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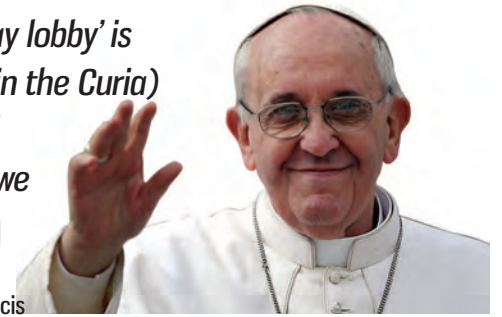


John Corvino's New Book Tackles Right Wing

Pride Season Continues With Tri-Cities, More

“The ‘gay lobby’ is mentioned (in the Curia) and we need to see what we can do.”

– Pope Francis



Legendary Troupe Performs During Ann Arbor Summer Fest



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COVER STORY

18 Hot to Track
Photo: Sascha Vaughn



“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done, and this is my contribution to that work. Yes, we’ve seen tremendous progress in both legal recognition of same-sex relationships and social support for them, but we have a long way to go.”

– John Corvino, pg. 5



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Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival Marks 38th Year

This summer, on 650 acres of land just north of Hart, thousands of women will gather for one week in a community created by women for women. BTL got festival co-founder Lisa Vogel on the phone to talk about the festival’s heated transgender debate, the event’s rugged history and the challenges that lie ahead. Find the online exclusive at Pridesource.com

SURVEY



Take The LGBT Survey Today!

Head over to LGBTSurvey.com today to take the Community Marking & Insight’s annual LGBT survey. This survey helps LGBT publications (like this one!) make the case for the power in our market, and ultimately continue to provide you with quality news and information.

COOL CITIES



This Week’s Cool City: A²

Don’t miss the Cool City pages in this week’s issue, starting on pg. 24, then head over to Pridesource.com for an interactive map of Ann Arbor’s LGBT-friendly businesses, weekend events and more!

VOL 2125 • JUNE 20, 2013 • ISSUE 820

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

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Phone 734.293.7200

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MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



Copyright 2013 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

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Mosaic Youth Theater To Open HTJ Picnic

July 27 Event Expands Programs

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit will open the 2013 expanded Hotter Than July Palmer Park Picnic on July 27. “We are delighted to have this unique opportunity to showcase our hometown’s worldwide talent at The Palmer Park Picnic,” said Curtis Lipscomb, project manager of Hotter Than July. “This is the first-ever performance of Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit at Hotter Than July and we certainly hope it’s not the

and similar family friendly outdoor activities.”

Members of the Palmer Park Picnic include Lawrence Pennymon, Dee Pearl, David Nelson Jr., Innocence Milliown and Curtis Lipscomb. Pearl and Nelson debut their leadership at Hotter Than July’s most attended day.

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit

Named Best-Managed Nonprofit by Crain’s Detroit Business, Mosaic Youth Theatre

of Detroit is an internationally acclaimed youth development program whose mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of theatrical and musical art that engages transforms and inspires. Mosaic award-winning

performances have toured to Africa, Asia, Europe and 25 states



Palmer Park Picnic committee: Lawrence Pennymon, Dee Pearl, David Nelson Jr. and Curtis Lipscomb. Photo courtesy HTJ

last.”

Additional programming at the Palmer Park Picnic will include new live performances, more dancing, HIV Testing Zone, Kid’s Fair, Mini Ball and the two new events, Field Day and Conversation in The Park. This year programming will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

“If you love the television programs like “The View” or “The Talk,” you’ll enjoy “Conversations in The Park,” said Dee Pearl, committee member of Palmer Park Picnic. “Prominent members of the lesbian, gay, bi and transgender community will be a part of this roundtable conversation, facilitated by Ramon Harris, board member of Michigan AIDS Coalition, member of MAC’s Young Brothers United program and branch manager of Flag Star Bank.

Field Day also expands programming at the Palmer Park Picnic. “Field Day follows the southern tradition of activities held during family reunions,” said David Nelson, Jr. committee member of Palmer Park Picnic and executive assistant at KICK. “The activities include flag football, volley ball, horseshoes

throughout the U.S., including performances at the White House and the Kennedy Center. Mosaic has been featured on NBC’s Today Show, NPR’s All Things Considered, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award-winning PBS Documentary, And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre. A national model for youth development through the arts, Mosaic is proud to report that 95 percent of its Youth Ensemble members graduate from high school and go to college. For more information about Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit Visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.

Hotter Than July, founded in 1996, is the nation’s third oldest social justice, equality and cultural event targeting black lesbian, gay, bi and transgender persons. For more information please visit www.hotterthanjuly.org. Founded In 2003, Our mission is to increase awareness of and support to Detroit’s dynamic LGBT culture through education and advocacy with integrity and pride. For more information visit www.e-kick.org.

Creating Pride In Tri-Cities: Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Why does it matter that on Saturday, June 22 thousands of people will be gathering on Ojibway Island in Saginaw Tri-City Pride? To event coordinator Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk, the answer comes from the responses she gets from those who attend.

“Some of the most rewarding part of this is having young people come up with tears in their eyes thanking me, saying they’d never have this in their community,” she said. “And for the older people too, who have worked so hard to make LGBT rights a possibility. Some of the people who come are in their 70s. They remember what it was like to be in the closet.”

VanBuskirk lived in Saginaw all her life, but didn’t come out until she was 45. She and her partner Ann White are approaching their 13-year anniversary, though VanBuskirk is sad their relationship still has no legal recognition in Michigan.

“When I came out, there were no resources. I happened to find a lesbian women’s support group that’s not here any longer,” she said. In honor of that first group, VanBuskirk has started another one called Women’s Room 2. “I get people come once in a while from Lansing, Detroit because if people are not out in their area they want to go to another area.”

VanBuskirk is the founder of Divine Light Interfaith Ministry, which she started in 2005 after attending a small worship group that encouraged members to do talks about faith-based topics. With a foundation already in place through her associate’s degree in child development, VanBuskirk was confident that through faith she could lead and help others. “I found an online program to be in ministry, and it took two years to do the

program. I was ordained in October 2005. I started doing stuff from my house and trying to find more ways of reaching out to the community. I do a lot of spiritual counseling, couples counseling, parenting and individual counseling. I have had a lot of people approach me who are just starting to come out.”

The ministry now meets at 301 Cass in Saginaw, a space that was donated after the first Pride three years ago.



Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk lived in Saginaw all her life, but didn’t come out until she was 45. She and her partner Ann White left, are approaching their 13-year anniversary, though VanBuskirk is sad their relationship still has no legal recognition in Michigan.

Organizing Tri-City Pride made sense when paired with Divine Light’s other services.

“I was just sitting here one day after going to the Lansing Pride, thinking that it gives me such a good feeling going. I thought, we can do this here. I got friends together and they looked at me like I was crazy. And I said ‘No, we can do this.’”

VanBuskirk credits Dow Chemical for stepping up and providing a \$3,000 sponsorship each year to make the event possible. Booth rentals, other sponsorships and donations bring money into the Pride board to continue to help grow the event. This year there are over 50 vendors signed up. Last year over 2,500 people attended.

“It’s gonna be fantastic,”

VanBuskirk said. “We’ve got a good line of entertainment including the band All Day Monday, Sandy Mulligan, Abbie Stauffer from Ann Arbor, that girl is fantastic. We also have the Bayside Bombshell Burlesque Team. They are cleaning up their normal act to be family-orientated. We’ll have a Drag Queen show. We have a hoola hoop dancer. It’s almost mesmerizing watching her. The mayor of Saginaw is going to be speaking. So is Congressman

Dan Kildee and attorney Alicia Skillman. Can’t forget Drag King Rebellion.”

The only point of uncertainty is if there will be enough volunteers to help.

“It’s been hard to get volunteers. Whether it’s here, Grand Rapids or wherever. People think if they volunteer they won’t be able to enjoy the event. But if we get enough and everyone spends an hour then it works out,” she said. Those who want to volunteer can show up an hour before the event, talk to organizers at the event, or stick around at the end.

To find out more about Tri City Pride, check out their website at http://tricitylgbtpride.com/Home_Page.php

John Corvino Out-Argues Right Wing In New Book Author Signs And Speaks In Royal Oak June 25

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

ROYAL OAK – How do you explain to someone who thinks you’re the devil incarnate, that you’re really not? I mean, anything you say is likely to draw the retort, “That’s exactly what a Deceiver would say!”

That is the fundamental problem John Corvino faces as he travels the country teaching people about LGBT rights and debating right-wing speakers on the subject. His newest book *What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?* Looks at the arguments he faces over and over again on the road, and the best ways he’s found to overcome them.

The chapters touch on the main reasons why people are unaccepting of LGBT people. With titles like *We Shouldn’t Even be Having this Discussion*, *God Said it - I Believe It - That Settles It*, *A Risky Lifestyle*, *It’s Not Natural*, and *Man on Man - Man on Dog*, Corvino gives patient and poignant responses to the common misconceptions.

His response to the vocal opposition is simple, don’t focus on them. He writes about the experience of having a women compare him to Satan, and goes on to explain, “In such situations, I have to remind myself that the challenger is not my real audience (“audience” comes from the Latin word for “listeners,” and this woman wasn’t about listening). The real audience is everyone else in the room.”

There are a great many people in the “movable middle,” those who are willing to listen to reason and consider it. When that reason is mixed with charming stories and a personal touch, such as in *What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?*, it can

make a difference in the change of public opinion.

Corvino does book signings, speaking engagements and debates to do his part in creating change. “There’s a lot of work that needs to be done, and this is my contribution to that work. Yes, we’ve seen tremendous progress in both legal recognition of same-sex relationships and social support for them, but we have a long way to go. Michigan, with its amendment prohibiting same sex marriage ‘or similar unions for any purpose,’ is a good example of that,” he said. “I like doing debates because, in addition to keeping me on my toes and sharpening my position, they give me access to an audience that wouldn’t normally come and listen to an openly gay man speak.”

The efforts of all to be more open have been working. From a personal standpoint, Corvino knows this. “I get email all the time from people who have attended the debates or watched clips on YouTube. Some of them are LGBT people who have heard the other side’s arguments many times and appreciate my taking the time to offer thoughtful, rational responses to them. And some of them are people from the other side who say, ‘You’ve given me something new to think about.’ It’s a long-term process, but if I can at least plant a seed, I have hope that things will get better.”

Corvino was born in Brooklyn, and grew up mostly on Long Island. He attended grad school at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy. Fifteen years ago he was offered a job at

INFO

Book Signing

John Corvino will be speaking and signing books at 7 p.m. June 25 at Main Place of Royal Oak, 500 South Main St.

To learn more about Corvino and his work, visit his website at >> <http://johncorvino.com>

See Corvino, page 6

TRICITIES

Saginaw Tri Cities Pride Celebration
Saturday June 22
Ojibway Island
>> <http://tricitylgbtpride.com>



John Corvino is known for sharing the stage with folks like Maggie Gallagher and Glenn Stanton. Gallagher is the former President of National Organization for Marriage, a group that lobbies against same-sex relationship equality. Stanton is the Director for Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

► Corvino

Continued from p. 5

Wayne State and has been in Detroit ever since. He's now the Chair of the Philosophy Department and loves working with young philosophers and teaching an ethics class. The public speaking bug bit him back when he was still in college.

"I started in the early 90s when I was a grad student in Texas, and I was asked to give a talk on moral arguments for our Lesbian and Gay Awareness week. This was before YouTube, of course, but someone videotaped the lecture, and that videotape, which I still have, started getting passed around - which led to people inviting me to other campuses. It then took off through word of mouth."

He is known for sharing the stage with folks like Maggie Gallagher and Glenn Stanton. Gallagher is the former President of National Organization for Marriage, a group that lobbies against same-sex relationship equality. Stanton is the Director for Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family.

Often Corvino gets flack for being so cordial or for engaging with people who are so vehemently opposed to equality. "There are people who call me a traitor simply because I'm nice to people like Maggie Gallagher and Glenn Stanton, who are actively fighting against our rights. I understand where the negative response comes from, and I don't blame people for their anger at the religious right. Our community has

been wronged in many ways. But I suppose you could say that I take a 'Love the sinner, hate the sin' attitude toward the religious right - I try to understand and respect them as people even as I sharply criticize their actions."

There have been risky situations as well. "Once, when I was speaking in rural Michigan, I was having a back-and-forth with an audience member during Q&A. During the course of our discussion, it became clear that he was not only a homophobe, but also a white supremacist. That was a shock. It was the only time I ever asked security to escort me to my car after a talk," he recalled.

What's Wrong with Homosexuality? is Corvino's most complete work, collecting the crux of his knowledge in one volume. After dozens of talks on the same subject, his mind is beginning to wander down a path that many people take as they mature - the contemplation of family-making.

