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**Supreme Court's Upcoming LGBT Cases** 

**Motor City Pride Brings Unity To The D** 

Pride is when all the sexy lesbians come out of hiding.

> – Manila Luzon, interview pg. 24





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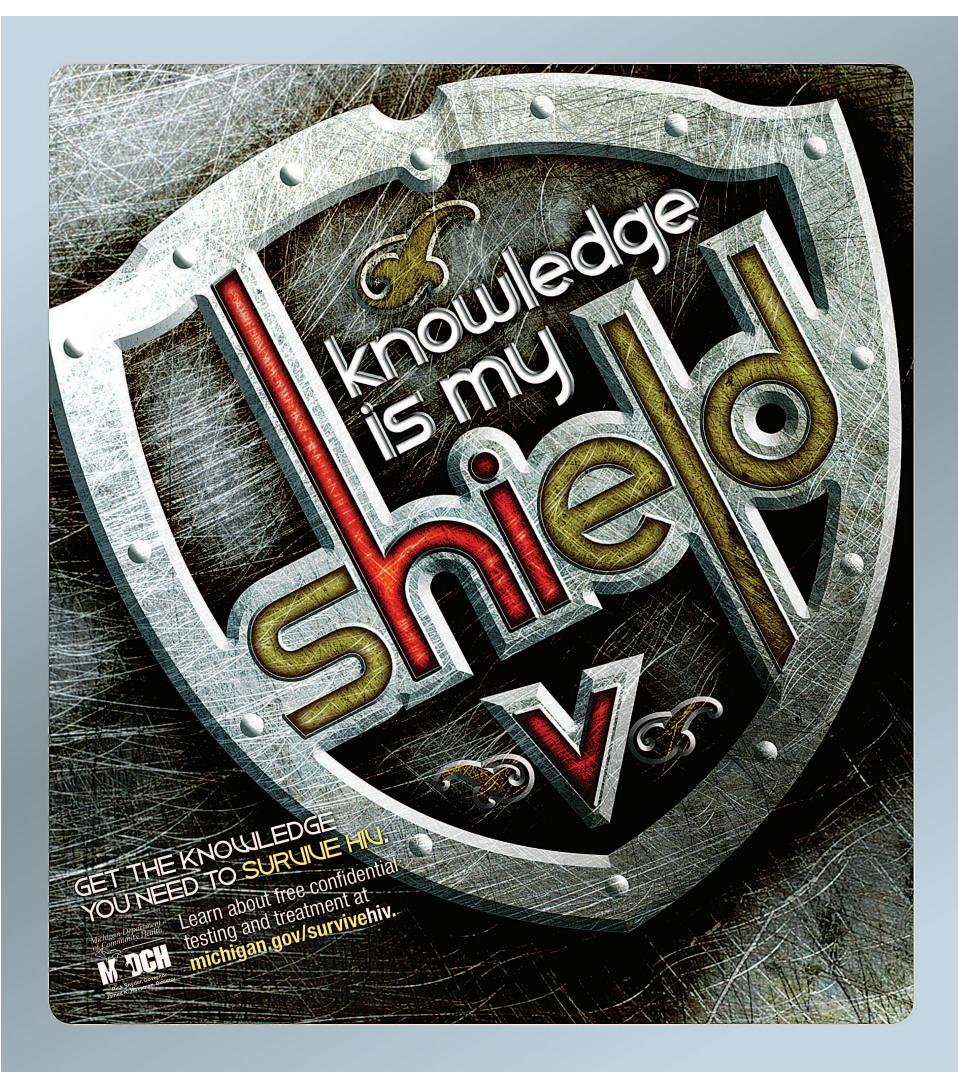
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We need to refresh. We need to rebuild our spirits. We need to know we aren't alone. We need to strengthen and connect our armies. We need to just be - because there is still so much to do.

- Emily Dievendorf at Motor City Pride, pg. 6

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#### The Online Extra: Motor City Pride Gallery

Check out our online gallery and videos for Motor City Pride at Hart Plaza last weekend in the Pride guide at Pridesource.com!

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Remember, you can access the directory anytime online at Pridesource.com.

#### VOL. 2124 • JUNE 13, 2013 • ISSUE 820

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#### MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Assoication National Gay Media Association







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June 13, 2013 | BTL

## **Motor City Pride Shows Unity In The D**



#### BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** – On Aug. 24 on the steps of the Capitol building in Lansing, Khayla Johnson and Devon Davis will exchange vows as part of the mass commitment ceremony of Michigan Pride. They got warmed up for their long life together by coming to Motor City Pride on June 9, with little son Landon in tow.

"We came from Holt, but I'm from this area originally," said Davis. "This is their first Pride so it's pretty exciting."

Johnson and son Landon looked around in awe at the thousands of diverse people who filled Hart Plaza. They watched the parade come in, a 20-minute long procession of groups waving rainbow flags, sexy shirtless boys with squirt guns, couples of men and couples of women holding hands and walking to the sound of the Detroit Party Marching Band, leather-clad women of Dykes on Bikes, proud PFLAG parents, supportive union groups, ally politicians and more. "It was great to see so many people," Johnson said. "I'm

still taking it all in."



When the Pride season winds down with the August event in Lansing, Davis

will add the hyphenated "Johnson" to her name, but still only unofficially. "It should be Davis-Johnson. That's the way it should be. I'm the odd one out right now and that's not right." The couple hopes to have a larger ceremony someday — a wedding that will be recognized by the state and even the ability to be a legal parent to the son whom they both care for.

Equality Michigan hosted the two-day Motor City Pride festival – an annual gathering of family-friendly fun and activism that attracted over 40,000 LGBT people and allies to the heart of Detroit. "This is a great opportunity for the community to celebrate, and also a great opportunity for us to get the message out there, and have one on one conversations," said Equality Michigan Development Director Greg Varnum. "We're doing consistent messaging and getting a really great response. We're asking people to respect equality and we're asking people for their stories of why they respect equality."

Two projects at the event put this idea of storytelling into the spotlight. Equality Michigan collected pink triangles with messages of equality, which they hung on the large banners leading up to their booth as people entered the festival. The other project let people get really artsy by making squares about their story that will be sewn together for an equality quilt. Varnum credited Victim Services Advocate Sara Spurgeon with the idea.

"With Equality Michigan we want you to be free to express yourself," Spurgeon said. "If you look at these, they aren't perfect. There's spelling errors on some.

#### Continued on next page

BTL photos by Andrew Potter. 1-Headliner Ana Matronic performing Sunday evening, 2-Equality Michigan's storytelling project collected pink triangles with equality messages, 3-Equality Michigan Managing Director Emily Dievendorf with KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb. 4-"Extra-Allies" reads badge worn by festival attendees, 5-MCP Sponsor Royal Oak Five Fifteen crew with owner Gary Baglio center.

Tim Atkinson came all the way from Bay City to help with the event effort, noting that this is the largest Pride in the state and that "people have to get out and be active. I'll do anything I can to promote the cause of equality."

Grace Ficker, a Farmington Hills woman who has seen inequality first hand is collecting signatures with Atkinson. "My wife lives in South America. We have to keep doing one step at a time so someday we can get married and she can get her green card,"

#### **►** Unity

Continued from p. 6

There are different styles. But they all fit. This is a very human way to share and everybody can do it."

Throughout the weekend over 120 people sat down to create a square. Spurgeon hopes the quilt can be an ongoing project that the group can take with them to lobbying and educational events to put a personal touch on the issues that Equality Michigan fights for.

As part of the activism, volunteers gathered information from those who wanted to be more involved in the fight for equality. Tim Atkinson came all the way from Bay City to help with the effort, noting that this is the largest Pride in the state and that "people have to get out and be active. I'll do anything I can to promote the cause of equality," he said.

Atkinson was joined by Grace Ficker, a Farmington Hills woman who has seen inequality first hand. "My wife lives in South America. We have to keep doing one step at a time so someday we can get married and she can get her green card," Ficker said.

Political figures also came out in support of Motor City Pride. State Sen. Rebekah Warren walked in the parade and State Sen. Coleman Young Jr. spoke at the rally. Young quoted Victor Hugo stating, "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." He went on to say, "The idea for marriage equality is an idea whose time has come. The idea is for all the brothers and sisters in the movement be treated like equals. The idea for our brothers and sisters in the movement to be recognized, the idea that our brothers and sisters be able to have the same rights as everyone else and for us as Americans to adhere to the immortal words that all men are equal, all men are equal."

Another guest speaker was Jeff Montgomery, a long-time activist who

helped found Triangle Foundation in 1991 after his partner was murdered and police refused to investigate because it was just another gay victim. Triangle eventually merged with Michigan Equality and became Equality Michigan. Montgomery recalled that he was executive director of Triangle Foundation when the organization took over management of the festival.

"We were thankful at how successful it was, it was always such a teriffic event. I loved it when we had it in Ferndale, but in Detroit it's great for Equality Michigan and for the city. It shows how far we have come, and the event gets bigger every year."

Through the weekend, there was only one reported challenging incident. Managing Director Emily Dievendorf explained,

"One empowering moment was also a sobering one. Our victim services staff figured out that fundamentalists were wandering pride trying to talk people into 'converting.' Some attendees, while seeking relief at Hart Plaza from the stress and exclusion that comes from lacking basic civil rights, were being told they needed to leave their 'sinful' lives behind to be straight.

"Equality Michigan staff and Motor City Pride staff and security promptly kicked as many of them we could find out. It is OUR party. They were excused from our community event about acceptance and inclusion because we deserve some time away from the



Grace Ficker and Tim Atkinson. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire



Detroiters Jennifer and Julietter Thorpe. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

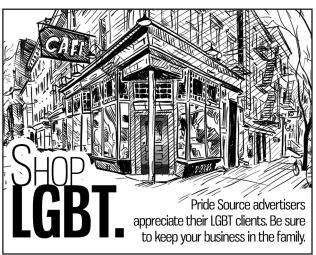


Khayla Johnson and Devon Davis will exchange vows as part of the mass commitment ceremony during Michigan Pride Aug. 24 in Lansing. They brought their son Landon to his first pride event Sunday at Hart Plaza in Detroit. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

hate, attacks and exclusion. We could use some time in a place where the whole theme is our being able to be our genuine selves. The incident and some hateful messages we found left behind by the group, is a great example of why we need pride month and pride activities. We need to refresh. We need to rebuild our spirits. We need to know we aren't alone. We need to strengthen and connect our armies. We need to just be - because there is still so much to do."

To learn more about Equality Michigan visit www.equalitymi.org.For more on Motor City Pride, go to www.motorcitypride.com.







#### Michigan's Only Legally Married Same-Sex Couple Invited To White House

BOYNE CITY (AP) -Two men who married one another on an American Indian reservation in Michigan, which bans same-sex marriage, have been invited to the White House. Tim LaCroix and his longtime partner, Gene Barfield, will be guests of President Barack Obama June 13 at a reception honoring LGBT Pride Month. The men were married in March by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, of which LaCroix is a member.

Same-sex marriage is prohibited in Michigan, but federally recognized Native American tribes are self-governing and aren't bound by state law. Barfield and LaCroix, who live in Boyne City, say they were surprised to receive the invitation and canceled a scheduled trip to California so that they could go to Washington. It's particularly gratifying for Barfield, who marched on the White House 20 years ago and returned his service medals from his time in the U.S. Navy to protest the military's former "don't ask, don't' tell" policy, which allowed gays to serve but not to be open about their sexual orientation. It was repealed in 2011.

"So now we're going to have cookies and milk with the chief executive?" he said. "We're always going to be in shock about this." The federal Defense of Marriage Act lets states refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in states that allow them, although the law is being challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court. The outcome of that case could affect a pending suit in Detroit that contends Michigan's ban violates the U.S. Constitution.

Saugatuck attorney Mark LaChey and his partner Bryan Hoffman will also represent Michigan at the White House reception. LaChey is the chair of the LGBT caucus of the Michigan Democratic party. Last year, Michigan was represented by BTL publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz and Kick Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb.

## **Discussion Planned On Protecting LGBT Families**

**FERNDALE** –Michigan LGBT families seeking advice about family medical and legal issues will have a chance to attend a free program "Closer to Married: Three Practical Ways for LGBT Families to Cut the Red Tape" June 24 at 7 p.m. at the Ferndale Public Library.

Three speakers, attorneys Lisa J. Schmidt, Lloyd Paley and Dr. Abigail Schildcrout will lead the discussion and look at different aspects of this issue.

"We're also partnering with Affirmations Community Center. They'll have a table loaded with all kinds of helpful information, "said program coordinator, Darlene Hellenberg. "The library is really hoping that this event will help a lot of people."

Schildcrout will speak about some of the practical aspects of advocating for loved ones when they are in a hospital setting. Schmidt will discuss how a Domestic Agreement can help ensure a continuing relationship between your children and both of their parents. She will also discuss second parent adoptions. Paley's presentation will focus on wills, trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Patient Advocate Designations, and agreements between unmarried couples. For more information call 248-546-2504

# Gay Marriage Vote May Come To Michigan In 2016

BY DAVID EGGERT

**LANSING (AP)** – With more than half of voters supporting a repeal of Michigan's gay marriage ban, advocates say it's not a matter of if - but when – same-sex marriage is legal in the state.

How soon?

Activists plan a 2016 ballot drive to overturn the 2004 constitutional ban approved by voters. Democratic senators last week introduced legislation to put the gay marriage question to voters in 2014, but odds of it passing a Republican-controlled Legislature are slim.

"We want to go to the ballot, win and make it a sustainable win that is an indication of a climate change in Michigan," said Emily Dievendorf, managing director of Equality Michigan, a statewide gay rights organization.

She estimated needing to raise \$12 million for a ballot initiative in 2016, a presidential election year when the cause could be helped by higher Democratic voter turnout, particularly among young voters. The time until then will be used to raise funds for the signature gathering, push passage of bills prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians - supported by nearly seven in 10 voters - and educate the public.

Same-sex marriage is legal in 12 states. Each of them previously allowed same-sex couples to jointly adopt children and included protections for gays and lesbians in anti-discrimination laws, measures not on the books in Michigan, Dievendorf said.

"This is going to be an extensive effort," she said. "Michigan is still way behind in those areas."

