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“If I don't
have the gays, I just
go nuts.”

- Courtney Love
interview, pg. 14



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Things are changing.

You have to just get your foot in the door so it doesn't close, and then keep widening that door till it opens.

— Cyndi Lauper, pg. 16



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Tom McMillin Announces State Senate Run

STAFF REPORTS

ROCHESTER HILLS - The politician who fought against the right of cities to pass inclusive human rights ordinances, and was among those in the Hungry 4 Equality's "Hall of Shame" has announced plans to run for State Senate.

McMillin is term-limited out of his State House seat in 2014, and is looking to replace State Senator George Pappageorge, who is also unable to run again due to term limits. McMillin will be running for the newly-redistricted 13th district, which represents Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Clawson, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, and Troy.

He was elected to the House in 2008, and has also served as a county commissioner and the mayor of Auburn Hills.

From 1994 to 1997, McMillin was field director for the anti-LGBT Michigan Christian Coalition.

While McMillin is campaigning on a platform of smaller government, constitutional rights, ending abortion, and ending Common Core education policies, his most notable record is that of condemnation against the LGBT communities.

From 1994 to 1997, McMillin was field director for the anti-LGBT Michigan Christian Coalition. In 2000, he was treasurer of Oakland County Residents for Equal Rights Not Special Rights, the group that opposed Ferndale's LGBT-inclusive Human Rights Ordinance. In 2011, McMillin introduced a bill that would have amended the state's 1976 Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to limit protected classes to those outlined in that law, and abolish any local human rights ordinances that had been passed by cities and townships.

McMillin has more recently spoken out against the human rights ordinance that was passed in Royal Oak and must now go to a public vote. He's also come under fire for accepting campaign contributions from the Morour family, known for their persistent fighting against another bridge between the U.S. and Canada. A 2012 report shows that Michigan McDonald's Operators and Great Lakes Education Project are also contributors.

McMillin's official campaign page can be found at <http://tomcmillin.com>. Another website keeps tabs on the things McMillin does that fail his constituents, which can be found at www.mcmillinwatch.com.

County Clerk Brings In New Lawyers To 'Defend' In Hazel Park Couple's Case

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - Even though she is a defendant in the case, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown wants to see the Hazel Park couple who is suing for the right to marry and adopt their children be successful. That's why she's dismissed the county-paid corporation counsel and brought in civil rights attorneys to represent her and her office instead.

The Hazel Park lesbian couple suing the State of Michigan and the Oakland County Clerk will have their day in court Oct. 1. Federal Judge Bernard Friedman set the date July 10 after discussions with attorneys from both sides.

Brown has openly agreed with the women's claim that they should be allowed to marry, and in February she withdrew former County Clerk Bill Bullard's motion to dismiss the plaintiff's case. She's also turned away Oakland County's corporation council and brought in civil rights experts from Pitt-McGehee to argue on behalf of the Clerk's office.

"It was evident that corporation counsel was following what Brooks [Patterson] wanted, not taking the path best for the County Clerk's office," Brown said. "I would like to see marriage equality come to fruition and I want to do all I can to see that happen. They [corporation counsel] wanted the lawsuit to be dismissed and I didn't agree with that. As the Clerk I am the one elected to be responsible for the issuance of marriage licenses, and I am the one in the lawsuit. I need to have counsel that would represent me properly."

Pitt-McGehee has volunteered to represent Brown pro-bono so that there is no extra cost to the taxpayers.

"I'm glad the judge has said the plaintiffs should have their day in court," Brown said.

Brown said that she is already having new marriage license application forms drawn up that are gender-neutral so they can be ready to go should same-sex couples be able to marry.

"There are no facts in dispute in the



The plaintiffs in the case, Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer originally filed the suit in hopes of jointly adopting the children in their family. Though they all live together as a family, Michigan law does not allow unmarried people to jointly adopt. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

case, and both sides agree it is a matter of law," said Dana Nessel, co-counsel for the plaintiffs. "We're very excited that the state is moving forward and not calling any witnesses." Nessel explained that both sides will file briefs and likely the Judge will entertain motions for summary judgment, meaning a decision without a full-blown trial.

