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20 Years

Between THE Lines™

Beloved Activist Suffers Burns, Loses Home In Fire

Natalie Maines Talks Dixie Chicks, Gay Fans

“I’d have no problem with the Legislature creating a vehicle for same-sex marriage. It’s just part of modern life.”

– Former Attorney Gen. Mike Cox, Page 6



Abigail Stauffer Unfiltered

Ann Arbor Musician On New Album, Taylor Swift & Being True To Herself

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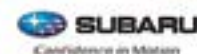
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20 Abigail Stauffer: Unfiltered



"We both know how it feels to be ***hated just for who we are.***"

– Natalie Maines , pg. 18

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HELP WANTED

Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

The Unity Michigan Coalition and BTL are 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.

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VOL 2121 • MAY 23, 2013 • ISSUE 817

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

11920 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200

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Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



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Beloved Activist Suffers Burns, Loses Home, Car In Fire

BY BTL STAFF

OAK PARK - Jay Kaplan, staff attorney at the Michigan ACLU LGBT Project, suffered burns and lost his entire house and car in a fire May 18. He was taken from the scene to Beaumont Hospital by EMS and soon transferred to



Jay Kaplan

Detroit Receiving Hospital's burn unit where he was treated for first and second degree burns, mostly on his legs. He was released May 20 and is currently staying with his parents.

Mike Steinberg and Shelli Weisberg of the Michigan ACLU released a statement

detailing the chain of events. "On May 18 at about 3 p.m., Jay was hooking up a new propane canister to the grill on his deck. He heard some hissing coming from the line, so he tightened it up and thought everything was okay. However, when he lit the grill, the flame extended down to the tank and the deck immediately caught on fire. Jay stepped into fire to try to shut off the canister, but it was too hot and he went to get a fire extinguisher. It is during this attempt to turn off the canister that he suffered the burns. The fire spread extremely fast and the flames soon reached 25 feet high. The fire department came quickly, but Jay's house is pretty much destroyed, as is his car, which was parked in the garage. Fortunately, nobody else was hurt."

Fund Created

The LGBT community's outpouring of support for Kaplan has been impressive. In addition to hundreds of social media posts, cards, and emails, fellow activists at Unity Michigan quickly set up a fund online to raise money for Kaplan. In less than 24 hours the fund raised over \$6,000. "Jay Kaplan gives so much to all of us. It's our turn to give back. After suffering burns and a loss of property, friends of Jay Kaplan decided to set up this fund in lieu of sending flowers. Please contribute today to show Jay your support," reads the statement on the front page of the donation site www.gofundme.com/2zhso0.

Kaplan is expected to be out of work at least several weeks while recovering from the burns.

Visit *The Jay Kaplan Wellness Fund* site www.gofundme.com/2zhso0

Beyond The Bar: Motor City Pride Kickoff To Showcase Local Graphic Arts And More

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - Don't you love when little celebrations make it big? That's what happened to Beyond the Bar, the premiere Motor City Pride kick-off event taking place at Start Gallery, 206 E. Grand River, Detroit on June 6 at 7 p.m.

Beyond the Bar: An LGBT Art and Design showcase started out three years ago as a small, one-day showing where members of the design profession who happened to be LGBT could come together and celebrate their work.

The title Beyond the Bar comes from creator Alexander Harvilla. "I get tired of people thinking that gay people are all about going to the bar, and the stereotypes of the work we do. There are gay people in every profession. This is all about art first, LGBT second," Harvilla said.

This year it's the opening night event for Motor City Pride, complete with art, appetizers, beer and wine and music by DJ Lena. Art will be auctioned off for the benefit of the Ruth Ellis Center, and entrance to the party is just a recommended donation of \$5.

The first year featured 14 design projects. This year there are over 70.

"This year, thanks to one of our event partners 'The AdCraft Club of Detroit,' some of the local area's largest ad agencies are contributing work that contained the involvement of an LGBT individual. Knowing that the local advertising community is so supportive of the growth/relevance with the careers of their LGBT employees is amazing and truly encompasses what this show is about. I don't want to ruin the surprise of what larger campaigns we may recognize, but it's pretty amazing," Harvilla said.

"My absolute favorite aspect of the show is that every year, I hear attendees gush over recognizable work. The fact that attendees have these real, 'wow' moments not only illustrate the importance of the LGBT community, but also showcase the acceptance, tolerance, diversity and strength of the Detroit community as a whole.

"We all know that stereotypes exist everywhere and the LGBT community



Alexander Harvilla above founded Beyond The Bar: An LGBT Art and Design showcase three years ago. This year it will be the premiere kick-off event for Motor City Pride in downtown Detroit June 6. To left is the ad created by GM for BTL 2012 Pride edition that took off virally around the globe. BTL file photo: Crystal Proxmire.

Metro Detroit Area."

Among the exhibits are pieces by well-known local artists and designers. David Wysocki, creative director at Doner Advertising, has pieces showcased for brands that people will likely recognize. Chris Gorski of Detroit GT started his own, local Detroit T-shirt company and has done a lot of graphic design work.

Harvilla is pleased to recognize the work of Lorenzo King for the third year in a row. "During the first showcase, Lorenzo had just graduated college and displayed his student work. This year, he is displaying many of his professional pieces. I think it is amazing to notice how much he has grown as a designer over the span of this showcase, and have hopes that Beyond the Bar had an influence with his growth," Harvilla said.

AIGA Detroit and other partners like The Detroit Design Festival, the AdCraft Club of Detroit, Between The Lines, Motor City Pride, Wink Detroit and Ruth Ellis Center, are making the Beyond the Bar opening possible.

Learn more at www.detroit.aiga.org/beyondthebar.

is not immune. Going through school and college, I noticed that many people would stereotype the career choices of LGBT individuals and assume we were all confined to one area of thinking. There are many different methods to debunk stereotypes. With this show, we used this simple approach: 'instead of telling people we are a diverse community of professionals, let's show them,'" said Harvilla.

"What I also love about this showcase is that it debunks the stereotypes behind Metro Detroit as well," he continued. "So many think that we live in a depressed, ruined community. Beyond the Bar takes a stand with the local creative community and showcases an even broader message around the creative energy and accomplishments of the



Volunteer at the 2012 Holland Pride event are looking forward to the outdoor event.

Holland To Move Outdoors For Pride

Holland area's PRIDE Festival will go outside for the first time ever on June 29, with booths, food and live free entertainment at Centennial Park from 1-6 p.m. And then the festival will go inside Park Theater, 248 S. River, from 6-10 p.m., when more free entertainment will be featured.

It will be the biggest PRIDE festival ever in Holland, said organizers from Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Holland/Lakeshore, who began planning the expanded festival shortly after the doors were closed on last year's indoor PRIDE event.

"We wanted to expand this year's festival to show the area's lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual community that they have broad support and many reasons to celebrate with pride," said Jim Larkin, chairperson of the Holland Area PRIDE Festival Board. "And we are very thankful for those who have lined up to show such support, especially our premier sponsor, Herman Miller."

Brian Walker, president and CEO of Herman Miller, said, "We are proud to be a premier sponsor of this year's Holland PRIDE Festival. Herman Miller has a long history as an inclusive workplace and we are committed to encouraging and supporting an inclusive community. Welcoming, respecting, and valuing people for their abilities and talents is critical to the future of our company, and the region. We are pleased to be joining with many others in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of the LGBT community in the greater Holland area."

In Centennial Park from 1-6 p.m., numerous organizations and businesses are supporting PRIDE by displaying and making available informational resources for festival participants. Live performances by the West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus, lesbian folk rocker Liz Snavelly and other musicians will be provided at the gazebo in the park. A silent auction will also be held of items donated by merchants, including an Aeron office chair, with a retail value of \$999, from Herman Miller. Refreshments from food booths can be purchased by festival participants, as well as alcoholic beverages across River Street at the Park Theater.

A happy hour from 6-7 p.m. will kick-off the evening's fun (18 years of age and older) at the Park Theater and will be followed by nationally known comedian Mimi Gonzales and dancing.

"Gay PRIDE month (June) should be a time of celebration and recognition and we didn't want it to pass in Holland without letting our LGBT youth and adults know they are loved, respected and supported," said Mary DeRidder, PFLAG member and vice chair of the Holland Area PRIDE Festival Board. "What better way to do that than with a daylong celebration of their talents and contributions."

For more information on the festival, go to www.hollandareapride.com or email hollandareapride@gmail.com.

West Michigan Pride Will Celebrate 25 Years June 15

BY CAROL TANIS

GRAND RAPIDS – In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, West Michigan Pride is returning to its roots and also adding a parade this year. Pride will be held on the Calder Plaza, June 15, from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a "Parade of Pride" will take place the following day, June 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"It all started downtown at Rosa Parks Circle and the Calder so we thought it would be fitting if we brought the event back there for the 25th Anniversary," said West Michigan Pride President Amy Tabor. "It's so exciting."

New this year is a charge of a \$1 to enter the festival. "It's always been free or visitors could drop a donation in a jar, said Tabor. "But we decided to charge one dollar because it costs a lot of money to put Pride on every year and I don't think a dollar is too much. I think most people can afford that."

Tabor said as in recent years, they're



Grand Rapids was represented at the 1993 March on Washington.

expecting to have approximately 100 booths sponsored by local nonprofit, gay-supportive groups, as well booths featuring small businesses and vendors

with items and souvenirs available for purchase. Sandwiches, snacks and beer will be for sale on site.

See Grand Rapids, page 16

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Is There Room For The 'R' In LGBT?

Movement Among Republicans To Support Same Sex Marriage Hopeful Sign For State

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Republicans. Where do they fit in the LGBT community and are they needed to achieve full equality? That is an ever-evolving question as gay Republican groups grow; Republican officials change their mind on equality policies and new polling shows growing support for same sex marriage among self-identified Republicans.

In the first few months of 2013, as debate was taking place leading up to the U.S. Supreme Court cases that took up marriage equality, a number of prominent U.S. Republicans including Ohio Senator Rob Portman (he became the first sitting Republican Senator to publicly support marriage equality), Illinois Senator Mark Kirk (the 50th U.S. Senator to support equality) and former Utah Governor and primary candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination John Huntsman, all declared support for full marriage equality.

In fact, one of the attorneys in one of the two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this past March, Theodore B. Olson, is a conservative Republican who served as Solicitor General in the second Bush administration. In 2009 he teamed up with an unlikely partner, attorney David Boies, to fight the passage of Prop. 8 in California that sought to ban same sex marriage.

The two attorneys had been on opposite ends of the 2000 Gore V. Bush battle. Olson

Island was one and it had the unanimous support of all the state's Republican Senators. Minnesota saw a prominent state Senate Republican move to a pro-equality stance, possibly risking re-election in 2014, and the third state, Delaware, also saw limited Republican support from the Delaware State House.

Back home in Michigan one can find optimism in a recent poll and from a well known anti-gay foe, former attorney general Mike Cox, that indicates it's more than President Obama "evolving" on same sex marriage. Cox recently told the Detroit News he supports same sex marriage.

A Transgender Conservative Fights For Both Causes

As a conservative political independent, Michigander Arlene Kish often takes flack for supporting right-wing causes. The outspoken transgender activist has helped



Former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox now says he would support marriage equality after leading the fight to take away domestic partner benefits following the passage of the 2004 anti-gay marriage amendment.

Kish grew up in a family of Democrats, and spent the Vietnam era in college. "I was very idealistic and progressive," she said. "As I got into the workforce and felt the union hindered my advancement and rewarded those with seniority, rather than merit and hard work, it began to change me. Getting involved in the business side, rather than the labor side gave me a new perspective. I suppose real life experience changed my political views."

Kish said that far-right individuals like, "the Santorums, Perrys, Palins, and Bachmanns need to go away," but that there are conservatives who have more diverse worldviews. She said she knows several other LGBT conservatives, some of whom are open about their political beliefs and some who keep them hidden. Regardless of the strife her views cause, Kish said she is loyal to the LGBT community.

"I stress that I fight for equality and inclusion with conservative friends and acquaintances who disagree. To continue to dialogue only with people who agree is just preaching to the choir. Our government is for all the people, not just those who agree with the party in power. The same is true for our LGBT community. I would like to see more acceptance of diverse opinions, so we can continue to fight for those issues that we all believe in," she said.

GOProud

Nationwide there are two prominent organizations that serve LGBT conservatives – GOProud and the Log Cabin Republicans. GoProud was formed in 2009 in Washington, DC to focus on federal-level political action.

"Because marriage has been a state issue since the founding of our country, we have had no official position on marriage or relationship recognition," states the group's website. It goes on to say, "We are firmly committed to winning hearts and minds, which is why we understand that not everyone who doesn't support marriage for gay couples is automatically a bigot or homophobe. We understand that there are people of deep faith who may have religious objections to marriage. We respect those differences and believe that no church or religious institution should ever be forced to solemnize a marriage that is against its teachings."

GOProud's founder and Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia did get involved in Michigan politics recently when Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema was under fire for sharing inaccurate, anti-gay propaganda on his Facebook page. LaSalvia said in a

"The tide is not only turning in the Republican Party. As more Republicans come out in favor of LGBT equality, the gay community also faces a tough choice in how to respond to those who once stood against equality"

countless transgender women blossom and has volunteered for many LGBT causes. She also worked as a poll volunteer for the Mitt Romney Presidential Campaign, and has lost friends because of it.

"I am ridiculed because of my beliefs and called names like 'republitard' and 'tea-bagger,'" Kish said. "Although I spend more time than most advocating for not only transgender issues, but issues involving the total LGBT community, I am demonized for my conservative views when it comes to limited government and fiscal responsibility. I tend to keep my mouth shut on issues I feel passionate about until I just can't stand it anymore. Then, it seems, I get myself in trouble."

Though she voted Democratic in the Michigan Governor's race, on a national level she could not support President Barack Obama. "I just felt that our economy and foreign policy were more important issues on the

national level, and in my opinion, the Obama administration hasn't addressed or worked to resolve the problems in these areas that affect everyone including LGBT people. There is no question that the Obama administration has done more for our community than any other, and although a national policy may set the tone, ultimately these changes happen on the state and local level.

"I believe that religion should not be a part of government. I believe in a smaller, less invasive government. I believe in freedom of speech. I personally am pro-life, but understand choice. I vehemently dislike late-term abortions. I dislike government micro-managing our lives. I believe we do need a safety net for our citizens. I think healthcare needs to be fixed, but Obamacare is a disaster. I don't believe we addressed the real issues. I am a 'show me' type of person. I feel we keep hearing promises from our politicians (I call them all the ruling elite/people of privilege - both parties) yet never see results."