The state's gay marriage ban also prohibits civil unions and led public employers to rewrite policies to continue providing health insurance and other benefits to the domestic partners of gay employees.

While the 2004 measure received 58 percent support 8 1/2 years ago, a poll released last month indicates a significant shift in the public's mood.

#### **Majority Support**

Fifty-five percent of likely voters said they would vote to amend the state constitution to allow same-sex marriage, according to poll from EPIC-

MRA in Lansing. Forty-one percent were against with 4 percent undecided.

The conventional wisdom is that ballot proposals typically need at least 60 percent backing in the months before the vote, in part because it's easier to urge a no vote.

Gary Glenn, co-author of the state's 2004 ban and president of the American Family Association of Michigan, said he is convinced voters would retain the law limiting marriage to one man and one woman. He promised to defend the measure.

"You can count us among those who

Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, has avoided taking a position on gay marriage.

"It might be time to have citizens help us put this back on the ballot in front of our community, in front of the voters of the state," said bill sponsor Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor. "What's exciting is we have several different tools in our toolbox right now, a lot of different ways we can get at making this change in Michigan. The legislative remedy is just one of them."

A federal judge is waiting to rule (see www.pridesource.com/



MILove is one of several groups working to build a coalition to end the ban on same sex marriage in Michigan. They are staffing the booth at Motor City Pride last weekend. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

simply do not believe that everybody everywhere all of a sudden has changed their mind on this issue," Glenn said. "We think these polls are simply a reflection of an echo chamber, a Hollywood and mainstream media culture that tells everybody that everybody everywhere suddenly overnight now supports so-called homosexual marriage. We simply don't believe it."

Some people responding to polls "prefer not to be seen as out of what the media is telling them is the mainstream," he said, but vote the opposite in the privacy of a voting booth.

With the U.S. Supreme Court expected to rule this month in two samesex marriage cases, Senate Democrats said it was the time to propose their legislation. They know it is a longshot getting two-thirds backing in the House and Senate this two-year session yet want to be ready for what the high court decides and keep the issue alive.

article.html?article=5889) on the constitutionality of Michigan's gay marriage ban until seeing how the nation's highest court handles cases involving a gay marriage ban in California as well as the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The state case involves two Detroit-area nurses, Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer, who are challenging a law that prohibits them from jointly adopting children because they're not married.

"I think the residents of Michigan are ready to overturn this," DeBoer, 42, said of the same-sex marriage ban.

She said as more gays and lesbians come out of the closet and get engaged, their friends, families and co-workers are seeing the unfairness of their plight.

"It's an archaic law that really bans equal rights for people," DeBoer said.

Online: Senate Joint Resolution W: http://1.usa.gov/18cH3kg. Equality Michigan: www.equalitymi.org

# Where Will You Be On The Day of Decision?

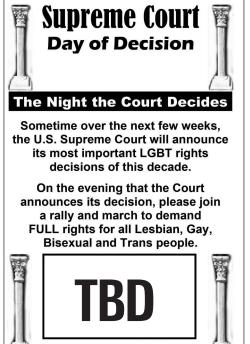
BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The U.S. Supreme Court could rule any day on the two cases that affect the LGBT community, and community centers across Michigan are in the process of figuring out how to serve as gathering places for people affected by the decisions. A national movement, called Day of Decision 2013, is working to organize places for people to gather whether the outcome requires celebrating, protesting, or simply understanding what the decision means.

Planning is still in the works, but the Community Center Network has confirmed that on the day the rulings are issued, the public is invited to gather at the Jim Toy Center in Ann Arbor, The Network in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Kalamazoo and Affirmations in Ferndale. Other centers may have similar events as well.

"We'll have the big screen up to watch the news unfold and we hope to have area experts on hand to answer questions," said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia. "We don't know when they will make their decision, but normally they give 24-hours notice. As soon as we know, we're ready to send out invitations to people on our mailing list to join us that day."

GetEqual and Light the Way to Justice are also organizing a rally to be held at Geary Park in Ferndale. That event is planned as a picnic from 6 to 9 p.m. "The evening the Supreme Court hands down its decision on DOMA and Prop 8, we'll have a picnic so we can discuss with others who are interested in what the decision means to us and where should we go from here with it. Some hamburgers, hot dogs and buns will be provided but it is encouraged to bring other food and non-alcoholic beverages and guests so it may be a really



Creators of the website Day of Decision are hoping for rallies througout the U.S. on the evening that the Supreme Court issues its rulings on Prop 8 and DOMA. Michigan community centers are planning activites around the state.

time of rejoicing or regrouping," organizers said on their Facebook Page at www.facebook. com/events/609300945749247.

The Day of Decision movement has taken off with over 100 events organized around the country. The website www.dayofdecision. org lists events and has promotional materials for those who would like to start their own gatherings.

BTL will update Michigan events as more information is available.





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**COMPLERA®** is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before **and** who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called "viral load") that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines — rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

**COMPLERA®** does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread 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, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA? COMPLERA® 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 COMPLERA 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 COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

#### Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines. COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- anti-seizure medicines: carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- anti-tuberculosis medicines: rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Rolaids, TUMS). These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxifil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

#### COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

#### Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

#### Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- · Have kidney problems
- · Have ever had a mental health problem
- Have bone problems
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

#### **COMPLERA** can cause additional serious side effects:

- New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure. If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- Changes in liver enzymes: People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- Bone problems can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- Changes in your immune system. 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 if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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

#### Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:

- Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Take COMPLERA with a meal. Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace a meal).

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

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



Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

#### **Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information**

#### COMPLERA® (kom-PLEH-rah)

#### (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

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

#### What is COMPLERA?

- COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
- who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
- who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called 'viral load') that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate — combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to
  prevent passing HIV to other people. Do not share or re-use needles or other
  injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or
  body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer
  sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual
  contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

#### What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

#### **COMPLERA** can cause serious side effects, including:

- Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can
  happen in some people who take COMPLERA 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 (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. 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 COMPLERA for a long time.

- Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.
- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection.
   Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

#### Who should not take COMPLERA?

#### Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
- anti-seizure medicines: carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines: rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
- proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:
- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Epivir or Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
- rilpivirine (Edurant)
- adefovir (Hepsera)

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

#### Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. You should not breastfeed if you
  have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby. Do not breastfeed
  if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in
  COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know
  whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the
  best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines
may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If
you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your
body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection.
The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV
medicines that are like it.

#### Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
- clarithromycin (Biaxin)
- erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
- fluconazole (Diflucan)
- itraconazole (Sporanox)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral)
- methadone (Dolophine)
- posaconazole (Noxafil)
- telithromycin (Ketek)
- voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

#### What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

#### **COMPLERA** can cause serious side effects, including:

- See "What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?"
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure, can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
- feeling sad or hopeless
- feeling anxious or restless
- have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- Change in liver enzymes. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus
  infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased
  risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment
  with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with
  COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare
  provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during
  treatment with COMPLERA.
- Bone problems can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV 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 if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- · dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

#### How should I take COMPLERA?

- Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.
- Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Always take COMPLERA with a meal. Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.COMPLERA.com

Issued: January 2013



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## **Reflections On Motor City Pride**

I remember the very first Gay Pride Parade in Detroit. There were 8 (eight) of us. Yes, that's all that would come out and march, it was 1970.

Jesse Bateau

Now that Motor City Pride has passed, it's time for everyone to consider the drive to Lansing in August. The strongest message we can send to our lawmakers is to FLOOD Lansing with voters at Michigan Pride. Please spread the word.

Jeffrey Fineout

I just got home from my first time at Pride. I had a great time. A little sunburned, but it was so worth it.

Anna Ashley

Had a great time at Motor City Pride, as always. My female friends and I walked the riverfront, took the People Mover, walked from Greektown back to Hart Plaza, all without incident. LOVE having Pride on the riverfront! It's a bargain at \$5. Thank you to all the volunteers!!

Michelle Walters

Part of the reason why pride is so important, even for those of us who've been a dozen or more times before, is that it's an opportunity for those who have just come out to be in a crowd of people just like them.

Patrick Curley

Awesome God bless all the gay people all over the world. My favorite cousin Timothy John Fox would of been 61 in May this year. He died of AIDS in 2007.

Lisa Edwards



## Pride, 80s Style

## Celebrating Our Lives When No One Cared We Were Dying

he motto of my first Pride parade was "Unity and More in '84." If you think this is ancient history, I can assure you it's not. Pride in '84 meant then, as now, that despite the insults and assaults we faced other days, for one weekend at least, we had each other and we were beautiful. Next came "Alive with Pride in '85," with "alive" being the operative word. If it was possible to spend 1984 having only heard about the "gay plague," by 1985 AIDS had touched almost every one of us. Pride in '85 felt like a wake.

President Reagan, "the Great Communicator," stayed resolutely silent about AIDS as the death toll kept climbing. Members of his administration, though, freely told the press that it was our own damn fault. So much for policy. In 1986 at a centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty, comedy legend Bob Hope cracked, "I hear Lady Liberty has AIDS. Nobody knows if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Ferry." The Reagans, who were present, laughed. By the end of that year, US AIDS deaths topped 11,000, with tens of thousands infected and no treatment in sight - my friends among them.

Can you imagine if Leno joked about the victims of the Boston bombings or the Oklahoma tornadoes? What if the president did nothing but laugh? It was as bad as it sounds. To quote a 1986 episode of Designing Women, AIDS was "killing all the right people." Clearly, to survive, we could only truly count on those personally affected by it.

In 1987, five years in, the Reagan administration finally took some measure of leadership. AIDS historians still argue about what could have happened and what should have happened, but they surely must agree on what spurred the progress we made in this country to fight AIDS: relentless, unflinching activism by LGBT people and our allies.

Now that it's been 18 years since anyone in my life died from AIDS, my anger has softened. I even publically praised Dubbya for his commitment to the issue. Yes, yes, I know about the abstinence-only garbage that passed for public-health education, but Bush did show commitment that his predecessors were afraid to. I'll give him that.

We have drugs that - for those with reliable access to them - can keep HIV at bay. No one is putting an AIDS quarantine initiative on the ballot like Lyndon LaRouche once did, or advocating branding people with AIDS like William F. Buckley once did. Childhood AIDS

The purpose of knowing our history isn't to pat ourselves on the back for being wiser than people were back in the day; it's to remind us to keep checking our assumptions and questioning our fears. ... For this year's Pride, I'm remembering those who fought so hard not so long ago, many of whom are gone now. They would still be fighting today, I know, because there's so much left to do.

in the US is now virtually nonexistent.

Why am I talking about this now, then? Precisely because it's easy to forget how bad things used to be, even if we were there. And when we forget how bad things used to be, two things happen: First, we get complacent about where we are now. The purpose of knowing our history isn't to pat ourselves on the back

for being wiser than people were back in the day; it's to remind us to keep checking our assumptions and questioning our fears. They have always gotten humanity into serious trouble

The second thing that happens is that we lose our faith in the possibility of cultural progress. When state legislators can sponsor a bill prohibiting teachers from mentioning gay people at all - except to "out" a child (this year in Tennessee), or when a young man can be gay-bashed and left for dead in his gay-Mecca neighborhood (this week in West Hollywood), it's easy to think that we will never, ever get to a place of rational acceptance, let alone equality.

But big change is possible and the history of AIDS in the US is just one example. Of course, people had to fight with the profound knowledge that their lives and those of their loved ones depended on it. And lives still depend on it. This is why, for this year's Pride, I'm remembering those who fought so hard not so long ago, many of whom are gone now. They would still be fighting today, I know, because there's so much left to do.

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





#### **Bigots Do It Better**



#### **Parting** Glances

#### **OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER**

I don't know how you feel about bigotry, whether it's innate or a choice – but if you have someone special in your life who's a closet bigot, or know someone who's concerned about this mental, quasi-spiritual condition – tell them about Ex-Bigots International.

EBI has been in existence since Westboro Baptist Church gave religious sanction to the practice of bigotry and aligned God as a direct beneficiary. (And some Rev. Fred Phelps family and fellowship members would swear on a stack of hotel-room Gideon Bibles that God is the Divine Author of the time-honored practice of hate mongering).

Aside from the theocratic controversy that has been stimulated by the topic – both adamantly pro and wishy-washy con – it's estimated that one in ten Americans are bigots; tho many unlike the Westboro Baptists who have elevated the practice to a prayerful art form - are only occasional bigots and, to use a New Testament backslider designation, are only lukewarm in their zealotry and sincerity.

There is of course, as any Southern Baptist worth his or her heterosexual, born-again political salt and tax-exempt status will tell you, a time and a place for bigotry and its doctrinal and biblically correct use. Isn't that what 'real' Christianity is all about?

The Ex-Bigots International is formed to enlighten the general public – those not a part of the one in ten aforementioned polling configuration – that bigots are born that way and are not bigots who pursue the Creator-given, free-will choice by practicing. Simple-mindedly put: Bigotry's innate. Not a matter of choice. (Say, unlike being gay.)

As current EBI president, Dr. Breadwetter P. Holden, explains succinctly in a recent issue of the organization's publication, Getting Straight About Hate!

"Our organization works tirelessly to disabuse an ignorant majority of our fellow Americans of notions that bigotry is a choice. It is most definitely not. I was born a bigot! Hate with a capital H, as in . . . helter skelter . . .

"Let's be spiritually on target. There are degrees and nuances of bigotry. That's the eternal beauty of the practice. If such makes the world a better place and brings the Kingdom of God an inch closer, than amen, and richly so. Oh, no, brothers and sister bigots, bigotry is not a choice. It is a part of the very fabric of our being. Wear the name with pride.

"If God can hate, well, then, so can we. Bless you, Fred Phelps!"

In that same issue of Get Your Hate Straight! appear several letters to the editor, indicating that the Ex-Bigot International movement seeks to be fair and objective in its goal of identifying bigots as born to the action, rather than electing to do so in imitation of others merely professing that status for in-crowd

Some letters are controversial. But in fairness to EBI, that's a good thing. I quote. Hate at your own risk.

"I'd like to take umbrage to the so-called scientific poll of Americans who are bigots. In my conservative opinion – both Republican, Right Wing, and T-bagger otherwise – the estimate of one in ten is much too low.