The plaintiffs in the case, Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer originally filed the suit in hopes of jointly adopting the children in their family. Though they all live together as a family, Michigan law does not allow unmarried people to jointly adopt. Thus DeBoer is the legal parent of a 3-year old girl, while Rowse has two boys, aged 3 and 4. If something happens to one of the women, the state would not recognize the other woman as a legal parent.

The family waits in limbo as the case goes through the court system. It began in March of 2012 when the women filed a case over the adoption issue. In September, at the suggestion of Judge Friedman, the women amended their case to include the right to marry, as it was that technicality that which prevented them from joint adoption under

Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown said that she is already having new marriage license application forms drawn up that are gender-neutral so they can be ready to go should same-sex couples be able to marry.

Michigan law. The state then filed a motion to dismiss, and a hearing was held March 7. The judge then decided to postpone his decision until the U.S. Supreme Court made its determination in the same-sex marriage cases, which it did June 26. The judge then dismissed the motion to dismiss, and has now set a date of Oct. 1 to potentially make his ruling.

Nessel said it is unlikely Judge Friedman will issue a ruling on Oct. 1, though the mood of the hearing may give a clue. "Even when he rules, it won't be over," Nessel said. "It's probably going to be appealed no matter what the decision."

Those who want to help Rowse and DeBoer can visit <http://nesselandkessellaw.com/deboer-rowse-fund/> to learn more about their legal fee fund.

INFO

Michigan Marriage Case

A federal judge, Judge Bernard Friedman, says he'll hear arguments Oct. 1 on the legality of Michigan's ban on gay marriage and adoption by same-sex couples.

>> Those who want to help Rowse and DeBoer can visit <http://nesselandkessellaw.com/deboer-rowse-fund/> to learn more about their legal fee fund.

Meridian Township Adopts Inclusive Policies

On July 10 the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend their internal policies to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

They also unanimously resolved to amend their human rights ordinance to

prohibit discrimination in housing and public accommodations. There are at least 22 municipalities in Michigan that have inclusive local human rights ordinances. The State of Michigan does not include protections for LGBT people in the statewide civil rights laws. The ordinance

is expected to be adopted in August.

The One Capital Region team was organized earlier this year to encourage other Lansing-area cities and townships to adopt inclusive ordinances. To learn more visit <http://onecapregionblog.wordpress.com>.

The Many Roads To Marriage Equality

ANALYSIS BY JAY KAPLAN

On the heels of the both wonderful and historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Windsor v United States* (a case brought by the national ACLU), striking down the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional discrimination against gay and lesbian couples, the most frequent question that the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project has been receiving is what does this mean for marriage equality in Michigan and how do we get there? There are numerous potential roads towards marriage equality for all 50 states and there are several important points to keep in mind:

1. In deciding to dismiss the Perry case (the challenge to California Prop 8 constitutional amendment which denied same-sex couples the right to marry) and thus allowing same-sex couples in California to marry, the Supreme Court majority sent the message that at this time it is not ready to decide the issue of marriage equality overall for same-sex couples. This means that 29 state constitutional amendments (including Michigan's, which is one of the most prohibitive in the country), denying gay couples the right to marry still stands. This also means that whatever further litigation, advocacy and lobbying done on behalf of marriage equality in individual states has an impact on the marriage equality movement overall, building momentum for the eventual day when a majority of the Supreme Court justices will be ready to decide the issue of marriage equality for LGBT people.

2. With DOMA being struck down, this means that same-sex couples who are legally married in states that permit them to marry, will be afforded all the federal benefits, rights and recognitions associated with marriage. However, for legally married same-sex couples who live in states like Michigan, which prohibit the right to marry, as well as refuse to recognize marriages between same-sex couples in other states and jurisdictions (such as Canada), things are a bit more problematic. While the Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) defines marriage for purposes of obtaining U.S. citizenship as the place of celebration, many other federal programs such as Social Security and the Internal Revenue Service, define marriage in terms of the place of domicile, rendering Michigan couples (who married in other states), ineligible for these benefits and programs. Fortunately, the Obama Administration has stated that they will take aggressive administrative action to issue executive orders and federal regulations that define marriages as the place of celebration, to permit as many legally married same-

sex couples to receive federal benefits and protections. In addition, the Respect for Marriage Act has been reintroduced in Congress and would have all federal programs (including Social Security and the IRS), recognize the legal marriages of same-sex couples. Both Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin have signed on as co-sponsors of this bill. Another way to ensure that the legally married same-sex couples in Michigan receive full recognition by the federal government, would be to have the Michigan legislature repeal the 1996 law which denies state recognition to legally married same-sex couples. Given the make-up of Michigan's current legislature, this would not be politically feasible at this point in time.