"Right now I'm thinking a lot about what's next for me in terms of my research. I've become interested in the ethics of having children - not just the usual questions about 'special cases' (reproductive technology, disability risks, same-sex parents and so on), but the plain old, old-fashioned case. The creation of new life is one of the most morally weighty things people can do, and yet most don't think of it as a moral issue at all - it's just 'doin' what comes naturally.' That's fascinating to me," he said.

Older Adults Get Ready For Summit

Wide Range of Topics Include 'Outrageously Satisfying Mature Sex'

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The LGBT Older Adult Summit has a spiced-up itinerary this year for the day-long gathering on June 22. The summit takes place at the MSU Detroit campus from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and is free of charge.

This year's gathering includes workshops on healthcare, employment and volunteer opportunities and a new addition: Sex for LGBT Older Adults. Session titles include: Enjoying Outrageously Satisfying Mature Sex," "Remaining Independent and Happy In Your Home," and "Estate Planning in a Post DOMA World - Let's Hope."

Spicing up the summit is based on feedback from a prior participant. "During one of our planning meetings a committee member voiced concern that the topics we were considering were too negative and 'old age thinking.' He suggested that he and his contemporaries would not find any interest in attending a conference that focused on such seriously negative subjects - so we asked what he would like to see/hear - and sex at any age was his response. Since the theme of this year's summit is 'Living in the Spirit of Now' - it was perfect," said Judy Lewis, coordinator of the event.

Attorney Jay Kaplan of the American Civil Liberties Union will be the keynote speaker and Don Nadel, a graduate of the Cleveland School of Music, who has been playing piano since the age of three, will be providing music during registration/breakfast and at lunch. Meals are complimentary for those participating in the summit.

Last year over 120 seniors participated, and this year the summit will include healthcare and service professionals, with special workshops to engage them as well. The work is personal to Lewis, who knows first-hand the fears of aging in a world that is not always accepting.

"Folks my age are less likely to have children, and often must rely on 'families of choice.' There is a great deal of stress when we are



Judy Lewis is coordinator of the upcoming summit which will be adding new programming this year and provide resources for LGBT seniors.

unable to care for ourselves and must ask for help from strangers - especially when we hear about all of the bullying and abuse that potentially exists and the fear of rejection and isolation in older adult facilities, from residents and from caregivers," Lewis said. "The LGBT Older Adult Coalition initiated this summit in order to educate LGBT older adults about the resources that exist - and to educate professionals about the needs of LGBT older adults."

Lewis describes herself as "an old broad, but cute as a button" who is 66 years young. "I've been an out lesbian for many years, but recently - when I needed to be in the hospital - I suddenly felt very exposed and vulnerable and concerned that I would be treated poorly because I was Jewish (in a Catholic hospital) and gay," she said.

Her work with the coalition gives her a chance to tackle

discrimination head-on, and to reassure others that they aren't alone. "I believe that the LGBT Older Adult Coalition and the Older Adult Summit have been highly successful in several ways. We have brought people together who may never have met through any other means. We have created a vehicle that has begun to be acknowledged at a statewide level. Out voices are being heard locally and in Lansing. At the end of the day, we all want to be treated with dignity and respect. It is my sincere belief that the work we are doing will be a big step in that direction."

The Third Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit is sponsored by the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, Between The Lines/PrideSource, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Affirmations Senior Koffee Klatch, The Detroit Elder Project at KICK, the ACLU and The Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan/GESEM (a pre-cursor to SAGE.)

INFO

Third Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit

Saturday June 22, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MSU Detroit Campus

3408 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

This event is free of charge.

Register: lgbtosummit2013.eventbrite.com



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Creep of the Week

Josh Thomson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When it comes to the cage match over LGBT civil rights in the United States, it seems like everyone has an opinion. President Obama, Lady Gaga the Pope, and Pat Robertson have all gone public with their positions.

In other words, weighing in we have a world leader, a pop star, a religious figure, and a crazy old man who, if his family really loved him, would be in a nice home somewhere not plopped in front of a microphone



Josh Thomson

to make an ass of himself. The usual suspects, really.

So that's why it's exciting to see real-life cage fighter Josh Thomson step into the fray with a gay marriage throw down on Facebook.

On June 10 he posted the following: "Should you be allowed to marry whoever you want? Before you answer that, should u be allowed to have more than 1 wife?"

A very provocative question, indeed. Whatever could he be getting at? Don't worry, he has a follow up.

"My next question is, should siblings be allowed to marry siblings?" he wrote. "I personally don't care who you marry but I also am smart enough to know that it opens a gateway to men/women trying to marry young kids, siblings marrying each other and people having multiple husbands an wives. You have to think all of these things are okay otherwise your stopping them from being happy as well which is hypocrisy. Equality doesn't stop with gay marriage, it just starts with it."

Get it? If a man can marry another man, then all bets are off when it comes to marriage! It's the classic slippery slope fallacy, and one that Thomson seems unaware has been made and debunked before. Overall, he demonstrates a very poor understanding of the issues and a complete disregard for critical thinking. But you can hardly blame the guy. He does, after all, get kicked in the head for a living.

Unsurprisingly, Thomson got called out by people who found his comments uncool. So he tried to explain himself.

"Look everyone," he wrote. "I'm not comparing [polygamy and incest] to gay marriage, I'm simply asking you guys why is okay to allow one thing but not allow the man who wants 4 wives?"

Yeah, you guys. Can't a guy ask a simple inflammatory question on Facebook without a bunch of people freaking out?

He continues, "Like I said, I don't give a crap who marries who and I personally don't care if a man or woman wants to have multiple spouses but I'm also afraid of what this will all lead to."

Ah, I see. He just wants to know what people think because he's afraid.

The anti-gay right loves the myth that gay people are a bunch of diseased perverts driven to death by their desire to sex each other. It's a claim used to dehumanize gays in order to fan the flames of hatred.

Not only does Thomson have a poor understanding of argument, he also does not seem to know what "I don't care" means.

When a user posted that married siblings pose a "biological safety issue," Thomson responded, "[G]ay people have more safety issues with their life style than any other. Perhaps not biological but health safety issues that come with that lifestyle."

Thomson doesn't mention what these "safety issues" are, but he doesn't have to. The anti-gay right loves the myth that gay people are a bunch of diseased perverts driven to death by their desire to sex each other. It's a claim used to dehumanize gays in order to fan the flames of hatred.

But don't worry. Thomson isn't a hater. In response to his detractors, he wrote, "[I]t's a simple conversation with no hate being thrown around. Stop trying to make more out of it than what it is. Of course your only reading what you wanna see. ... I'm asking questions and expect answers not your whining an crying about how you think I hate gays. Which is the furthest thing from the truth."

See? Thomson's gay-hating is the furthest from the truth. That is so far away! And he said it on Facebook so it's legit. So quit yer crying before Thomson strips down to his shorts and gives you something to cry for.

Pope Francis: 'Gay Lobby' Exists Inside Vatican

BY DANIEL BURKE

(CNN) - Pope Francis said a "gay lobby" exists inside the Vatican, according to a Catholic website, a surprising admission from a pope who has already delivered his share of stunners, and a resurrection of church conflicts that bedeviled his predecessor's papacy.

"In the Curia," Francis said, referring to Catholicism's central bureaucracy, "there are holy people. But there is also a stream of corruption."

"The 'gay lobby' is mentioned, and it is true, it is there," Francis continued. "We need to see what we can do."

Hints of a "gay lobby" at the Vatican first surfaced in reports about a series of embarrassing leaks to Italian journalists.

Cardinals appointed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to find the source of the leaks investigated clergy involved in homosexual affairs who might have been vulnerable to blackmail, according to La Repubblica, a leading Italian newspaper.

The "Vatileaks" scandal factored in Benedict's shocking decision to resign, making the 86-year-old pontiff realize that demands of the job required a younger man, according to some reports.

The pope's enigmatic comments came during a meeting Sunday with CLAR, the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious Men and Women, who head Catholic communities of priests, sisters and monks. The Chilean website Reflection and Liberation, which focuses on liberation theology, first reported Francis' remarks.

A Vatican spokesman told CNN, "The Holy See Press Office has no official comment on the private meeting."

Gay and lesbian Catholic groups did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests said, "structure, not sexuality, is the real issue."

"The church is a monarchy. Monarchs are unaccountable.

So many monarchs are corrupt. This is true in both secular and religious institutions," SNAP said in a statement.

Other Catholics counseled caution on reading too much into the pope's remarks.

"We don't have any explanation of what 'gay lobby' means," said Rocco Palmo, a Vatican watcher who runs Whispers in the Loggia, a website on Catholic news and church politics.

"Naturally, some in the church will try to polarize or interpret this, but as the rest of us aren't pope, we still have to get further explanation," Palmo added.

Church experts say the Chilean report rings true since the wide-ranging conversation centers on concerns that Francis has made touchstones of his nascent papacy.

In contrast to his buttoned-up predecessor, Francis has earned an early reputation for speaking off the cuff, often ditching prepared remarks in favor of more informal conversations.

On Friday, Francis nixed his "boring" speech and instead took questions from young Catholic students. Asked by a little girl if he wanted to be pope, Francis laughed and said that only someone who "doesn't love himself" would want the position.

"He has said some things that would turn Benedict whiter than the papal vestments," Palmo joked.

Francis told the Catholic leaders on Sunday to focus on the poor, that the Vatican must be reformed, and joked that whoever wagered on his long-shot election as pope "won a lot, of course."

But his comments on the "gay lobby" are likely to gain the most attention, especially in the West, where Catholic leaders have been mounting a fierce fight against same-sex marriage.

Meanwhile, after Benedict announced his resignation in February, reports circulated that a "gay lobby" had forced his hand.

The Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported that a church investigation into the sources of embarrassing internal leaks found evidence of a "gay lobby" within the Vatican but gave few details about it.

"Some high level clergy are exposed to the 'external influence' -- what we would call blackmail -- of lay people to whom they are connected through ties of a 'worldly nature,'" La Repubblica wrote.

The Vatican blasted the newspaper reports as "unverified, unverifiable and completely false."

Francis is one of the few Catholic leaders to have seen the internal Vatican report.

The so-called Vatileaks scandal led to Benedict's butler, Paolo Gabriele, being convicted on charges last year of leaking private papers from the the pope's private office. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

John Allen, CNN's senior Vatican analyst, has said it would have been odd if the Vatican report had not considered the possibility that "insiders leading a double life," including sexually active clergy, might be vulnerable to pressure to betray the pope.

"It seems a stretch, however, to suggest this is the real reason," behind Benedict's resignation, Allen said. The veteran Vatican-watcher said it's more likely the pope resigned for his stated reasons, that he's elderly and wanted to see a more vigorous man take the demanding job.

Part of the demands include overhauling the church's central bureaucracy, which has been riven by infighting and turf wars, according to Vatican insiders.

In one of his first actions as pope, Francis created a council of eight cardinals, including Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, to offer suggestions on reforming the Vatican.

"The reform of the Roman Curia is something that almost all Cardinals asked for in the congregations preceding the Conclave," Francis said, referring to the meetings that led up to his election in March. "I also asked for it."

But Francis said that he cannot promote the reform himself. "I am very disorganized," he said "I have never been good at this."

Instead, the pope said, he is relying on his eight appointed cardinals to move the reforms forward.

Optimistic Obama Touts Movement On Gay Rights, But Frustrations Remain

BY HALIMAH ABDULLAH

(CNN)- President Barack Obama hailed steps forward for gay, lesbians and transgendered people on Thursday, asserting this community's fight for rights has reached a "turning point."

"We've becoming not just more accepting, we've become more loving as a country and as a people," he said. "Hearts and minds change with time; laws do, too."

His sense of satisfaction and optimism -- voiced at a White House gathering to mark Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month -- follows milestone on gay marriage, the inclusion of openly gay U.S. military service members and boosting health insurance access for same-sex partners.

But as the president himself acknowledged, obstacles remain. So, too, do frustrations among some gays and lesbians who have been steadfast Obama supporters but had hoped for even more action during his first five years in office.

A CNN analysis of Obama's biggest fundraisers, known as bundlers, during the 2012 election cycle showed that at least 33 -- or about one in every 16 -- was openly gay. Together, they raised at least \$8 million for the campaign between January and the end of March of last year.

Even with that backing, some have challenged the president over what they see as delays in implementing such promises as an executive order that would ban federal contractors from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

That irritation erupted during a recent Democratic National Committee fundraiser when Ellen Sturtz of the gay rights group GetEQUAL heckled first lady Michelle Obama.

"I had planned to speak tonight with DNC officials but, as the First Lady was talking about our children's future and ensuring that they have everything they need to live happy and productive lives, I simply couldn't stay silent any longer," Sturtz said in a statement.