Arlene Kish identifies as a transgender conservative.

has proven to be a tireless spokesperson for marriage equality and has often been shunned by members of his party because of his position.

In April into early May, three more states moved to approve marriage equality. Rhode



Members of the Michigan Log Cabin Republicans sporting anti-Obama T-shirts.

statement, “Conservatives in Michigan get it. They understand that while we can disagree on issues like marriage, our movement and our party cannot and should not tolerate rank anti-gay bigotry.”

Log Cabin Republicans Rebrand

The Log Cabin Republicans formed in 1977 in California when a bill called the Briggs Initiative attempted to ban gays from teaching in public schools. This organization has grown and now has a staffed office in Washington, DC, plus chapters in over half of the states. Recently a new Executive Director, Gregory T. Angelo, took over and with him came some new branding and new energy. Their new logo incorporates both the equality symbol and the red roof of a log cabin.

“Though we’ve existed for decades, we’ve never had an iconic image associated with our organization. It was time to change that. As the new executive director of this organization, and one with a background in marketing and communications, I felt this was an ideal time to relaunch Log Cabin Republicans and create a strong, identifiable brand for the organization that we could implement at the national level and throughout our local chapters around the country,” Angelo said.

“*For the sake of the LGBT movement and future generations I would argue we extend our hand. This will not be easy, but it is absolutely necessary.*”

The re-branding and the changing of political tides seem to be paying off for the Log Cabin Republicans. “More and more gay Americans are coming to the realization that you don’t need to be a Democrat if you’re gay, and they’re standing up and making their voices heard as proud gay Republicans or as straight Republican allies who support equality. Our membership continues to grow across the country; since we announced our relaunch I’ve received messages from people across the U.S. eager to start up their own chapters of Log Cabin Republicans in their community,” Angelo said.

“At the same time, growing Republican support for our issues has bolstered our membership. Right now there are two sitting members in the House - Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Congressman Richard Hanna - and Senator Rob Portman stating they support marriage equality. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Hanna, and Congressman Dent support the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA). And we’ve seen milestones on the local level like every Republican in the Rhode Island State Senate supporting marriage equality. Collectively it’s buoyed our membership and shown gay Americans around the country that there are fair-minded Republicans out there and they deserve our support.”

- Executive Director Affirmations Dave Garcia

Log Cabins in Michigan

In Michigan the Log Cabin Republicans have faced some organizational challenges. Joe Sylvester, originally of Bay City, resigned as chair after three years of service and moved to Florida. In a recent BTL interview Sylvester said, “There are only two or three (people) really active” in the group. He said that one board member passed away in an auto accident and another left to become a liberal. When Sylvester moved, former Treasurer Matt Pascoe was elected chair. Pascoe did not return requests for comment.

Sylvester said the group had 15-20 members throughout the state, “almost all younger.” He explained the size by emphasizing, “Keep in mind the nature of it. A lot of people have to hide...it’s a delicate balancing act.”

In spite of the small group size, there was difficulty getting everyone on the same page. Sylvester said he would send out surveys on issues and members would not agree. “There was rarely consensus on anything. Everyone had different opinions on the issues. Like with gay marriage, the libertarians said it should be left to the states.”

The group did not endorse anyone for President in the most recent election, nor have they done much lobbying, though they did push out an anti-Agema message to members, calling for the party to eliminate homophobia.


In 2011 a couple members went to the Mackinac Conference where Sylvester estimates that about 50 to 100 people signed up for more information about the group. When asked how he responded to people giving him a hard time about being a gay Republican, Sylvester said matter-of-factly, “I’m combative as hell so it doesn’t bother me.”

The Move To Oust Agema

One thing that most gay conservative groups have agreed on is that the homophobic language of the far-right is harmful to people and the party. In response to Dave Agema’s Facebook post, over 50 self-identified Michigan Republicans signed an online petition calling for his resignation. Of those, the Unity Michigan Coalition found over 20 Republicans who were elected officials or had some recognized position in the party, such as precinct delegates or college Republicans. Unity Michigan listed them on their website and sent them thank you postcards. Among those on the list are Tom Isaacs, chair of the Oakland County Young Republicans, Brian Szymtke, chair of the Wayne County Teenage Republicans and director of

See Republicans, page 8

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ITALIAN BISTRO

► Republicans

Continued from p. 7

the 2012 Livonia Republican Victory Center, Justin Bis, chair of the Northern Michigan University College Republicans, Alicea Rice, vice chair of the University of Michigan College Republicans and Ted Woodcock, political director of the Michigan Federation of College Republicans.

Alicia Ping, a Washtenaw County Commissioner and Republican Precinct Delegate was among those who signed. "I think the party is moving in the right direction by openly talking about inclusion," Ping said. "To continue having a check list on whether you can be a 'real' Republican is not working. The party needs to remind itself what its core values are and go with that. Limiting party



involvement by skin color, race, sexual orientation, and/or social litmus tests have not been successful ways to grow the party.

Anti-gay comments on former Michigan State Rep. Dave Agema's Facebook page has led to an online petition calling for him to be removed as a National Republican Committeeman by other Republicans.

"If the GOP made an open statement to the effect of

'we welcome the LGBT community,' that in itself is not going to open the flood gates and immediately grow the party, but it will make it okay for LGBT community members who hold Republican values to say proudly I am a member of the Republican Party."

Ping does not consider herself an activist, and has no other involvement with the LGBT movement, but felt signing the petition was important. "I don't think I can be credited for anything of significance in being a voice for the LGBT community, but I certainly will not stand for discrimination of any sort," she said.

The complete list can be found at http://salsa.dontchangeyourself.com/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=10188.

Mike Cox Comes Around

In April Agema's comments even provoked one of the gay community's most ardent opposers to speak against him, and to come out in support of same sex marriage. Former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox led the charge to take away domestic partner benefits after the passage of the 2004 state constitutional amendment (Prop. 2) defining marriage as "between a man and a woman or similar union for any purpose." In a Detroit News interview published April 8, Cox said his views had "evolved."

"I'd have no problem with the Legislature creating a vehicle for same-sex marriage," Cox

The following shows how Republican voters have changed their views in just a year's time:

	Strong GOP	Lean GOP	Difference
Illegal to fire or deny housing	59.5%	72.9%	+13.4%
Hate crimes legislation	59.2%	68.8%	+9.6%
Domestic partnership benefits	46.8%	54.2%	+7.4%
Hospital visitation	82.0%	89.6%	+7.6%
Medical decisions for a partner	79.4%	83.3%	+3.9%
Inheritance rights	62.1%	75.0%	+12.9%
Adoption rights	58.6%	73.0%	+14.4%
Marriage	33.3%	43.8%	+10.5%
Civil unions	62.1%	77.1%	+15.0%
Recognition of out of state marriages	40.5%	52.1%	+11.6%

Source: The Glengariff Group of Chicago did a poll of 600 Michigan registered voters earlier this month.

Extension of the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act has majority support among all thirty demographic groups listed in the cross-tabulation report.

said. He went on to say about gay marriage, "It's just part of modern life."

Speaking about Agema, Cox told the Detroit News on May 13, "I like Dave and I find him entertaining at times, but posting the rants of a white supremacist using 40-year-old data hurts the party," and "We're conservative, but that doesn't always mean we need to be backward thinking."

What The Polls Show

Polls have steadily shown an increase in support for equality in Michigan. Most recently The Glengariff Group of Chicago did a poll of 600 Michigan registered voters showing unprecedented numbers that now indicate a majority of the state's population supports full marriage equality. The poll looked at ten areas where LGBT people lack equality, going beyond the much-discussed topic of marriage.

Support for marriage has gone up 12 percent overall from last year, with 56.8 percent of voters in Michigan now in favor of same-sex marriage. Fifty-four percent want to fix the state Constitution to reverse the 2004 ban on recognizing same sex relationships.

The results are optimistic and indicate that bi-partisan support for marriage equality is growing. Those leaning Republican support 9 of the 10 issues, and among strong Republicans, 8 of the 10 issues have majority support.

"The tide is clearly turning as support for

civil marriage equality in Michigan continues to surge forward. With the largest increase over the last year coming from Republican and Independent voters, and support among Republicans doubling, this poll proves that fundamental fairness is not a partisan issue," said Equality Michigan Director Emily Dievendorf.

Two similar polls were conducted in Arizona and Virginia this month as well, with both now showing majority support for marriage equality. You can learn more about these polls here www.freedomtomarry.org/blog/entry/new-polls-demonstrate-majority-support-for-marriage-in-arizona-michigan-and.

All In This Together

The tide is not only turning in the Republican Party. As more Republicans come out in favor of LGBT equality, the gay community also faces a tough choice in how to respond to those who once stood against equality.

At the Affirmations Spring Bash in April, Executive Director Dave Garcia provided some thoughts on the changing tide, giving guidance on how to continue the pattern of growth and acceptance. "Like many others I get angry when a Republican, who has caused our community great harm, now need only say, 'I have a gay nephew or daughter or neighbor and my views have evolved.' Part of me wants to see them punished, some sort of reparations or public apology, community service at your local LGBT center - something," he said. "We can either behave as Lincoln and forgive our enemies and welcome them into this more perfect union or we can pull a Bush/Cheney. For the sake of the LGBT movement and future generations I would argue we extend our hand. This will not be easy, but it is absolutely necessary."

Additional reporting by Susan Horowitz.

On other issues included in the poll on marriage equality in Michigan the following was found:

90.7 percent feel that partners should be guaranteed a right to visit their partners in the hospital.

84.3 percent feel that partners should be allowed to make end of life medical decisions.

75.4 percent want to extend inheritance rights to deceased gay/lesbian partners.

74.4 percent favor same legal rights for adoption as heterosexual parents.

69.9 percent believe there should be hate crimes protections for LGBT people. Extension of the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act has majority support among all thirty demographic groups listed in the cross-tabulation report including 56 percent of Strong Republican voters, 60 percent of lean Republican voters, and 64 percent of Independent voters.

65.5 percent believe in domestic partner benefits for university employees.

The entire report, which was done independently by the Glengariff Group, can be downloaded at <http://eqmi.us/513lgbt>.

Obituary Jo Ellen Ploeger, 1944-2013



Jo Ellen Ploeger, 69, died on May 14 after a long struggle with cancer. She was born in Huntington, W. Virginia to the late Durward and Doris Nichols. She had worked as a physical therapy technician until her health forced her into retirement.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit in Ferndale was a focal point in Ploeger's life. She had served as a deacon in the church and was involved in all church activities. She and Karen Dillaman, her life partner of 33 years, founded the Walking Together Ministry of MCC Detroit, a support

group to assist people facing life-threatening illness.

"She was Christian in the most positive sense, with faith as the cornerstone of her being. Faith was so much a natural part of her that she didn't have to broadcast it," wrote longtime friend Ellen Simmons. "Her Cherokee background added another layer to her spiritual makeup. If Jo was part of ceremonies such as Holy Unions, she would include that element of spirituality in a deeply touching way."

Ploeger is survived by Dillaman, children Stephen and Richard Ploeger, grandchildren Jaqueline and Wyatt and siblings Pam Boucher, Robert Nichols and Laura Nichols.

See more Relections on Jo Ellen Ploeger by Ellen Simmons below and view commemorative artwork by Charles Alexander, www.PrideSource.com.

Viewpoint: Remembering An Extraordinary Soul: Jo Ellen Ploeger

BY ELLEN SIMMONS

It is said that for every occasion, there's an appropriate song. One song running through my mind is 'For Good,' from "Wicked". The refrain goes: "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good."

I believe many of us who knew Jo Ellen Ploeger, who died last week after a long, determined, courageous struggle against cancer would agree. And, as I read numerous Facebook tribute posts of friends and colleagues of Jo Ellen from all over the country, I realize just what a quiet difference one person can make in the lives of not just other people, but an entire community.

Our LGBT rainbow community was especially blessed by her presence, her steady, prayerful activism. Quiet. Steady. Sustained. Encouraging.

Jo, who passed just one year short of 70, was a loving partner to Karen Dillaman for 33 years. She was also a loving mom, grandma, and an energetic sibling. She loved dogs, cats, sports, handsome women. She had a fantastic gift for seeing into and right through a person - a strong, two-spirited, Native American connection to the spirit world.

We celebrated Jo's memory at Saturday's crowded memorial service, MCC-Detroit. In our collective hearts, minds, memories the life of this most extraordinary woman was honored. For me, as a church member and a choir member with her, she was the most deeply spiritual person I've ever encountered.

Jo was Christian in the most positive sense, with faith as the cornerstone of her being. This

distinctive faith was so much a natural part of her that she didn't have to broadcast it. If you talked to Jo for more than a couple of minutes, you would know she loved and walked with God every minute of her life.

Her Cherokee background added another layer to her spiritual makeup. If Jo was part of ceremonies such as Holy Unions, she would include that element of spirituality in a deeply touching, uniquely personal way. Jo spent many years as a MCCD deacon, and as such Jo truly was the spiritual backbone and heart of the church.

She made welcome every person who walked through the sanctuary doors.

Jo Ellen Ploeger touched my life from the moment we met in 1988. In 2004, she and Karen Dillaman provided loving strength and personal care when I struggled with breast cancer. They let me stay at their home, and Jo faced the fear with me when we took my bandage off for the first time to see the surgical scars and empty space.

Jo went through the 'cancer experience' three times herself and once with Karen. She knew I needed loving support to handle my own personal encounter. These two determined women went on to found Walking Together Ministry of MCC Detroit, a support group, assisting people facing life-threatening illness.

As loving, committed partners Karen and Jo were outstanding at raising money for the American Cancer Society and at helping folks get through what is, for many, the darkest hours of their lives.

See Remembering Jo, page 14

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What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



Patient Information

STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)
(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information,
please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark "tea-colored" urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John's wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

► Remembering Jo

Continued from p. 9

Jo laughed often, loved a good time, especially if it involved dressing in costumes! She and Karen hosted amazing gatherings, including their 25th anniversary party at the Detroit Zoo. Jo's wicked sense of humor was legendary, matching her heart's capacity for love boundless.