3. The same week of the *Windsor* and *Perry* decisions, federal district Judge Lawson held that Michigan's law prohibiting certain public employers from providing health insurance coverage to same-sex partners of employees was unconstitutional and he issued a preliminary injunction against further enforcement of the law. Although the *Bassett v Snyder* decision (an ACLU of Michigan case), did not address the issue of marriage equality, there's plenty of strong language addressing the unconstitutionality of discrimination against LGBT people and skepticism regarding the state's rationale for such discrimination. (The state's claims "come close to striking (the court) with the force of a 5-week-old, unrefrigerated dead fish"). Such language, coupled with the compassionate language in the *Windsor* decision, certainly could support striking down Michigan's constitutional marriage amendment, which is being challenged in the *DeBoer* federal court second parent adoption case. Federal district court Judge Friedman could issue a decision in that case as early as October 2013. A favorable decision in this case would likely be appealed in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

4. In addition to the *DeBoer* case, the ACLU has filed federal challenges in Pennsylvania and Virginia (in partnership with Lambda Legal), regarding the denial of marriage equality. The Pennsylvania case will eventually bring ten couples in long-term committed relationships, plus one widow, to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the Virginia marriage claim will be heard by the Fourth Circuit. In North Carolina, the ACLU is adding marriage claims to their existing case seeking second-parent adoptions for families headed by same-sex couples. The ACLU believes that the language in the *Windsor* decision which spoke about how children are harmed by the denial of

See Kaplan: Road To Marriage, page 10



SEPTEMBER 4 - SEPTEMBER 7

An Annual bike ride from Metro Detroit to Saugatuck

The Shore to Shore Equality Ride is an exciting 4 day Bicycle Tour across beautiful lower Michigan, beginning in the Detroit Metropolitan area and ending on the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline. The Shore to Shore Equality Ride offers a fun way to raise awareness about LGBT Marriage Equality issues in Michigan and at the same time build resources to work toward full Marriage Equality for ALL citizens. The Shore to Shore Equality Ride is produced by the Michigan LGBT Community Center Network (CCN). The CCN is a collaboration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Community Center organizations across the state of Michigan. The CCN wants to make LGBT Marriage Equality a reality in Michigan.

Ride 1 Day on a Relay Team - Ride 1 Day of 4 and pass the "Baton" of Awareness & Advocacy for Marriage Equality in Michigan to your Teammates. Registration is \$25 per rider & suggested fundraising is \$250.

Ride All 4 days - As an Individual Rider ride all 4 days celebrating what we've won and bringing awareness to how far we have to go to realize Marriage Equality in Michigan. Registration is \$100 per rider & suggested fundraising is \$1000.

Ride 1 Day - Ride 1 day of your choice and help move Michigan toward Full Marriage Equality. Invite your friends & make a day of it. Registration is \$50 per rider & suggested fundraising is \$250.

Volunteer or Sponsor - There are many ways to help support Marriage Equality in Michigan. If you are unable to ride in the Equality Ride consider Volunteering or Sponsoring. Suggested fundraising for Volunteers is \$250.

Register Online: www.equalityride.dojiggy.com

For more information contact Andi Greer, Event Coordinator, at
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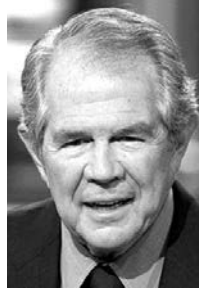


Creep of the Week

Pat Robertson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Oh, Pat Robertson. He really is trying too hard to present himself as the epitome of angry and dogmatic old man determined to go to his grave on the wrong side of history. It's almost sad, until, of course, he opens his mouth again to say something about gay people.