"It's my experience, attending a lifetime of political meetings, caucuses, referendums, district re-zonings, all-night, gerrymandering sleep-overs at least seven-and-a-quarter in ten is more accurate. Please understand, I wish no disservice to my religious bigot friends. Just being honest, that's all. Signed, Proud Bigot. (PS: Obamacare be damned!)"

Charles@pridesource.com

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#### **Creep of the Week**

#### **Robert R. Reilly**

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It always comes back to the children. It doesn't matter how or where the conversation starts, if homosexuality is involved someone who is opposed to equality will point to little Susie and Johnny and bemoan their loss of childhood innocence now that they're burdened with the knowledge that not only do LGBT people exist, but that LGBT people are people.

People making the "what about the children" argument usually accuse LGBT people of trying to recruit or indoctrinate kids as part of some kind of well-oiled homosexual agenda. Because to the anti-gay right, gay people are made, not born, and the way people become gay is by being exposed to non-discriminatory depictions of LGBT people. Because if society really cared about children we would go out of our way to teach kids about the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad gays.

Robert R. Reilly recycles this argument in a June 10 piece he wrote for MetcatorNet.com titled "Queering education."

He writes, "It is a measure of the depravity of the homosexual movement that it will not spare the innocence of children in the spread of its rationalization, which must embrace everyone at every age, regardless of price. Innocence cannot be left to stand in its way."

His use of the word "innocence" is interesting. Is a child's innocence really preserved in some way by growing up believing that gays have, as Reilly calls it, "an affliction" and therefore deserve condemnation? No, of course not. Unless, that is, you believe, as Reilly clearly does, that gays are Supercalifragilisticexpiali d(isgusting).

"Everyone who has an affliction deserves respect and consideration. But respect does not require calling the affliction something other than what it is – much less its opposite," he writes. "One cannot teach about sickness and at the same time call it health. It is much worse to promote moral sickness as moral well-being – especially to children."

Obviously if you think that being gay is a "moral sickness" then you're going to freak out, as Reilly does, about a teacher reading *King and King* to an elementary school class.

You're going to panic, as Reilly does, about the existence of gay-straight-alliances (GSAs) in schools. You're going to be upset by a first grader reading an essay about how much she loves her two moms. In fact, after he mentions that little girl he writes, "Evidently, no one has told

People making the "what about the children" argument usually accuse LGBT people of trying to recruit or indoctrinate kids as part of some kind of well-oiled homosexual agenda.

poor Emily that one of her parents is a dad." Aw, snap! Take that you precocious little 7-year-old, you!

Throughout his article, Reilly seems to be equating "innocence" with "ignorance." Sure, there are some things that kids just don't need to grapple with if are lucky enough not to have to (like, say, addiction to meth, sex slavery, or genocide). But learning that one of your classmates has two moms or reading a book about gay penguins? That is hardly what I would call "depravity" and I certainly wouldn't, as one commenter did, call it "child abuse."

Reilly apparently thinks that if children are aware that gay people exist then those children will totally become gay people or, more specifically, gay sex-havers.

"Classroom presentations by homosexuals or on the subject of homosexuality are invitations to obscenity," Reilly writes. If gay men aren't presented as depraved perverts to children, then children "will ineluctably be drawn to the subject of sodomy." And Reilly argues, they'll want to try it, obviously and then die and go to hell.

If only we could go back to the good old days where gays and lesbians hid out in dark bars waiting in fear for the next police raid but risking it none the less for a chance to be themselves for just one night. Back then folks like Reilly were in the majority. Not any more. Thanks to education.

#### **Viewpoint: Take Pride In Your Sexual Health**

BY LORI LAMERAND

s Planned Parenthood participates in Pride events statewide this month, we join in applauding the progress we've made together on behalf of gender equality over the past year. We continue to fight attempts by Michigan legislators to allow medical providers to refuse to treat patients with whom they morally disagree. We've worked to support local ordinances that ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. And nationally, we have joined the fight for the fundamental right to marry. We understand issues like marriage equality are rooted in social justice principles that also underlie reproductive freedom. Politicians should not get to decide what you do with your body or what your family looks like.

There are a lot of reasons to celebrate Pride this year — let's make your health one of them. Don't let Planned Parenthood's name fool you. Whether or not biological parenthood is in your future, we're here to meet a broad

array of sexual health care needs, from testing and treatment of STDs, to HIV testing, to well-woman annual exams. Last year, we conducted more than 48,800 STD tests across Michigan; 12,600 HIV tests, and more than 800 procedures to diagnose and treat pre-cancerous cells of the cervix. Many of our patients were treated free or on a sliding fee scale. For most, a trip to Planned Parenthood was the only health care they received last year.

We recognize that access to affordable, quality sexual health care can be an obstacle for many in the LGBTQ community. In addition to high rates of stress due to systematic harassment and discrimination — which has been shown to affect physical and mental health - LGBTQ patients face low rates of health insurance coverage, high rates of HIV/AIDS and cancer, and high rates of discrimination from medical providers. LGBTO people of color are at an even higher risk for these disparities.

We have 17 health centers statewide including seven in

greater metro Detroit: Ferndale, Detroit, Warren, Livonia, Ypsilanti and two in Ann Arbor. We work hard to overcome barriers to good health with compassionate, nonjudgmental care in an environment of respect. Our doors are open to everyone—it's a source of pride.

To make an appointment or get further information, call 1-800-230-PLAN, or go to {URL www. plannedparenthooddetroit.org}.

Lori Lamerand is the CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan (PPMSM) and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan. PPMSM offers affordable reproductive health care through medical services, education and advocacy. Ninety-seven percent of our services are focused on cancer screening, Pap tests, breast exams, birth control, vasectomies, sex education (including abstinence), and diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/ AIDS. With 17 health centers serving 31 Michigan counties, PPMSM serves more than 69,000 women, men and teens each year.

## Ask Lambda Legal: Bathroom Access For Transgender People

BY DRU LEVASSEUR

Q: I'm a transgender person and was recently questioned by an employee of a local restaurant when I went to use the bathroom. What should I do if this happens again?

A: There is no law that says a person must look a certain way to use a certain restroom, but unfortunately, this type of "gender policing" is very common. Lambda Legal's help desk often gets calls from people who wanted to use a restroom that matches their gender identity, but because they don't fit someone else's standards for what a certain gender should look like, they were questioned or denied access to that restroom. This can happen in schools, places of public accommodation like restaurants, and places of employment.

If this happens again, stay calm so that you can read the situation

-- and figure out whether or not vou're safe. You can always leave the scene if you feel threatened and come back later with a friend to file a complaint. If you feel safe, report the incident to a manager, owner or someone in charge. Explain to them that you are using the right bathroom. If you are still denied access to the appropriate bathroom, you can file a complaint with your local or state antidiscrimination agency. Denial of access to the appropriate bathroom for transgender people could be considered sex discrimination under the law. You may also live in one of the dozen or so states or over 125 cities and counties where there are specific protections against discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Gender neutral bathrooms are increasingly common in places of public accommodation and places of employment and some transgender people report that access to these bathrooms allows them to not worry about being harassed. If you think it's possible, try and advocate for a gender neutral bathroom where you work.

Transgender people should be able to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity and should not be singled out as the only people using any particular restroom, gender neutral or otherwise. The medical community (and increasingly, employers, schools and courts) recognize that it is essential to the health and well-being of transgender people for them to be able to live in accordance with their internal gender identity in all aspects of life-and that restroom usage is a necessary part of that experience.

If you'd like more information on your rights related to bathroom use, see our "FAQ About Restrooms & What to Do If You're Hassled" here: www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/



#### **Viewpoint: Keep Our Families Together**

BY JAAN WILLIAMS

met my wife Pri at a Queer Student and Allies meeting in college. I noticed Pri when she walked in; she was beautiful, laughing and smiling with her friends. After the meeting ended, everyone mingled. I wanted to say "hi," but Pri was surrounded by people chatting and I decided to hold off.

When the next meeting came around, Pri stayed after and we started talking. I had just figured out that I was a transgender man-I hadn't come out yet to anyone. When we finished talking, Pri turned to walk away and, without thinking, I blurted out, "We should see a movie some time." A few weeks later we were dating.

Pri and I have been together for over seven years. Spending time with her is my favorite thing in the entire world. We've been through a lot in our time together, but nothing has tested us more than navigating our country's broken immigration system.

Pri came to the U.S. from India with a student visa and has been able to stay through a series of training and work visas. Every year and a half, we have to go through the same application process, followed by months of waiting. When Pri applied for her most recent visa, we waited weeks after the expected date to find out if she would be allowed to stay in the country. Each day we faced the possibility of having our family torn apart. Because I was legally still identified as a Female on some paperwork, I was unable to sponsor Pri for citizenship. This meant that if her work visa didn't come through, Pri would have no choice but to leave me, and the U.S. behind.

When we finally heard the news that Pri's application had been accepted, we hugged. kissed, and sat down on the bed. After a few moments, my joy turned to anger that I couldn't sponsor Pri for citizenship. As an American citizen, there was nothing that I could do to save my family from the looming terror of what might happen if her visa wasn't approved the next time around.

I'm lucky to be a resident of Michigan, where two courageous transgender women fought to make the state's policies for changing the gender on your birth certificate more straightforward and accessible. Because of them, I was able to update my identification and marry the love of my life in front of our friends and family. Since our wedding, one of the happiest days of my life, we've filed the paperwork so that I can sponsor Pri for a spousal visa. We can't wait until the day

I'm lucky to be a resident of Michigan, where two courageous transgender women fought ....

that we're done waiting, and the stress and uncertainty are lifted from our lives.

Unfortunately, for the 28,500 same-sex binational couples living in the United States, the wait is far from over. And many other couples like Pri and me—different sex couples where one spouse is transgender-continue to struggle under a restrictive web of laws on gender, marriage and immigration. The Senate Judiciary Committee's decision to strip immigration reform of an amendment that would have allowed gay and lesbian Americans to sponsor their partners for immigration means that these families face the very real possibility of being forced apart.

I know how painful it is to have the future of your family constantly in jeopardy. Lawmakers should not have to make a false choice between protecting the rights of LGBT people and their families and passing compassionate, commonsense immigration reform that keeps families together. As Congress continues to debate this important reform, Pri and I hope that this take-it-orleave-it stance with regard to LGBT couples is left behind. Our country desperately needs immigration reform, and LGBT families like mine desperately need relief from the fear and uncertainty that have haunted us for too long.



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www.PrideSource.com June 13, 2013 | BTL 17

## **Preview On High Court's Upcoming LGBT Cases**

## Many Variations Possible In Upcoming Decision According To Legal Experts

#### BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court will release decisions any day now in two high-profile cases involving marriage and same-sex couples. Historically, the court has favored releasing its most controversial decisions on the last day of its October through June session. And in past years, the court released four of its last six gay-related decisions on the last day of the session, which this year is projected to be June 27.

While most mainstream media are reporting on the cases as if the court will decide whether gay couples can get married, the stakes are really much higher for LGBT people. The bottom line issue in both cases is whether gay people can have equal protection under the law. Whatever the court rules, it will have enormous impact on the legal and political well-being of LGBT people in every arena for decades to come.

The first opinion likely to be released will concern California's Proposition 8 – an amendment to the state constitution, approved by voters in 2008, to prohibit the state from issuing or recognizing as valid a marriage license for a same-sex couple. The case is Hollingsworth v. Perry.

The second opinion, U.S. v. Windsor, asks whether the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is constitutional.

Most experts predict that, if the court can clamber over some procedural obstacles to both cases, it will strike down both Proposition 8 and DOMA. But there are many variations on how all this might play out.

#### **Prop 8**

For instance, in the Prop 8 case, it's possible, notes veteran lesbian law activist Nan Hunter at hunterofjustice.com, that the court will find that Yes on 8 has standing but that the court doesn't want to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of Prop 8. If that happened wrote Hunter, the Ninth Circuit decision remains intact and is binding on all nine of the Ninth



Two cases, Prop 8 and DOMA, where before the U.S. Supreme Court in late March and drew thousands of supporters to the steps of the courthouse. The rulings are expected sometime this month, between June 13 and June 27, and will impact LGBT citizens for years to come.

While most mainstream media are reporting on the cases as if the court will decide whether gay couples can get married, the stakes are really much higher for LGBT people. The bottom line issue in both cases is whether gay people can have equal protection under the law. Whatever the court rules, it will have enormous impact on the legal and political well-being of LGBT people in every arena for decades to come.

Circuit states.

Georgetown law professor Martin Lederman noted at least four variations of opinions that could come if Yes on 8 has standing. One of those could declare that states, like California and six others, cannot give same-sex couples civil unions and domestic partnerships in lieu of marriage. (The six other states are Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey and Oregon.)

The court could also uphold Prop 8 as constitutional, strike it as unconstitutional in all 37 states which have such bans, or strike it down only in California.

One of the more limited outcomes would likely happen if the court

rules Yes on 8 proponents did not have legal standing to appeal the lower court decisions. The California Supreme Court said Yes on 8 did have standing and the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed. The Ninth seemed to agree that denying Yes on 8 the right to appeal amounted to giving state officials veto power over voter-approved initiatives, aka the "democratic process." And key justices, including Justice Anthony Kennedy, have been publicly vocal about their preference that the "democratic process" decide hotbutton controversies, not the court.

#### DOMA

For DOMA, the court could rule on the merits of federal law's constitutionality or it could find some procedural issue that precludes a ruling on merits. If there's no ruling on the merits, the court could allow the Second Circuit decision against DOMA to stand. But it's hard to imagine the court would be comfortable with allowing DOMA to be enforced in some parts of the country (where federal courts have struck it down) and not others. It's the Supreme Court's job, after all, to step in where there's a conflict among the circuits and states. And if the court doesn't rule Whatever the Supreme Court does, it will do it sometime between Thursday, June 13 and Thursday, June 27, the likely last day of the session.

on U.S. v. Windsor, it will almost certainly accept another DOMA case in which to examine the law's constitutionality.

Even if the court sticks to the more limited actions, the result would be a major leap forward for marriage equality. In the Prop 8 case, just adding California to the list of states with marriage equality pushes to 30 percent the nation's population that would be living in marriage equality states — a huge jump from the 18 percent who live in such states now.