She resolutely walked her own path and was more true to herself than anyone else I've ever known. Jo was a person whom you never forget. She was the person who brought a smile to every face whenever she walked into a room. Once you met her, you

Jo was Christian in the most positive sense, with faith as the cornerstone of her being. This distinctive faith was so much a natural part of her that she didn't have to broadcast it. If you talked to Jo for more than a couple of minutes, you would know she loved and walked with God every minute of her life.

were affected by her from that moment on.

Jo is a reminder of what the human race can be when we are our best selves. Our thoughts and sympathies go to Karen, who loved Jo best for so many decades, her sons, grandson, siblings.

After Jo passed away, Karen wrote: "I spent the last hour going through little slips of paper in Jo's Bible. This one made me smile. It's so "her": 'Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it - Mark Twain'. I know that when Jo walked into heaven, everyone smiled.

We have all been blessed and transformed by Jo, no matter how long we knew her. This one person truly did change our world – for the better. God bless you, Jo. Eternal peace and presence.

Ellen Simmons, recently retired from the Detroit Public Library system, formerly head of the Music & Performing Arts Main Public Library section, is a member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit



THINKING OUT LOUD BY ABBY DEES

It's happening here, it's happening there, it's happening regardless of politics.

In the information packet for my recent trip to Cuba, I immediately noticed this small caveat: "While Cuba is becoming more and more open-minded with regard to cultural diversity, same-sex partners may not feel as open to express themselves. Havana is quite cosmopolitan in this regard, but smaller villages are not as accustomed to open expression or affection by LGBT community members." It must have taken some poor soul hours to craft this in a way that didn't sound like this: "Don't act too gay in Cuba."

Imagine my surprise when I met our guide for the day in the town of Remedios, four hours from Havana. With his purse and eyeliner, Marco practically floated along as he pointed out the sights. Though we weren't on an LGBT-themed tour, Marco had no problem stopping regularly to admire the male eye-candy (lots of that in Cuba), and answering our questions about LGBT rights as comfortably as he described the lovely colonial architecture. I was struck that the tourist office had no problem sending someone so – shall we say – fabulous to lead a random group of Americans around. I couldn't see this happening back home. Things have changed a lot in Cuba.

Despite the supposed social equality that Cuba's government has espoused since the 1959 communist revolution, until only recently, LGBT people have been outright persecuted. It's ironic that just as McCarthy was rooting out gays and lesbians for being (of course) communist sympathizers in the U.S., Castro considered homosexuality a decadent product of capitalism. You really couldn't win. We Americans mellowed out around the pinko/gay thing somewhat, but the Cuban Communist party was calling homosexuality "incompatible with the revolution" well into

Cuba, I'm Proud Of You!

the '70s and sending people to labor camps for it. Many who fled the island were LGBT people escaping brutality and imprisonment.

Only in the 1980s did the official government line begin to change. Even Castro has publically apologized for his homophobia, though he stopped short of starting a PFLAG chapter. You might have heard that Mariela Castro – Fidel's niece and the daughter of current president, Raul – is a leading LGBT activist, and fiercely challenging her father's own policies (she's traveling the U.S. speaking on LGBT rights as I write). One wonders if, kind of like Republican Senator Rob Portman, Fidel and Raul's political positions softened when a family member told them to get over it. Sometimes when it comes to family, human nature trumps political ideology.

Marco, our lovely guide, tells me over coffee that he feels very free to sashay through Remedios. He is famous there, by the way, for designing the elaborate costumes used in the town's famous annual festival, Las Parrandas, and no one is under any illusions that he just hasn't found the right girl. But he also admitted that Remedios is an artsy place, and like all artsy places, there's some permission to be a bit queer, so to speak.

I asked if he felt he was treated as an equal in Cuba, and he proudly replied, "¡Sí!" And same-sex marriage? I got a terse, "No." However, in five years, "és posible."

Same here, I thought, even though I've now

lost count of how many states got same-sex marriage this year alone. Full equality isn't quite around the corner for either of us, but it's in sight. As I sipped my cafe con leche in that very different country, talking with Marco, I pondered how so many different paths can take you to the same place.

Later during my trip another local said to me, "The successes of the revolution" – and there were some, despite great failures – "had little to do with communism and everything to do with the Cuban people." That is a bigger statement than he likely meant in the moment. It made me think about our own LGBT revolution – hopefully a more peaceful and

Despite the supposed social equality that Cuba's government has espoused since the 1959 communist revolution, until only recently, LGBT people have been outright persecuted.

inclusive one than Fidel's – and how it has nothing to do with politics or even national identities. Instead, it has everything to do with each of us being honest about who we really are, doing it with courage, and standing together. Happy Pride, everyone, whether you're in Cuba, the U.S. or anywhere else.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com



Whose Nose Knows Best?



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

In the movie “The Ten Percent Solution” master sleuth Sherlock Holmes visits shrink Sigmund Freud for some desperate psychoanalytical advice on how to break a cocaine addiction.

(Whether Holmes’ up-the-nosegay 10 Percenter is occasioned by sharing close flatmate quarters with his amanuensis Dr. John H. Watson, at 221B Baker Street, is left up to the viewer’s imagination or wishful thinking.)

Although Holmes is fictional – the creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – who actually did believe in the existence of garden fairies – Freud (1856 to 1939), innovator of guilt riddance through free association and dream interpretation, was a bona fide MD.

(Ask anyone with an unresolved oedipal complex, presently paying a therapist \$150 an hour.)

Freud himself used cocaine at a time when its use as a panacea for many human ills was legal. He soon learned that cocaine is addictive, but was fortunately able to stop its usage in time. (Unlike contemporary Dr. William Halstead, famous in the 1880s for introducing life-saving surgical and gowning procedures to hospital operating theaters. Halstead’s use proved to be a lifelong curse.)

Time now to blow the nose, so to speak, on Freud. He actually had something of a fixation for the nose and its place in the grand physical, mental, sexual scheme of things. (Break out the Handiwipes! Mary.)

Freud borrowed these nasal notions from a neurologist named Wilhelm Fliess, who dabbled in numerology, and believed that men had sexual cycles like women’s menstrual periods. (As for my own sexual cycles: they seem to come and go.)

Fliess coined the term bisexual, and said there’s a link between the nose and gonads. Rewiring the nasal passage can cure sexual shortcomings, said Fliess. At first, Freud was taken with Fliess, admitting to something akin to a crush, but was soon embarrassed by his colleague’s, er, wacky post-nasal drip, and dropped him.

But Fliess was on to something. There is a connection between the nose and gonads; and getting scent-induced nookie was obvious in gay bars of the 60s and 70s. Walk into any one of these aroma outbacks and it was a contest of the strength of my perfume vs the stamina of your cologne. (Leather bars had other, albeit ruffian, standards of aromatic conflict.)

I still wear patchouli, which long ago was once “the scent du jour.” It’s inexpensive and smells like fresh laundry drying in the summer sun. Other popular scents were Polo, Canoe, Pepper, Gravel, with pebbles in the bottom of the bottle. A few butch dykes (no doubt on limited fashion budgets) sported Old Spice.

Today’s rage is phenomone spray. It’s designed for male moths that are attracted to other male moths – usually found fluttering about the same busy streetlights. (In 1989, scientists discovered that the nose has a vomeronasal organ that can detect over 200 human scents.)

Recently I sprayed myself through three-quarters of a \$30 bottle of phenomone content. I stood a lot, smiled a lot, moved about a lot. Flapped a lot. Spreading phenos. Nothing happened. I left alone, followed by an alley cat of unspecified gender and intention.

I awoke smelling like an unlaced gym shoe. Its seems everybody’s vomeronasal organ had petered out on me.

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► West Michigan Pride

Continued from p. 5

The festival will kick off with an opening ceremony followed by on-stage entertainment featuring a wide range of music genres including rock, hip-hop, jazz, blues, folk, Broadway and show tunes. The community choir In Harmony will also perform. Following tradition, the program will close with drag-show acts and the ever-popular local group Rev. Charles and The PotatoBabies.

Tabor admits some people have been unhappy about returning West Michigan Pride downtown to the Calder for this year because of its tendency to be hot in summer. Through the years the event has been held in various locations. Aside from downtown, Pride has been held at Ah-Nab-Awen Park, near the John Ball Zoo on Grand Rapids' west side, and in 2010 it moved to Riverside Park by the Grand River. With its ample parking and shade trees, Riverside Park was a favorite of some. "I know some people have said that it will be too hot at Calder Plaza, but many other festivals are held there throughout the summer and lots of people still come," said Tabor. Organizers also like the idea of the festival being more visible to the community as opposed to being somewhat hidden.

Visibility, as well as the Anniversary celebration are the inspiration for a parade this year. Tabor said corporate sponsors, in particular, are being encouraged to have a float or some kind presence in the parade, which will make its way around a large city block starting from Calder Plaza. "There are so many corporations that sponsor us, but then they don't show themselves," said Tabor. "We'd like them to have something in the parade to show that they're in support of us. Herman Miller will have a truck in the parade."

Blaine Ubelhor who's in charge of the parade said the event will be a historic moment for the community. "With equal rights, victories in marriage equality, benefits for same sex couples, the repeal of don't ask, don't tell, and the election of progressive politicians who support our struggle, we thought this was the right time to celebrate with a parade. We've come a long way in this conservative part of the country and we're proud of what we've accomplished," he said.

The Grand Marshalls of the Pride Parade are Ed Ladner and Milt Lennox, former owners The Apartment Lounge in Grand Rapids, which is the state's oldest continually operating gay and lesbian friendly bar. The couple has been together 49 years and has



Grand Rapids celebrates Pride in 1992

supported West Michigan Pride from its beginning.

Individuals may walk in the parade and a prize will be given for the most creative outfit. Men may be shirtless and women must at least wear a bikini top. Proper bottoms or pants must be worn at all times. Any outfit deemed inappropriate by West Michigan Pride will not be permitted to join the parade.

Also new this year will be a pub crawl starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 14 featuring the gay-friendly bars: Diversions, Rumors, Pub 443 and The Apartment Lounge.

Rooted In History

Tabor said with greater acceptance, passage of antidiscrimination laws and marriage equality, attendance at West Michigan Pride has grown over time. In 2009 there were about 2,500 at the festival and in the last two years approximately 11,000 went through the gate - a huge number compared to the first Pride held in Grand Rapids in 1988.

Rev. Bruce Roller says the inspiration to launch a Pride Festival in West Michigan came during a visit he, his partner at the time and Dennis Komack and Jeff Swanson made to Washington D.C. for gay pride event in 1987. Inspired by the speakers and thousands of gays and lesbians gathered on the mall, they agreed they had "to do something like this in Grand Rapids."

The following summer they and others organized a rally in the amphitheater downtown featuring speakers including ministers from local churches. He estimates about 100 people were in the audience. "We had about eight or nine members of the clergy on stage who spoke wearing their collars and showing their support. It was amazing," said Roller.

He recalls that local gays and lesbians were fired up about the event but many were fearful about being seen. "I remember there were some who showed up wearing big hats or

carried books and newspapers to shield their faces when the media showed up," said Roller.

Through the years the festival grew and while protestors were always present in the early decades holding signs and sometimes heckling speakers, the number of protestors gradually declined while the number of people attending the Pride steadily increased.

As one who helped organize the first Pride festival, Roller smiles when he thinks about how far the event has come. "It's probably the proudest thing in my life. To think that I was in the right place at the right time, among the right people, and that we were able to sow a seed that has germinated so beautifully. This is completely unbelievable. I'm proud of what gay people have done for themselves, and how we've reached out and gained our families and our friends as allies. It's pride, that in spite of all the obstacles and barriers, lesbians and gays have made these kinds of strides. The times are a changing!"

In addition to the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Pride festival in Grand Rapids, West Michigan Pride Board President Amy Tabor said there's more news. West Michigan Pride is proud to announce that it is going to merge with the LGBT Network in Grand Rapids. At one point in the past West Michigan Pride separated from The Network, forming its own board and establishing its own office. "We're very pleased to let everyone know that at the conclusion of the festival, Pride will be handled by the Network in the future. The two operated as one in the past and we thought now would be a good time for Festival operations to be merged into The Network again," said Tabor. The Network's office is located at 343 Atlas Ave. SE in Grand Rapids' East Town neighborhood.

For more information about West Michigan Pride 2013 visit Pride's Facebook

Department of Education Announces Changes to FAFSA Form

BY BTL STAFF

In April, as part of the Obama Administration's efforts to treat all families fairly and equally, the U.S. Department of Education announced that beginning with the 2014-2015 federal student aid form, the Department will – for the first time – collect income and other information from a dependent student's legal parents regardless of the parents' marital status or gender, if those parents live together. The 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, will use terms like "Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent)" and "Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent)"

“All students should be able to apply for federal student aid within a system that incorporates their unique family dynamics,”

- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

instead of gender-specific terms like "mother" and "father."

"All students should be able to apply for federal student aid within a system that incorporates their unique family dynamics," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "These changes will allow us to more precisely calculate federal student aid eligibility based on what a student's whole family is able to contribute and ensure taxpayer dollars are better targeted toward those students who have the most need, as well as provide an inclusive form that reflects the diversity of American families."

Equality Matters reported last week, that during a May 10 edition of Fox & Friends, co-host Steve Doocy criticized the change, warning that "the P.C. police are loose in the federal government."

As the Fox & Friends crew struggled to think of reasons to criticize the language change – like co-host Gretchen Carlson's concern that parents will "start fighting over which one is 1 and which one is 2" – Fox displayed several headlines suggesting that the new language somehow punished heterosexual parents: "Happy Mother's Day (Not)! Baltimore Schools Ban Words 'Mother, Father'" was just one example.

Think Progress website reported that, "This change mimics similar changes made at other federal agencies. In 2011, for example, the State Department initiated reforms to give passport forms a more gender-neutral parental designation. Doing so required minimal changes to federal forms while significantly enhancing the accuracy, fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of government operations."

Think Progress pointed out that the change first guarantees that all families are treated fairly and equally in the higher education financial aid process and second the change advances the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering aid based on need, and not allowing irrelevant factors such as sexual orientation to factor into the application process.

While anti-gay adoption laws and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) continue to present a number of problems for students with same-sex parents, this announcement is seen as a big step forward for LGBT equality in higher education.

Online Safety A Must For The LGBT Community

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The keyboard gives people courage. It's easy to fall into a false sense of security when the Internet seems like just a screen on your desk or in the palm of your hand. But being connected to the web means you are connected to the world, and there are certain vulnerabilities that LGBT people in particular need to keep in mind.