Like on a recent episode of the 700 Club where he answered a viewer's question about, er, Facebook etiquette. Because when looking for answers about social media, who doesn't seek out the wizened input of an 83-year-old? After all, Pat Robertson's Tumblr is wicked dope.

Judging from the viewer's question, however, it doesn't seem like he or she is exactly social media savvy, either.

A viewer identified as TYZA asks, "When we 'like' things on Facebook, if it's something that goes against what is written in the Bible—such as pictures of same sex couples—is that considered condoning the behavior?"

Seriously, TYZA? You get to have your question about Facebook read on air and that's what you hit us with? Why not just ask, "If you 'poke' someone on Facebook and then find out they're gay, does that make you gay, too?" Actually, I'd love to see Robertson tackle that one. Because it's clear from his response to TYZA that he's not exactly a Facebook expert.

"I'm not someone who switches on 'likes' in Facebook so it's hard to say," he begins with limited coherence, "but what you're saying is, 'Yes, I like this kind of thing.' You've got a couple of same-sex guys kissing, you like that. Well, that makes me want to throw up. To me I would punch 'Vomit' not 'Like,'" he says, cracking himself up. "But they don't give you that option on Facebook. But anyhow, are you condoning it? Yes, you're condoning it."

So much for "Like" the sinner hate the sin.

And there you have it. Robertson understands how Facebook's "Like" feature works, even if he does not understand basic human decency. If you're gay, you make him want

to puke. And punch his computer, apparently. I'd hate to be his IT person.

This whole "Pansies make Pat Puke" thing is no doubt difficult for his legions of gay fans.

You heard that right. Shortly after Pat's pukey comments, he claimed that he wasn't anti-gay and that homos DVR "The 700 Club" right alongside "RuPaul's Drag Race" and "Modern Family."

Got that? Gays need to come out of the closet. Again. As straight. And the only reason more of them don't is because the "homosexual movement" bullies them.

"I am very pleased that we have many, many, many, uh, homosexuals watching this program and many of them are looking for love and acceptance and help," Robertson said. "And I just think we're not anti-gay or anti-anything. I just do believe in the Bible."

Granted, he had just said that gays make him puke, but let's put that into perspective. Just because someone makes you feel like you're going to lose your lunch doesn't mean you refuse to help them. Just ask any doctor or nurse who deals with real gross people as opposed to Robertson's fairytale gross gays.

After claiming that "a lot" of people turn gay after being sexually abused, Robertson muses, "And they're little boys and little girls and they don't know any better and then they somehow think, 'Well, I must be gay.' Well, they aren't, they are heterosexual and they just need to come out of that. There are some others, maybe they've got some chromosomal damage that's different from heterosexuals, and that's what, of course, they claim, and then the homosexual movement they say that 'Hey, you can't come out of this under any circumstances.'"

Got that? Gays need to come out of the closet. Again. As straight. And the only reason more of them don't is because the "homosexual movement" bullies them. Almost makes you want to puke, doesn't it?

ENDA Passes One Hurdle, Others Loom

BY LISA KEEN

The Senate committee vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act July 10 brought a happy surprise in the form of yes votes from three Republicans, including a leading conservative from Utah, Orrin Hatch. It was an especial relief, given that the text of the bill this time includes protections for transgender people and nobody tried to amend those out.

The 15 to 7 committee vote in the Senate committee was a relatively low hurdle. The committee is dominated by Democrats.

The tougher barrier will be the full Senate. The chamber is dominated by Democrats, but Republicans have become highly motivated obstructionists. They threaten filibuster on everything these days, a strategy that, then, requires every piece of legislation to get 60 votes just to be considered on the floor.

And even if ENDA supporters do evade hostile amendments and stumble out of the Senate with a bill worth fighting for, the Republican-dominated House will almost certainly stand ready to do nothing, effectively killing the measure for this Congressional session.

In fact, ENDA is a noble but lost cause until either Democrats dominate both houses or Republicans morph into a kinder, gentler people.