"I'm looking ahead at a generation of young people who could live full, honest, and open lives with the stroke of the president's pen, and I was hoping that the first lady would share my concern for all of our young people," Sturtz said.

Disappointment 'Obama hasn't moved quickly enough'

Both the president and the nation have evolved on the issue of gay rights.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Obama enjoyed rock star status among the gay and lesbian community. High-profile, openly gay figures such as musician Melissa Etheridge and DreamWorks SKG mogul David Geffen joined a grassroots army of supporters at campaign rallies.

Once in the Oval Office, Obama's efforts at pressing the case for gay rights were more muted, activists said. Some in the community felt betrayed and thought the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and his evolution on marriage took too long.

But some saw hope in the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the ban on openly gay and lesbian members serving in the forces, Obama's biggest accomplishment in the gay rights cause.

Administration criticism of a measure in North Carolina last year that banned same-sex marriage and made civil unions illegal and a similar Minnesota proposal also boosted the community's confidence that Obama would help further their cause.


"By and large the LGBT community is quite pleased with what President Barack Obama has done, but there is no doubt that some are disappointed that he hasn't moved quickly enough on certain issues," said Craig Rimmerman, professor of public policy and political science at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and author of "From Identity to Politics: The Lesbian and Gay Movements in the United States."

Obama: 'America can change'

During his inaugural address this year, the president placed the gay community's struggle for equality alongside similar civil rights fights by women and African-Americans.

"Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are truly created equal,

See Obama, page 12



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About Pope Francis' Remarks

"You wouldn't last a minute on K Street; the Karl Roves of the capital would have you for lunch. Despite your presence in, and presumed influence on, the upper reaches of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, church teaching still holds that homosexuality is disordered, and many church leaders still send the preposterously mixed message that while gay and lesbian people shouldn't be admonished for, or ashamed about, their same-sex attractions, they should nonetheless elect cold showers over warm embraces. Look but don't touch. Dream but don't diddle."

Frank Bruni, New York Times Columnist

"It's no secret ... A gay lobby means that you've got a nest of homosexual priests who are covering for each other."

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

"If we want Catholicism to be identified as a hostile institution by four out of five LGBT people, and by many of those who support us, then let the bishops continue to own 'Catholic, Inc.'"

Marianne T. Duddy-Burke, Dignity USA Executive Director

"The embarrassed silence of the Curia shows that the Pope's words are true. This lobby which is talked about evidently has existed for a while, though I believe it to be composed by mid-level characters of the Roman Curia itself."

Gian Franco Svidercoschi, former vice-director of [Holy See daily] L'Osservatore Romano

"I am so tired of this nonsense. Firstly to banish gay men from the priesthood is ridiculous. I know many holy homosexual priests who are orthodox and defend the true end of sexuality. I imagine that there are many straight priests who support this lobby. This is becoming an obsession."

Jonathan Lee Ching

"How I like this new Pope! He, as an intelligent and sensible Catholic, knows full well how many clergy are gay and how ridiculous it is to try to ignore or deny that...The Catholic Church is one of many institutions that would not exist were it not for gays!"

Nick from Baton Rouge, LA

"Wow. This is truly groundbreaking and appears to have the potential to bring great positive change to a deeply dated institution. If Pope Frankie keeps this up maybe I'll be tempted to come back to the Church! Not holding my breath but the pope's words seem to be truly unprecedented."

Anonymous from New York City



OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Extreme Talk

On the 9th of April, Tavares Spencer, a 16-year-old, lured a 22-year-old transgender woman known as Coco McDonald to a house in Tampa, Florida. There he shot her twice, stole her purse, and may well have killed her had she not managed to get away. Spencer later bragged about his crime in text messages to his friends – messages that helped lead to his arrest on the 1st of June.

It was a news report of the arrest on Tampa, Florida's local ABC affiliate that likely caught the ear of Jacksonville, Florida based talk-radio hosts Lex Staley and Terry James.

Known as "Lex & Terry," the duo have a program syndicated by Clear Channel and presented on SiriusXM as part of the Extreme Talk channel. The station markets itself as the home of "edgy entertaining talk shows." Their show, labeled as "a unique blend of lifestyle advice, humor, and on-air community" is geared towards a men in the 18-49 demographic – a demographic that seems to fit with the rest of Extreme Talk.

On Lex & Terry's program on the 3rd of June, they decided to discuss the shooting of Coco McDonald.

"There's a teen that shot a tranny after finding out that it was a man after they had a little sexual encounter," spoke one. "I don't blame him... I would have shot his ass too," offered up his co-host. They had a knowing laugh and moved onto the next topic.

Now there's one thing I feel it important to point out here. McDonald has made it clear that she had disclosed being a transgender woman to Spencer prior to the 9th of April. He knew and decided to shoot her. It is not clear if they had much of any sexual encounter prior to the 9th of April. Regardless of any of the above, there is no justification for the shooting of Coco McDonald by Tavares Spencer – None.

So Lex & Terry decided this story of the attempted murder of a woman was somehow justified, and that in the same situation, at least one of the duo would have also pulled the trigger. Or maybe they just thought this was what their audience of 18-49 men would have wanted to hear as they offered up "on-air community" and "lifestyle advice." Frankly, I suspect that their audience would indeed have wholeheartedly agreed – and that is the scary part.

I've been tracking anti-transgender deaths for roughly 16 years now, back when the President's last name was Clinton and Seinfeld was still in its first run. In all that time I've seen hundreds of cases where Lex & Terry's demographic have killed a person in an apparent anti-transgender murder. Many of these killers have felt perfectly

justified in what they did, and assume that no one, or at least their peers, would blame them. Indeed, I suspect they feel their friends would do exactly the same thing.

After some outcry over their on-air comments, Lex & Terry's employers over at Clear Channel seemed to disagree with the duo. Angel Aristone, the Senior President of Marketing and Communications at Clear Channel Radio said in a public statement, "Clear Channel Media and Entertainment does not condone the comment independently made by Lex & Terry regarding transgender individuals... The comment was thoughtless and unacceptable and we sincerely apologize to anyone who was offended by their remarks."

The show has also disappeared from SiriusXM's Extreme Talk channel. I am not sure if that was the decision of SiriusXM or Clear Channel, which controls content on Extreme Talk. Either way, I cannot say I'll shed any tears over these two hosts losing a substantial chunk of the airwaves.

I applaud Clear Channel and SiriusXM for any steps they have taken to reprimand Lex & Terry. To their credit, too, Lex & Terry have also promised a formal apology, and have also promised to work with both GLAAD and representatives of the transgender community to discuss anti-transgender violence on the air. I hope not in the same vein as the last time they chose to discuss it.

Lex & Terry, however, are only a symptom of a larger problem. Whether they actually were condoning the murder of transgender people or simply providing what they felt their audience wanted to hear, there remains a large segment of the population who do indeed see no problem with attacks on transgender people. This is the environment that led Tavares Spencer to feel he

Lex & Terry, however, are only a symptom of a larger problem. Whether they actually were condoning the murder of transgender people or simply providing what they felt their audience wanted to hear ...

could not only shoot another human being, but then brag about it to his friends.

It's is not Lex Staley nor Terry James who held that gun on the 9th of April, but it was comments like theirs that lead to an environment where people feel blameless for shooting a transgender person. It is this "lifestyle advice" – where it comes from Lex & Terry or elsewhere in the popular media – that makes people feel that anyone would willingly shoot a transperson.

We need to build a better world, one where Lex & Terry and their employers need not make apologies for bad behavior, because they understand before they open up their mouths that any person, transgender or otherwise, deserves to live their lives without fear. We need a world where Tavares Spencer and his ilk will not grow up with the choice of killing a transgender person so positively affirmed in the media.

I want a world where transgender people like myself are not viewed as potential victims, and where it is made clear that it is never acceptable for us to be shot for who we are. That is the sort of "lifestyle advice" I'd accept.

Gwen Smith has never been a big fan of talk radio. You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com



An e-Bay Collectible



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

One of my pleasures as an artist, apart from being told that my art is "appreciated" – maybe because it's annoyingly rumored about that each piece has a phallic symbol in it somewhere, somehow (note: many don't) – is the rare experience of viewing an early creation for the "first time."

For this to happen there has to occur a span of time between an art completion and its "rediscovery". Such occurred on two counts recently when I was given a May 7 - 20, 1991 copy of Ten Percent, then published by Steve Culver, current publisher of the glossy bi-weekly OP (Out Post).

At that time I was a contributing writer for TP and had written an interview of future BTL co-publisher Jan Stevenson. Jan found this issue – certainly a collector's item now worth hundreds of dollars on e-Bay – tucked away in an odd corner of her office.

She kindly gave the highly collectible copy to me. (I said I'd share my e-Bay bid money with her!)

At the time Jan was program director for "the Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center, based in Royal Oak." (Clearly, I meant Ferndale, but on occasion even seasoned freelance writers get their facts wrong. Surely this honest sharing will be an e-Bay plus, greatly enhancing the 40-page tabloid, also carrying an early Alexander art ad repro.)

A highlight or two is offered just in case any of my teeming thousands of PG readers want a sampling before formal bidding begins. Me: "I've always been intrigued by the French who look at things quite differently than us. In French the gender for violin, viola and cello is masculine. The bass fiddle is feminine. Curious."

Jan (who once played bass fiddle with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra):

"Not really, if you think about it. The bass fiddle is shaped like a woman."

Me: "Of course. I've never really thought of it that way." (You got that right, Charles.)

Me: "How did you come out!" (Could have done without the exclamation point. Too late now.) Jan: "It happened in high school. I was naive. My best friend out of the blue just up and kissed me, with a great deal of conviction and no small measure of passion, I suppose. I was shocked, but I was also ready. She was my first affair of the heart."

And this last: "Affirmations track record for attracting lesbians is exemplary. Of your 400-plus members, you have the highest percentage of active participation for women of any other large (LGBT) organization. Why?"

Jan: "Simple. We listen to the concerns of women. We listen and deal with their issues. We honor their perspective. Once women – lesbians and straight – know that you are doing something truly supportive, they will show their appreciation by their activity."

Me: "Is it that simple?" Jan: "Try it and see."

Oh, yes!!! My line art drawing is a quarter page ad on the lower right-hand corner, page 38. (Upper left headline worth Googling: "NEA funding controversy starting over.") There are no penii in my art. A disappointment, no doubt for aspiring e-Bay bidders. As far as my early art goes, 22 years ago I was virginal. (Visually speaking.)

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LGBT Victims Of Intimate Partner Violence Have A Place: Safe House

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ANN ARBOR - Victims of intimate partner violence in the LGBT community may have special concerns when it comes to getting help, but Safe House in Ann Arbor knows what to do.

"We've learned in working with LGBTQ clients that to begin with their friends and family may not know they're in the relationship they're in. So coming out may be a barrier to being able to go to friends or family for support," said Safe House Executive Director Barbara Niess-May. "We've found that they may be worried about discrimination, or they may have thought that services aren't available to them."

Niess-May explained that one common myth is that shelters won't accept male survivors, but there are programs and facilities available for everyone. "People are hurting. It doesn't matter who they are. We find a way to help," she said.

In 2015 Safe House will celebrate their 40th year. The service was founded by a group of University of Michigan grad students who discovered that survivors of violence did not have a safe place to go. They have specific outreach programs for the LGBTQ community, and they

work with many organizations like Spectrum Services, Ozone House, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, Jim Toy Center, and Ruth Ellis Center.

The need for support is great and the center sees LGBTQ survivors each week. "It happens in the LGBT community as much as in any community. People frequently come to see us. It can happen to anybody, any race or ethnicity, any income level, any age. Anybody."

While similar themes appear in stories, each situation is different. Safe House counselors listen to the survivor and connect them to the resources they need. "What survivors have lost is a sense of personal power because of power exercised over them by the perpetrators of violence. We help them regain that. We listen and we find out from them what needs to be done. Most people have a better sense of what they need to be safe than we do. We know what opportunities and challenges there are in the system and we empower them to be safe."

Safe House has shelter, counseling, support groups, referrals and more.

Find out more at www.safehousecenter.org. To take a virtual tour of Safe House, search for "Safe House Ann Arbor" and select "look inside" from the Google Map.

Assaulted? What To Do

Safe House's guides for LGBT Victims of Intimate Partner Violence include plenty of useful information, including:

What can I do if I have been sexually assaulted?

- Talk to someone you trust: You can ask for what you need from them, "I just need for you to listen" or "I just need someone to be here while I sleep so I can feel safe."