Whatever the Supreme Court does, it will do it sometime between Thursday, June 13 and Thursday, June 27, the likely last day of the session. (The court's public information office says the last official day has not yet been decided.) And many believe the results will represent among the most important civil rights decisions in Supreme Court history. They most certainly will be among the most important in LGBT history.

"I'm hopeful the Supreme Court will do the right thing," said Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry. "And clearly, the right answer under the constitution, and for the good of same-sex couples and our country, is to end the denial of freedom to marry nationwide and assure that all marriages are respected equally."

#### INFO

#### Day Of Decision

Planned rallies across the U.S. are currently being organized. See page 8 of this issue for Michigan based events.

>> www.dayofdecision.org

## **A Historic Journey**

#### **Top Five U.S. Supreme Court LGBT Cases**

#### BY LISA KEEN

The two high-profile opinions pending release this month from the U.S. Supreme Court could end up being as historic as the Loving v. Virginia decision, which struck down laws against marriage for interracial couples in 1967. They could be as dramatic as Roe v. Wade, which struck down most restrictions against abortion in 1973. And, they're already getting as much attention now, if not more, than pending decisions on the Voting Rights Act and affirmative action.

If the Supreme Court makes definitive rulings in U.S. v. Windsor (regarding the Defense of Marriage Act) and Hollingsworth v. Perry (regarding California's Proposition 8), the opinions will certainly warrant inclusion on any Top Ten LGBT Cases list, maybe even among the Top Five.

Here are the cases that would make most LGBT legal activists' Top Five LGBT Supreme Court opinions list today:

#### 1 Lawrence v. Texas

Year: 2003, Vote: 6 to 3

Ruling: A Texas law making it a crime for two adults of the same sex to have consensual sexual relations in private violates the Due Process Clause.

Impact: The ruling not only struck down the Texas law but those in eight other states. It also put a stop to the use of various other entities -employers, the military, family courts, and others—from using the existence of the laws to justify various other forms of discrimination against LGBT people. Many believe it is the decision that most paved the way for the success of much later litigation, including on marriage, to assert equal protection rights for LGBT people.

#### 2 Bowers v. Hardwick

Year: 1986. Vote: 5 to 4

Ruling: A Georgia law making it a crime for two adults of the same sex to have consensual sexual relations in private was constitutionally permissible.

Impact: Politically and legally, Hardwick lashed out against an LGBT community that was growing dramatically, in part due to legal gains and in part due to a need to address the devastating effects of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic. It was cited by hundreds of later decisions in courts across the nation to justify all various restrictions on the rights of LGBT people.

#### 3 Romer v. Evans

Year: 1996, Vote: 6 to 3

Ruling: The voter-approved Amendment 2 to the Colorado constitution seeking to block any state or local jurisdictions from prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation violated the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Impact: It overturned Colorado's hostile law and put the brakes on a devastating trend of other states passing or attempting to pass similar initiatives. It also put governments on notice that they could not pass laws that disfavored LGBT people simply because a majority of voters dislike LGBT people.

#### 4 One v. Olesen

Year: 1958

Vote: Per Curiam (no dissenters)

Ruling: Without comment, the court overturned a Ninth Circuit decision that allowed the public mail service to refuse delivery of a gay and lesbian newsletter, which a Los Angeles postmaster had deemed pornographic.

Impact: This marked the first time the high court protected the rights of LGBT people specifically, and it did so in the context of harassment that began during the McCarthy Era of witch hunts against communists and homosexuals. By upholding the rights of gays and lesbians to express themselves politically and poetically, and to share those expressions among themselves through the mail, the court left open the important means of communication that the LGBT political and cultural movements needed to exist and grow.

#### 5 Hurley v. GLIB

Year: 1995, Vote: 9 to 0

Ruling: The First Amendment right to freedom of association trumped a state law prohibiting discrimination on account of sexual orientation in places of public accommodation.

Impact: This ruling not only weakened the ability of states to prohibit discrimination, it was the beginning of a trend in which people who did not like gays argued that the First Amendment gave them a right to express their disapproval in public contexts. In short order, numerous cases emerged, including Boy Scouts v. Dale (in 2000). Even today, the argument is raised, most recently in Christian Legal v. Martinez, testing the right of school officials to require student campus groups to treat all students equally.

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**2013 Voter Education Project** 

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#### **Destination Pride 2013**

#### **JUNE 14**

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

6 p.m. The Network (343 Atlas Ave. SE)

7 p.m. Brewery Vivant (925 Cherry St. SE)

8 p.m. HopCat 25 Ionia Ave.

9 p.m. The Apartment Lounge (33 Sheldon Ave. NE)

**10 p.m.** Pub 43 (43 Division Ave S.)

11 p.m. Rumors (69 Division Ave S.)

#### **JUNE 15**

#### **West Michigan Pride**

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

1 p.m. Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids. Vendor and informational booths, food trucks, drag shows and performances by artists including Jane De Young Trio, Potatobabies, Bermuads, and more. www.grlgbt.org/westmichigan-pride-2013 pridefestival-2013

#### JUNE 16

#### **Grand Rapids Parade of Pride**

1-3 p.m. Michigan and Ottawa, Grand Rapids. www.grlgbt.org/ west-michigan-pride-2013/ pride-festival-2013

## **Christina Takes Charge Of The Network**

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**GRAND RAPIDS** - Stepping in to save the day brought Christina Wade more good fortune than she could have imagined. The 33 year-old recently became the new executive director of The Network in Grand Rapids, taking over from longtime leader Pat Ward.

In October 2012, Ward suffered a stroke that left her unable to return to work. As the Network's only paid staff person, much of the center's day to day operations depended on both her presence and expertise. The Network closed its doors.

But Wade could not stand to see that happen. "People depend on The Network and the groups here," she said. "What if someone came here for their first time looking for help and there was no one here?"

She volunteered to come in each day and staff the front desk just so someone could be there to take phone calls and make sure the center was open. Wade had been volunteering as the Women's Group facilitator for the previous two years, so she had keys to the building and some knowledge of the way things worked.

After a few weeks it became clear Ward would not return. "The board members noticed my efforts and they wanted me to keep the doors open while they figured things out," she said. They offered her the office manager position.

Then when the search began for the next executive director, Wade said she applied after being encouraged by the board to do so.

"Christina's dedication to the community and her passion for the role will only solidify the new direction of The Network. I look forward to working with Christina as we grow the organization into one of the top LBGT organizations in the country," said Network Board Member Mike Hemmingsen.

Wade has an unusual small business background that she hopes will help her think outside the box in terms of promoting The Network. As a food stylist, Wade is an expert at creating picture-perfect images for food and product advertising. Clients have included Whirlpool. Kellogg's, Chicken of the Sea and a slew of local restaurants. Her degree is in photography from Lansing Community College, a program that included training on running a small business.

Though she grew up in the Lansing area, Wade knew that food styling opportunities were more plentiful on the west side of the state where there are many food production facilities and independent restaurants.

The move to Grand Rapids, almost five years ago, helped Wade blossom past the age of the occasional trip to the gay bar, into a

Another group that struck her fancy was the Wellness Group, where people meet to talk about nutrition, weight loss, exercise, meditation and other health issues.

When she took over as office manager, and again as executive director, the concern of the community came through. "The camaraderie of the LGBT community



When The Network's Executive Director Pat Ward suffered a stroke last fall and could not return to work, Christina Wade stepped up to keep the doors open. The Board of Directors encouraged her to apply as the agency's next executive director which she did. She has brought a ton of energy and dedication since being selected as the new executive director. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

woman fully invested in the lesbian community. "A mentor advised me to get involved in a Women's Group and I fell in love with the center. I became close with a lot of the women. Moving to Grand Rapids I didn't really have any friends. When I went into the center I made friends with a vast age group."

The Women's Group meets twice a month at The Network, plus one or more times off site for things like game night, movies or dinner. They've also offer bigger adventures, like going to the Fredrick Meijer Gardens or to the beach in Saugatuck. Wade became facilitator of the group two years ago.

is very tight knit. When I came in word traveled very fast. All these people were calling and wanting to know who I am. They are all very caring and I'm very fortunate. And when we need something, people have come through. When we put word out that we needed a fridge for the center, we had one within a week. People always stop in to ask how Pat is doing."

In the past few months Wade has learned more about the other programs, and even surprised herself by finding a nurturing streak that she'd never recognized before. The youth group is what did that.

It started out with just one or

two kids that would stop in, but in a matter of months it's grown to a steady group of 15. "We keep a fun atmosphere and the youth feel comfortable. I don't let them drink the coffee though, and I know when they leave here they go to the coffee shop up the street. It's the first time in my life I'm telling kids what not to do. Like don't drink the coffee. I'm very protective of these kids and it's funny. When did that happen?"

The youth range from age 13 to 18 and they often watch movies, play games or have discussions. Recently they had a "mocktail" party where the youth made hors d'oeurves and fancy drinks out of Kool-Aid. Over 30 young people attended.

Wade has an unusual small business background that she hopes will help her think outside the box in terms of promoting The Network.

Wade loves seeing the expansion of the youth program. "We're going to need them to be here at the center to keep it open for the next 25 years," she said.

The thing that has surprised Wade most has been the generosity of the community. At the end of 2012, membership renewals went out. "It's super common for people to throw in extra for their membership. It surprised me tremendously how supportive our community is."

This is the 25th anniversary for the Network, and both Wade and the board are looking excitedly into the future. "The Network will become a way of life with the LGBT community in the West Michigan area within the next few years. The board is growing not only from a numbers standpoint, but our focus on putting together a strong strategic plan that will allow for more programs, increased awareness of LGBT issues, and last but not least the return of Pride to the Network. Execution of that plan has already begun," Hemmingsen said.

For more information on the Network, visit their website at www.grlgbt.org.

www.PrideSource.com

## Grand Rapids Parade Marshals Remember Years of Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

GRAND RAPIDS – In March 1964 a terrific partnership was formed. In the safe haven of a friend's house where gay men were able to meet, drink and socialize, Milt Lennox and Edward Ladner fell in love. They were each other's first loves, and through the years they helped countless others find happiness and acceptance through their business, The Apartment Lounge. They also helped fund most of the major LGBT advances in Grand Rapids over the years, including the first West Michigan Pride and The Network, 25 years ago.

Lennox and Ladner are looking forward to the city's first Parade of Pride June 16 at 2 p.m. and wind through downtown Grand Rapids, tying into the 25th celebration of West Michigan Pride. Not only are they glad to see the historic parade take place, they are serving as Parade Marshals for the event.

Said Lennox about the parade, "It's about time." Much of the work that has been done over the course of their lives was done with help from The Apartment Lounge donations. "We gave because we were the only ones in the position to do it. We were the first gay business owners in the area, so we gave back," Lennox said. "The community supported us. You cannot continually take without giving back to the community. It helped business too. We did a lot of it anonymously, but it helped make Grand Rapids a place for the gay community. And the community came in to our business."

Being marshals is just icing on the cake. "We were very surprised and honored," Lennox said.

Their legacy is The Apartment Lounge and the years of social and political meet up that the family-friendly bar provided since 1978. "The Apartment Lounge is a very well-respected lounge through America and across the pond," he said. "It's a family run business that grew by word of mouth. People would say 'when you go to Grand Rapids, make sure you stop at The Apartment Lounge.' The whole deal was word of mouth.

"It was the place to go to feel safe and secure. There were no drugs allowed. We didn't need hustlers. It was a safe haven. People would bring their mothers, their fathers, their grandmothers, their kids to introduce them to the gay lifestyle. Everyone could feel comfortable there."

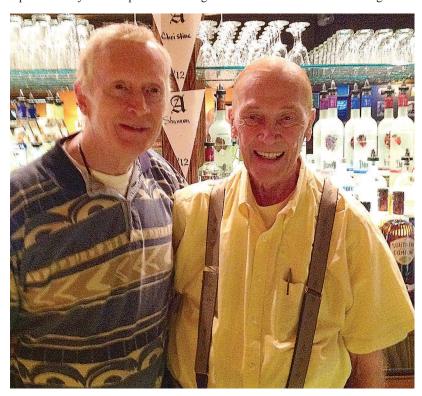
The Apartment Lounge served

sandwiches and drinks, and held events like charity auctions to benefit the community. "Every dollar that was raised at the auctions went to the fundraisers," Lennox said

Over the years, the gentlemen did not experience any notable problems being

community and we didn't have the option of being out there and sleeping around. Ed was my first boyfriend and I was his first boyfriend. It helped that I was working all the time. I stayed busy so we missed each other."

Lennox had been working with a



Edward Ladner and Milt Lennox fell in love back in 1964. They have been a part of Grand Rapid's LGBT community since getting together and up until last year operated The Apartment Lounge since 1978.

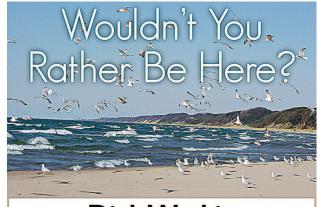
gay business owners in Grand Rapids. "We traveled in both worlds very easily," Lennox said. "There's always somebody that stands on the sidelines and says things, but that's it. The acceptance of the gay community has grown. Straight bars wouldn't let gay people in through their doors. Now they've found out our money is just as green."

Lennox, now 78 and Ladner, now 70, retired earlier this year and sold The Apartment Lounge. The new owner is working to expand the live music capabilities and the menu. Lennox and Ladner are enjoying their continued time growing together. When asked what the secret is to so long of a successful relationship Lennox said, "Keep your pants zipped honey. That's what I tell the boys all the time. That's the secret."

He went on to explain, "We were from a different time. The words 'faggot' and 'homo' were out there. Gay was not around. It was a dark era in our company that made door handles and chrome parts for the auto industry. The move to bar ownership came when the factory was going to close. "They were going to shut the Grand Rapids factory down. I didn't want to go to any of the five places they were sending us to. We bought the bar because I knew what was going to happen. This was our first bar in 1972 on Lyon Street." Since then they owned a handful of different bars before focusing on The Apartment Lounge in 1978.

Looking back and celebrating Lennox said, "You have to feel pride in what's been accomplished. We didn't think about the future. It was what was needed to be done and we did it."