The LGBT Technology Partnership, Stop Think Connect, and the National Cyber Security Alliance have teamed up to share online safety tips for people in the LGBT community. "Whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual,

If you find a site that has something you don't like, contact the website administrator immediately and ask them to remove or revise the content.

Protecting your personal information is also vital. The guide recommends taking time to think before you act and "be wary of communications that push for your immediate action or ask for person information." Take caution before downloading apps and unknown files. And remember that "once posted, always posted." This means "think twice before sending or posting pictures or comments you would not want your parents, co-workers or other friends to see."

Equality Michigan, a statewide advocacy organization with a

usually pictures/videos. As the predator builds their library on their victims they blackmail the victims with the pics/vids they've previously sent. And that's when the demands become increasingly more humiliating and degrading."

One scenario is with male dating or hook-up sites. "Men targeting gay men on online hook-up sites (squirt, adam 4 adam, etc.), sometimes hooking up with them and taking photos or simply getting them to send them photos and then using the photos as blackmail," is a situation that Victims Services has seen over and over again. "I'm going to send these photos to your family/boss, etc. unless you give me money," is the example Siferd said.

Beyond the potential for blackmail are hook-up crimes, where someone is targeted online and then robbed or assaulted upon meeting. Each year there are cases of this happening in Michigan and elsewhere. Siferd said that "there absolutely are dangers in meeting strangers online, but there are things you can do to minimize the risks."

She gave the following tips to have a safer online experience:

1. Understand that if you are going to send photos/videos of yourself to another, you no longer have any power as to how they will be used which means they could end up being used to blackmail you, or all over the internet.
2. Do NOT give out personal information like your phone number, address, financial information, job address, etc.
3. Pay attention to severe mood swings/changes in conversation - pay attention to red flags! If they are pressuring you about anything, think twice about their motivations.
4. Try to verify their identity - do a background check if you can.
5. If you are going to meet up, ensure that it is in a public place and that someone knows where you are and check in with them.

If you or anyone you know have been the victim of blackmail, harassment, or other crimes, contact Equality Michigan Victim Services at 313-537-7000. For immediate help contact the local police. Learn more at the Equality Michigan

victim's services program, also has advice for LGBTs online. Yvonne Siferd, director of victims services knows all too well the dangers of not being careful online. Her organization helps people who have not only been hurt by online rumors, outings and bullying, but also those who have become victims of crime.

"Young people, people in the closet, and other vulnerable populations are also particularly at risk online - and not just in the LGBT communities," Siferd said. "Predators target vulnerable people, and because of the anonymity they can pose as anyone. They learn how to speak the language of whomever they are targeting."

"Targeting young people, closeted people, and those with low self-esteem is the hallmark of these predators because a little bit of flattery can go a long way in building trust. Once a little trust is built, they begin to make demands,

“Targeting young people, closeted people, and those with low self-esteem is the hallmark of these predators because a little bit of flattery can go a long way in building trust.”

- Yvonne Siferd, director of victims services, Equality Michigan

transgender or straight, how you conduct yourself online can reveal a lot about you - perhaps more than you'd be comfortable sharing. One of the biggest concerns for LGBT individuals is the amount of information across multiple social platforms that could easily expose their sexual orientation or gender identity. As a result, your online conduct from your interactions on social networks to the mobile apps you download can lead to real life unintended consequences," says their recently-released guide "What LGBT Communities Should Know About Online Safety."

They recommend taking ownership of your online presence by reviewing your privacy settings on social networks, enabling notifications so you can see which posts and photos of you are posted, and doing a search for yourself to make sure nothing comes up that you don't want the world to know.

Creep of the Week

E. W. Jackson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Oh, Virginia, you crazy. And if you need proof you need look no further than, E. W. Jackson, the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Jackson, along with gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli "are a right wing blog's comments sections personified," according to LOLGOP (which you really should follow on Twitter immediately). And, terrifyingly, they could win.

How bad can it be, you wonder? Oh, where to start? Well, how about on Jackson's campaign website where he makes his feelings on heterosexual marriage clear.

"I strongly support the only true definition of marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman," he says. "Any other arrangement will never be a 'marriage' no matter what anyone calls it. This has been the definition for thousands of years, and it is disappointing that we have come to a place where radical activists, politicians, lawyers and judges arrogantly seek to change that definition and turn history, biology and reality upside down."

Never mind that the "definition" of marriage has hardly been an unchanging institution for "thousands of years." One need only comb the Bible for examples.

Speaking of upside down reality, Jackson goes on to say, "I will defend the rights of Americans who hold to the truth against all efforts to persecute, marginalize and silence them." Because in Jackson's world, it's the anti-gay Christians who are discriminated against.

But wait, it gets worse.

In a 2012 interview with Peter LaBarbera of Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, Jackson said the kind of thing that makes you wonder if he knew his mic was on: "Liberalism and their ideas have done more to kill black folks whom they claim so much to love than the Ku Klux Klan, lynching and slavery and Jim Crow ever did, now that's a fact."

It really makes you wonder how Jackson defines "fact." I suspect it is not reality-based.

There's also that time when Jackson said that gays are blinded by their one-track homo-sex-having minds.

"Their minds are perverted, they're frankly very sick people psychologically, mentally and emotionally and they see everything through the lens of homosexuality," Jackson said in a 2012 interview with LaBarbera. "When they talk about love they're not talking about love, they're talking about homosexual sex. So they can't see

You know, I'm not a Christian scholar, but can Jackson really only think of a "very few things" that piss God off as much as homosexuality?

clearly."

In case Jackson's feelings about homosexuals wasn't clear, he later said, in the same interview, "Homosexuality is a horrible sin, it poisons culture, it destroys families, it destroys societies; it brings the judgment of God unlike very few things that we can think of."

You know, I'm not a Christian scholar, but can Jackson really only think of a "very few things" that piss God off as much as homosexuality? Off the top of my head I can think of a few things that should be higher on God's priority list: genocide, slavery (not a thing of the past, folks), rich people getting richer while the poor starve to death, rape, torture, pedophilia.

Oh, but wait. Jackson thinks that homosexuality and pedophilia are the same thing.

In 2010 he said, "I know there are people who say it's unfair to associate homosexuality with pedophilia ... but I believe there is a direct connection because what they really want is absolute, complete and total sexual freedom."

But, hey, he said that three years ago. And we all know how quickly attitudes toward LGBT people are evolving, right? Then again, Jackson doesn't strike me as the type to believe in evolution.

Please, Virginia, just say no to this guy and his buddy Cuccinelli. Be better than this.



Photo: Danny Clinch

Natalie Maines Gets Real

Dixie Chicks Singer Talks Lesbian Hair, Rachel Maddow Crush & 'Fake' Country Music

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

To quote a Dixie Chicks song, fearless frontwoman Natalie Maines has “been a longtime gone.”

Seven years after one of the most successful country music acts released “Taking the Long Way,” and its unapologetic single “Not Ready to Make Nice” in response to the singer’s political dig at then-

President George W. Bush, Maines goes her own way for her first-ever solo album, “Mother.” Parting with longstanding bandmates Emily Robison and Martie Maguire for the album (don’t worry, she says there’s a “50/50” chance for a reunion LP), it’s also decidedly not country.

In our recent chat, Maines revealed why she went rock (country “seemed so fake”), how

being disowned – and her new short hair – made her feel closer to the gay community and whether now, a decade after her Bush outburst, she’s ready to make nice.

You’re sporting that punkish ‘do; before, with the Dixie Chicks, it was the long, blond locks.

I know. Well, with the Chicks, I definitely felt like I was playing dress up a bit – but I liked it!

Are you conscious of your look and how it represents the music?

With two kids, there’s not enough time in the day to spend on what I look like; this is a much easier look. And it fits my personality more. I had short hair growing up, and it always felt right for me.

Has the short hair scored you more lesbian cred?

(Laughs) I barely leave my house.

So maybe. But the lesbians liked me already! Yeah, this is definitely a lesbianish haircut I’ve got going on. I don’t mind. I *love* Rachel Maddow. She would be my lesbian girl crush.

Why Rachel?

She’s hot! And she’s smart and beautiful ... and I like her hair.

I could see it working out between

you two.

Yeah, I think that would work. I don't know if my husband or her girlfriend would think so. (Laughs)

You've always had a really loyal gay fan base, even before you publicly chastised George W. Bush. How do you explain your connection with gay fans?

We had some very costume-y, over-the-top looks that the gays do appreciate. (Laughs) But after the controversy, I feel like there was even more of a connection, and that's just because we both know how it feels to be hated just for who we are – not for doing anything, bothering anyone, murdering anyone or being arrested. Just for being us. Apparently, that's not good in some people's eyes. But also, too, to just continue being and let other people get used to it – learning to be OK with yourself and just putting it out there, and people can either like you or not, but it's really on them.

Were you noticing more support from the gay community at shows after the incident?

Yeah. And we would get lots of emails, and a lot of the community would come right up and say, "I love that you did this. I didn't listen to your music before, but after this, I went and bought every record." However it was that they showed their support, I definitely felt it.

During the time country radio blacklisted the Dixie Chicks and country stars stopped supporting you, what was it like for you behind the scenes?

At the time, I was just in fight mode and feeling defiant and ready to take on everything and everybody. Actually, at the time, we were getting such overwhelming support and letters from people in the industry – actors and all sorts of people – and that was all really positive. I was always able to separate business from personal – and my friends weren't fellow country artists, so I really didn't care about that. What I cared about was being banned at a corporate level; it felt very un-American and very not OK to me, so that was my issue. And that is my issue with country music.

I don't have an issue with country music fans. I don't have an issue with country music artists. I was very honest about my influences and the kind of music I came from – and country was not it. I say that now and people think, "Ooh, she's mad at country," and I never listened to country. I would say that if ever asked, but I was never asked as much as I am now. But ... I can't remember what I was talking about. (Laughs)

You were talking about not being fond of the country music industry.

Oh, you asked if I felt let down. I mean, it did suck to see all these radio stations

cave so quickly to emails and phone calls they were getting and feed the controversy, which was so really nothing and ridiculous. That did feel like a stabbing in the back, just because I felt like we waved that country flag and we had country pride for all those years. But everyone jumped on board. We were fun to hate.

That's because you were ahead of your time.

Exactly. Always have been.

When hardly anyone in country music was speaking out about equal rights and gay marriage, you were.

Well, that's why I was so shocked that people were so shocked that I was a Democrat and wasn't for the war! I mean, I did not ever feel like I was hiding something. To be in country music, I felt like we were accepted because of our differences, really, and we went beyond your typical country fan base, and I feel like it was because we were different. It was a real surprise to me that people thought I was something that I wasn't. I felt disappointed in myself! How could I let anyone think anything else?! (Laughs) But we did always answer questions if we were asked them, and I always supported women's rights and gay marriage and everything.

Why do you think more country music artists haven't taken that step in publicly supporting equal rights – even though some of them might?

Well, they weren't speaking out about it before, either. But I'm sure some do. How I always viewed country music growing up – why I didn't really relate to it or why I wasn't drawn to it – was because, to me, it seemed so fake. Everyone was putting on these fake smiles, nobody had any anger and they were all just happy to be there. I just did not relate to that. Shoot. What was your question again? I get so on a soapbox! (Laughs)

About the lack of country artists advocating for equal rights.

I just think that's the nature of country music. I don't know. I just don't feel like they ever have. I have to think that Faith Hill has answered that question, honestly, and that she's for gay marriage. I don't know that she is, but I've spoken to her some and I know that she's a pretty liberal person. I don't keep up with her press so I don't want to assume these people haven't spoken out.

Will there ever be another Dixie Chicks album?

I don't know. It's possible. I'd say 50/50. (Laughs) I try to not predict the future or project; I just really try to live in the now, so I'm open to it. I have no ill feelings about the Dixie Chicks. I think right now,

See Natalie, page 24



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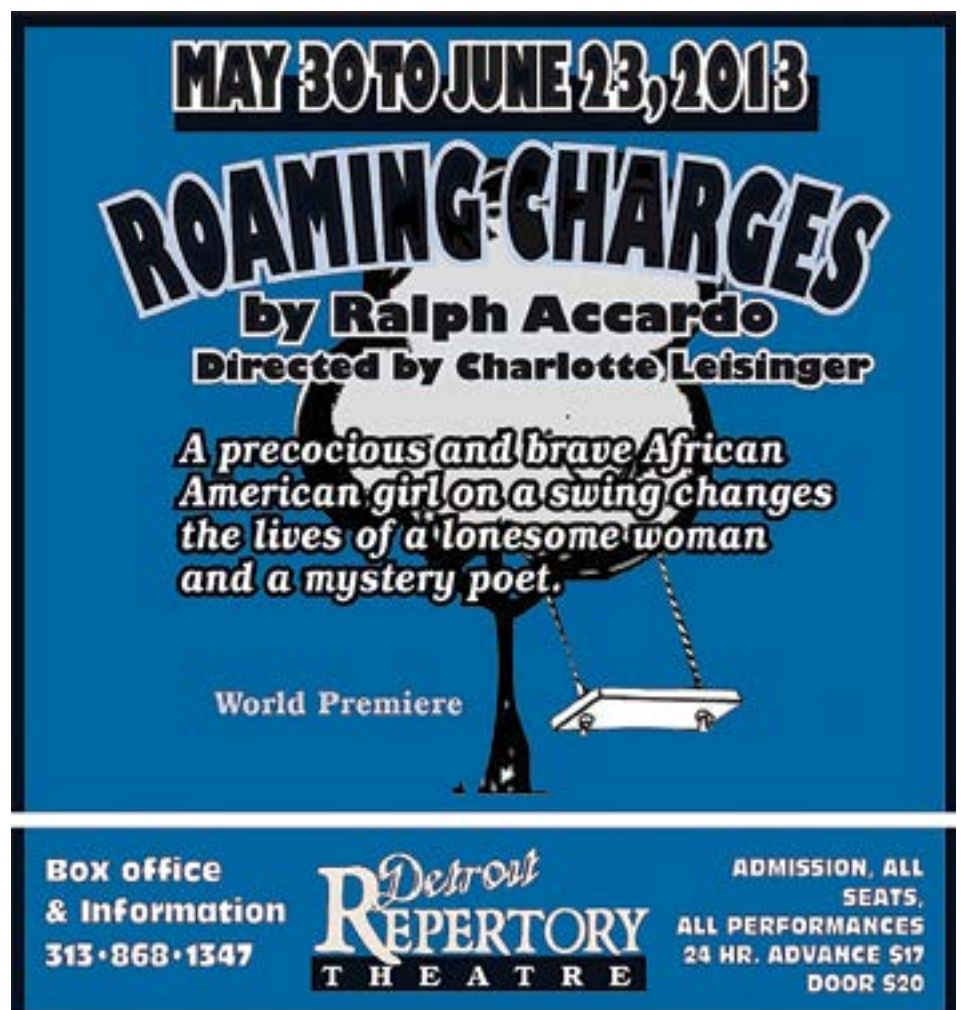
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Abigail Stauffer: Unfiltered

Ann Arbor Musician On New Album, Taylor Swift & Being True To Herself

BY ANDREA POTEET

Abigail Stauffer is having a hard time concentrating on this interview.