Beyond those harsh facts, LGBT civil rights activists tried to accentuate the positive. The July 10 committee vote was the first time the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee -- or any Congressional committee -- has approved a bill that includes both a prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation and one against discrimination based on gender identity.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, was "extremely heartened." Picking up the votes of three Republicans -Hatch, Mark Kirk of Illinois, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska--makes her feel more optimistic about gaining 60 votes to force a vote in the Senate.

Kirk is a co-sponsor of the bill. The Human Rights Campaign said it arranged for constituent contacts with Hatch (4,107 postcards, emails, and phone calls) and Murkowski (2,229). HRC also directed more than 5,000 to Republican committee member Richard Burr of North Carolina. Burr voted against the measure.

Hatch's Senate office did not respond to a request for comment. It released three statements to the press on July 10, but none addressed Hatch's vote on ENDA. But Hatch told the Salt Lake Tribune, "I oppose any form of discrimination, though I do draw the line on the definition of marriage." The Tribune noted that, as a Mormon, Hatch was not in conflict with the church over his vote because the Mormon church has not taken a position on ENDA. Hatch also noted that the ENDA bill includes a much stronger religious exemption than did

The Senate committee vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act July 10 brought a happy surprise in the form of yes votes from three Republicans, including a leading conservative from Utah, Orrin Hatch. It was an especial relief, given that the text of the bill this time includes protections for transgender people and nobody tried to amend those out...According to Lambda Legal, "only 22 jurisdictions in the United States expressly ban discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation and only 18 cover gender identity and expression explicitly."

the last ENDA bill he voted against, in 1996. But Hatch and Murkowski also voiced some reservations about the bill.

A Murkowski press statement issued after the committee vote saying she wants to be sure that the bill does not "unduly burden" employers with compliance costs, "as well as striking the appropriate balance among legal remedies and redress." She noted the bill also includes provisions "prohibit preferential

treatment and quotas, do not permit disparate impact lawsuits, and provide a religious exemption."

"Improvements might be in order in the form of floor amendments," she added, "but discrimination should never be tolerated in the workplace."

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) issued a statement noting that the July 10 vote was the first time the committee has voted on ENDA since 2002.

Keisling said the full Senate would likely take up the bill this fall. The Senate consists of 54 Democrats and Independents and 46 Republicans, at least until a special election is held to elect a senator to finish out the term of Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, who died in June.

According to Lambda Legal, "only 22 jurisdictions in the United States expressly ban discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation and only 18 cover gender identity and expression explicitly."

Lansing Leader Calls On City To End Relationship With Russian Counterpart Over LGBT Abuses

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

LANSING – A new national antigay law in Russia has become political fodder in Michigan’s capitol city. Monday night, Lansing City Councilmember Jody Washington brought up concerns about the city’s “Sister City” partnership with St. Petersburg Russia - that country’s second largest city - because of antigay laws and arrests.



“I do not believe that Lansing, Michigan should be in a Sister City agreement with St. Petersburg, Russia when these type of violations are occurring.”

Lansing City Councilmember Jody Washington

“I do not believe that Lansing, Michigan should be in a Sister City agreement with St. Petersburg, Russia when these type of violations are occurring,” Washington told Between The Lines in an email. “I do believe that the agreement violates the Human Rights Ordinance. We have long been working on making Lansing, Michigan an inclusive city where everyone’s civil rights are protected. To be in an official agreement with any part of the world that violates those human rights that we have protected in our ordinances does not make any sense, whatsoever.”

Council President Carol Wood told Randy Hannan, Mayor Virg Bernero’s chief of staff, that the issue would be on the council’s committee of the whole meeting on Monday July 22, and that the administration should be prepared discuss the relationship and the city’s 2006 Human Rights Ordinance. The 2006 law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Washington raised the concerns because of a June 29 pride rally in Russia that resulted in the beating and arrest of at least 60 pro-gay protesters. The arrests came as a result of St. Petersburg’s anti-gay law which makes it a crime to demonstrate in support of LGBT equality. That law, passed in 2012, was adopted by the national government of Russia last month, and signed into law by Russian President Vladimir Putin the day after the June 29 arrests.

Since the new law has gone into effect, the U.S. State Department has condemned the law, and has issued a travel advisory for the country.

“Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is widespread in Russia, as harassment, threats and acts of violence

have been targeted at LGBT individuals,” reads an official State Department advisory. “Government officials have been known to make derogatory comments about LGBT persons, and St. Petersburg, Arkhangelsk, Ryazan, and Kostroma recently have banned ‘the promotion of homosexuality’ to minors, effectively limiting public expression and assembly on LGBT issues. Legislatures in Moscow, Novosibirsk, and Kaliningrad are considering similar measures, and there has been a push for a national ban, which has the support of a number of groups including the Russian Orthodox Church. It is unclear exactly how these statutes are being applied, although arrests have occurred under these laws, and one person has been fined approximately \$170 in St. Petersburg for holding up a sign supporting LGBT rights. Public actions (including dissemination of information, statements, displays, or perceived conspicuous behavior) contradicting or appearing to contradict such laws may lead to arrest, prosecution, and the imposition of a fine. LGBT travelers should review the LGBT Travel Information page.”

Washington said she hopes Bernero and his team will sever ties with St. Petersburg. If not, she says she is prepared to lead the way.

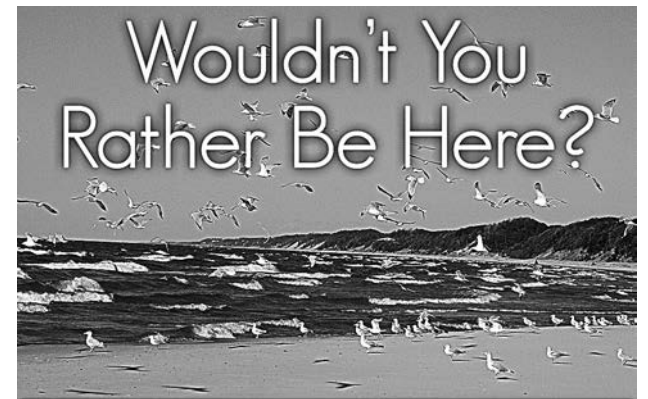
“If they do not sever the agreement, I will work on a resolution condemning the actions of St. Petersburg and

officially ask that the relationship be discontinued with notice to the officials of St. Petersburg being officially notified,” Washington said.

Joe Mirabella, communications director for the international LGBT equality organization All Out, (www.allout.org) says Lansing is the first city in the nation to raise concerns about its relationships with a Russian city over LGBT abuses. Last week Reykjavik, Iceland severed its partnership with the city of Moscow over the national antigay law.

“(The St. Petersburg) ban inspired the national law which has reeked havoc on free speech rights for every Russian. This year at least 60 Pride marchers were arrested in St. Petersburg. Several were badly beaten by civilians while police stood by,” said Mirabella. “Despite seemingly insurmountable odds, human rights advocates refuse to back down. When cities like Lansing and Reykjavik sever ties with their sister cities, not only are they sending a strong message to those in power in Russia, but most importantly they are decisively standing with people who are risking their lives and freedom to support people who are under attack because of who they are and who they love.”

Learn more at www.allout.org/en/actions/russia-attacks. Sister Cities was started by Dwight Eisenhower as citizen diplomacy. www.sister-cities.org



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SBA, NBJC Team Up For ‘Many Faces, One Dream’

