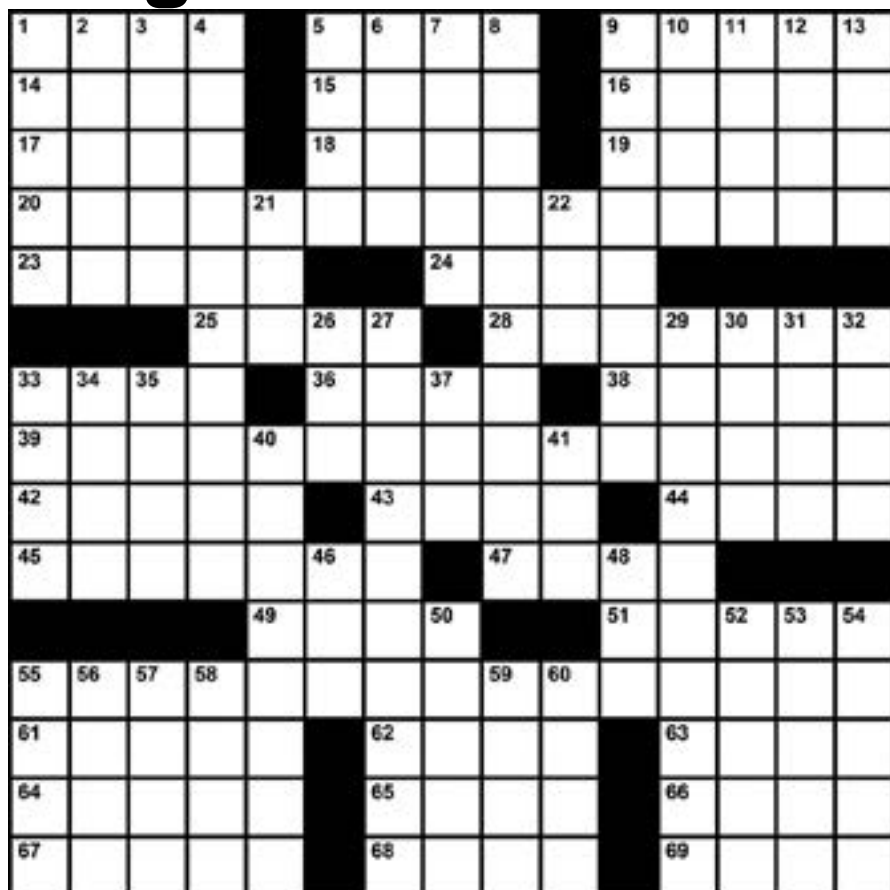
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Across

- 1 Film exposing Treat Williams
 5 Cock's cry
 9 Walks like you're fagged out
 14 Composer Thomas
 15 System for a Johnny Mathis song
 16 Get a bead on
 17 Hayworth of Hollywood
 18 "___ Rhythm"
 19 Andean pack animal
 20 Job of 55-Across
 23 Single-master
 24 Advice from Richard Simmons
 25 At no time, poetically
 28 Fastens like some neckwear
 33 Court records
 36 Colette's Parisian heroine
 38 Luncheonette lure
 39 TV show of 55-Across
 42 Specialized area
 43 Prefix meaning "half"
 44 Rabbit fur
 45 As a bottom limit
 47 Nautical pole
 49 Bygone G.M. cars
 51 Gaydar, e.g.
 55 Wife of Heidi

- 61 It could be civil
 62 Armed Forces VIP
 63 Not just one of those things
 64 Cathedral word in gay Paree
 65 Sex drive, e.g.
 66 Humorist Bombeck
 67 Hit in the family jewels
 68 Barely made, with "out"
 69 Chop ___

Down

- 1 Some musicians pluck them
 2 Moon of Uranus
 3 Emcee's task
 4 Not nuts
 5 Stroke it
 6 Latvia's capital
 7 Long ago
 8 Lines from Margaret Cho
 9 Like a queen's place
 10 Taylor of "I Shot Andy Warhol"
 11 Gulf state
 12 "There Is Nothing Like a ___"
 13 "Sex and the City" creator
 Darren
 21 Unlock, in verse
 22 Beneficiary of nepotism: Abbr.

- 26 Fabergé creation
 27 How to make an entrance
 29 Emulates breeders
 30 "I've had better ..."
 31 Dire sign
 32 Quaint negative
 33 Gillette razor product
 34 Guitarist Atkins
 35 Dark greenish blue
 37 Beginning to whiz
 40 Saw in one's head
 41 Reward for an actor between parts?
 46 Poseidon's province
 48 It hangs from your butt
 50 Smile of the smug
 52 Beatles' jacket choice
 53 Snail trail
 54 "A Room of One's Own," e.g.
 55 Male private parts, in slang
 56 Part of, as a plot
 57 Dietary, in ads
 58 Anecdotal knowledge
 59 "Bus Stop" playwright
 60 Reproduced without sex, for short

See solution on page 27

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