It's not her fault. As she's strolling down an Ann Arbor street and talking to me on her cell phone, there's a lot contending for her attention. There's a street band providing background music, there are friends she runs into on the street, ("Oh my God! I'd love to talk to you, but I can't!") she calls to one) and there's the ever-present thought somewhere in the back of her mind that maybe she shouldn't be telling me all of this.

"It's more a matter of, 'Will I regret this later?'" the singer-songwriter explains. "Like, 'Oh, I didn't want you to put that!' In the last Between The Lines interview I had (in 2011) I was like, 'Oh, my mom's gonna read that! OK, no filter for a second.'"

For Stauffer, the lack of a filter isn't a bad thing. The 24-year-old, who releases

IN EO

Abigail Stauffer & Kate Peterson

8 p.m. May 30

The Ark

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www.theark.org

her second album "No Contradictions" on May 30, takes the same open-book approach to her confessional songwriting, with lyrics about love, relationships and spirituality.

"It's just letting people in on exactly how I was feeling at the moment or am feeling," Stauffer says. "There's really deeply emotional things I tend to write about. Sometimes it's a struggle. I use my songwriting a lot to kind of process my own difficulties and let someone in on what kind of weakness I might have."

One weakness lately seems to be how she's viewed. After lending her voice

to Detroit nonprofit Rap for Food's video "We Are Never Ever Eating Bad Together," a take on the Taylor Swift song "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," to promote the organization's sustainable food message, Stauffer has been pegged as sort of a dreadlocked vegan poster girl. That image, though, couldn't be further from the truth. Healthy eating is great, she says, but she's no one's food role model.

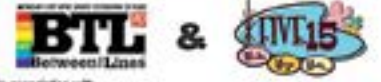
"I'm always going to eat cheesecake and cookies and sugar," she says. "Even if someone said that was the absolute worst thing I could do for my body. You should make that the title of your article!"

She said she wasn't afraid to cover a Taylor Swift song. She enjoys Swift's songwriting. But she was worried that the song and video would come off as cheesy or second-rate, concerns she said subsided when she saw the finished video for the first time.

See Abigail, page 29



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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Vampire Weekend, 'The Great Gatsby'



Vampire Weekend, 'Modern Vampires of the City'

Vampire Weekend puts down the horchata and ponders death without religion and this misguided generation for their junior disc "Modern Vampires of the City." The affable NYC hip-popsters grow out of the youthfully luminous "Contra," a sun-kissed triumph released three years ago, and into this wonderfully warped tribute to Manhattan with big-boy ambition, inspired homages and the band's trademark lyrical mind-benders. "Diane Young," a slick little homophone ("dying young" – get it?), has a "baby, baby, baby" chorus that in theory sounds crushingly ho-hum; in sound, though, with the pitch-shifting of lead singer Ezra Koenig's winsome singing into near-Chipmunk highs and Elvis lows, it's everything but. Weekend sound-whiz Rostam Batmanglij (who hooks up with Ariel Rechtshaid, the first co-producer to oversee one of their projects) paints with the band's distinguished palette of classically influenced world beats – Afro is out, however – but colors outside the lines: "Unbelievers" debuts their use of a horn section and an accordion, "Ya Hey" works in Björk effects from the "Vespertine" era and "Everlasting Arms" resembles Paul Simon like it's 1986 all over again. "Modern Vampires of the City" is the quartet at its most sophisticated;

corruption, war and the future loom as they confront the end of days and spirituality with curiosity, style and melodies that will live on long after we do. It's not just their best album; it's a modern-day classic.
Grade: A



'The Great Gatsby' soundtrack

The vapid soullessness of Baz Luhrmann's polarizing adaptation of "The Great Gatsby" extends to the remake's Jay-Z-produced soundtrack, on which artists du jour try to capture the essence of the Roaring '20s. Beyoncé teams with André 3000 for a cinematically lurid take on Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black," where Bey sounds sumptuously delicious despite this being a completely unnecessary cover. One of Bey's biggest hits, "Crazy in Love," goes to ultra talented British soulstress Emeli Sandé, and poor thing sits in the shadow of its originator; this swinging big-band version with the Bryan Ferry Orchestra sucks the life out of the song. Made for Luhrmann's flashy scenes of party debauchery are the front-decked cavorts on the disc: Jay-Z's cheap "100\$ Bill" awkwardly shoehorns Leo dialogue into the track; Fergie and Q-Tip

go Zumba class for the chorus-repeating, LMFAO-esque mess "A Little Party Never Killed Nobody (All We Got)"; and, with Britney-like backup, will.i.am contributes the nearly-as-awful "Bang Bang," waffling between club trash and brassy jazz like it wants to introduce contemporary beats to the early 20th century. Sia and Florence and the Machine, sad to say, expectedly deliver diva histrionics, though forgettably so. Only Lana Del Rey, with the haunting but lyrically faint languidness of "Young and Beautiful," truly connects with what's missing from the rest of this either superficial or super-dramatic soundtrack: passion and heart.
Grade: C-

Also Out



Joshua Radin, 'Wax Wings'

Joshua Radin's puppy-sweet serenades have soundtracked CW shows, a J.C. Penney ad and

Ellen and Portia's wedding; no doubt, then, that the Cleveland native's latest will attract brides-to-be and "Army Wives" producers. That means more of the same innocuous mellowness and softie-soul vulnerability on his delightfully pleasing "Wax Wings," Radin's independently released fifth studio album. "Beautiful Day" charms with a life-affirming jingle tailored for window-down driving, and "When We're Together" – almost Taylor Swift-sounding – will undoubtedly commemorate a mass of summer marriages.



Pistol Annes, 'Annie Up'

When Miranda Lambert's girl group Pistol Annes proclaimed themselves "hell on heels" on their 2011 debut, they weren't kidding. With a slow-burn, the trio – more integrated here as an act – kicks off their follow-up with "I Feel a Sin Comin' On," casting them as temptresses out on the prowl in this sexy desperate-housewives ditty. In the fiery spirit of the Dixie Chicks, "Unhappily Married" comically spins a story of a miserable couple over a cranked-up chorus. "Being Pretty Ain't Pretty" is a witty reveal of the distress of looking good. Sounding this good, though – as easy as them, it seems.

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► **Natalie**

Continued from p. 19

it's logistics. There are eight kids among the three of us and, for me, making an album takes a lot of focus and a lot of concentration and a lot of time, and I'm not willing to go to Texas to do that. I wouldn't expect Martie and Emily to leave their families and come here to do that, either. I just think it's really hard right now.

With the Dixie Chicks, you covered several Patty Griffin songs, and "Mother" features Griffin's song "Silver Bell." What is it about Patty and her songwriting that resonates with you so much? The darkness? The realness?

It's all of that. I'm bad putting into words things like that, but I love her songwriting. And I hate her because, not only has she written a million songs that are out there, she's got all these songs that we've never even heard. It's so hard to write a song for me! And I'm so jealous that she has, like, back stock.

Why was the seven years between "Taking the Long Way" and this new solo album a necessary break for you?

Basically because kids take a lot of time. (Laughs) I just decided to dive into motherhood and do that 100 percent – just try to enjoy this time and my life and my kids' lives and be, you know, a stable force in their lives.

I definitely felt like I had worked really hard and been on the road for over 10 years, so I did want to slow down and just get real for a while. So there was a lot of self-realization and a lot of things that went on, but yeah, I needed a long while to just ... be.

“ If making nice means making a country record and going back to that, then no, I'm not ready.”

Why was the distinction between this album and your work with the Dixie Chicks important to you?

It's just bugged me whenever I would see lead singers do a solo album that sounded exactly like their band. It always seemed to be a way to get all the money for yourself. (Laughs) So I did want to be different. But I didn't have to be conscious of that; this is just what I'm naturally drawn to.

When we went into the studio, we didn't even know we were making a record. I was very upfront about that with Ben (Harper's) band, just because they were basically coming (to the studio) for free every day; they enjoyed music and they wanted to experiment and see what happens – but I wasn't telling my management or my label, so there was no money coming from anywhere.

It was really like a band starting from scratch, everybody putting in the same amount of time and hard work ... and they got paid eventually. (Laughs) There just wasn't a discussion; it was just very organic in what naturally comes to me musically or appeals to me.

Are you ready to make nice yet?

I don't sit around stewing over it or thinking about it at all, but if making nice means making a country record and going back to that, then no, I'm not ready.

Has there been a peace agreement between you and Toby Keith?

Sure, I've got no issues. I don't even think about any of these people. (Laughs) I wouldn't have even thought of Toby Keith if he hadn't put out a picture of me and Saddam Hussein cuddling.

He could've at least had you cuddling with Rachel Maddow. Gosh.

(Laughs) Exactly!

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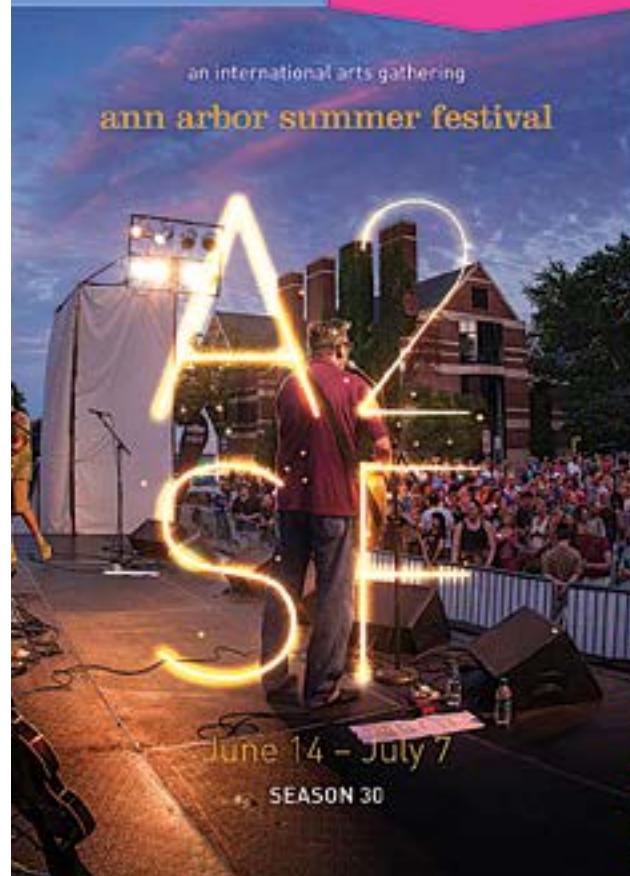
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Happenings

OUTINGS

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

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

Pride House Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Battle Creek Pride, **Battle Creek**. 269-420-8170. battlecreekpride@yahoo.com

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

Speak Out 7 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org JimToyCenter.org

Friday, May 24

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Four Minutes-Traude, an elderly music teacher who gives piano lessons to prisoners, finds an unexpected prodigy in Jenny, a brooding young inmate, and devotes herself to developing Jenny's talent in the little time they have together. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, May 25

Open Meditation Saturdays 9 a.m. A communal, non-hierarchical meditation space open to all. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

LAHR Breakfast Club 10 a.m. Meet at Flap Jack near Frandor. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Beachlerb@sbcglobal.net lahronline.org

OutCenter Volunteer Orientation & Training Session 12 p.m. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

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

YEP Night 4 p.m. For LGBT youth, ages 14-24. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Lighthearted or in-depth discussion on a variety of topics. For gay, bi-affectional, and transgender men 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

T-Party 7 p.m. A great opportunity for those in the Transgender community and their allies to get to know each other. Coffee, tea and soft drinks available. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 422 Pelissier, **Windsor**. 519-973-4656 windsorpride.com

Sunday, May 26

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: What gives you a knot in the pit of your stomach? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p.m. This is a closed meeting for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem. This may be a Common Needs meeting, but any addict seeking recovery is welcome! The time has come that any addict seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can

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

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. 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**. haston@lcc.edu lahronline.org

Writing Group 7 p.m. Different focus for each meeting. Meets fourth Monday of

volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

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

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



Editor's Pick

This Memorial Day weekend, head over to Stoney Creek Metropark for the Sixth Annual Pedal Paddle Picnic, hosted by Get Out and Live: GOAL. Activities will include a potluck, biking, and kayaking – helmets and PFDs will be required. Inexpensive kayak rentals are available.

GOAL is the premiere LGBT social and activity club of Michigan, offering a variety of events to members of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and fitness levels. Beginning with a bicycle club, the group has evolved to include picnics, dances, online events, concerts, travel and more.