- Sexual assault exam/health care: A Nurse Examiner Program can provide a forensic exam, pregnancy prevention, antibiotics to treat some STIs, information about sexual assault support services and the criminal justice process, and future testimony in a sexual assault court case. They can help you figure out what steps you might like to take initially since making a decision right after an assault can be difficult. If you believe you could have contracted HIV during the assault, talk to the nurse or emergency room. If you are not given assistance, call your local HIV/AIDS agency. (HIV/AIDS Resource Center 734-572-9355)

- Criminal Prosecution: If you do want to press charges, the first step is to file a police report. You can also file a police report without pressing charges, or change your mind later about pressing charges. Contact your local sexual assault crisis center if you would like to request an advocate to be with you when you report to the police.

- Report Discrimination: Contact Equality Michigan (equalitymi.org) at 866-962-1147 or 313-537-7000 to get legal assistance and report a hate crime. You can also call the SafeHouse Center Hotline, 734-995-5444 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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 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.

► Obama

Continued from p. 9

then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal, as well," Obama said in his address after being sworn in.

Engaging, pushing and chiding the president doesn't take away from the appreciation for what the administration has done for the gay rights community, said Evan Wolfson, president of the non-partisan Freedom to Marry organization.

The gay rights community will be watching closely to see if Obama follows through on a promise to sign an executive order banning federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

And, should the U.S. Supreme Court decide gays and lesbian couples have a fundamental constitutional right to wed, the gay rights community will be looking to the Obama administration to act quickly to look at federal programs and make sure all couples are treated equally, Wolfson said.



Pres. Obama and V.P. Joe Biden greet visitors to the White House June 13 for a LGBT Pride Reception. Visit BTL's website and find the link to the video to hear Obama's remarks.

"There is enormous support pride and appreciation for the president's extraordinary leadership and eloquent advocacy in ending discrimination against gay people," Wolfson said. "The president himself has noted there remains an enormous amount to be done to end legal decimation and gay people and the millions of Americans want to see the president do more."

Obama said as much, admitting "we're not done yet" and pointing specifically to a Senate bill aimed at sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace.

At the same time, he expressed confidence that the movement -- even in a capital oft defined by gridlock -- is in what he feels is a positive direction.

"Don't tell me that things can't happen when we put our minds to them," he said. "The genius of America is that America can change."

Watch the Online Video
www.pridesource.com

Calder Plaza Packed For West Michigan Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

GRAND RAPIDS - West Michigan Pride's move to Calder Plaza proved profitable as over 11,000 people joined in the 25th anniversary celebration of all that makes the LGBT community great. Vendors flourished among the rows of affirming churches, politicians, activist and community groups and businesses.

Grand Valley State University's Out and About student group had a presence, with President Leslie Boker sharing information about the group. "I leapt into it last semester," Boker said. "I went to Pride Prom and I didn't know anybody. They took me around and introduced me to everyone there. It's my community now."

Boker is a liberal studies major who is one of the first students to take advantage of a newly formed LGBTQ studies minor at the university. "I've studied queer theory and queer literature, which is a really fun. It's about a foundation of literature for LGBT people – stuff you need to know about."

The business community came out to support West Michigan Pride too. General Electric Aviation's GLBTA Alliance had out employees sharing their pride in community and their company. Amy Venlos, co-lead of the group, said that the alliance is good for



BTL Photo: Crystal Proxmire

professional development and outreach. "They do workshops for employees and celebrate diversity along with 15 or 16 other affinity groups," Venlos said.

Member Jasmine Dean has been involved for about a year. "It gives you a chance to network with people of similar interests, so

you meet and know you're not alone. And it lets us know that GE is inclusive so we feel welcome there."

Venlos said that GE currently has a 75 percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index, and that the focus is now on including transgender people in

policies and protecting gender expression.

The Center for Inquiry is a secular organization that encourages a humanist, rather than religious, approach to life. David Cleveland and Susan Johnson represented CFI Michigan, inviting passersby to their regular workshops on a variety of timely topics – including discussion on HIV-status discrimination and equality for the LGBT community. "One of our humanist values is equality. Every person matters and should be treated fairly. We need to end religious persecution," Johnson said.

Rebecca Kvott was there on behalf of Plymouth United Church of Christ. "Everyone is welcome," she said. Plymouth UCC and several other congregations were among the booths.

Politicians also took to the crowd, with ally Michael L. Tuffelmire publicizing his run for the 3rd Ward City Commission seat in Grand Rapids. Tuffelmire worked with the Holland is Ready group in their efforts to pass a human rights ordinance.

Holland also brought forth their first openly gay candidate, Donald Martin. Martin is running for an at-large seat on the Holland City Council, and he is likely the first gay candidate

See West Michigan, page 14

Soaked Celebrations At Kalamazoo Pride

BY JAN STEVENSON

KALAMAZOO – Wet weather did little to dampen high spirits at a full weekend of events celebrating Kalamazoo Pride June 14 and 15.

"We have much to celebrate this pride season, because we are winning," said Jon Hoadley to a gathering of about 150 people who attended the Kalamazoo Pride Brunch June 15.

The elegant brunch at The Wine Loft was the mid-point event in two full days of Pride in Kalamazoo. Festivities kicked off with a raucous evening of entertainers and the Miss(ter) Kalamazoo Pride Contest on the stage at the Arcadia Creek Festival Place. "That was the first drag show I ever saw," said Gabrielle Boyer. "I loved it – it was amazing!"

Hoadley said that a record number of municipalities and townships now have local non-discrimination ordinances, and that the number continues to increase. "Ten years ago in Royal Oak an ordinance was defeated. This year, two openly gay city commissioners helped pass an ordinance," said Hoadley. He encouraged people to



Photos courtesy of Terry Johnston Photography.

donate to One Royal Oak, the campaign to defend the new ordinance that will be on the ballot this November.

Kevin Jennings, executive director of The Arcus Foundation, drew a longer arc of progress in his keynote address at the

brunch. A former high school history teacher and founder of GLSEN, the national group for LGBT teachers and their allies, Jennings went all the way back to 1953 when Frank Kameny protested in front of the White House. He also paid homage to Jerry Crane, the Byron Center music teacher who was fired for being gay in 1996, and who soon thereafter died of a stress induced heart attack. "Jerry Crane was a great teacher, and not just in the classroom. I came to his funeral and saw his students sobbing. They are in their 30s now, and they are changed forever by Jerry Crane. We owe him a great debt," said Jennings.

The main festival kicked off that afternoon in Arcadia Creek Festival Park with vendors, food service, drinks, organizations, lots of dogs and an array of rainbow decorations. Attendance was down from the prior year, in large part due to a persistent rain. But those who ventured out were cheered by the friendly volunteers and vendors. The presenting sponsor, Bells' Brewing, kept the crowd lubricated with samples of their

See Kalamazoo, page 15

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Above: BTL photos by Crystal Proxmire. Below: Photo courtesy of Girolamo Ciolino.

► West Michigan

Continued from p. 13

in Ottawa County. “I’m running against a councilperson who voted against LGBT rights,” Martin said. As he wooed potential voters he encouraged people to do more. “It’s not just enough to hope, you have to get involved. Volunteer, make calls, talk to your friends and family that live in Holland, put this out on Twitter and Facebook,” he said.

Visitors and vendors came from all over West Michigan, including Traverse City, Holland, Muskegon, and Lansing. The turn-out is at least double the amount from last year’s event, which

took place in Riverside Park.

Wendy Morris is a volunteer for The Network, the community center located in Grand Rapids. The Network was instrumental in putting on the festival and the next day’s parade. Morris got people signed up for the Network’s mailing list.

“The Network is very important to me,” Morris said. “We need a place where we can all come together and share interests.” Morris is the facilitator of the Network’s Wellness Group, and recently took over facilitating the Women’s Group. “I lost 125 lbs, with the idea of calories in, calories out. Having a group helps me be accountable. I feel good with what I’m doing and being able

to share it keeps me motivated. Having like-minded people around is a bonus.” The Network offers many groups and programs, including social clubs and a place for youth.

Another West Michigan group got people do-si-do-ing in pure Grand Rapids style. The Grand River Renegades GLBTQ Country Western Dance Club meets out of Rumors Nightclub in Grand Rapids. For West Michigan Pride they brought in a dance floor and gave demonstrations and lessons that were enjoyed by people of all ages.

Learn more about the Network and West Michigan Pride at www.grlgbt.org/west-michigan-pride-2013/.



Photos courtesy of Terry Johnston Photography.

► Kalamazoo

Continued from p. 13

various beverages. Kellogg's had a large display with many of the K Pride & Allies members on hand to distribute protein bars and treats. PNC Bank also had a big display as a sponsor and supporter of the weekend events.

Politicians and candidates were on hand gathering support for their upcoming campaigns. Tracy Hall, candidate for Kalamazoo city commission, is a history teacher at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Community College. If elected, she would be the first openly

LGBT person on the commission. Aryn Richard has announced he is running in 2014 for state representative in the Owosso area. Richard, who works in the benefits eligibility department of the State of Michigan, said, "I see every day how our policies just don't work for ordinary people in Michigan. I want to change that." Democrat Mark Totten, a Kalamazoo area resident and Michigan State University law professor, is planning a 2014 run for attorney general against incumbent Republican Bill Schuette. "The AG position is probably the most important for civil rights issues, and we need someone who will defend the LGBT community – not attack it," said Totten.

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Love Or Country? Immigration Law Means Hard Choices For Gay Couples

BY MONI BASU

(CNN) - Melanie Servetas lived the American dream. She had a six-figure salary as an executive with Wells Fargo, a Jaguar and a three-bedroom house in sunny Southern California. But then, she fell in love.

She met someone from Brazil on an online dating service. They chatted over the Internet and by phone for five months and decided they wanted to be together.

That's where this simple love story gets very complicated.

Servetas' partner is a woman, Claudia Amaral. If she were a man, the two could get married and Servetas could apply for her spouse to be admitted to the United States and eventually gain permanent residency.

But current immigration law does not allow a U.S. citizen in a same-sex relationship to sponsor his or her spouse or partner. There are nearly 30,000 such couples in America who now find themselves in the crosshairs of two critical national debates: the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, and immigration reform.

Even if Servetas were to marry Amaral in the District of Columbia or one of the 12 states that allow gay marriage, that marriage would be invisible as far as immigration law is concerned. Servetas could not sponsor her wife because of DOMA, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

So Servetas, 48, gave up her life in the United States and moved to Brazil, where she launched an information technology company. The company is struggling and Servetas misses everything about America. But she cannot imagine a life without Amaral.

"Our life is surrounded by uncertainty. We live in limbo all the time," she said, not knowing if one day her work visa in Brazil might not be extended. She goes to sleep every night worrying that tomorrow, she may be separated from the woman she loves.

The Supreme Court is poised to hand down a decision on DOMA any day. If the justices strike it down, bi-national gay couples will gain the same immigration rights as heterosexual married couples.

At the same time, Patrick Leahy, a

Democratic senator from Vermont, has filed an amendment to an immigration reform bill in the Senate that would afford gay couples equality in immigration sponsorship.

Steve Ralls, spokesman for Immigration Equality, an organization that has been working on this issue for two decades, said for the first time, the LGBT community is optimistic that immigration policy will become less discriminatory.

"As of today, we are stuck in a race to see who's going to solve the problem first," Ralls said. "If the Senate bill is about to receive its final vote and either we do not have a court ruling or we have a bad court ruling, then (Leahy's) amendment becomes absolutely critical for binational couples."

The amendment, however, doesn't sit well with conservatives and even with more liberal lawmakers who believe it could potentially derail the entire immigration reform bill. The chances of Leahy's amendment passing, say immigration activists, are slim to none.

In any case, if the Supreme Court strikes down DOMA, the immigration amendment would be moot.

"I can't sleep thinking about all this," Servetas said from her residence in Rio de Janeiro.

A bill to recognize same-sex partners for immigration purposes was first introduced in Congress in 2000. Since then countless couples have been separated or have had to make the same difficult decision as Servetas and leave home.

In Atlanta, Nepal native Satyam Barakoti, 36, has grown resolute in her efforts to establish a normal life, despite the dark immigration cloud that hangs over her.

She and her partner, Tonja Holder, have been together five years and run a nonprofit consulting agency. They bought a house, and Barakoti is halfway through her first pregnancy. (More than 17,000 children in this country are being raised by binational couples.)

Holder and Barakoti have picked out names: Kabir if it's a boy and Annapurna for a girl.

But come February, Barakoti's temporary work visa, known as an H-1B, will expire, and she could very likely have to leave America.

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► Immigration

Continued from p. 16

Holder cannot sponsor her for permanent residency or what's more commonly called a green card. Barakoti's child will be born a U.S. citizen, but under current law, children cannot sponsor parents until they are 21.

"We're kind of waiting to see what happens in the Supreme Court. Our options are very murky," Barakoti said.

They could move to Nepal, but it will be difficult there for Holder. She's 47, settled in Atlanta and doesn't speak Nepali. The two have discussed moving elsewhere, maybe to immigration-friendly Canada.