The Parade of Pride is June 16 at 2 p.m. The parade will start at Ottawa Ave, turn East on Lyon, turn North on Ionia and end at Michigan Ave. For more information on West Michigan Pride go to www.grlgbt.



Dick Waskin RF//IX

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#### **Destination Pride 2013**

#### **JUNE 14**

#### **Kalamazoo Pride White Party**

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

5-11 p.m. Local drag, electronic music, and Manila Luzon of "RuPaul's Drag Race." www.kglrc.org/pride.

#### **JUNE 15**

#### **Kalamazoo Pride Brunch**

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

10-12 p.m. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo. www.kglrc.org/pride

#### **Kalamazoo Pride**

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource CenterTime

2-11 p.m. DJ and performances by Hannaniah & The Boys, Kimi Hayes, Deja Vu, and more.

Bell's Brewery to debut new beer, Sparkleberry.

Admission: \$5 Friday, \$7 Saturday, or \$10 pass for both days. Kids 12 and under free. www.kglrc.org/pride. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo.

Please see Back Cover of this issue of BTL for more details.

## Kalamazoo's Got Zach Bauer Power

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

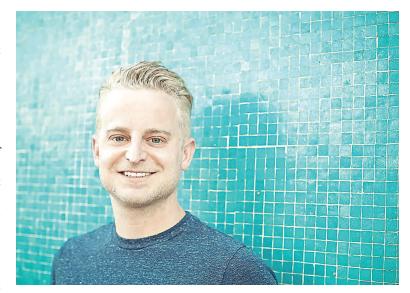
KALAMAZOO – After growing up in a town where bovine outnumbered people, a short stint in the Navy, and a few years suited up in the world of corporate finance, Zach Bauer finally feels at home. For the past 18 months he has been serving as executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, a position that allows him to help LGBT people in his community and to work on statewide efforts towards equality.

At 32 years-old, Bauer is energetic and scrappy, putting in long hours to sustain the organization's growth spurt of the past few years. One big example is the boom of the sixth annual Kalamazoo Pride, which has now expanded to a two-day event to benefit the center. And as part of the Community Center Network, Bauer is making sure that the voice of southwest Michigan is being heard statewide.

Bauer fell in love with the city a dozen years ago when he came to study political science and economics at Western Michigan University. While there he tasted activism, working with the school's LGBT club OUTspoken, and even a brief membership in the Campus Republicans. His worldview expanded along with his passion for activism as he worked on a campaign to elect Mayor Bobby Hopewell, who became a friend and mentor.

Though his job with a large bank took him back and forth between Michigan and Pennsylvania, Bauer remained active as a volunteer in political campaigns, and ultimately by volunteering his expertise for the 2011 Pride. When the previous executive director, Dave Garcia, left to take the helm at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, Bauer was a natural to step in.

In a small office building shared with the HIV/AIDS organization CARES, Bauer and his team oversee a surprising number of programs. The Faith Alliance seeks to "foster constructive conversations on the intersection of faith and sexuality for the healing of individuals and communities." Their Connections Youth Group helps young people aged "ages 13 to 18, who are trying to come to terms with their sexuality in a sometimes-unaccepting society." TransCend provides support and



KGLRC's Executive Director Zach Bauer has been running the agency for the past 18 months. He is making sure that the voice of southwest Michigan is being heard statewide.

resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. And there are a number of social, support and health/wellness related groups for people in the LGBT community and their allies.

#### **Mentoring**

One program that helped give Bauer insight into the importance of the center's work was the Triangle Mentorship Program. The program connects a youth with both an LGBT adult and an ally for a year's worth of connection. Bauer had never been a mentor before. "My mentee is now graduated from high school and is off doing political activism work," Bauer said with pride. "He and I had a lot of similarities. It was a good opportunity for him to talk about what he's going to do in life." Through the program they met at least once a month, and also had big events with the other youth and mentors in the program. "It was a great experience for us both," Bauer said.

Growing up gay in the small town of Vassar, Michigan gave him firsthand experience at the challenges some LGBT youth face. "It wasn't easy," he said. "I came out at 14 and I'm not sure if Vassar was ready for their first openly gay person. You got slurs. You got pushed into lockers. But I had a couple of teachers that helped. My parents supported me and we pushed through.

"I used humor to get around a lot of it. I was the gay kid. People would laugh about it and I'd laugh about it. I was a lippy kid. So if I wasn't being treated fairly I had something to say about it."

His parents' support helped immensely. "It was a very different time. There was no Ellen back then," he said "But they learned. They started from a place of love. They loved their son and wanted their son to be safe. I am very proud of them."

For young people who don't have a ready-made support system Bauer advises, "Find somebody you know is going to support you – a teacher, a neighbor, a relative – and be your wonderful, beautiful, queer self. But be safe." He also suggests finding a community center and connecting with other LGBT people for support.

KGLRC is one of several throughout the state. Each is independently operated, but within the past year there has been unprecedented cooperation between them, as well as rapid growth of community organizing in smaller towns like Battle Creek, Jackson and Holland.

The Community Center Network is made up of seven centers statewide, including Kalamazoo. "The Network came together in response to Governor Snyder withdrawing same sex partner benefits to state employees. We came together in Lansing to say that all families matter," Bauer said. "It was this organic thing that morphed into something unique. The equality movement in Michigan is not a pretty story. There has been a lot of in-fighting. Work was being done in a siloed manner. Now we're

Bauer is quick to point out that his work is not a one-man show.

working together, and that's never happened in Michigan." Bauer is the co-chair of the Community Center Network, along with Garcia of Affirmations.

CCN also created the 100 day Hungry 4 Equality strike, where people would take 24-hour shifts of not eating to raise awareness of LGBT issues. In addition to activist stands, CCN looks to connect the communities in more fun ways, including the upcoming Shore to Shore Equality Ride from September 4-7. This 100-person ride will start in Ferndale and go to Saugatuck, with stops along the way including Kalamazoo.

To keep his spirits up with all the work going on, Bauer sings in the office and does impressions. When he gets together with his partner, who is apparently the most entertaining genetic virologist in southwest Michigan, the two make an unstoppable duet of silly songs and comedy. Their dog Ketchup sometimes also joins in the fun.

Bauer is quick to point out that his work is not a one-man show. "We have a strong board that is very active," he said. "Mary Harper, the former Board President taught me to not be afraid to ask for help if I need it, and I have called on them many times. These are 15 talented leaders in business, higher education and law. We have extraordinary people dedicated to making a difference."

There is also another Bauer in the office, who is of no relation. Megan Bauer joined the KGLRC in July 2012 as an intern with the I Commit Campaign, part of a statewide effort to foster civic engagement. Her position is funded in partnership with Unity Michigan, and her focus is on advancing nondiscrimination policies. Jay Maddock, Program Director, and David Topping, Program Coordinator, also help keep the center running smoothly.

To learn more visit the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center website at http://kglrc.org.

www.PrideSource.com

## **Evolve Shares The Love**

### Design Firm Owners Helps KGLRC Grow

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

KALAMAZOO -Tammy Collins and Amy Perricone have seen first-hand the impact of supporting LGBT and questioning youth. Even though they have experienced some challenges being a lesbian couple in a small community, the idea that their involvement could make a difference didn't really hit home until controversy struck in their own



It was about 5 years ago that a student was being singled out by an administrator for holding hands with her girlfriend in the halls of Otsego High School. Seeing the double-standard between gay and straight couples, an ally student attending the school came to Collins for her help. Collins designed t-shirts that said "Support Love" and the student sold them to fifty other students, making a statement by wearing them every Tuesday for the rest of the school year.

That's when the women realized the impact support can have. They journeyed 10 miles south to the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center and learned about the programs, services and support groups that are available to both youth and adults. Both women began volunteering with the youth group.

"The youth come in and it's a safe place

Tammy and Amy's impact has been felt through every layer of this organization. It is because of their commitment to KGLRC's mission and vision that this organization can continue to make Kalamazoo a place where the promise of equality lives.

- KGLRC Executive Director Zach Bauer.

to talk. They get picked on throughout the week, but they know they can come here. It's so important to them," Collins said.

Their love and commitment has grown continuously since then. Collins is the owner of Evolve Visual Design, a graphic design firm with a wide range of impressive clientele including international corporate clients. But for the KGLRC, Collins works for free, donating countless hours on the design of their marketing materials. Collins and Perricone have both sat in on the steering committee for Kalamazoo Pride for the past two years, during which time Collins has designed the new logo, merchandise and all print-related marketing materials.

"I love the creative freedom with KGLRC, and it's rewarding to use my skills to advance something I believe in," she said.

In fact, Collins and Perricone believe in KGLRC so much, they decided to "take it to the next level" and join the board of directors of the organization.

"Tammy and Amy's impact has been felt through every layer of this organization. It is because of their commitment to KGLRC's mission and vision that this organization can continue to make Kalamazoo a place where the promise of equality lives. I am truly thankful for everything they do out of the kindness of their heart," said KGLRC Executive Director Zach Bauer.

Evolve Visual Design was honored with the Retail Award at the KGLRC's Winter Gala awards ceremony last year, with community leaders noting not only their work with the center, but with other organizations such as Equality Michigan, Arcus Foundation and KAFE.

To learn more about Evolve Visual Design, visit their website at www.evolve.ws. For more on KGLRC visit http://kglrc.org.





www.PrideSource.com June 13, 2013 | BTL 23



Manila Luzon Dishes On 'Drag Race' & Upcoming Performance

Lucen of Zoo Price

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

anila Luzon is always looking for an opportunity to wear her designer shooz. The Asian Glamasaurus will pack up her "Fooey Vuitton" luggage full of wigs and fabulous heels to pump her way to the Sixth Annual Kalamazoo Pride event at Arcadia Creek Festival Park.

"I'm originally a Midwest gurrrrl!" she says. "I mean, Michigan is where Madonna is from, so it's nice to go back to the queen's home state."

This year's event, presented by Bell's Brewery, Inc. and coordinated by the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, kicks off with a performance by Luzon at 7:15 p.m. June 14.

When asked what she enjoys about Pride festivities, Luzon gave her typical funny-girl answer.

"I enjoy that they are usually during the day when it's 100 degrees out and you can see all my man features under the bright sun after I've sweated off all my makeup," she says. "Just kidding. I love to see everyone out trying to enjoy themselves as much as they can, to celebrate how we are all the same because of our differences. What kind of pageantry answer is that? I just love all the rainbow colors and how Pride is when all the sexy lesbians come out of hiding."

Also scheduled to perform are JC, Kimi Hayes and Déjà Vu. "I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with these girls. I don't really watch "The Real Housewives of Kalamazoo." I watch the Atlanta girls. Go NeNe Leakes!"

Festival-goers and Fanilas can expect to hear Luzon's super fake-sounding singing voice live when she performs her hit single "Hot Couture," co-written and produced by Grammy Award-winning producers of KNS Productions.

"It's the only song I know all the lyrics to

#### KALAMAZOO PRIDE

#### **Manila Luzon**

7:15 p.m. June 14
Arcadia Creek Festival Place
kglrc.org/pride

these days," Manila says. "And I don't like to have expectations going into a place I've never performed before; but if you all want to have some expectations of me before I get there, then go ahead and form them in your brains so I can totally let you down!"

It's this bitchy attitude viewers couldn't get enough of on season three of Logo's crossover hit reality show "RuPaul's Drag Race," where she placed second to Raja and announced that she'd get the crown when Raja died of old age.

"I really wanted to win, but totally lost ... twice! But look at me now, doing better than ever," she says.

Luzon was brought back as one of the 12 contestants for season four of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars." She and Latrice Royale were paired in the first episode under the name "Latrila." Luzon has many drag sisters, but there's something special about Royale.

"We are just the right amount of balance. We were a mismatched pair on 'All Stars' and we made it work because we were both back on TV to turn the party. I can't explain it, but that is one friendship that I am really proud of." Together, the bitter divas got over being kicked off the show and released an inspirational single called "The Chop."

The self-proclaimed "Heather" (the name used during "Drag Race" to describe her meangirl queen clique) landed herself a spot as a Drag Professor on "RuPaul's Drag U" where she had a chance to make over her sister Rachel.

"That was so much fun! It was easy. My sister

See Manila, page 28

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June 13. 2013 | BTL 25



## A Grant Gesture

# Musician's Tell-All Interview On HIV, Addiction & Revealing New Album

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

ohn Grant's head is like a prison, and inside are words waiting to get out. These words flood the melodies of the songs on his second LP, the critically praised "Pale Green Ghosts," and they also free-flow in conversation like he's been wanting

to get something off his chest.

The former Czars singer is personal without any probing, a patient sitting across from his therapist exorcizing all his inner-most demons and the sea of emotions welling inside: anger, disappointment, regret.

All of Grant's words are laced with these feelings. And these feelings are a

result of, as Grant puts it, "self-hatred" and "self-loathing."

Without reservation, the Icelandbased artist chats with the same easy candidness of his debut, 2010's "Queen of Denmark," and its recently released follow-up "Pale Green Ghosts," rife with frank confessions regarding his flawed self-assurance, being a target of small-town homophobia, his addiction with addiction and the result of the latter: his HIV diagnosis.

"Who wants to hear about some diseased faggot and his disease that he got that he deserved because he's living this horrible lifestyle?" Grant says outright when he explains his HIV catharsis piece "Ernest Borgnine," a self-proclaimed "expression of anger and absurdity" that sorts out his behavior through the perspective of the track's actor-namesake – a song he says isn't a fit for radio audiences.

No matter; it wasn't for them anyway. It was written for Grant.

"I needed to explore why I allowed myself to get HIV after I spent so much time getting sober and turning my back on self-destructive behavior," he says. "Why did I have to keep the self-destructive behavior in the realm of sex for myself?"

It was always some realm for Grant. The realm of drugs. Of alcohol. Of sex. "It didn't matter what I could get my hands on to achieve that different state of mind," he says. "I can do it with food, or with spending money."

He could do it, unprotected, with an HIV-positive man. And he did, resulting in his seroconversion. "This shouldn't have happened – and yet, here we are. And what does it say about you that you still allowed this to happen?" By turning the song's perspective onto Borgnine, an actor Grant adores and once met at a New York restaurant, he found his answer: "That you weren't completely willing to let go of your self-loathing. That I still had a long way to go ... and still had many things that I needed to let go of.