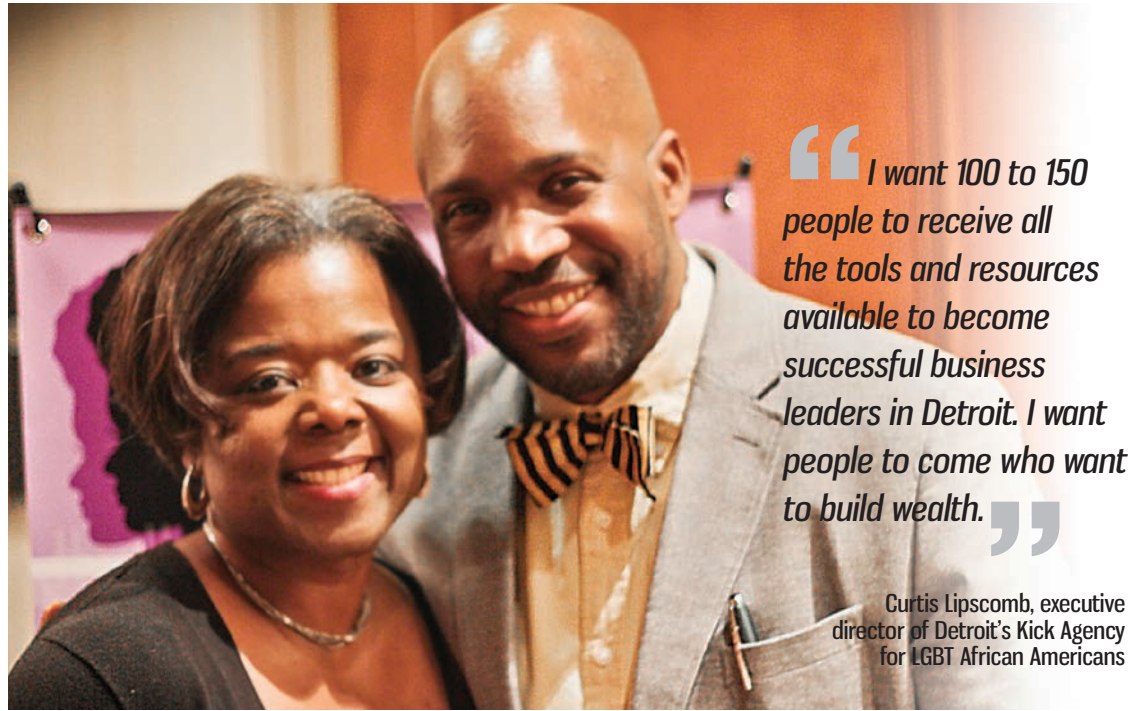
BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – A myriad of challenges face any business owner who starts up and operates a successful business – challenges that are further compounded if the business owner is LGBT, or a person of color, or both. That reality will be addressed head on at Many Faces, One Dream, a day-long conference July 22 produced by the National Black Justice Coalition and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The conference is the first in an LGBT economic development tour for communities of color. The tour will go on to 12 other major cities that have significant LGBT presence in communities of color, including Atlanta, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale/Miami, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Newark, Oakland/San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

“Despite the challenges we face, gay and transgender people represent an untapped segment of aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners,” said NBJC Executive Director Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks. “Rich with ideas and talent, LGBT men and women are creating and leading their own companies. It’s time to expand the conversation from economic security to economic development. It’s time for us to own our power.”

Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of Detroit’s Kick Agency



Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks, executive director of NBJC, with Kick’s Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb at the Out on the Hill Black LGBT Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. Sept. 2012.

for LGBT African Americans, leads the local group organizing the conference. He wants LGBT business people to seize this opportunity to build their individual and collective wealth.

“I want 100 to 150 people to receive all the tools and resources available to become successful business leaders in Detroit. I want people to come who want to build wealth,” said Lipscomb. “What’s great about this conference is that businesses won’t have to go to two

SBA offices. Both the national and the local SBA loan officers will come to us. That’s why people should be there.”

Eugene Cornelius, deputy associate administrator of the SBA in Washington, and Gerald Moore, the district SBA director, will start the day off with an opening panel discussion. Workshops throughout the day will focus on such issues as How to Start a For-Profit Business, Fiscal Fitness for Existing Businesses, Marketing,

“I want 100 to 150 people to receive all the tools and resources available to become successful business leaders in Detroit. I want people to come who want to build wealth.”

Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of Detroit’s Kick Agency for LGBT African Americans

Franchise Opportunities and a Financing Roundtable for Existing Businesses. The day will wrap up with a speed mentoring session with representatives from local economic development agencies and investors including the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED), D-Hive, Invest Detroit, the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, BizdomU and ProsperUS.

“I especially want business people to attend who have been hit hard by the 2008 recession,” said Lipscomb. “This is the place to get the tools to become a better hair stylist, a better mechanic, a better pet groomer, a better business person. There will be educational and financial resources, and most importantly – invaluable connections. That’s why you should be there.”

Charles Pugh, the Detroit City Council president, had been scheduled to present and was originally listed on the local host committee. Pugh had gained national prominence as one of the nation’s highest ranking openly gay political leaders of color. However, he and his office will not be represented at the conference due to Pugh’s recent departure from Detroit. Calls to his office were not returned.