The picnic will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27 at 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township. Potluck will begin at 10 a.m. at the Winter Cove Picnic Area. A day or annual metropark pass will be required to enter the picnic. For more information, visit www.meetup.com/GOAL-get-out-and-live-LGBT/events.

come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus Celebrate 7:30 p.m. Fifth anniversary concert. Tickets: \$20. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus, 2948 Blue Star Highway, **Douglas**. 616-319-1221. wmgmc.org

Monday, May 27

Sixth Annual Pedal Paddle Picnic 9 a.m. Winter Cove Picnic Area. Bike or kayak. Potluck. Helmets and PFDs required. Admission: Day or annual metro park pass. GOAL, 4300 Main Park Road, **Shelby Township**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT/events

It's Not Just Social: Using Social Media in the Job Search 1 p.m. Savvy job seekers know that social media is a powerful tool for the job search. Discover how you can use your favorite social tools to build a network, promote your personal brand, and get access to great career opportunities. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Board Meeting 6 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Adult Support Group 7 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Healthy Lives support group is free and open to all LGBT adults and their

every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.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

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

Tuesday, May 28

Grand River Connection Creative class. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. grandriverconnection.com

Gay Business Networking 8 a.m. Networking for LGBT business owners and professionals. Every fourth Tuesday of the month. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GetOutAndLive.me

Older Adult and Senior Helpline 4 p.m. Provides peer counseling, empathy and community resources for LGBT adults. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 1-800-398-4297. goaffirmations.org

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for

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

Tea & Talk 8 p.m. Open discussion with free tea and treats. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-347-2112. Triplegoddessbookstore.net

Wednesday, May 29

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

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

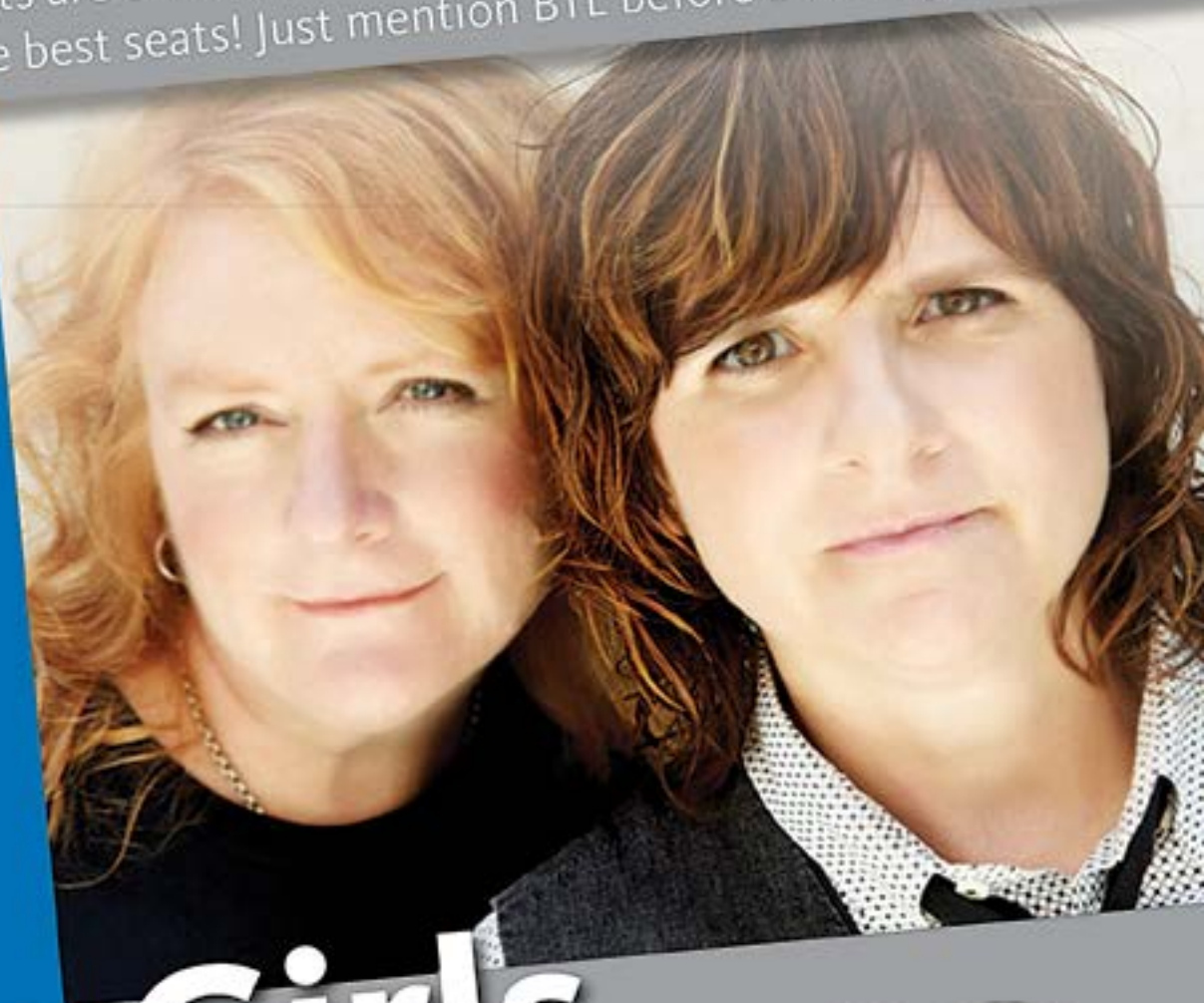
See Happenings, page 30

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► **Abigail**

Continued from p. 20

"I didn't want my name and face on something that turned out to be mediocre," Stauffer says. "And it didn't. The video quality was amazing; the whole arrangement of everything was really high quality. So it makes me look like a professional, which I'd prefer. I don't want to look really amateur."

Stauffer, who will hit the stage at The Ark with Nervous but Excited's Kate Peterson the same day her record is released (two days later, on June 1, she'll perform at Ferndale Pride), seeks to correct misconceptions about herself and her music with "No Contradictions," which features elements of electronica and even rap under the guidance of Houston-based producer Christopher Norman.

"That's why I titled it 'No Contradictions,'" she says. "These genres might seem like, 'Oh, you're playing banjo on one song and you're rapping on the next one,' but they really do, to me, feel like they tie together."

While recording, Stauffer said she used the new musical direction she found with Norman (who became her "gay boyfriend" during the long-distance recording sessions) to explore new lyrical paths. Where "Sleep to Dream" heavily explored the relationship Stauffer, then newly out as a bisexual, had with religion, "No Contradictions" delves more into the human experience.

"I am a spiritual person however I label that spirituality," she says. "And there can be a tendency for some spiritual communities and queer communities to clash with each other. I find that to be a place to be like, 'It's not a contradiction to be one and the other.' Whether it's about spirituality and people who are gay,

or whether it's about some other aspect of my identity or my music, it all unites in the fact that I'm just being me. It's all me. It doesn't contradict."

Growing up in a musical family in Dexter, Stauffer said she always sang and wrote music, to varying degrees of success. As a child, she idolized Amy Grant and said she wanted to be famous, like most kids do, even though she didn't quite know what that entailed. As she grew, so did her songwriting, until she was trading in small local venues for larger ones, with the ultimate goal of supporting herself with her music.

And though she's developed something of a following, beyond just the Ann Arbor locals who stop her on the street, she remains leery of what large-scale fame could mean.

"I don't want to be tabloid material," she says. "I want to be able to just share my music and my thoughts with people – and I feel like in some sense I've already done that. In some sense I've already made it, although it's not financially sustainable quite yet."

Until it is, Stauffer works part-time jobs. She nannied for a while, and now works as a massage therapist and at a local shop called The Grateful Dread, where she creates dreadlocks like the honey-colored ones that are pulled back from her face.

She's passionate about each of her side jobs, she said, because, they help keep her afloat while she focuses on her growing music career. And above all, they allow her to meet, befriend and share parts of herself with other people.

And as she politely ducks into corners to avoid street noise and asks almost as many questions of me as I do of her, it's easy to see that this people-loving thing, this open-book thing, it's not an act. It's just her. No contradictions.

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Happenings

Continued from p. 26

St., Kalamazoo. KGLRC.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

Newly Single Support Group 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk-or listen-to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Significant Other Support 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

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

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

Thursday, May 30

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

Transgender Helpline 6:30 p.m. A representative from Transgender Michigan is available to answer questions on helpline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Gay and Christian: Believers Speak 7 p.m. How Can We Reconcile What the Bible Says with Who We Are? What Are the Cultural, Translation, and Interpretation Issues of the "Homosexual" Bible Passages? How Can We Reconcile the Fundamental Issues of Faith with the Fundamental Issues of Being Human? What is My Relationship to Christianity

and the Church after I Come Out as Gay? How Can the Church Welcome Gay People in a Way that Honors Scripture and the Message of Christ? The Clark Institute, 1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids. grcmc.org

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

Weekly Support Group 7 p.m. Weekly support group for members of the HIV/AIDS community. Wings, 2441 Pinecrest Dr., Ferndale. wingsmi.org

Friday, May 31

SCA Farmer's Market 8 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of handcrafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Riot Youth 4 p.m. A youth-led, safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning youth and their allies. Riot Youth also is a space for youth to talk and find support about their struggles as LGBTQQ youth. They have workshops on various issues such as gender identity/expression, intersections of LGBTQQ identity with race and other social identities, LGBTQQ history and writing workshops. They also play theater games, host movie nights, and have parties. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

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

Second Class Citizen Photo Shoot and Ferndale Pride Kick Off 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. ferndalepride.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: I Can't Think Straight. When Tala and Leyla meet in London and begin to have feelings for each other, it's a problem. Affirmations,

290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20.18+. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Geoff Tate" He's one of the rising young stars from the midwest that we've kept our eye on and he's earned the spot of headliner at the Comedy Showcase. Tickets: \$10+. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 24 - May 25. 734-996-9080. aacomedy.com

Caesars Windsor "Wayne Brady" 19 or older. Tickets: \$20+ Canadian. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. May 25. 800-991-7777. caesarswindsor.com

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "Third Annual Nirvana Tribute" Tickets: \$8+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. May 24. 734-996-8555. Blindpig.com

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Rayse Biggs Quartet" Trumpeter Rayse Biggs leads a group of the hottest jazz players in the Detroit area in his highly charged style of Motown jazz, while exploring the music of past trumpet masters Lee Morgan and Freddie Hubbard. Detroit Institute of Arts, Rivera Court, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 24 - May 24. 313-833-7900. dia.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Eddie Money" Tickets: \$10+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. May 24. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Elektricity Nightclub "Bass Mission: Team Bayside High" 18+. Elektricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. May 29. 248-599-2212.

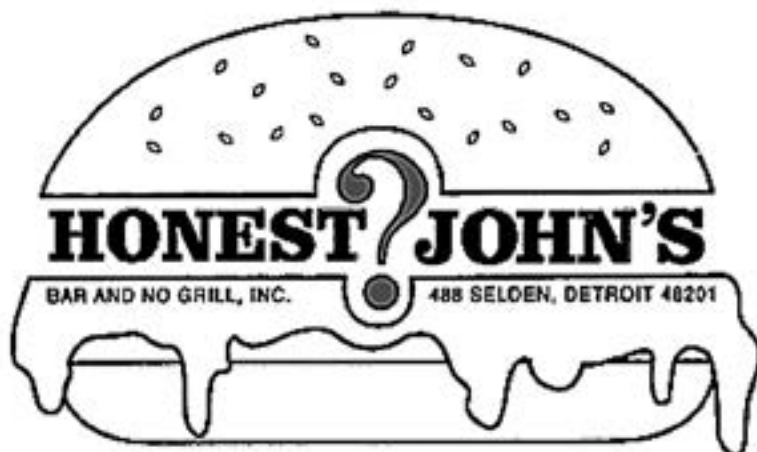
Elektricity Nightclub "Mord Fustang" 18+. Free with RSVP. Elektricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. May 24. 248-599-2212.

For The Seventh Generation "In Seventh Heaven 2013" The annual fundraising gala for For The Seventh Generation, an organization that matches donations of goods and services with

See Happenings, page 32

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Editor's Pick

Music legends Sean Blackman and Wayne Gerard as Sin Hielo will perform with metro-Detroit band Emerging Soul at In Seventh Heaven, the annual fundraiser for For The Seventh Generation. The benefit will also include a multiple-course, gourmet strolling supper and beer and wine bar. Last year's event raised over \$30,000 from sponsorship dollars alone.

For The Seventh Generation is a charitable organization that provides goods and professional services for foster children in need in the metro-Detroit area. Some of the group's programs include providing orthodontic treatment for wards of the Wayne County court, and giving free musical instruments and lessons to children in foster care.

The annual gala will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 at the Roostertail, 100 Marquette Dr., Detroit. Tickets range from \$100-125, with a group discount available for four tickets.

For more information, go to www.fortheseventhgeneration.org.



The von Trapp Family in Stagecrafters' production of "The Sound of Music," which runs May 31 – June 23 at the Baldwin Theatre in downtown Royal Oak. Photo: Lance Luce and Colleen Muench

Classic Musical Graces The Baldwin's Stage Stagecrafters Comes Alive With 'The Sound Of Music' Beginning May 31

ROYAL OAK – Stagecrafters doesn't repeat its productions very often – except for classics such as "The Sound of Music." Although Stagecrafters has mounted this beloved musical twice prior in its 56-year-history (1981, 1992), this latest production will run May 31-June 23 at the Baldwin Theatre in downtown Royal Oak.

Created by Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse and based on "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp, the story is set in Salzburg, Austria, just prior to World War II. The nuns of Nonnberg Abbey are gathered together to sing – except for one young postulant, Maria Rainer (Sara Rydzewski) who has lost track of time while singing on a nearby mountainside. When Maria explains her absence, the Mother Abbess (Donna Edwards) tells her that she should spend some time outside the abbey to decide if this monastic life is right for her. She has been assigned to act as a governess to the seven children of widower Captain Georg von Trapp (Mark Jewett).

When Maria arrives at the elaborate villa, she is given her duties by the Captain and meets all of the children in a very militaristic manner. While the Captain is away on duty, Maria and the children bond. When he returns, he is accompanied by with his fiancée Elsa (Caryn Leonard) and

his friend Max (John Nowaczyk). From here the storyline blossoms when love interests are uncovered and the pre-war tensions heat up.

Audiences of all ages will enjoy the timeless songs that have become so familiar, such as "Edelweiss," "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things" and the title song "The Sound of Music."

Director Randy Wrisinger has a deep-rooted fondness for this musical, calling it one of his "all-time favorites." This is his second time directing the show, the first being at a small community theater in Missouri, and he once played the role of the Captain. "What makes this show so unique is the bonding of the children," Wrisinger said. "From the first rehearsal, they have treated each other like family, and that will shine through for the audiences to see."

He has also doubled the number of cast in the nuns chorus for a fuller sound and will be using the Baldwin's Wurlitzer theater organ during the wedding scene. "Audiences are going to be amazed at the incredible set design by Drew Hall and costumes by Doris Boris. I hope they all leave the show humming the tunes and remember the line, 'When the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window,'" said Wrisinger.

Stagecrafters is hosting a special Bavarian-themed fundraiser prior to the

show's opening. "The Sounds and Tastes of Music" will be held May 29, with the doors opening at 6:45 p.m. German foods by The Dakota Inn Rathskeller, Austrian music by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, a diamond earring raffle, German libations and a preview performance of "The Sound of Music" are all included in the ticket price of \$30 general reserved seating or \$40 VIP reserved seating. All proceeds will benefit Stagecrafters' programming.

A special sing-along performance will be held at 2 p.m. June 15. Audience members will be given song sheets to accompany the cast on select songs, and they are encouraged to come in costume.