"I was holding onto things that were still hurting me. The truth is, it was self-destructive behavior just like any of the other addictions that needed to be dealt with – and it came directly from the self-hatred and self-loathing of the last 25, 30 years or whatever. Getting the HIV diagnosis was a huge wake-up call for me that (I) still have a long way to go."

Being open about his status, which he revealed during his opening gig for a Hercules and Love Affair show in London last year, was part of the process. That was, for him, acknowledging he wasn't invisible anymore. That fantasy world he'd always escape to? It was gone.

"I have a very strong tendency to want to avoid things and hide from them," he admits. "I was standing on a stage when I said it and I was about to sing a song that had everything to do with that, but I didn't want to be dramatic. I knew I wouldn't be able to decide until that moment.

"This whole shame thing is what gets me into a lot of trouble anyway – this hiding, this feeling like I should be ashamed and that I'm a lesser human because of this."

Now, though, he's *more* because of this, as Grant's revelation – to himself, and to the world – has broken down the same doors that many HIV-positive people hide behind for fear of being judged. Not to mention, he's been sober since 2004.

"I don't think that I'm this maverick who's going to change the way people think about certain things," Grant says, "but I can talk about my own experience. And by being open about it—who knows, maybe there's people out there dealing with certain issues. Maybe they're ashamed about it and maybe they'll think to themselves, 'Well, if he can say something about it—and he's up on stage—then maybe I can admit it to myself. Maybe I can deal with it."

The cover of "Pale Green Ghosts" doesn't reveal much. Sitting in a coffeehouse Grant frequents in Reykjavik – the largest city in Iceland, and also the capital, where he currently lives – he's stoic and still as he sits alone at a table with two books and a brew. There's mystery and intrigue, and none of the transparency of his unambiguous words

"It was really early in the morning, and I didn't want to show any emotion," he says. "I suppose in photos maybe I look serious because I don't want to reveal too much of my vulnerability with my eyes, which is really easy to do in photos if you don't control it."

That Grant can be completely guileless musically but less so in photographs is telling – a contradiction that's not lost on him.

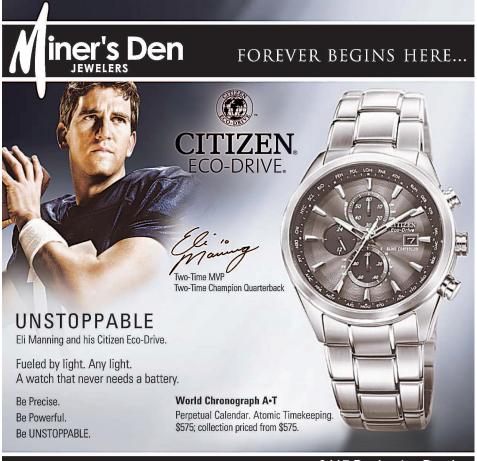
"There's a part of me that wants to look strong and not vulnerable at all, because I learned that's what a man is," he says. "I'm sure that's in my subconscious when I'm having my photo taken. I want to appear strong and like an impenetrable fortress ... which I'm not."

His sharp tongue is his shield. Even when he's self-analytical on album standout "GMF," saying he'd be the underdog if ever cast in a film, he masks his insecurities with biting wit and self-boasting that even he doesn't seem to entirely believe (the song's acronym refers to him, the "Greatest Mother Fucker").

"Humor has always been my default protective mechanism," Grant says.

See Grant Gesture, page 30





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#### ► Manila

Continued from p. 24

and I look so much alike; it was like I was doing my own face, if I was naturally way prettier," says Manila.

Born as Karl Westerberg in Minneapolis, Minn., Luzon said the show has allowed her family to see what drag has done to her. "They've seen how I've used it to expand my creativity and how I've grown as a person. They've been very supportive of me before the show and even more now since the show. They tell me how proud they are, and that motivates me to do more. I love my family."

In celebration of her Filipino background, she is named after the capital of the Philippines: Manila. Additionally, her last name comes from the Philippine island Luzon. As a Filipino, gay drag queen, Luzon doesn't know what it's like to be anything else. Not far from age 30, she is optimistic about what her future holds.

"Screw goals. That just sets you up for failure. You have a five-year plan? Well, what happens if you don't accomplish your goal? Or what happens when you do reach your goal and it's not what you expected? What if you missed out on an opportunity that came by because you were too

focused on your main goal? I try to keep myself open to whatever comes my way."

Right now, Luzon is working on music.
"The creative process has been really

gratifying to me. I'm coming out with a music video cover of "One Night in Bangkok" in 3D. (The video was recently

I'm originally a Midwest gurrrrl! I mean, Michigan is where Madonna is from, so it's nice to go back to the queen's home state.



released.) Yes, get your 3D glasses out, honeys! And I just filmed the music video for my new rap song with the super talented and super sexy Cazwell. It's called "Helen Keller," which will be

coming out later this summer. And I just went to the studio to record a new song called "Bring It" that will be featuring

the super sweet and super sleepy Jinkx Monsoon. I'm still touring around the world. I'm going back to Europe soon, and I'm working on touring Asia and Australia."

Perhaps there is where she will find a new beau when she's ready. Her lover and best friend, Sahara Davenport, who appeared on "RuPaul's Drag Race" season two, passed away tragically of heart failure last fall.

"After losing Sahara, I look forward to spending my days with someone I love and who loves me and isn't afraid to celebrate the great love I shared with Sahara. I suppose time will heal ... I can't remain a widow forever!" As far as marriage equality is concerned, Luzon says, "It's going to happen. We can count on that."

A party girl at heart, Luzon is found all over the New York City club scene, but uses her place in the spotlight for a good cause. In a television ad called "Red Ribbon Runway," Luzon appeared in a designer gown that was later auctioned by Logo to fund AIDS research.

"Honey, tomorrow is not guaranteed. I don't care if you live with HIV or not. The point is that

you are living now. I try to enjoy every moment I have here on this Earth ... after all, I could get run over by a truck delivering shoes to Bergdorf's tomorrow."



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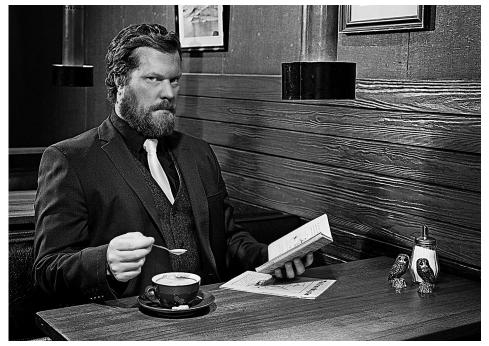


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# PIRIORNING ARI



#### **►** Grant Gesture

Continued from p. 26

I tell him he's good at self-deprecation. Grant laughs. "Yeah, I'm a pro."

One of the most poignant moments on "Green Ghosts" comes during the coda. "Glacier," he says, is about "the whole gay marriage circus" and his feelings of frustration, despair and disappointment. The song inspires with a mantra that could just as easily be his own — "don't become paralyzed with fear when things seem particularly rough" — but in conversation, that passion turns to anger.

"The Bible is not the Constitution of the United States, and in this country, you don't get to force your beliefs on somebody else," he says. "You don't get to do that. That's called totalitarianism. That's called a dictatorship. That's called a theocracy. And that's not what we have here in the United States of America.

"It's an atmosphere of compassion on that song, where I'm saying, 'Don't let it destroy your life.' That's why I wrote this song, because I know that there are a lot of other people out there who feel that way. Of course, these days, it does seem like there's a lot of changes, you know. But there are still a lot of problems too. I don't think that things have changed as much as a lot of people think they have."

Though Grant's stream-of-consciousness songwriting is, again, at the forefront of his work (as is that rich baritone of his), the sound echoes '80s electro – the music of the singer's adolescence, which "Green Ghosts" is firmly rooted in. "That's when all the problems really started and where I began to see that I was up to my ears in shit," he says.

Grant spent the first 12 years of his life in Buchanan, a city on the far west side of Michigan that's no more than five square miles. His first album, "Queen of Denmark," reflected those tumultuous childhood years.

"It was a nightmare," he says of small-town life. "It was like a horror movie, because you

saw yourself turning into this creature that was completely unacceptable. The more you realized there was nothing you could do about it, the more horrible it became because you were also starting to realize just how serious the people were who were telling you that it was not OK – and that people would much rather abandon you as a person then deal with your 'sickness."

That time, though, was also the beginning of the bond he made with the music that would inspire "Green Ghosts": electronic, new wave and romantic sounds of the '80s.

The Eurythmics's sophomore LP, "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," was his first crush, but he also fell in love with Devo and Yazoo.

What's the sound of a 44-year-old man who's weathered everything from drug addiction to HIV? "Lots of distortion and Wall of Sound guitars mixed with huge cinemascapes and electronic Vangelis-esque 'Blade Runner'-scapes."

It's a sound that could inspire his next album, which he suggests may follow the trajectory of his work so far and explore the next phase: adulthood.

"The songs just trickle in and happen, whether you like it or not," he says of the follow-up LP, "and then – this is gonna sound really stupid and retarded – but the songs choose what kind of clothes they're gonna be wearing sonically, and it really makes sense to me.

"I think you will also hear the sounds of 'Pale Green Ghosts,' though, just because I love synthesizers so much and I can't get enough of them. But maybe I'll do a country album at some point, too, because there's lots of country music that I think is amazing. I could do anything. That's the tough part: figuring out what you're going to do, because you can do anything. I can imagine doing a metal record too."

How about a country-metal record?

"Yeah," he laughs, "thereby ending my career permanently."

See, he's much more in touch with reality these days.



Vince Kelley and Julie Spittle in "My Dull Friend," one of three short plays in The Ringwald's "GPS Threesome." Photo: The Ringwald

## **One-Acts Rule At The Ringwald**

BY JOHN QUINN

Early on the morning of June 28, 1969, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people rioted on Christopher Street, NYC, in response to a police raid on a bar, the Stonewall Inn. The unrest marks the beginning of the LGBT rights movement and June is commemorated nationally as Gay Pride Month. Ferndale is not only home to a large LGBT community, it's also home to the Ringwald Theatre. The company has chosen, for its fourth outing of its "Gay Play Series," to shake things

The theater festival runs all month, and the core of the celebration comes later this June. That would be the One Act Festival, when the Ringwald will feature the eight best of 142 plays submitted by playwrights from around the world.

This year, the company is reviving the three previous winners, cumulatively titled "GPS Threesome." While originally staged a year apart with different casts and directors, here the trio is presented by one cast and a single director. The ad hoc rep company comprises Christaan Lafata, Alonzo Luzod, Vince Kelley, Julie Spittle and Chris Stepnitz, under the direction of Kathleen Lietz. Ringwald artistic director Joe Bailey says, "We really wanted a chance to produce these shows in a manner that was different than what audiences may

#### PREVIEW

#### 2013 Gay Play Series: **GPS Threesome**

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through June 24. \$10 per event, or \$20 City Pass or \$30 Threeway Pass. Check www.theringwald. com for a complete list of festival events.

have already seen during the individual competitions." It's an intrepid experiment, but it has yielded mixed results.

First up is "My Dull Friend," an oddball comedy by local playwright Margaret Edwartowski. In a delightful skewering of Internet sites like Match.com, the very uptight Emily (Spittle) uses the web site GayBestFriend to meet flamboyant Michael (Kelly). They represent polar stereotypes – the boring girl, the outrageous gay guy. Do opposites attract? Can Emily ever forgive Michael for setting her up (in more ways than one) for a blind date in hell with Mark (Stepnitz)? This is the most successful romp of the evening, due largely to Edwartowski's finely tuned ear for comic dialogue.

Kristian O'Hare's "Fanny Packs and Hanky Codes" was the audience favorite in 2012. It is also the only one of the three plays I had seen before, and therein lays a tale. Title notwithstanding, this is not the play I reviewed last year. Whole scenes

and characters have been jettisoned, and those remaining are choppy and disjointed. Moreover, what had been a balanced comparison between rocky relations, both straight and gay, now focuses more on the breakup of Monty (Kelly) and his girlfriend Melissa (Spittle). Lost in translation is Alonzo Luzod's Dennehey, a gay guy facing the prospect of aging all alone. Christaan Lafata plays three characters under the collective name "No-Holds-Barred." a moniker that meant something in the original script, but nothing here. Worse, the plot still implies that the three characters are entirely different types, with only their gender and orientation in common. A single actor can't deliver that distinction.

"A Few Survivors," Jason Sebacher's 2011 winner, is an absurdist piece in the tradition of Beckett and Albee. Robert Such (Luzod) travels half way around the world to reignite an old - and I do mean old relationship with reluctant Grover Glover (Stepnitz). Sebacher's use of language is the salvation of a rather predictable "will he or won't he" plot.

To fill out 90 minutes, the entire cast reassembles to present a slap-dash, less than 10 minute parody of "Les Miserables" titled "Gay Miz," as if the musical hasn't entered the realm of self-parody on its own. It's a wig-flipping, character-bending piece of silly camp that continues the Ringwald brand of screwball summer humor.



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Detroit Elegance: Mansion Tour 9:30 a.m. Experience and explore the Charles T. Fisher Mansion, the 234 Winder Street Inn and more. Tickets: \$69-70. Feet on the Street Tours, W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 248-353-TOURS. Feeton

The Family & Friends Support Group 5:30 p.m. Support group for family and friends of people living with HIV. Community Health Awareness Group, 1300 W. Fort St., Detroit. 313-963-3434

Ready 2 Grow 6 p.m. Featuring workshops ranging in topic from plant harvesting to media skill shares. The central focus of all the gatherings will be on achieving health through a healthy food system. East Michigan Environmental Action Council, 4605 Cass Ave., Detroit. Lottie⊚meac.org Emeac.org

Wings 7 p.m. A support and social group for people living with HIV. Self-Run, 2441 Pinecrest Dr., Ferndale. info@wingsmi.org

#### Friday, June 14

Kalamazoo Pride 2013 - White Party 5 p.m. Manila Luzon of RuPaul's Drag Race headlines. Kalamazoo Pride, 910 Grant Court, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kulrc.oru

'It's A Drag' & Annual Fish Fry 6 p.m. Featuring national and regional Drag King titleholders, past and present. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, Owendale. 989-375-2586. Obisite8@ yahoo.com windovervomensresort.com

GLSEN 6 p.m. Social and discussion group for members of local high school LGBT groups. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Gosffirmations org.