Mercer University law professor Scott Titshaw, who practiced immigration law for 12 years, described "love-exiled" cases as one of the few instances in which he has given this advice: Go north.

"Marriage is just so important to U.S. immigration law," Titshaw said.

Canada is the top destination for same-sex binational couples in the United States because of proximity and its immigration system. Canada uses a point system to determine who will be allowed in to live and work. Applicants are awarded points for proficiency in education, job experience and language skills. If one partner qualifies for immigration status in Canada, he or she can sponsor the other.

Shehan Welihindha, 31, of Sri Lanka and his spouse, Ryan Wilson, 29, live in South Carolina, a state that bans same-sex marriage. They were among the first seven couples to get married in Maryland – Wilson grew up in Baltimore – on New Year's Day after that state approved same-sex marriage last fall.

But now, with an expiration date on Welihindha's student visa, they're considering Canada.

Welihindha watched his brother marry an American woman and become a citizen.

His younger sister married an American man and within a very short time, she received her green card. But when Welihindha's visa expires, he will either have to find a job with a company that might sponsor him or leave.

"When we think about graduation or starting a family, it takes us back to that root conversation about immigration," said Welihindha from his home

Canada is the top destination for same-sex binational couples in the United States because of proximity and its immigration system.

in Columbia, South Carolina.

In all, 31 countries recognize same-sex relationships for immigration purposes. Some, like Great Britain, don't have legalized same-sex marriage but still recognize same-sex couples.

That's why Brandon Perlberg, 35, abandoned his law career in New York and moved to London to be with his partner, Benn Storey. Even though the state of New York approved same-sex marriage in 2011, a wedding was not going to help when Storey's temporary work visa ran out.

"You don't get more committed than giving up your country," Perlberg said. "That's the value DOMA was supposed to be protecting. Isn't marriage all about the sanctity of commitment?"

Perlberg is angry – not at his partner but at his country – for having to give up everything he cherished and begin again in a foreign land.

Psychology professor Nadine Nakamura is researching people like Perlberg and the emotional toll of having to live in exile for the sake of preserving a relationship.

"The whole situation of not knowing what the future holds and kind of having to wait

with bated breath to see what politicians or the Supreme Court decides creates a great deal of anxiety," said Nakamura, who teaches at the University of La Verne in southern California. "A lot of same-sex binational couples have a hard time trying to figure out what their future looks like."

Barakoti said she has lived with that anxiety since she arrived in the United States in 2001, constantly filing paperwork for visa applications including an employer-based green card sponsorship that was rejected. It became so all-consuming that she decided not to fret about it anymore. She and Holder are bracing for a high court decision that will not be in their favor.

"Whatever they throw at us, we'll manage," Holder said.

They know one thing: No matter what, they will find a way to be together. But no one, they said, should have to choose between love and country.

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Legendary Troupe Performs July 5 During Ann Arbor Summer Fest

BY CHRISTOPHER J. TREACY

The idea is that you need to know the rules first in order to properly break them.

Otherwise, all you're left with are happy accidents—fine and well for an occasional boon, but not really the sort of thing that you'd want to depend upon. And that's precisely why a dance company like Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo needs to stay on its toes ... literally. You can see for yourself on Friday, July 5 when they come to the Power Center as part of Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

Since the mid-'70s the troupe has toured tirelessly, proving once and for all that men can dance en pointe if they're willing to work at it. Indeed, there were women in the Trocks at the beginning, but the sight-gag wasn't nearly as powerful; cross-dressing women aren't as amusing to audiences as a man in a tutu. Plus, the gals often had a tough time lifting the male dancers. Eventually, it became an all-male revue, the current age range of which spans from 19 to 51.

What started by selling out a loft space on 14th Street in Manhattan's meat-packing district eventually made its way to Lincoln Center's "Out of Doors Festival" by the summer of 1999. The fuel propelling the Trocks has

always been a unique ability to bring unexpected and hilarious touches to dance pieces that are not normally thought of as funny—from "Swan Lake Part Two" to Balanchine's "Stars & Stripes." But being able to render them with humor requires not only a disciplined dancer's skill; there's also the matter of comic timing to consider. It's a fair bit trickier than a mere comedy of errors.

"Classical ballet wasn't set up to be humorous," asserts artistic director Tory Dobrin during a recent phone chat. "In that way, it's like opera. In order to be funny, we need to take the material and exaggerate it for comic effect. But it's also a two-hour-and-15-minute program, so we have a mission to offer a number of different

Hot To TROCK

“If it’s fun for the audience, then it’s fun for the dancers. The Trocks are comedians, but they also want to dance very well. Ideally, the audience leaves having laughed hysterically but also in a state of astonishment over the high level of skill.”

things – slapstick, parody, physical comedy – in that time frame.”

Dobrin originally hails from Los Angeles. He says that having grown up in West Hollywood, the concept of a drag ballet performance didn’t seem that off-the-wall to him when, after landing in New York by-way-of-Texas, he joined the group for a South American tour in 1980. Since then, the Trocks have wowed audiences in over 500 cities, many of which they revisit on a regular, rotating basis. To look at their schedule, it’s plainly obvious that this is a full-time gig ... it’s not a hobby, not something that can be balanced with a day job. Dobrin, who eventually stopped dancing in favor of a fulltime management role, admits that rising to the challenge of staying busy in an iffy economy is a top priority.

“There’s a limited amount of times we can return to the same cities – once every few years – and maintaining the work schedule is really important for us,” Dobrin says. “We have to be sure the show is good fun and attracts the widest range of audiences possible. This isn’t a Mark Morris Dance Company, to use a random example – what we do has to have much more universal appeal and is geared toward the audience’s needs.”

And appeal they have, as Dobrin points out that this is a ballet performance which attracts dance mavens and haters, gay and straight, the young and the old alike. Children, in particular, will warm to the playful nature of the show, whereas a traditional dance performance would likely bore them.

One place where the Trocks have really endured is in Japan, where they have a fan club and will be spending the latter half of this coming September. Dobrin outlines certain cultural factors (cross-dressing in theater/Kabuki, a natural interest in gender issues, the wacky sense of humor fully on display in some of their television programming and a general love of dance), that make this less surprising.

But, like Kabuki, the Trocks are engaged in a higher form of impersonation than what we normally think of as drag in the traditional gay-bar sense.

“We’re trying to create a high-quality show with lots of components, and we’re always searching for a good balance between dance and comedy. With regard to drag, our lineage

INFO

Trockadero de Monte Carlo

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comes from something more like the Charles Ludlam school.” The late Ludlam, you may recall, was a New York-based actor/director/playwright who specialized in an edgy brand of absurdity. Adjusting to the aesthetic can be a bit of a tightrope walk in the beginning.

“New dancers can have a hard time figuring out the sensibility,” Dobrin says. “It takes a good six months to settle in. Certain aspects of the dance itself – staying in line, for instance – require discipline. But a new dancer also needs to learn that they can’t let the audience manipulate them into an extreme. If you’re the performer, you’re in charge ... this is an act and it needs to stay within certain framework. That’s not to say we don’t want dancers to bring their own sensibilities, but they need to be able to make that work with the context of our show. A new dancer might be tempted to take it over the line when the audience reacts to something, but we have a routine we need to stick to, and when you overindulge like that, you alter the aesthetic – it’s no longer funny,” he says, adding that when Joan Rivers called Adele fat, she’d stepped over the line in a similar way.

Knowing the value of restraint is a quality that most artistic directors hold dear, but resisting the temptation to be goaded by an audience by no means infers the Trocks want stoic crowds. In fact, they prefer a lively show where the audience is audibly enthused.

“It should be a party,” Dobrin says. “If it’s fun for the audience, then it’s fun for the dancers. The Trocks are comedians, but they also want to dance very well. Ideally, the audience leaves having laughed hysterically but also in a state of astonishment over the high level of skill. Dancing up on pointes is hard.”

“But,” he adds, “We kinda know what we’re doing.”

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Hear Me Out

Best Of 2013 (So Far)

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



10. Yeah Yeah Yeahs, 'Mosquito'

Karen O howls on "Sacrilege" as the sound revs with electric fury and the divine intervention of a gospel choir. "Buried Alive" features rap persona Dr. Octagon in what sounds like overhead music for an S&M dungeon. The title track is really about a mosquito. "He'll suck your blood," sings Karen O, even buzzing like one of them bugs. The album's raucous absurdity is a complete mess. And what a glorious mess it is.



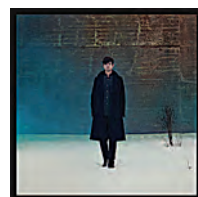
9. Jessie Ware, 'Devotion'

It was "Wildest Moments" that had everyone talking about the remarkable cords, classy style and Sade-like smoothness of Jessie Ware. She was the '90s of the new millennium. A minty breath in a room full of stale stench. And her debut is full of "moments": The funk-soul "Running" struts, "If You're Never Gonna Move" grooves and "Taking in Water," for her gay brother, inspires.



8. Holly Williams, 'The Highway'

With her sinewy drawl and doleful suitcase of songs, Holly Williams – from the Hank lineage – has become Nashville's unsung hero. Rooted in the American sound that marked her previous release, "The Highway" brims with the undressed, reflective and often-heavyhearted songwriting of Williams' career. The acoustic "Waiting on June," an achingly beautiful true tale of her grandparents' long life together (the wedding, the babies, their deaths), will wreck you.



7. James Blake, 'Overgrown'

An electrohypnosis, James Blake's "Overgrown" is so quietly staged it permeates the subconscious first, unfurling its layers over time. With graceful simplicity and the allure

of his otherworldly – and sometimes even sexy (the sensational "Life Round Here" will tingle you) – baritone, this work is a breathtaking spectacle where songs subtly loop, morph and swell into sonic splendor.



6. Vampire Weekend, 'Modern Vampires of the City'

The dainty gents of Vampire Weekend know a good hook. "Diane Young" is delirious, drum-punched pop with wonky pitch-shifting, crunching and fizzing; it makes for one of the most infectious moments in music this year. They get into your head with the wistfulness of the horn-y, Celtic-kissed "Unbelievers," Paul Simon-ed "Everlasting Arms" and eerie "Hudson." Much credit to Ezra Koenig for that voice. It's heaven.



5. The National, 'Trouble Will Find Me'

The Cincinnati quintet's reliably strong catalog of melancholic mellowness got another noble release with "Trouble Will Find Me," the understated sixth LP from a band as modest as their sound. The staggering opening trifecta – "Don't Swallow the Cap" stands out most – is graceful and emphatic, with Matt Berninger's achy Bono-like baritone taking center stage. But the closers are just as stunning, especially the conjured dream state of tenderhearted coda "Hard to Find."



4. Tegan and Sara, 'Heartthrob'

Pop music doesn't get much better than ... Tegan and Sara's latest? Stripping the grittiness of the sisters' indie-rock-and-sometimes-folky sound for something more '90s-boom-box-made was a bold move – and a move that notches the best album of their career. The songwriting still aches (see "How Come You Don't Want Me"), the harmonies still intoxicate ("Now I'm All Messed Up" comes to a beautiful yin-yang close) ... and the new sound – produced by pop go-to Greg Kurstin – throbs with heart.



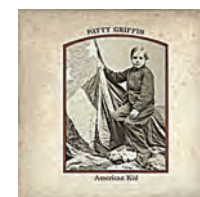
3. Kacey Musgraves, 'Same Trailer Different Park'

On "Merry Go 'Round," Kacey Musgraves admitted something few in country music ever do: small-town life kind of sucks. Then came "Follow Your Arrow," about staying true to yourself – even if you're gay, and even if you like getting high. The rest of her major-label debut is equally unconventional, fresh-spirited and ballsy: The deceiving lullaby sparsity of "It Is What It Is" almost masks the suggestion of casual sex, and "Blowin' Smoke" is a witty portrayal of a dead-end waitressing job. "I'm out here going broke," she laments. Not for long.



2. Daft Punk, 'Random Access Memories'

Nothing about Daft Punk's disco-dipped futuristic fantasia is obvious, but then again, Daft Punk hasn't just always gone outside the box musically – they've evaded the box altogether. They're on the outer edge again with "Random Access Memories," an already-ubiquitous game changer for the "One More Time" duo. This is a dazzling bravura of ambitious head trips, from the magic of "Contact" and "Instant Crush" to "Get Lucky" and its vintage feel-good vibes.



1. Patty Griffin, 'American Kid'

The profoundness of Patty Griffin goes back to her 1996 debut, but now – nearly 20 years later – this new pinnacle surely aligns her with other singer-songwriter greats like Bruce Springsteen and Joni Mitchell. That's because her thematic LP "American Kid," inspired by her father's death, is an American classic. It's an elegy so viscerally and spiritually powerful – marked by poignancy, razor-sharp storytelling and a voice as rich as they come – that this enlightened work is Patty Griffin's golden ticket to the pantheon of music legends.