Advance tickets for performances are \$18 on Thursdays, and \$20 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Patrons attending the opening night performance, May 31, are invited to a 7 p.m. pre-glow of complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Student, military and senior discounts are available for specific performances. Tickets may be purchased online at www.stagecrafters.org (online handling fees apply) or by phone at 248-541-6430 using Visa or MasterCard. All seats are reserved. If shows have not sold out, tickets can be purchased at the box office one hour prior to the performance for an additional \$2 per ticket.



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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

metro Detroit's foster children in need. Live music, a several-course gourmet strolling supper, and more. Internationally-renowned music legends Sean Blackman and Wayne Gerard's current project, Sin Hielo, and the very popular metro-Detroit area band Emerging Soul have agreed to perform. Tickets: \$100-125. The Roostertail, 100 Marquette Dr., Detroit. 12 a.m. June 1. 313-961-6120. www.Fortheseventhgeneration.org/

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Art & All That Jazz" Don't miss our Art & All That Jazz event, featuring a great night of music by Steve Kamerling and Barry Ross, tours of the KIA's exhibitions, snacks and a cash bar. Tickets: \$0-5. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. 5:30 p.m. May 24. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Phoenixphst Faculty" Tickets: \$15. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 25. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Majestic Theater "The Staves & Escondido" All ages. Tickets: \$10-12. Majestic Cafe, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. May 24. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Ark "Gangstagrass & Cabinet" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 25. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Livingston Taylor & Chelsea Berry" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 24. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Stewart Francke" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. May 23. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Magic Stick "Matt Pryor & James Dewees with Reggie & The Full Effect and The New Amsterdams" Matt Pryor & James Dewees (Of The Get Up Kids). All ages. Tickets: \$12-14. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 24. 313-833-9700 majesticdetroit.com

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Institute of Arts and Friends of the Detroit Film Theatre (DFDT) "A Special Preview Event: Monsters University" Special benefit screening of the new Pixar film, "Monsters University." Opportunity to meet Clawson native Dan Scanlon, the director of the film. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 29. 313-833-3237. dia.org/dft

The Magic Bag "Wednesday Night Brew & View: Spring Breakers" 21+. Tickets: \$2. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. May 29. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Thursday Night Brew & View: Spring Breakers" 21+. Tickets: \$2. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. May 23. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

OTHER

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Piano Music" Museum Lobby. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.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. iloveoldtown.org

Blind Pig "Super Happy Funtime Burlesque" Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. May 25. 734-996-8555. blindpig.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

My Favorite Year \$18-20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. May 30 - June 9. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

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

Spamalot \$20-22. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild at Cranbrook Greek Theatre, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. May 31 - June 15. 877-71-TICKETS. www.stdunstanstheatre.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. www.spotlightplayersmi.org

The Sound of Music \$18-\$20 in advance. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. May 31 - June 23. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Honk! \$7-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, East Circle Dr. and Best Hall, Ypsilanti. May 31 - June 9. 734-487-2282. www.emutix.com

PROFESSIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

Jamie and Jordan \$7-10. The Children's Theatre Network at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. May 25. 734-663-0681. www.performancecnetnetwork.org

My Name is Asher Lev \$38-45. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through May 25. 248-788-2900. www.jetttheatre.org

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

Roaming Charges \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. May 30 - June 23. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

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

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

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

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

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

What You Won't Do For Love \$15-20. Big Girl Ideas at The International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. May 25. 313-727-1011. www.brownpapertickets.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "The Print" A juried exhibition of original and innovative works of art showcasing contemporary and traditional printmaking techniques. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - June 23. 734-994-8004. annarborartcenter.org

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

Black Arts & Cultural Center "Black Arts & Cultural Center's Annual Multi-Cultural Exhibit" Gail Sydnor Art Gallery, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 202, Kalamazoo. May 1 - May 31. blackartskalamazoo.org

Chelsea River Gallery "2D3D" Michael Thoresen and Joan Painter Jones pair new sculptures and paintings. Chelsea River Gallery, 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. May 25 - June 28. 734-433-0826. chelsearivergallery.com

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Anders Ruhwald at Saarinen House: The Anatomy of a Home" For his first solo exhibition in Michigan, Danish ceramist Anders Ruhwald will present a series of "site-sensitive" installations in Saarinen House, the "total work of art" designed by the Finnish American architect Eiel Saarinen in 1930. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 28 - Sep. 30. 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. detroitartistsmarket.org

Dennos Museum Center "Larry Cressman: Line Work" This exhibition explores line on and off the wall with installations that incorporate cane, twigs, paper, graphite and wire. Dennos Museum Center, 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City. May 1 - June 2. 231-995-1055. dennosmuseum.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Papel Picado" Have fun as you try this Mexican art of cutting paper. All ages. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 4 - May 25. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Musical Instruments: Wrist/Ankle Rattles" Use leather, beads, wire, and markers to create a whimsical percussion instrument. All ages. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 3 - May 31. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Inside/Out" Inside/Out, now in its fourth year, brings nearly 80 reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's collection to the streets and parks of metro Detroit, pleasantly surprising and delighting residents of the participating communities. Where possible, the works are clustered within walking or biking distance of each other in a grand, open-air gallery. The DIA is working with the communities to plan educational opportunities and other fun activities, such as bicycle and walking tours. Residents of participating communities will enjoy a designated weekend to visit the museum for free

See Happenings, page 38

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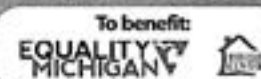
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The Case of the Dead Paparazzi

Last night a member of the local paparazzi was found dead in their Plymouth apartment. Police headquarters has since narrowed down the suspect list to eight, the suspected weapons list to ten, and the possible crime scenes to six. It is now up to you, our CSI department, to determine whodunit, with what weapon, and where. Clues are littered around town and we have special agents working on the case and forwarding you information as we get it.

Can your team crack the case?

Was it Kwame with the 8 Iron at The Penn Theatre?
 Round up a team of four and register to find out

Benefit for the NEW Tail Waggers's Wellness & Spay/Neuter Center

When: Saturday, June 8th at 8 pm
Where: Downtown Plymouth - Kellogg Park
What: A Murder Mystery that takes place entirely on foot and features actors, riddles, scavenger hunting, and problem solving.
Cost: \$25 per person / Teams of 4
 Only open to first 25 teams or 100 people

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Ann Arbor Summer Festival: Les Ballets, Prairie Home

From world music superstars and comic book supervillians to 3-D superhero mapping and a super bouncy exhibit for kids, the new Ann Arbor Summer Festival season runs from June 14 through July 7, and features an eclectic mix of music, dance, comedy, film, spoken word, contemporary circus, street arts and family entertainment.

Now celebrating its 30th season, the festival's Mainstage series features the return of several Ann Arbor favorites along with a number of performers making their festival debut. With artists spanning the globe, this year's lineup includes the nationally beloved radio program "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor"; British electro art-pop quartet Django Django; the Big Easy's Preservation Hall Jazz Band with musical gameshow cabaret New Orleans Bingo! Show; Montreal's rebel circus collective Les 7 doigts de la main; lounge mini-orchestra Pink Martini; NPR's storytelling show Snap Judgment; live-action graphic novel The Intergalactic



The Intergalactic Nemesi performs June 30.

Nemesi; Malian superstars Amadou & Mariam; political satirists The Capitol Steps; and the all-male drag ballet corps Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

The festival's ticketed Mainstage performances take place in Power Center for the Performing Arts and Hill

Auditorium. The festival's outdoor Top of the Park activities continue at Ingalls Mall, located directly in front of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies on Washington Street near the

See Ann Arbor Summer Festival, page 37

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► Ann Arbor Summer Festival

Continued from p. 34

Burton Memorial Tower.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased in person at the Michigan League Ticket Office, by phone at 734-764-2538 or online at A2SF.org.

2013 Schedule of Mainstage Performances

A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor, 5:45 p.m. June 1, Pre-Season Event Hill Auditorium (\$75, \$65, \$55, \$45, \$35)

America's favorite storyteller Garrison Keillor returns to Ann Arbor as part of Hill Auditorium's 100th anniversary celebration. This special live broadcast of Keillor's radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," will feature an ensemble cast, comedy sketches, musical interludes, special guests and Keillor's signature monologue, "The News from Lake Wobegon."

Django Django, 8 p.m. June 18, Power Center (\$25, \$20; General Admission)

Edinburgh art-pop foursome Django Django is a band that defies musical

classification. The former art-school students combine '80s pop rhythms with '60s Beach Boys-style vocal harmonies, a style that some have labeled folktronica. Their self-titled debut album earned widespread praise and had the critics swooning for their experimental, kaleidoscopic songs.

Pink Martini, 8 p.m. June 25, Power Center (\$55, \$50, \$45, \$35)

Somewhere between a 1930s Cuban dance orchestra, a classical chamber music ensemble, a Brazilian street band and Japanese film noir is Pink Martini. Influenced by Latin music, jazz, cabaret, cinema scores and more, the intoxicating retro-pop ensemble brings melodies and rhythms from different parts of the world together to create an eclectic, modern sound.

The Intergalactic Nemesis in "Book One: Target Earth," 5 p.m. June 30, Power Center (\$35, \$30, \$25, \$20, \$10 Kids)

Inspired by Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars, and the pulp serials of the 1930s, The Intergalactic Nemesis is a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience that mashes up sci-fi radio drama with comic books. With over 1,000 projected graphic novel panels, three actors voicing dozens of characters,

a Foley artist creating sound effects, and a keyboardist playing an original score, The Intergalactic Nemesis is a spectacle unlike any other and a show for the kid in everyone.

The Capitol Steps Thursday, 5 and 8 p.m. July 4, Power Center (\$50, \$45, \$40, \$30)

Answering the call for more civil discourse, these former Congressional staffers' brilliant song parodies and hilarious sketches lampoon up-to-the-minute issues, events and personalities, poking fun at both sides of the aisle. A holiday tradition in Ann Arbor, America's foremost political satirists return to the festival for their annual Fourth of July performances.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo Friday, 8 p.m. July 5, Power Center (\$55, \$50, \$45, \$35)

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo remains one of the most popular dance troupes in the United States. Performing in tutus, tiaras and tights, this all-male ballet company specializes in hilarious twists on the classics such as Swan Lake and Giselle, with equal parts comedy and technical prowess. The talented dancers perform an impressive repertoire of both classical ballet and contemporary dance.



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Editor's Pick

Eastern Michigan University Theatre is "quacking up" over the 2012-13 season closer, "Honk!" Performances of this lively musical comedy run May 31-June 9.

Have you ever felt like the odd man out? Ever been chased by a tomcat who finds you purrfect ... for dinner? Based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling," "Honk!" is about an optimistic duckling and his adventures in the barnyard and beyond as he searches for his mother and a place to belong. A heart-warming celebration of being different, "Honk!" is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit and memorable score.

Ticket prices are \$15 adults, \$12 for students and seniors, and \$7 for children ages 6-12; no further discounts apply. Tickets are available by phone at 734-487-2282.

All performances will take place in the Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building located at the intersection of East Circle Drive and Best Hall on EMU's Ypsilanti Campus.

Happenings

Continued from p. 32

and see "their" works of art. Visitors will receive a 10 percent discount in Cafe DIA and the museum shop, \$1 off Detroit Film Theatre (DFT) tickets and free admission to showings of the DFT 101 film series. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 29 - June 23. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Reflections on Water in American Painting" This exhibition traces the maritime and seaside history of America through 50 paintings, beginning with a rare 1828 painting by John S. Blunt of a U.S. Naval frigate. Highlights of the exhibition are paintings by major American Impressionists, William Merritt Chase, Frank W. Benson, and Robert Vonnoh. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 6 - June 16. flintarts.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" Jan Brown's acrylic paintings, done in the past three years, display an emotional excitement that lures viewers into their depths. Fourteen East, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - July 31.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Night Conversations" Unique collaborations with artists and organizations in the community. Programs have included performances, gallery talks, activities, presentations, and more. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Saturday All Day with The Arts" Drop-in family activities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 6 - June 29. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Sigh and Feeling: Photographs by Ansel Adams" Ansel Adams' skill at creating photographs with a remarkable range and subtly of tones is legendary. Yet for all his technical mastery, Adams recognized that what made a compelling photograph was far more elusive. This exhibition of Adams' photographs from the KIA collection and local collectors suggests how his intuitive and emotional response to the landscape resulted in powerful and enduring photographs. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 1 - June 23. 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" Sit back and enjoy a movie on your lunch break. Different movie each time. Informal discussions follow. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 2 - May 30. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Krasl Art Center "Philosophy of Art" If you have ever wondered why something in a museum was considered art, felt like you just didn't understand what was happening in the art world today, or wondered why art is the way it is, then this class is for you. However, be prepared to read, think and critically discuss; this class is run like a graduate school seminar. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 23 - Sep. 26. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Adventures in Time and the Third Dimension: Through the Stereoscope" Wander through the museum's rich collection of stereo-viewing technology, and see how the world of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was transformed into 3D images for fun and education. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - Aug. 2. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Sun-Up to Sundown" Exhibition featuring selections from the Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Collection of the MSU Museum. The collection features a wide variety of artistic expressions of work and worker culture across a diverse array of media from Michigan, the U.S., and other nations around the world. Michigan State University Museum Lobby, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. April 23 - June 16. museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 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 "Y Art Ypsilanti School District K-12" Art Classes from the seven schools in the Ypsilanti District share their art with the public in community art center gallery. Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. May 3 - May 25. 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

The Henry Ford "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" Tickets: \$17+. Members: Free. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 27 - Sep. 2. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

The Scarab Club "Blooms, Bugs, Beasts Exhibition" The purpose of the Blooms, Bugs, Beasts exhibition is to recognize the diversity and achievement of artists whose work show creativity of concept, excellence of design and expertise of media; to display these works to regional audiences and to be an educational opportunity for students. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 15 - June 29. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art "Laurie Anderson: From the Air" Located between and within performance, visual arts, film, and beyond, Laurie Anderson's unconstrained and multidisciplinary practice is perhaps most enduringly rooted in her attention to exceptional storytelling. In any genre, she is an unquestionably provocative, poignant, political, and personal teller of tales. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 6 - Aug. 11. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Intro Class: Clay Planters & Pots" Join local artist, Kate Lewis, for this fun beginners class to learn how to build clay planters and pots for your summer patio and garden. Students receive two additional weeks of studio access to complete their work. Tickets: \$85-95. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. May 19 - June 9. uica.org

Yourist Studio Gallery "Yourist Studio Gallery Grand Opening and Artists' Reception" We've reinvented our gallery. Come celebrate with us at our special opening event and exhibit. Works on exhibit May 1 to June 14. Admission: Free. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. May 1 - June 15. 734-662-4914. youristpottery.com

Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thurs- day

7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills- Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

Unity Michigan Coali- tion 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.