Woman 2 Woman 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit.** 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Friday Night Socials: Euchre Night 7 p.m. Snacks and drinks available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Cruise for a FUNdraiser 7:30 p.m. Support our GLBT Scholarship Mission & enjoy a Detroit River cruise with Diamond Jack. Includes: Hors D'ouerves, Cash Bar, and 50/50 Raffle. Dance music by: DoublePlay DJ Services. Tickets: \$40. The Forum Foundation and Diamond Jack's River Tours, 201 Joseph Campau, Detroit. 586-573-9932.

#### Saturday, June 15

Congregation T'chiyah's Third Annual Pride Month Shabbat Service 10 a.m. We will hold a discussion about the Reconstructionist Position on LGBTQ Jewish identity. The service and discussion will be lay-led by congregant Maureen Lyn Bernard. Jewish Gay Network, 15000 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. 248-542-0900. tchiyahorg@gmail.com

Queer & Trans Yoga Series - Summer 2013 10:30 a.m. This all-levels class balances movement with held poses in an environment that is safe, friendly and supportive of people of all genders and orientations. We will build strength and stamina with standing poses, release with twists, and foster joy with backbends, all tailored to the level of the yoga student.

Admission: \$10-15. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105 goaffirmations.org

Kalamazoo Pride 2013 2 p.m. More than 75 vendors, food trucks, and cold beverage options. Visitors can browse through "vendor alley" and listen to live music including a DJ, Hannaniah and the Boys, and Kimi Hayes with Deja Vu. Bell's Brewery will debut a new beer: "Sparkleberry," a blend of Sparkling Ale and Raspberry Ale. Admission: \$5+. Kids 12 and under free. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 910 Grant Court Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234.

Women's Potluck 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to for four to six to pass. Coffee, tea, pop and water provided. Alcohol and smoke free event. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 2800 Tecumseh Road E., Windsor. Windsorpride.com

#### Sunday, June 16

Birmingham Farmer's Market 9 a.m. 70+ booths featuring locally and regionally grown produce, plants, foods and more. Principal Shopping District, N. Old Woodward, Birmingham. info@enjoybirmingham.com Birminghamfarmersmarket.org

#### Monday, June 17

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

Higher Ground 6:30 p.m. Weekly support group meetings for people living with HIV/ AIDS. Each meeting includes meditation and peer discussions. Self-Run, Ferndale. 586-427-1259. info@hghiv.org

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

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

Lansing spiritual places each month. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. 586-801-5427. kspellman@ afsc.org

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

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

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

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, June 19

Student Engagement Institute 9:30 a.m. Two days of strategies, practices and ideas on how to start and support an effective student advisory in your school. We design our workshops to be active, engaging and focused on practical strategies and



#### **Editor's Pick**

Cool down after a hot summer's day at Birmingham's 2013 "In the Park Summer Concert" series. The City of Birmingham will present a free outdoor concert every Wednesday this summer; this is the 33rd annual summer concert series for the city.

This Wednesday's show will be a Battle of the Bands from local high school band jams. On

the series' second night, June 19, watch "All Directions" perform a variety of funk, jazz, R&B and Motown sounds. Formed in 1976, the group has performed as far and wide as New York and San Francisco. The performances are for all ages.

Performances can be seen at 7 p.m. every Wednesday until September in Shain Park, Birmingham. Concerts may be cancelled during inclement weather. For more information, call 248-530-1650 or visit www.bhamgov.org/summerconcerts.

Grand Rapids Parade of Pride 1 p.m. West Michigan Pride, Michigan and Ottawa, Grand Rapids. westmipride.org

West Michigan Pride Vendor and informational booths, food trucks, drag shows, and performances by artists including Jane De Young Trio, Potatobabies, Bermuads, and more. First ever Grand Rapids Parade of Pride on Sunday from 1-3 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride, Grand Rapids. westmipride.org

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

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2 p.m. Midland, Bay City and Saginaw area PFLAG. Meets the third Sunday of every month. Offering support, education and advocacy for LGBT individuals and families with group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, Saginaw .989-941-1458. Pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

#### Tuesday, June 18

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

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.

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. iimtoycenter.org

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

Michigan LGBT & Allies of Faith Working for Justice for All 6:30 p.m. Different

practices that can be directly applied in schools. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, **Ann Arbor.** 734-214-9995.

**GLSEN Mid-Michigan** 4:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing.** lahronline.org

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

Arcus Youth Group 7 p.m. This is for middle and high school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age, going through the same issues as them. Some of the topics covered are current events, families, communication, and decision-making. No one over the age of 20 please. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org

See Happenings, page 39



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## Two Muses Ups The Ante With Taboo Issues, Contemporary Melodies

#### BY CAROLYN HAYES

In terms of both subject matter and medium, the rock musical "Next to Normal" (music by Tom Kitt, book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey) easily ranks as Two Muses Theatre's most raw offering to date. The company's first-ever musical examines the tribulations of a woman whose chronic mental illness threatens her own well-being as well as that of her family with nonlinear flair and savage candor. Under the leadership of co-directors and producers Diane Hill and Barbie Weisserman, this production reins in the explosive sounds and pulsing sentiments of an often unrestrained genre, instead letting the Pulitzer Prize-winning words and story take the fore.

A musical is by definition a much larger undertaking than a straight play, requiring more collaborators and resources. However, this production branched out in ways that are especially notable. First, the company drew in the community for a successful Kickstarter campaign, securing

#### PREVIEW

#### **Next to Normal**

Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, Friday-Sunday through June 30. 2 hours, 25 minutes. \$18-\$23 in advance; \$2 more at the door. 248-850-9919.

www.twomusestheatre.org

more sophisticated equipment to outfit its West Bloomfield digs and offering donor rewards that tied in other area theaters. Second, Two Muses has pledged to donate \$1 per ticket sold to Common Ground, an Oakland County organization that has been assisting individuals and families in crisis for more than 40 years. Among its operations, Common Ground provides mental health services and seeks to eliminate the stigma of mental illness; it's a mutually beneficial partnership that adds an uplifting touch to this empathetic but emotionally rayaging show.

The world of the play revolves around

Diana Goodman (Hill), who for years has been battling a bipolar-like disorder, and whose weapons against the disease therapeutic, emotional, and pharmaceutical - have proven insufficient time and again. Her fear, fragility and strikingly real delusions dictate not only her day-to-day life, but also those of her husband (John DeMerell), who spares no enthusiasm in his total support; her teenage daughter (Aubrey Fink), who stews in resentful invisibility; and her doting elder son (Nathan Larkin), who isn't as he appears. Throughout the play's two acts, Diana registers progress and suffers setbacks as she chooses highs and lows over unfeeling stability, reels in response to a new form of treatment, and seeks balance between self and health when the two seem mutually

All these decisions and repercussions are processed through Diana's treacherous perspective, the success of which is thanks to a setting stripped of most detail. Designer Bill Mandt offers little more than abstract flow and a few convertible pieces,







Dr. Madden (Richard Payton) is watched by Gabe (Nathan Larkins) as the doctor gives advice to his patient, Diana (Diane Hill) in Two Muses Theatre's production of "Next to Normal." Photo: Steve Hill

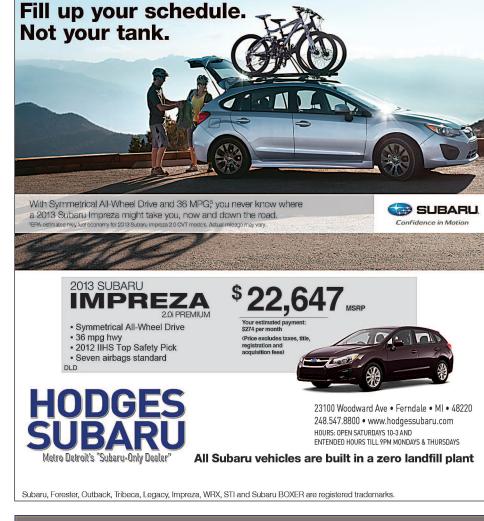
with metal accents and furnishings fending off the void. In the same vein, lights by Lucy Meyo differentiate scenes and realities without crisply dividing them, facilitating the musical crossovers and frequently bustling staging (also by Hill) that effectively convey Diana's mental state. Small grounding influences come from Weisserman's properties and costume designs, whose puttogether suburban affect subtly comments on the disconnect between outward appearance and inner reality.

Nearly every word of the show is sung, and nearly all are crisply pronounced and sufficiently amplified, thanks to the dual efforts of microphone amplification and deliberate music direction by Jamie Brachel, who also leads the onstage trio of musicians. The singing overall is solid, with a handful of low marks that can be attributed to the supreme challenge of the score. More important to this production is the nimble conveyance of gorgeous, heartfelt lyrics and clear progression of events through the interconnected stories. Although the result largely prefers text to subtext (which too often finds the talented Hill residing in an empty state of confusion, grasping for external cues), the entire ensemble nevertheless earns numerous tear-jerking dramatic payoffs.

Diana may serve as the epicenter of the story and production, but the arcs and characters in her orbit are no less important, here taking fine form. As a key component of her support system, Richard Payton dabbles in extremes as her mirror-image doctors, but his best work is in candid words of encouragement, falling sadly short despite their evident earnestness. DeMerell both practices and preaches hope for the woman to whom he made a sacred vow, but he soars highest in anguished moments when it's clear he has nothing to look forward to. Through harmony, Larkin deftly insinuates himself into others' stories, although the restraint sours as his character peevishly calls for attention.

The most compelling performance may be that of the wayward Fink, an internally pained font of profanity whose guarded manner deftly expresses more than it contains. In her complicated path through coping mechanisms and chemical escape, aided by a downright idyllic starry-eyed admirer (Rusty Daugherty), every expression that cuts through Fink's glowering defenses feels like a gift.

The tendency with musicals of this stripe is to burn big and bright - and as loud as possible. The comparatively muted and deliberate approach that Two Muses has taken is a risk that gives its production a distinctive look and feel. While this "Next to Normal" maintains the drive and daring inherent to the text, it foregoes overload and elects to tell its astounding stories with tender precision, yet retains the power to touch the viewer deeply.



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#### Classifieds

#### 101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

#### **Ann Arbor-Friday**

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

#### Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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 Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

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

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

#### 301 EMPLOYMENT - GENERAL

#### **Dog Handlers**

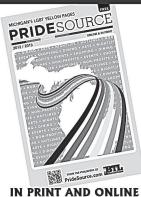
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#### Solution to puzzle from page 42

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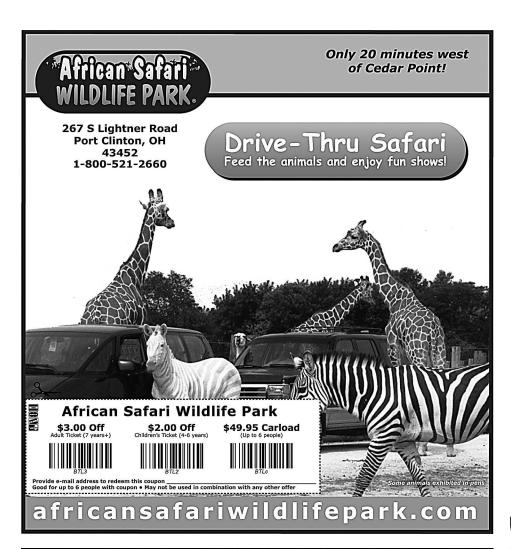
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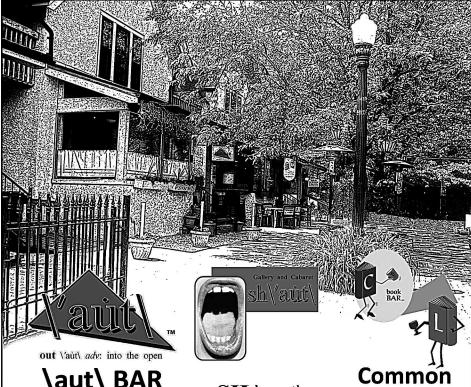












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#### **Editor's Pick**

Lansing Community College Performing Arts will present "Schoolhouse Rock LIVE!" as part of Summer Stage Under the Stars 2013, LCC's annual performing arts festival featuring a variety of music, theatre and dance.

Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher, is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music. The Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series taught history, grammar, math and more through

clever, tuneful songs and is a wonderful musical for the entire family.

Performances are at 7 p.m. June 19-23 at LCC Outdoor Amphitheatre, N. Washington behind Dart Auditorium. Bring a picnic, blankets or lawn chairs; concessions available for purchase. (Rain location: Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, 48906.) The cost is free. For more information, call the LCC Performing Arts Production Office at 517-483-1488.

#### **►** Happenings

Continued from p. 32

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

Young@Heart 7 p.m. Socializing and conversation for those 45 and older. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, 248-398-7105, Goaffirmations.org

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

#### **Thursday, June 20**

Free to be Me 9 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for ex-offenders living with HIV. Participants have been out of prison for three weeks to 15 years. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2751 E. Jefferson Ave., Number 301. Detroit. 313-446-9836

Moms in Motion 11 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for parents living with HIV. DMC/ AIDS Partnership Michigan, 471 St. Antoine, Detroit. 313-993-3444.