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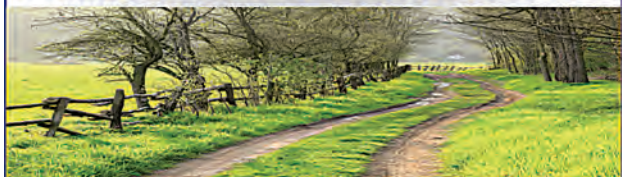


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Washtenaw Pride Picnic To Feature Fun, Fellowship

A Time To 'Be Ourselves Together'

BY DAWN WOLFE

ANN ARBOR – Frequently, the LGBT communities come together to address a political or social need, from marriage equality to supporting the latest victim of job discrimination or hate crimes.

But on Saturday, June 22, LGBT and allied folks in the Ann Arbor area will be able to enjoy an event that's just for fun during the Washtenaw Pride Picnic from noon-3 p.m. at Allmendinger Park.

According to Amy McLoughlin, a Jim Toy Community Center board member and picnic organizer, the purpose of the free event is "... to focus on bringing people together as a family for a fun event where we can network, socialize and be ourselves together. Our communities have a lot of stuff going on – activism, fundraisers and other serious events, and we wanted this picnic just to be a time to fellowship, be together (and for people to) feel like they're part of this larger community." This year's picnic is the second organized and hosted by the center.

While the event is about about having a good time, McLoughlin said that several elected officials, including State Representative Jeff Irwin, are expected to attend.

In addition to games for all ages, the picnic will feature hot dogs and cold beer (donations requested) as well as a volunteer DJ to keep the energy high. The park has several grills, and the picnic organizers will keep a special grill going for participants to cook their favorite outdoor eating treats.

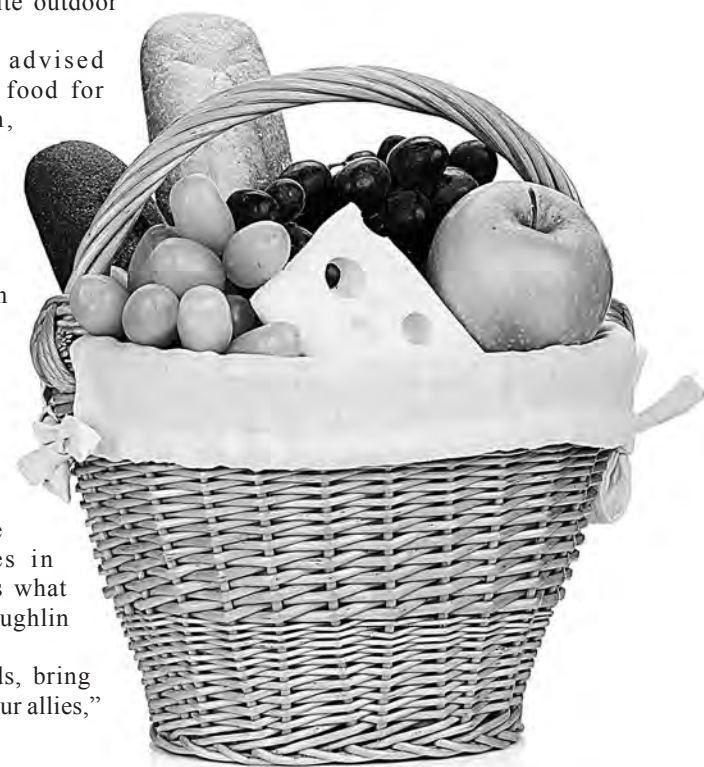
McLoughlin advised guests to bring food for a picnic lunch, chairs, blankets, and all of the usual accessories that make being outside in the summer both safe and fun – like mosquito repellent and sunscreen.

As for an alternate rain date, there isn't one. "We'll dance and play games in the rain if that's what happens," McLoughlin laughed.

"Bring the kids, bring the dogs, bring your allies," she added.

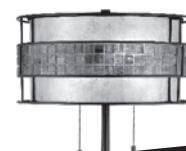
The Facts:

This year's Washtenaw Pride Picnic will be held from noon-3 p.m. at Allmendinger Park on Pauline Road near Main Street. The event is free and open to all LGBT community members, allies and friends. For more information visit the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/458838437531561 or call Amy McLoughlin at 734-972-0477.



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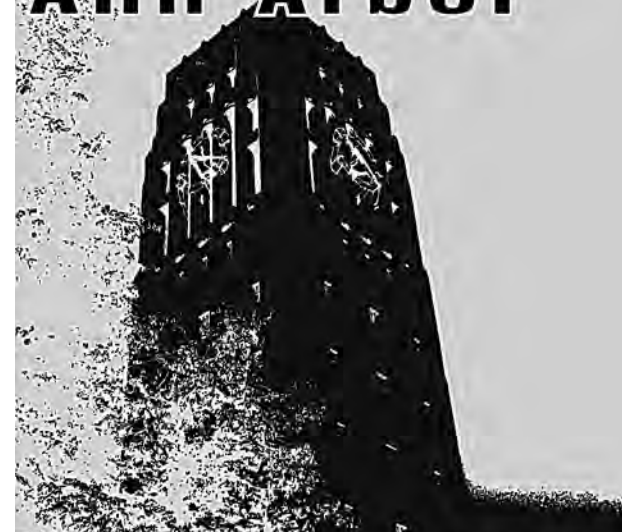
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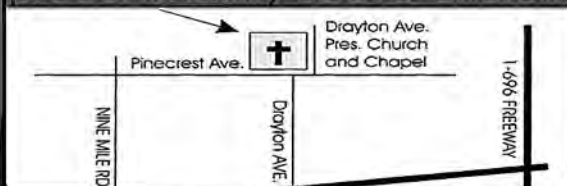
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Happenings

OUTINGS

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.

Crossdressers of West Michigan 5:30 p.m. This social and support group will have discussions involving makeup lessons, clothing choices, how to pass, how to help your home life, what your SO thinks, and even group activities. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgibt.org

Prohibition and All That Jazz 6 p.m. Hop on board and enjoy a fun-filled, rollicking ride through the streets of Detroit. Explore the old stomping grounds of the Purple Gang and their rivals, which are now historic neighborhoods. Hear stories and fun facts spiked with a few grizzly details and learn about Al Capone's mark on Detroit. See famous landmarks and sites including the Detroit River, which was the center of smuggling booze from Windsor, Canada. Explore a former speakeasy and brewery. Revel in the rich history of Jazz in Detroit and experience great live music at Bert's Jazz Club to top off a fabulous night! Tickets: \$49. Feet on the Street Tours, **Detroit**. 248-353-TOURS. Feetonthestreettours.com

Gene Kelly Benefit Wine Dinner for Allen Creek Preschool 6:30 p.m. Special guest Kerry Kelly Novick, daughter of Gene Kelly. Cocktails, dinner with matching wines and the Gene Kelly film, An American in Paris. Tickets: \$50. Allen Creek Preschool, 3411 Washtenaw Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-971-0484. Paesanosannarbor.com

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

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 21

Sacred Sites 7:30 a.m. This tour will take us to sacred sites of many denominations. Stops include sites where Native American tribes still come to practice healing, munching with the Monks and much more. We have pick-up destinations in Madison Heights, Novi and Wixom. Tickets: \$80. Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy, Suite 2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com Steponbustours.com

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

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

Friday Night Socials: Game Night 7 p.m. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Lavender Dance Metro-Post Pride Party 7 p.m. DJ. Cash bar. Drink specials. All funds after coverage of party will go to non-profit. Tickets: \$12-15. GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: You and I - Two teenage girls, Janie who is American and Lana who is Russian, fall in love after meeting at a t.A.T.u concert and are swept into a dangerous world of obsession, drug abuse and murder. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Celebrate Gay Pride 10 p.m. The only gay-friendly bar in Cadillac offering a place where you can come and meet new friends. Escape Bar and Grill, 101 E. Harris, **Cadillac**. 231-388-0627. dart123@yahoo.com

Saturday, June 22

2013 LGBT Older Adult Summit 8:30 a.m. Older Adult Planning Committee, 3408 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 248-262-0533. npearce@aaa1b.com lgbtoasummit2013.eventbrite.com



"Out at Work," which chronicles the stories of a cook, an auto worker and a librarian as they seek workplace safety, job security and benefits for gay and lesbian workers.

Holland Area Pride Festival will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 29 at Centennial Park and Park Theatre, Holland. For more information, visit www.hollandareapride.com.

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

Riot Youth Reunion 11 a.m. Were you in Riot Youth between 1998 and 2009? Return home to the Neutral Zone, connect with old friends and inspire current teens. 21+. Tickets: \$15. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, **Ann Arbor**. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

Washtenaw Pride Picnic 12 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, Fifth St. and Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. Jimtoycenter.org

Tri-City Pride 1 p.m. Car show, vendor and information booths, food trucks, and more. Drag Queen Hostess: Asio Aviance. Performances by Bayside Bombshell's Burlesque Troup, Drag King Rebellion, Abbie Stauffer, Sandy Mulligan and Kris Pride. Tri-City Pride, **Saginaw**. tricitylgbtpride.com

How to make Handmade Flaky Pie Crust 2:30 p.m. With expert baker, Karla Richards. Tickets: \$35. Fair Food Matters, 511 Harrison, **Kalamazoo**.

Founder's Reception 4 p.m. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres fundraising event honoring the Centers Founder. Tickets:

route beginning and ending at Macomb Bike and Fitness. A rest stop will be included along both routes. A complimentary lunch is served following the ride. Macomb Bike and Fitness of Warren, 28411 Schoenherr, **Warren**. 586-756-5400. Macombbike.com

Get Out Bike/Shore to Shore Training - Macomb Orchard Rail Trail 10 a.m. GOAL, Division Road, **Richmond**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Monday, June 24

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

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

Editor's Pick

West Michigan continues its string of Pride events with this weekend's Holland Area Pride Festival. Hosted by Holland Area PRIDE, the event will be broken into two segments, with all profits being used to better educate the greater Holland area about LGBT issues.

Various booths, vendors, musical acts and comedy shows will begin the day in Centennial Park. The evening will transition to Park Theatre and end with indoor entertainment, including the documentary

"Out at Work," which chronicles the stories of a cook, an auto worker and a librarian as they seek workplace safety, job security and benefits for gay and lesbian workers.

Holland Area Pride Festival will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 29 at Centennial Park and Park Theatre, Holland. For more information, visit www.hollandareapride.com.

Kayak & Canoe Trip 9 a.m. Ease on down the Pinnobog River. Bring your own flotation device. Rentals are available. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, **Owendale**. 989-375-2586. obisite8@yahoo.com Windoverwomensresort.com

LGBT Elders Conference 9 a.m. Feature keynote speaker Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney for the LGBT Project, ACLU. There will be a continental breakfast & lunch. Free. Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. tagranove@jccdet.org

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

Delish Detroit 9:30 a.m. Eastern Market tours. Stroll from shed to shed and visit specialty stores to learn about unique products, hear fun facts and history of the area, and go behind the scenes and sample various foods. Tickets: \$29-30. Feet on the Street Tours, 2465 Russell St., **Detroit**. 248-353-TOURS. feetonthestreettours.com

\$75. Special overnight rates at the Dunes for attendees. Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights, 333 Blue Star Highway, **Douglas**. 734-487-3032. equality_humanrights@emich.edu emich.edu/equality

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

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

Sunday, June 23

Red Cedar Friends Quaker Meeting Red Cedar Friends Quaker Meeting, **Lansing**. 517-371-1047. redcedarfriends.org

Second Annual Tour de Warren Participants may choose a 10 or 25-mile

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

Closer to Married: Three Practical Ways for LGBT Families to Cut the Red Tape 7 p.m. Attorneys Lisa J. Schmidt and Lloyd Paley and Dr. Abigail Schildrout discuss legal and medical ways to cut the red tape and protect your family. Free and open to the public. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. Darlene@ferndalepubliclibrary.org

Movement with Kristi Faulkner Dance 7 p.m. A different genre of movement each week, including modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop/breaking, soft shoe tap dance, and stretch and strengthening. Workshops are designed for beginning/intermediate movers ages 16-55. Tickets: \$5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations,

See Happenings, page 28

'Absorbing' Shakespeare Play In A2

BY CAROLYN HAYES

A king's obligation to a fellow empire, a servant's commitment to his master, a spouse's fidelity – these variations on the notion of loyalty have at least two things in common. First, they're all fraught with complexity, and second, all are found within Shakespeare's grandiose tragedy/romance/problem play, "Cymbeline." With this infrequently produced text, director Barton Bund again takes up the mantle of the Shakespeare West festival, leading the Blackbird Theatre out of doors to picturesque West Park in Ann Arbor and setting out political and personal conflict to simmer.