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Solution to puzzle from page 41

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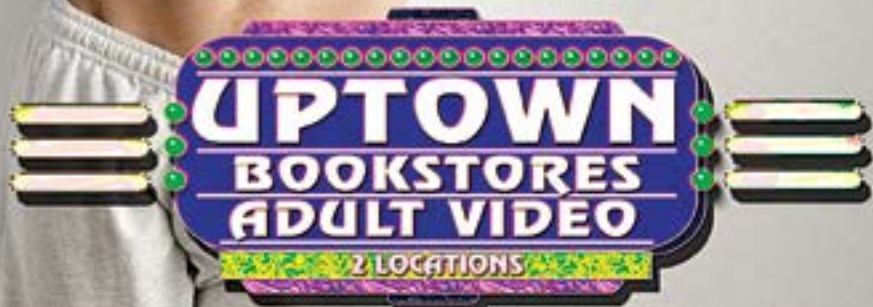
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Cocktail Chatter

The Gin Rickey

BY ED SIKOV

"Whatcha makin', hot stuff?" I was at the kitchen island mixing an experimental drink; I felt the hand slip around my stomach and jumped slightly before I heard the coo in my ear. Dan never calls me "hot stuff," so I knew it wasn't him. But whose hand was suddenly tweaking my right nipple?

"Chipper! You dog!" I gave a slight shiver and felt a certain stirring.

"Seriously, tiger," Chipper whispered. "Can I try it?"

"My nipple or my drink?" I inquired in a lewd tone. Chipper made a growling noise and started to work on a hickey on my neck. I shook him off, finished making the cocktail and handed it to him. Wasting no time, he took a sizeable gulp.

"Yikes!" he said. "That's strong! Strong but good! What's it called?"

"Loooo-cyyyyy?!" was my response.

"The Ethel?"

"Good guess, but no. Not 'The Ethel.' Close, though."

"Certainly not 'The Fred.' Not even you would name a drink 'The Fred.'"

"Indeed not," I sniffed. "Not 'The Fred.'"

"The Ricky?"

"Right!" I cried. "You win the prize," at which point I whirled around and grabbed his nuts. Of course that was precisely the moment for Dan to make his pointless entrance.

"I'm not jealous. You can have him," he said to Chipper as he continued past the kitchen and into the living room. There is little more deflating than having one's husband offer you to the nearest mouth.

Chipper and I moved away from each other quickly; our illicit fondling had been killed before it got interesting.

"Yes," I said. "It's a Gin Rickey. What do you think?"

"It's fabulous!" Chipper enthused. "What's in it?"

"Gin and lime juice and seltzer and that's all, except for the ice."

"Wait a minute," Chipper said. "I thought that was a Collins."

"Good catch, shortstop!" I said. "A Rickey is a Collins

without sugar and with lime juice instead of lemon. But like a Collins, a Rickey can be made with...."

"... various kinds of liquors." Dan was finishing my sentence for me. "Rum, bourbon, even Scotch."

"Very good," I said with a certain edge to my voice. "Would you like me to throw one in your face?"

"No, thank you, darling dearest," Dan coolly replied. "Just make me a standard Gin Rickey, and don't be stingy with the gin." The nerve of some people!

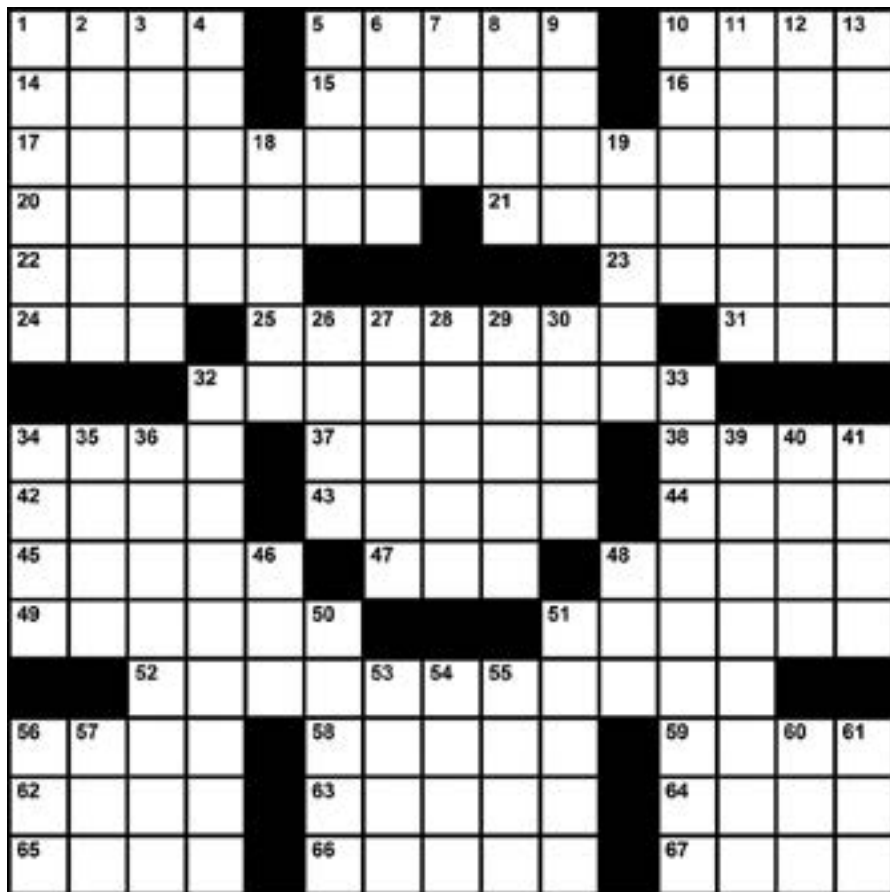
The Gin Rickey

3 Tbsp. Beefeater gin
2 Tbsp. lime juice, either bottled or fresh (1 lime's worth, if the lime is juicy)
Seltzer
Lime wedge garnish (optional)
Put some ice in a highball glass (a tumbler); add the gin, juice and seltzer in that order. That's all, folks!

Ed Sikov is the author of the e-book, "The Boys' and Girls' Little Book of Alcohol," a novel with recipes based on his Cocktail Chatter column.



He's Seven Feet Tall, So ...



Across

- 1 Sprit at the Gay Games
- 5 Sucking sound
- 10 Places where women might sweat together
- 14 Italian wine city
- 15 The bottom line
- 16 Antifur org.
- 17 Start of a comment about Jason Collins
- 20 Brian on ice
- 21 Audrey Hepburn role
- 22 German Surrealist Max
- 23 Penetrate
- 24 Musical notes
- 25 Service receivers
- 31 Cold war prog.
- 32 More of the comment
- 34 Leonardo's thing
- 37 Boyfriend
- 38 Silica stone
- 42 Strong as ____
- 43 Connect with
- 44 Biggest of a bear threesome
- 45 Pinko's hero
- 47 U-turn from SSW
- 48 Ruhr industrial center
- 49 Rabies threat
- 51 Black Sea city

- 52 End of the comment
- 56 Look curiously
- 58 Diabolical one
- 59 Robert of "The Brady Bunch"
- 62 Like a fairy tale brother?
- 63 Peta Wilson's Nikita, e.g.
- 64 Charlotte Brontë's Jane
- 65 Multitude
- 66 Top-drawer
- 67 Peter the Great

Down

- 1 Robin Williams' Pam of "Mork & Mindy"
- 2 Toward Dinah?
- 3 Members of Gertrude's family
- 4 Dropped hankie and such
- 5 W.W. II gun
- 6 Nuts
- 7 Hollywood's Hagen
- 8 Butts
- 9 Guilty, to Perry Mason
- 10 Blow off
- 11 ____ fours (small cakes)
- 12 Made amends
- 13 African outing
- 18 Concoct, as a plot
- 19 Over the top in the middle
- 26 Split
- 27 Leave stranded on a gay ski weekend, say
- 28 Talk show host who made the comment
- 29 Streisand's "Prince of Tides" costar
- 30 Poet ____ Wu
- 32 Art of stuffing animals
- 33 Active one's affair on the side?
- 34 Collected
- 35 Top draft level
- 36 "Gypsy" lyrics writer
- 39 Superintendents' masters
- 40 King Kong's kin
- 41 Star Turner
- 46 Japanese theater
- 48 College web address suffix
- 50 Fish hooks
- 51 More queer
- 53 Debussy's deity
- 54 Short term employee
- 55 Round-buyer's words
- 56 Org. of athletes that Sheehan doesn't swing with
- 57 Screw up
- 60 Bill written by Alice Paul
- 61 Aachen article

Solution on pg. 39

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Deep Inside Hollywood

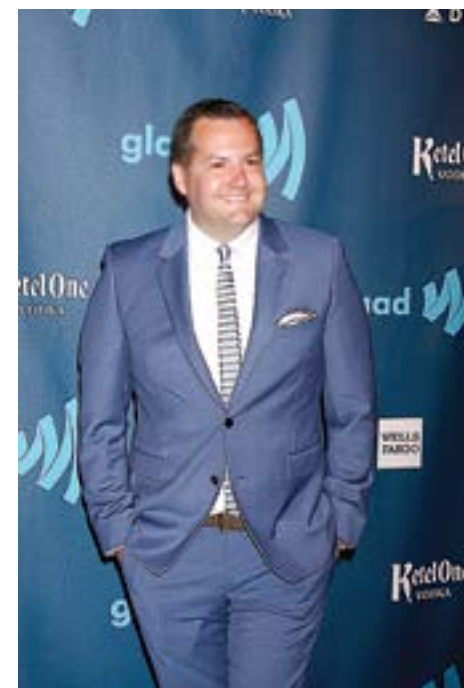
BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Channing Tatum and Joseph Gordon-Levitt are guys who need dolls

A “Guys and Dolls” movie with Channing Tatum and Joseph Gordon-Levitt? Is it Awesome Ideas Week or something? Because in a world of cringe-inducing announcements about this or that unnecessary remake, the thought of a classic musical getting an update with two of Hollywood’s most appealing younger actors – both of whom know their way around a song and dance – is a welcome shot of good news. Twentieth Century Fox has the rights in place to start development and both Tatum and Gordon-Levitt are reported to be interested in starring in the gangsters-meet-gamblers musical (first a Broadway staple, then a great 1955 film with Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando). Of course, anyone who pays attention to the production process knows that projects in development can evaporate like a sneeze, but can some Power-Gay make this happen, please? It’d be a great way for Tatum to develop past the “Step Up”/“Magic Mike” school of bump-and-grind (something he showed while whisking Charlize Theron literally off her feet at this year’s Academy Awards) and needed evidence that Gordon-Levitt isn’t only good at being a member of the dancing chorus while Seth McFarlane sings “We Saw Your Boobs.” Breathless anticipation starting now.

Ready for four hours with ‘Olive Kitteridge’?

It might help if you knew what “Olive Kitteridge” is first, right? Well, it’s the title of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Elizabeth Strout, a title that got the attention of Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman of Playtone. That production company will develop it into a four-hour miniseries to be directed by Lisa Cholodenko (“The Kids Are All Right”), and Frances McDormand will star as the title character. Kitteridge is a witty but abrasive woman who observes (and, presumably, narrates or comments on) all the uncharacteristically scandalous activities taking place in her small, seemingly peaceful town on the coast of Maine – affairs, crime and other run-of-the-mill human foibles and tragedies. Richard Jenkins will play McDormand’s husband, the town pharmacist. Based on the number of characters and interwoven connections in the book, four hours might not even be quite enough time to include them all, but at least it’ll provide work for actors who can nail that specific accent found among



Ross Mathews. Photo: Helga Esteb / Shutterstock.com

dyed-in-the-wool, North-of-Massachusetts New Englanders. Think less Marky Mark, more “Murder She Wrote” and you’re almost there.

Hello Ross, we’re ready to watch your talk show called ‘Hello Ross’

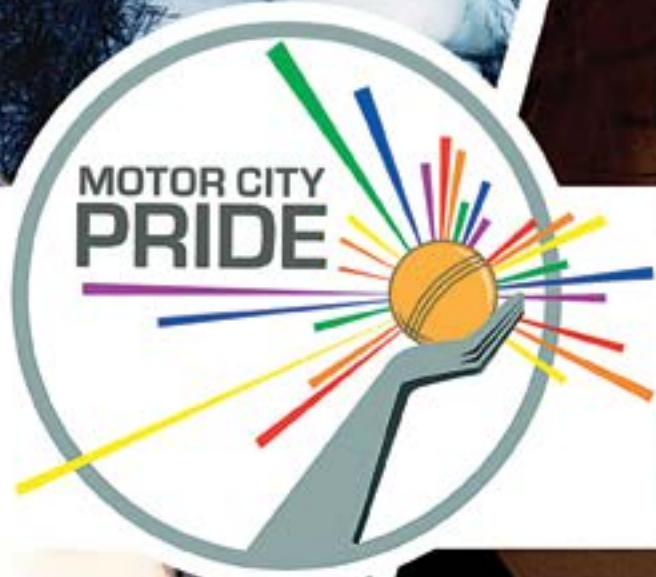
It’s good to be funny and know Chelsea Handler. Of course, you might think that in the case of Ross Mathews, who began his chat show sidekick career freaking people out with his excellently high-pitched speaking voice (he went by “Ross The Intern”) on “The Tonight Show,” that it’d be good to be funny and know Jay Leno. But it’s actually Handler who hooks up her pals. Case in point: Mathews, who guests on the “Chelsea Lately” comics roundtable on an almost weekly basis, is spinning off into hosting territory thanks to his current boss. Handler’s production company is behind “Hello Ross,” which will premiere on E! later this year. We’re happy for Ross, who’s both funny and sweet-natured, but sooner or later his show is bound to bring up the tired old argument about masculine versus feminine gay male representation on TV. It’s inevitable. For the record, we don’t care that the author of “Man Up!” is frequently mistaken on the phone for female, as long as he makes us laugh. So make us laugh, Ross.

Romeo San Vicente thinks a good sense of humor trumps being butch pretty much any day. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



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