Open Training 11 a.m. Living Out Loud Studio, 207 Fieldcrest St., Ann Arbor. 734-660-8056 Livingoutloudlic com

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

**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

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

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral and genderexploring individuals. Space also available to

significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, 248-398-7105, JJenkins@ GoAffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Boxing 10:30 p.m. Qualifying matches every third Thursday of the month. Semi-finals every following Tuesday. Club Liquid Detroit, 3537 E. Seven Mile Road, Detroit. 313-826-1192. Facebook.com/ClubLiquidDetroit

#### MUSIC & MORE

#### **BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS**

Detroit Opera House "On the Roof with the Man in the City" Supporting Y-Arts Media Works. Tickets: \$30-50. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 5 p.m. June 14. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Detroit Zoological Society "Sunset at the Zoo Boardwalk Bash" Food, drinks, music, games, entertainment, and prizes. Fundraising gala for 21+. Tickets: \$150-2000. Detroit Zoo. 8450 W. 10 Mile Road. Royal Oak. 7 p.m. June 14. Detroitzoo.ora

Sing Out Detroit "Sing Out Detroit Rehearsal" Singers needed to join Sing Out Detroit Choir. LGBT and Ally's Welcome. Always looking for non-singing members to help out at concerts and events. Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. March 5 - Sep. 24. 248-943-2411. http://Singoutdetroit.org

#### **CONCERTS**

Blind Pig "The Bang!" 18+. Tickets: \$8-11. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, 9:30 p.m. June 15, 734-996-8555

Caesars Windsor "5 Year Anniversary" B. B. King - June 9. Frampton's Guitar Circus - June 13. Willie Nelson - June 19. Jeff Foxworthy - June 28. Alice Cooper - July 5. Weezer - July 11. Journey - July 24. Tickets: \$20+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor, June 9 - July 24. 800-991-7777. Caesarswindsor.com

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery "Danny Kline" American folk music. Suggested donation: \$5.All ages. Chelsea Alehouse Brewery, 420 N. Main, Suite 100, Chelsea. 8:30 p.m. June 13. Chelsea

City of Birmingham "Battle of the Bands" Part of the 2013 In the Park Summer Concert series, Shain Park Birmingham, 7 p.m. June 14. Bhamgov.

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Toby Keith with Kip Moore" Tickets: \$20+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 16. 248-377 0100. Palacenet.com

Elektricity Nightclub "Bass Mission: Marty Party" 18+. Elektricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac, June 19. 248-599-2212

Grosse Pointe Village Downtown **Development Authority** "Music on the Plaza" Free jazz concert series. In case of rain, concert will move to Mare Elementary School, 740 Cadieux. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe Stage, St. Clair and Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. June 6 - Aug. 1. Thevillagegp.org

Majestic Theater "Jack Oblivian & The Shieks" All ages. Tickets: \$10. Maiestic Cafe, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave. Detroit. 9 p.m. June 14. 313-833-9700. maiesticdetroit.com

Meadow Brook Music Festival "Amp Live 8" Featuring Carly Rae Jepsen, Cher Lloyd, Emblem3 and Zedd. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd. Rochester Hills. 7 p.m. June 16. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Olympia Entertainment ".lazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Tickets: \$43-53. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, 8 p.m. June 19. olympiaentertainment com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Juanes" All ages. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. June 14. 248-399-2980 royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "The Black Lillies" Tickets: \$15. The Ark 316 S Main St Ann Arbor 8 p m June 15. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Janiva Magness" Tickets: \$21. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 13. 734-761-1800. The Ark.org

The Magic Bag "False City" With Crackjaw, Electric Playground and After The Tide. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. June 15. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Face to Face" With special guests Teenage Bottlerocket, Blacklist Royals, and Joshua Black Wilkins. All ages. Tickets: \$20. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 8 p.m. June 19. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

#### **CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER**

Dick: The Musical \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, Through June 22. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater.

Hairspray \$15. Center Stage

See Happenings, page 40

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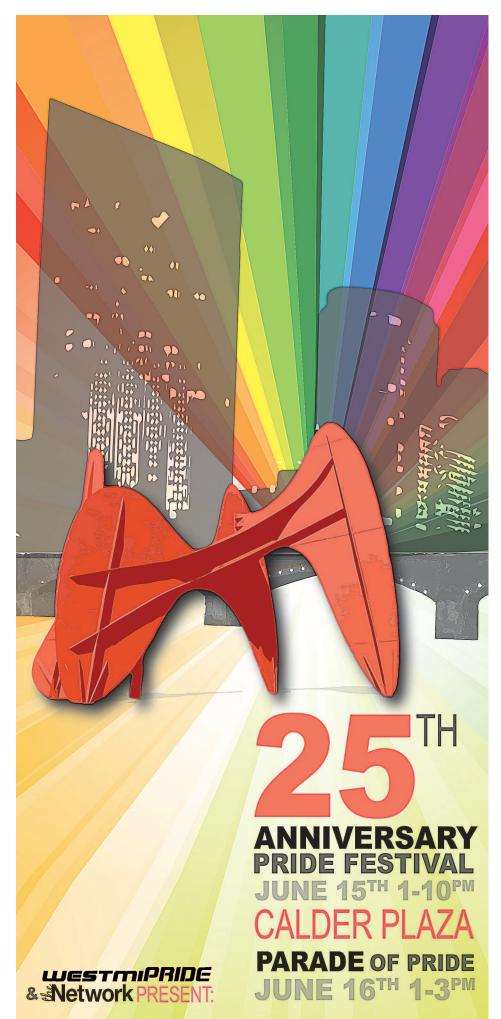
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#### **►** Happenings

Continued from p. 39

Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Jackson Community College's Potter Center, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. June 14 - 23. www. CenterstageJackson.org

Little Shop of Horrors \$15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Rd., St. Joseph. Through June 30. 269-429-0400. www. twincityplayers.org

Neil Simons The Sunshine Boys \$12-18. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. June 13 - 22. 734-483-7345. www.otdproductions.com

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

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

The Third Ever Fancy Pants Gay-la! \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Through June 15. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater webs.com

#### **PROFESSIONAL**

**10:53** \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through June 16. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

2013 Gay Play Series \$10 per event, or \$20 City Pass or \$30 Threeway Pass. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 24. 248-545-5545. www. theringwald.com

**42nd Street** \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 M-96, Augusta. June 11 - 23. 269-731-4121. www. BarnTheatre.com

50 Shades The Musical \$42. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 22 - 23. 800-WHARTON. www.WhartonCenter.com

**50 Shades! The Musical** \$49. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. June 14 - 16. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

**70, Girls, 70** \$31-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through June 23. www.mbtheatre.com

Adult Education \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. June 14. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

**Amy & Freddy** \$25. The Acom Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 15. 269-756-3879. www.acomtheater.com

Becky Shaw Previews June 20-23 & 27 (\$24-32) \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. June 20 - July 28. 734-663-0681. www.PerformanceNetwork.org

Cinderella or It's Okay to Be Different \$8 adult, \$5 child. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. June 20 - 30. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Cymbeline \$15-\$20. Blackbird Theatre at West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh Avenue, Ann Arbor. Through June 29. www.facebook. com/events/164478397059560

Ernie \$20-\$25; \$50 June 19 benefit for the Shawn Burr Foundation. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 11. 800-745-3000. www.olympiaentertainment.com

I Hate Hamlet \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 30. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change \$20-\$22. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Through June 15. 586-954-2677. www.theboxtheater.com

Miles & Ellie Previews June 20-23 & 26-27 (\$22-32). \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. June 20 - Aug. 31. 734-433-7673. www.

PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Mythbusters - Behind the Myths Tour \$25-55. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 22 - 23. 800-WHARTON. www. WhartonCenter.com

Next to Normal \$27-\$31. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 23. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Next to Normal \$18-\$23 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield. Through June 30. 248-850-9919. www. twomusestheatre.org

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

Sleeping Beauty \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through June 29. 313-967-0999. www.puppetart.org

**The 39 Steps** \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Knickbocker Theatre, 86 E. Eighth St., Holland. June 14 - July 6. 616-395-7890. www.Hope.edu/hsrt

The Addams Family \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 14 - 15. 313-471-6611. www. olympiaentertainment.com

The Marriage of Figaro \$22-50. Arbor Opera Theater at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. June 13 - 16. 734-763-8587. www. arboropera.com

The Tortoise and the Hare & Other Fables by Aesop \$7, which includes popcorn and juice at intermission. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. June 21 - 29. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Xanadu \$29-42. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 21 - July 14. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Studio Theatre in DeWitt Center, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 17 - Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. www.Hooe.edu/HSRT

#### <u>art'n'around</u>

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

Art Detroit Now "Third Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. June 20 - Oct. 17. Artdetroitnow.com

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 "Youth Tour Explores Outdoor Art" Meet your presenter at the front entrance of Cranbrook Art Museum. These drop-in programs, incorporating art, science, movement, storytelling, and craft, are designed for pre-K through pre-teen museum visitors accompanied by an adult Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 19 - Oct. 20. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market "Garden Party & Art Sale" Features 100+ local artists' work for sale. Members only. Hosted at a local home. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 20. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistmarket.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Printmaking: Sandpaper Monoprints" Use wax crayons sandpaper, and your imagination to create one-of-a-kind prints on fabric. All ages. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - June 28. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Acrylic Class" Facilitated by Ken Barbb. Drop-In. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. Admission: \$15. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. May 4 - Oct. 26. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Summer Art Camp" First session: Discovery Through Art.Second session: Exploring Creativity and Innovation. Ages five through nine. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 17 - June 24. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Public Tour: Father's Choice" It's Father's call on what to see in the KIA Permanent Collection. Free with gallery admission. Meet in the lobby. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. 2 p.m. June 16. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Krasl Art Center "Books + Art" Engage your mind through provocative reading and discussions. Different book every month. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 9 - Sep. 12. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Palette and Brush Club". Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. June 5 - June 28. 248-544-0394. lawrenchstreetgallery.com

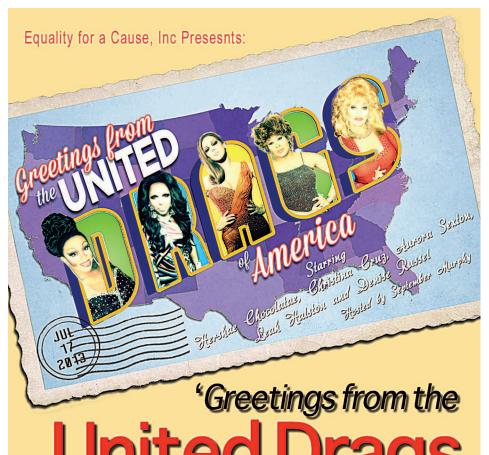
Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "HOMEwork with Senghor Reid" Family event: Detroit artist Senghor Reid leads a workshop in which participants collectively create a dream home combining architectural elements used throughout the world. Free. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. June 16 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Amanda Wieczorek" Collage prints on handmade paper. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. May 30 - June 26. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

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 Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit "Let My People Go! The Soviet Jewry Movement 1967-1989" Features the exclusive Midwest engagement of a collection of posters, photographs and film clips on loan from the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, as well as portraits from Detroit's Russian-Jewish community, lectures, performances, a Russian Tea Room party and more. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. June 9 - July 25. 248-661-1900. jccdet.org

UMMA "Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: Beijing 1930". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 18 - Sep. 1. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



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### The Best Husband

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20			21						22				
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50								51						52
53						54	55			56				
57					58				59		60			
61					62						63			
64					65						66			

#### Across

- 1 Start of a list of who you should be the best husband to
- 5 Newbies on the job market
- 10 More of the list
- 14 Are, in Argentina
- 15 Like bell-bottom jeans
- 16 Deck foursome
- 17 Biker's mount, in slang
- 18 Place to become wife and wife
- 19 Seasonal melody
- 20 More of the list
- 23 Carte start
- 24 Half score
- 25 Like Mary or Peter
- 29 With petticoat exposed?
- 34 Pieces of music
- 35 Like a nervous Nellie
- 36 Ron Howard film with Ellen DeGeneres
- 37 Tomato impact sound
- 42 "Am \_\_\_\_ bad guy here?"
- 43 Often fruity dessert
- 44 Alternatives
- 46 Little red bird of folklore
- 47 End of the list
- 50 Name
- 51 "An American Tragedy" writer
- 53 Like a clipped sheep

- 54 Soul of Foucault
- 56 Dull finish
- 57 Emphatic affirmative, to Frida
- 58 Source of the speech with the list
- 60 Broadway mewsical?
- 61 Guinness of "The Lavender Hill
- 62 Marble handle?
- 63 "This is the thanks \_\_\_\_?"
- 64 Office station
- 65 Get rid of the hoar
- 66 Untouchable head

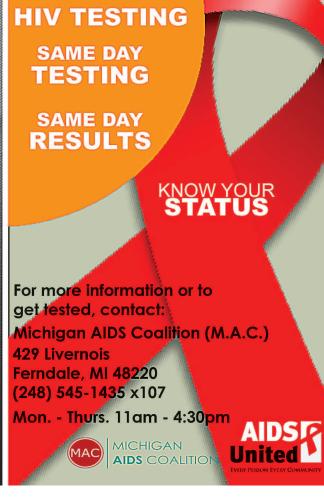
#### Down

- 1 Informal affirmative
- 2 Key opening
- 3 Bono's band, written out
- 4 Prego rival
- 5 '40s pinup Betty
- 6 Get ready to shoot off again
- 7 Lambda Leg. Defense lawyer, e.g.
- 8 Bartenders' servings
- 9 Horse of another color
- 10 Go down
- 11 Click it to go to AfterEllen.com
- 12 Satellite transmission
- 13 Night school subj.
- 21 "Nuts!"

- 22 Pt. of B.D. Wong
- 25 Type of father Robert Reed played
- 26 Collector of Johnny Mathis records, e.g.
- 27 Sticks in
- 28 St. of Liberace Museum
- 30 Contemporary of architect Johnson
- 31 Treading the boards
- 32 Guys in drag looking for your seat?
- 33 Adult-to-be
- 37 Blackball
- 38 Small TV set
- 39 Labium
- 40 Campus figure
- 41 0-o-o-o-okla., once
- 44 Susan B. Anthony dollar, e.g.
- 45 Banana stalk
- 48 Shakespearean jester
- 49 Vitamin B acid
- 50 Former leader of Syria
- 52 Silences for Tchaikovsky
- 55 Three men in a stable relationship?
- 58 Set of Brit. tomes
- 59 Request to Sajak

Solution on pg. 36







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FROM THE HEART OF GRAND RAPIDS

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AND, BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - FROM CHICAGO

#### KIMI HAYES & DEJA VU

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH – 12-4PM**

Join us for a "Recovery Brunch" at The Union. There will be bloody marys, delicious food, music and socializing. (125 South Kalamazoo Mall)

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#### **ELISABETH PIXLEY-FINK**

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