The title suggests that the story belongs to the British king Cymbeline (Lynch R. Travis), but the true protagonist appears to be his strong-willed daughter, the princess Imogen (Jamie Weeder); it is through her that most of the characters are introduced and interconnected. Despite being Cymbeline's heir and the future queen, Imogen has secretly married a commoner (Alistar Dimitrie), who is summarily banished. Meanwhile, Imogen's stepmother-queen (Qamara Black) dabbles in alchemy and sabotage, scheming for her own lineage to usurp the throne. In other news, Britain no longer cares to pay taxes to Caesar, which the Roman Empire answers with a declaration of war. What follows is an imaginative entanglement involving wagering, seduction, defamation, yearning, misapprehension, insurrection, conspiracy, duplicity, camaraderie, apparition and bloodshed.

This is all achieved in Bund's adaptation by a cast of only six, which dictates distilling the plot to its most vital elements, stripping the binding fabric of the story down to robust individual threads. (Each of the performers is also double or triple cast in various roles, which feels like a choice borne out of necessity rather than interpretive insight, especially when characters begin assuming disguises – although, to Bund's credit, chaos never reigns.) While there is a clipped sense of absent exposition that ancillary characters provide, the play smoothly pulls the viewer through its vignettes and clearly lays out the characters and their relationships and intentions.

More importantly, the scenes are unified and elevated by their common atmosphere of uneasy accord, of politely hosting suspected enemies, or cooperating with a rival to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion. There's something magnetically ancient and dire about consorting with adversaries face to face; here, it's a crucial contributor to the



Jesse Arehart-Jacobs as Pisanio and Jamie Weeder as Imogen in Shakespeare West's "Cymbeline." Photo: Blackbird Theatre

INFO

Cymbeline

Blackbird Theatre at West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh Avenue, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday through June 29. 2 hours, 25 minutes. \$15-\$20.

www.facebook.com/events/164478397059560

production's gritty old-world concept, whose haughty fantasy influences are starkly apparent.

The deep earthen and bloody tones of Jeannie Arquette's costume design have a plainly romantic bent, especially in flowing pieces that flutter in the open air. Sparing set design by Joshua M. Parker drops hints of Doric classicism to complement the West Park band shell and draws in imposing natural influences, suggestive of a kind of open-air Valhalla. In addition to the show's few haunting scripted interludes of song, Bund provides percussion cues that conceptually evoke marching armies as they sensibly signal and summon the actors from afar.

Indeed, in the company's hands, the "stage" is entirely without boundaries, a breeding ground for daring staging and wide-focus as well as intimate work. Admittedly, the production cannot fully overcome the logistical problems that arise from such a sprawling, unconventional playing space, such as the long march from far backstage and across a gully that stalls the beginning of several scenes. More broadly, the amalgamation of inside and outside

actions (and indoor and outdoor voices) do not inherently play well together – viewers should sit as close to main stage center as they can to ensure the best possible audio and visual experience.

The robust ensemble does justice to the text and story, which swims in villainy but declines to deliver a delectable Shakespearean villain. Instead, Black's nefarious motives feel disorganized and diffuse, whereas Dimitrie's dogged turn as the queen's thwarted son is most notable for its subtle, almost secret comedy. Dan Johnson does fine lascivious work as a greedy, competitive and crafty troublemaker, although his is a hasty reckoning.

The most relatable excursion into the moral middle ground comes from Jesse Arehart-Jacobs, as a servant contemptibly torn between his duty and his fidelity. The plucky Weeder proves a rootable hero throughout, both in her comfort zone at court and when knocked off her moorings throughout the ricochet second act. As for Travis, his best work comes in a refreshing departure from the main plot, in an unfettered show of friendliness and brotherhood that is sorely needed in this world of mistrust.

This "Cymbeline" tells an absorbing story of conflict on a tremendous canvas, spreading its intriguing atmosphere of mistrust through the fresh June air. The production's imperfections may keep viewers mindful of the many challenges of outdoor theater, but its innovative successes are all the more satisfying for it.

July 11 - August 18, 2013

Tuna Does Vegas

This hilarious satire of small-town life is even more delightful as Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker reunite one last time to depict the men and women of Tuna, Texas, Vegas showgirls, Elvis impersonators and more!

Directed by Quintessa Gallinat

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Editor's Pick



The world premiere of Ralph Accardo's "Roaming Charges," a playful story about two wandering women and a roaming 13-year-old girl, is now playing at the Detroit Repertory Theatre.

Lacey Cubbard, a precocious African-American young lady new to the neighborhood, gently swings back and forth on the swing. Kate enters, sits on one of the lawn chairs, opens her shoulder bag, withdraws a stack of papers and begins to read. This seemingly precious and innocent beginning soon evolves into a gorgeous poem/play about mothers and daughters, race, suburbia, academia, identity and poetry. Lacey, the lonesome woman, Kate and eventually a mystery poet are woven into a pattern that is both tangled and delicate, both tortuous and lovely.

"Roaming Charges" runs every Thursday through Sunday until June 23. General admission for all seats, all performances is \$17 per ticket in advance and \$20 day of performance. For tickets, call 313-868-1347.

Happenings

Continued from p. 26

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

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

Writing Group 7 p.m. Different focus for each meeting. Meets fourth Monday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, June 25

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

Fifth Annual LGBT & Ally Pride Awards Banquet 6 p.m. The banquet honors people and businesses that have helped the LGBT community with a reception, dinner and program. Tickets: \$15-25. Perceptions, 150 Ezra Rust Dr., **Saginaw**. 989-891-1439. info@perceptionsSV.org

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

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

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

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

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 26

Confident Retirement for the LGBT Community 12 p.m. Join a webinar series on how to create a confident retirement by solving your unique financial challenges. RSVP by phone or e-mail. Ameriprise & The Pointe Law Group, **Detroit**. 248-799-5935. jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

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

Thursday, June 27

Annual National Testing Day Various locations will test for everyone 13 and older. Block party to follow at Hearth Home Prevention and Outreach Center. Saginaw Community HIV/AIDS Task Force and Health Delivery, **Saginaw and Bay City**. 989-753-9011. tflynn@healthdelivery.org

Anti-bullying Workshop 5:30 p.m. Join in a workshop to cultivate respect in schools where you live. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. outcenter.org

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

Gay Flash Mob in Royal Oak 7 p.m. Gay Flash Mobs, **Royal Oak**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "Corporate Sellout" With Who's This We? and Fires in Japan. 18+. Tickets: \$5-8. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9:30 p.m. June 20. 734-996-8555. blindpig.com

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery "Charlie Dentel" Original folk-rock and R&B. Featuring Jamie Neilsen, Dan Robertson, and others. Suggested Donation: \$5. All ages. Chelsea Alehouse Brewery, 420 N. Main, Suite 100, **Chelsea**. 9 p.m. June 22. chelseaalehouse.com

City of Birmingham "Guy Louis" Part of the 2013 In the Park Summer Concert series. Shain Park, **Birmingham**. 7 p.m. June 26. bhamgov.org/summerconcerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Summer Celebration Performance" Free. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. June 26. 313-576-5111. dso.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Aethra Franklin" Tickets: \$15.25-89.15. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, **Clarkston**. 8 p.m. June 22. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Electricity Nightclub "Bass Mission: Christian Rich" 18+. Electricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., **Pontiac**. June 26. 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

Michigan Philharmonic "Michigan Philharmonic Summer in the Park". Kensington Metropark, 2240 W. Buno Road, **Milford**. 8 p.m. June 21. 248-685-1561. michigaphil.org

Oakland University's Music Preparatory Division "OU Summer Strings Camp" Different topics, theories, rehearsals, and workshops covered each day. Ages: 12-17. Tuition: \$375. Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, **Rochester**. June 24 - June 28. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/summerstrings

Palmer Woods "Jazz, Classical, World & a Splash of R&B" Tickets: \$35-40. Location provided to ticket holders. **Detroit**. June 21 - June 22. 313-891-2514. palmerwoods.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Kelly Rowland & The Dream" All ages. General Admission. Tickets: \$29.50-59.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7 p.m. June 20. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

Stars in the Park "Dragon Wagon" Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills**. 7 p.m. June 20. 248-473-1848.

The Ark "John Fullbright" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 26. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Magic Bag "The Mega 80s" 21+. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 8 p.m. June 22. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Magic Stick "Parquet Courts & Feelings & Protomartyr" All ages. Tickets: \$10-12. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 25. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Majestic "Obert" With special guest Shiftee. 18+. Tickets: \$15+. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 10 p.m. June 21. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

FESTIVALS

City of East Lansing "17th Annual Summer Solstice Jazz Festival". Downtown East Lansing, **East Lansing**. June 21 - June 22.

City of Livonia "Livonia Spree" Livonia Spree has something for everyone in the family: delicious food, great music ranging from country to jazz, a fantastic family carnival, and the Grand Finale Fireworks Extravaganza on Sunday night. Tickets: \$5-22. Ford Field, 14261 Farmington, **Livonia**. June 25 - June 30. livoniaspirit.org

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival Tickets: \$10-40. St. Hugo of the Hills

Catholic Church, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - June 21. 248-559-2097. greatlakeschambermusic.org

Meadow Brook Music Festival "The Recess Family Music Festival" The festival is designed to actively engage the imaginations of children, ranging in age from 4-9, and their parents where families can visit various creative spaces on the Meadow Brook grounds to write and record a song, take a dance class, do arts and crafts or get a "rock star" makeover. Tickets: \$25+-. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 11 a.m. June 22. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

THEATER

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.fancypants-theater.webs.com

Hairspray \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Jackson Community College's Potter Center, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Through June 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. Through June 22. (734) 483-7345. www.ptdproductions.com

Shrek, the Musical \$15-\$35. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through June 23. 517-264-7469. www.crosswell.org

The Play's the Thing Free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 28 - 29. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org

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

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Free. LCC Performing Arts at LCC Outdoor Amphitheatre, on the Downtown campus of Lansing Community College, Lansing. June 19 - 23. 517-483-1488. www.lcc.edu/showinfo

PROFESSIONAL

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. Through June 23. 269-731-4121. www.BarnTheatre.com

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

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

All Shook Up \$25-60. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 21 - Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. www.Hope.edu/hsrt

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

Company \$15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. June 20 - 30. 269-781-2700. www.GreatEscapeStageCompany.com

Cymbeline \$15-\$20. Blackbird Theatre, West Park Band Shell, 300 N. Seventh Avenue, Ann

Arbor. Through June 29. www.facebook.com/events/164478397059560

Ernie \$20-\$25. 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

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

Next to Normal \$27-\$31. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 30. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Opera at the Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 29. 269-756-3879. www.AcornTheater.com

Peter Pan \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 M-96, Augusta. June 25 - July 7. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

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 Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. Eighth St., Holland. Through July 6. 616-395-7890. www.Hope.edu/hsrt

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

Tony N' Tina's Wedding \$63. Detroit Actors Guild at Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. Fourteen Mile Road, Warren. 7:30 p.m. June 28. 586-268-3200.

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. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. www.Hope.edu/HSRT

ART 'N' AROUND

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

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 "A Driving Force: Cranbrook and the Car" Exploring the way Cranbrook has played a role in shaping the landscape of American life through the automobile from the start of the twentieth century. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 13 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market "EDGE" A group exhibition of twelve artists reconfiguring established thinking and current perceptions of art. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - July 13. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.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 "Acanthus Art Society Meeting". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 26 - Oct. 23. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" Rarely seen selections from the four points of the compass and across millennia have been drawn from the FIA's vault and assembled into this provocative and stimulating exhibition. While many objects were born out of necessity - vessels, weaponry, tools, and apparel - they have been collected here for their fascinating artistic designs, from simple to the most elaborate. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 3 - June 30. Flintarts.org

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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Downtown Sculpture Walk". Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. 10 a.m. June 22. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Sigh and Feeling: Photographs by Ansel Adams" Ansel Adams' skill at creating photographs with a remarkable range and subtlety of tones is legendary. Yet for all his technical mastery, Adams recognized that what made a compelling photograph was far more elusive. This exhibition of Adams' photographs from the KIA collection and local collectors suggests how his intuitive and emotional response to the landscape resulted in powerful and enduring photographs. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 1 - June 23. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

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

Michigan Silversmiths Guild "Jewelry + Objects 2013 Art Exhibit" A free reception to close an exhibition promoting excellence in the field of metalsmithing sponsored by the Michigan Silversmiths Guild in collaboration with the Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens. Exhibit runs through June 22. Anton Art Center, 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. May 28 - June 22. 586-469-8666. theartcenter.org

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

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "(in)Habitation" The sculptural works featured are both serious and playful. They engage through movement, flashing lights and the spectacular, but ultimately lead us to question our existing biases and assumptions about what the idea of "home" really means. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - July 28. 313-832-6622. moca-detroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "Mary Bachman: Retrospective Exhibit" Will contain Bachman's work in Oils, Pastels, Casein, Watercolor, Sculpture, Pottery, Weaving, Colored Pencil and Graphite. Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. May 31 - June 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

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

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Zach Braff wishes on star Jim Parsons

“Wish I Was Here” is the name of that movie Zach Braff turned to Kickstarter to fund, a move that turned the entire project into a referendum on what well-to-do celebrities should do when they want to find alternative sources of funding for their film projects (hint: break the unwritten rules and use

your own damn money). And the snarky controversy has overshadowed the fact that the film has a talented ensemble cast, including gay actor Jim Parsons (“The Big Bang Theory”), Donald Faison, Kate Hudson, Mandy Patinkin, “Pitch Perfect”’s Anna Kendrick and Braff himself. The plot is an odd one considering the whole Kickstarter dustup, but it involves Braff’s lead character – described in a synopsis as a man struggling financially – turning to home-schooling his children when private school money dries up. Of course, they have these things called public schools that are ... shhh ... free, but whatever. It’ll be funny to see what financial hardship means to a rich sitcom actor, won’t it?

‘Blue’ lesbians to warm up America’s big screens

Filmmaker Abdellatif Kechiche’s three-hour lesbian romance, “Blue Is the Warmest Color,” is coming to America, thanks to distributor IFC. The controversial film (called a

“voyeuristic exercise” by New York Times film critic Manohla Dargis) stars young actresses Léa Seydoux and Adèle Exarchopoulos as they come of age and fall in love, and it recently won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival, the Palme d’Or. The intense love story, complete with lengthy sex scenes (reports are that the non-pornographic art film leaves nothing to the imagination, prompting New York magazine’s Vulture website to cheekily praise its “impressive scissoring”) found itself in the unique position of receiving the highest praise from the most prestigious film festival in the world at the same time that France was legalizing same-sex marriage equality and anti-gay protestors were busy taking to the streets in Paris to be angry about it all. Sounds almost like what would happen here, frankly. And this fall American art-house audiences will get their own chance to evaluate the merits of the 179-minute “Blue,” probably while another U.S. state tackles its own marriage equality legislation and One Million



Jim Parsons.
Photo: Shutterstock.com / Helga Esteb

Moms goes ballistic about Target’s same-sex wedding registry. Vive le cinema!

‘Do I Sound Gay?’ asks new documentary

Hey gay dude, worried that your voice “sounds gay”? Well, you’ve never been alone on that one. Worse, you’ve probably been made to feel bad about it, especially from other gay people. And documentary filmmaker David Thorpe knows what you’re going through. In fact, he made a

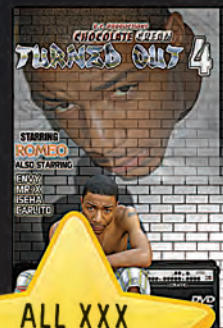
movie about it. The director’s “Do I Sound Gay?” has been selected for the Independent Filmmaker Project’s 2013 Documentary Lab mentorship program, which will help shepherd the film to completion. Still in production, it’s a long-overdue, humorous exploration of the origins of “gay voice” as well as the stigma attached to having that voice. It features interviews with and the contributions of Margaret Cho, Tim Gunn, Dan Savage, David Sedaris and George Takei, none of whom plan to change the way they speak any time soon. We’re here, we sound queer, get used to it.

‘SheZow’ premieres without sun collapsing into the earth

The crazies of the world love to use the word “transgender” to instigate fake outrage over anyone who doesn’t conform to gender roles, so when the latest children’s cartoon series “SheZow” premiered recently on The Hub, a kids cable channel, they went ballistic. That’s why it’s so nice to report that “SheZow,” the creation of Obie Scott Wade, is nothing more than a fun, colorful, superhero show that also just happens to be about a young boy who takes on his late aunt’s superhero persona whenever crime needs to be vanquished. He transforms into her character – including the wig and shirt – and becomes SheZow, the crime fighter. Then he returns, happily, to being a boy. Technically that makes him a situational transvestite in the service of law and order and, clearly, young audiences are already understanding that it no more makes the character transgender (a word most of them have probably never encountered) than the Batman costume turns Bruce Wayne into an actual flying mammal of the order Chiroptera. Carry on, cartoons. We’ll keep waiting for the first great animated trans superhero TV show.

Romeo San Vicente tried on a skirt once but there was no amount of tucking in the world to make it right. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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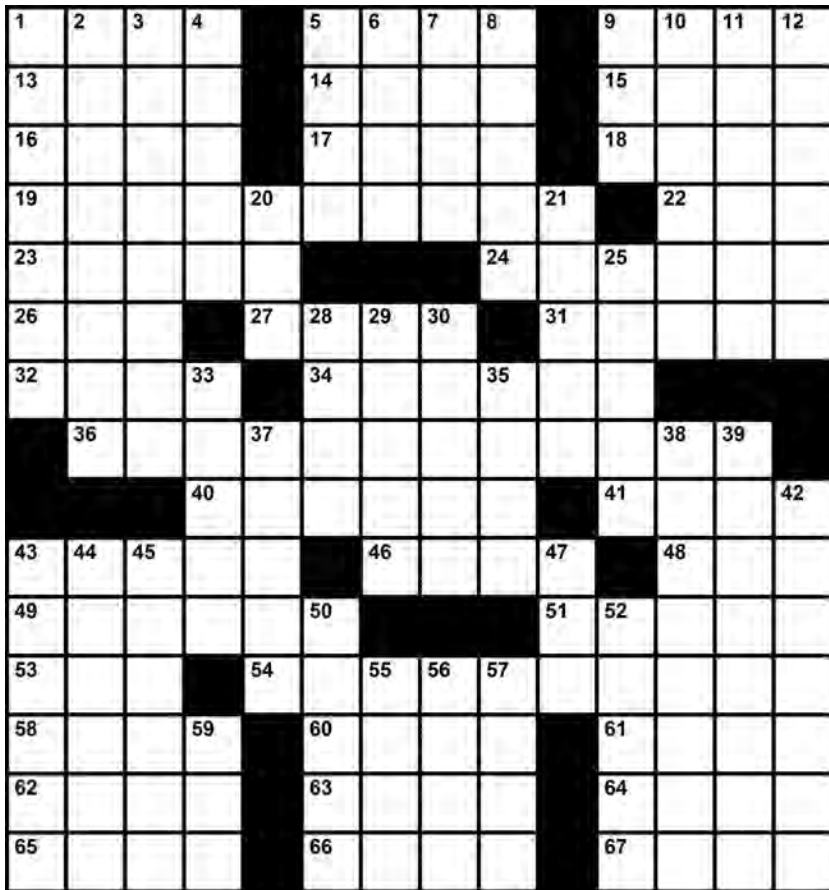
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 19 City of the team of 36-Across
 22 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
 23 R.E.M. frontman Michael
 24 Riddler of old
 26 Fabric name ending
 27 Wet hole
 31 McDowell of "Planet of the Apes"
 32 Wolfe or Woolf, e.g. (abbr.)
 34 Fiddle around with it
 36 The first active openly gay male athlete to compete in a U.S. professional team sport
 40 Tea or glory hole cry?
 41 Himalayan legend
 43 Traps for suckers
 46 Org. that has never been to Uranus
 48 Seminary subject
 49 Eton alum

- 51 Erected
 53 Unmannerly man
 54 Position of 36-Across
 58 "Ta ta!"
 60 Marsh material
 61 Skirt for Nureyev's partner
 62 Woman's name embraced by hermaphrodites?
 63 "She" to Rimbaud
 64 "Peanuts" oath
 65 Silence for Bernstein
 66 It may be grand, to Glenn Burke
 67 Scores

Down

- 1 Shrinking Asian body
 2 One who may screw with your equipment
 3 Connects with
 4 Coming soon
 5 It made people go down on the Titanic
 6 On the calm side
 7 Cash cache
 8 Sean of "Will & Grace"
 9 Try to seduce (with liquor, e.g.)
 10 Soviet leader Brezhnev
 11 Relax after a hard day
 12 Team of 36-Across

- 20 Just out
 21 Shoot off a larger branch
 25 Hive product
 28 Like some twins
 29 Rest atop
 30 Doone of fiction
 33 Mushroom source?
 35 Woody pile
 37 It's a bust
 38 Linger
 39 Drag queen's high heel, perhaps
 42 Under guardianship
 43 Sport of 36-Across
 44 Trisha Todd's "___ of the Moon"
 45 Role played by a man named Julia
 47 Follower of Jim Buchanan
 50 "Blow me down!"
 52 Part of UHF
 55 Woody valley
 56 Eleanor's pooch
 57 Bit from Michael Musto
 59 Granola lesbian's bit

Solution on pg. 30

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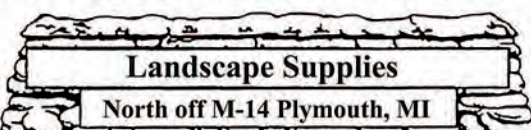
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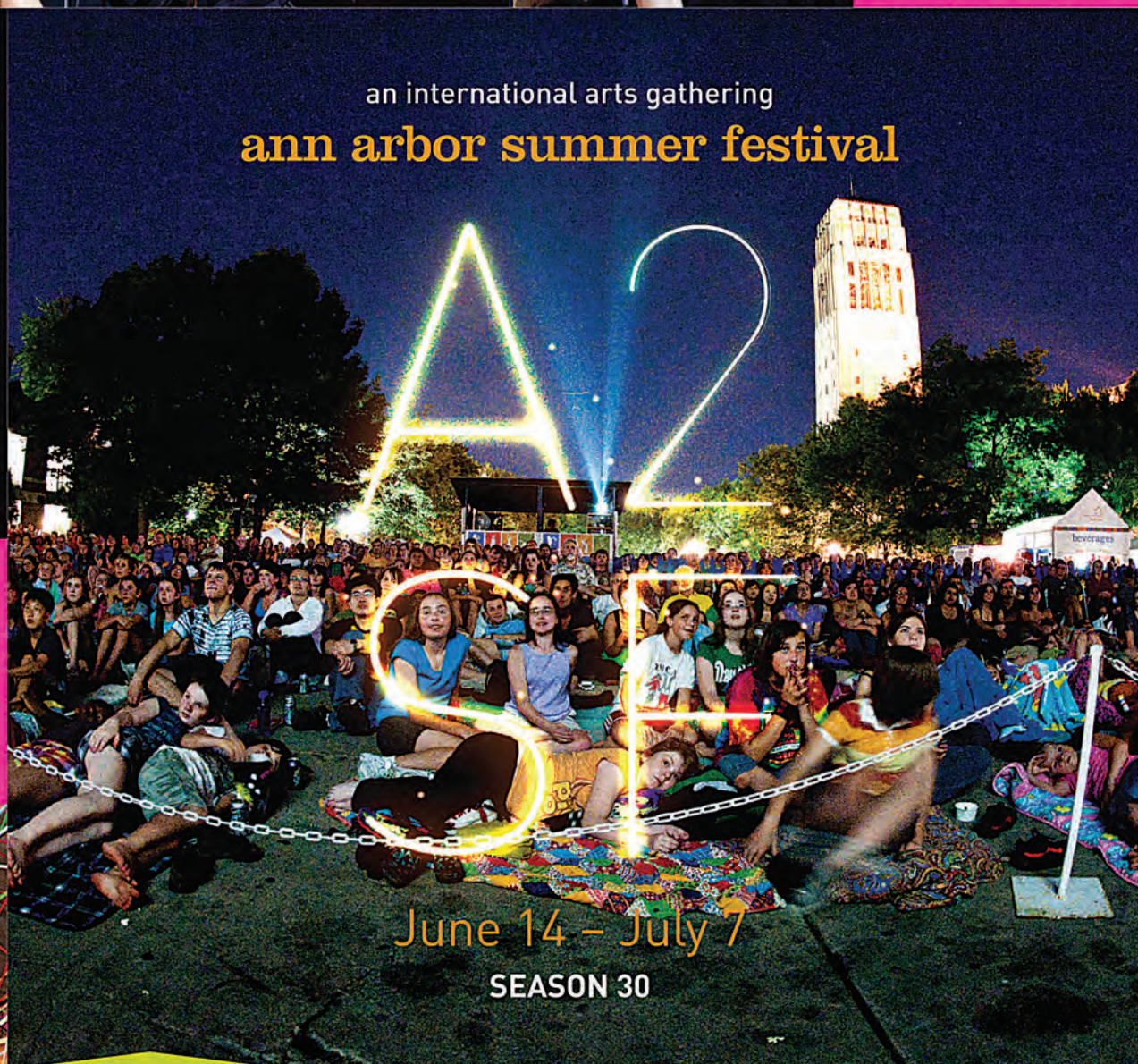
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