Many Faces, One Dream is sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

“NGLCC is honored to partner with NBJC and the U.S. SBA on this groundbreaking initiative for underserved communities,” said Justin Nelson, NGLCC president and co-founder. “We look forward to meeting business owners and future business owners in the cities where they live and working with them to build strong and fully inclusive local economies.”

For more information about Many Faces, One Dream visit www.manyfacedonedream.com

Shelly Moore’s Murder Not Forgotten: Documentary In Progress

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - The murder of 19-year-old Shelly “Treasure” Hilliard (Moore) Oct. 23, 2011 sent shock waves through the transgender community in Detroit. Her torso had been decapitated, burned and stashed underneath a mattress.

People who knew Shelly, including her family, were vocal with their love and support of the young victim. The investigation progressed quickly and two men are in prison for the attack, which happened after Hilliard was involved in a police sting against one of the men. The outpouring of emotion continues as documentary filmmakers Natasha

“T” Miller and Dream Hampton are producing a film about her life, her family, and the crime that took her life.

The film is called TransParent, and the Kickstarter campaign to fund it already has over \$12,000 of the \$30,000 needed to make the film a reality.

“It’s important to share Shelly’s story to if nothing else, humanize her,” Miller said. “We are not just telling a story about a death, we are telling the story of a beautiful life, of a woman who had family, who loved, who was loved, who had friends; a woman who smiled, and danced, and was just as important as any other human being on this earth.

“It’s also important that we, the LGBTQ community and allies, use our platforms to share the stories that so often go untold, of our own. The world needs to start hearing about all of the Shelly Hilliards of the world, and we all need to find some action to take to protect their community, our community.”

Miller, like so many in Detroit’s LGBT community, got word of the murder through a shocked phone call from a friend. “I was walking down an aisle at a grocery store in San Diego around 6 p.m., and a friend from Detroit called my phone to ask me if I had already heard about the case,” she said. Her heart ached at the news, and she wanted to do

something. For the past 16 months she’s been following the case, and for the past eight she’s been talking with Hilliard’s mother, and even one of the men in prison for the murder.

“Both murderers are in prison. James Matthews, one of the suspects has received a 25-50 year prison sentence and is in constant contact with us, the filmmakers telling his version of the story. His voice, from a conversation we had with him from prison, is featured in the trailer for TransParent,” Miller said.

The film also features interviews with other members of the transgender community, showcasing issues of discrimination and other challenges these women face.

Miller and Hampton will be part of the Hotter Than July film festival, with a special presentation July 25. More information on the festival can be found at <http://hotterthanjuly.org/hjtfilmfestival>.

Those who want to contribute towards the documentary can do so at <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/tmillerpoetry/transparent-the-story-of-loss-in-a-community-misun?ref=live>.

For previous stories see: Murder Silences a Treasure, 11/10/2011, www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=50188

Detroit Police arrest suspect in Shelly Moore Murder, 12/15/2011 www.pridesource.com/article

Between Ourselves: A Look At Some Of The People Working On HTJ 2013

LaShonda Windham

How did you get involved with KICK and how has it been beneficial to you?

I became involved with KICK when I went through the LEAD program in the spring of 2012, then I accepted a position on the Young Adult Board of Advisors (YABA).

What are some of the things the Youth Council has accomplished?

YABA has accomplished numerous things! We are an awesome group of leaders. Recently we have been working on the newest addition to Hotter Than July's Annual Gathering which is the Youth and Young Adult Summit. The summit will include a number of workshops that will focus on issues important to the Youth in our community. All of the workshops have been put together by YABA board members.



Why should other young people get involved with youth council?

Young people should get involved with any part of

KICK because there is so much work to be done. We have so many issues facing our community and it is important for every one of us to do something. We can not depend on our elders to continue the movement, now is our time to step up.

What is the prom like? If someone has never gone before, how would you describe it to them?

People in the LGBT community often times never experience Prom, or are forced outside of their comfort zone when they do attend. Hotter Than July's Prom will offer an opportunity to create or recreate those memories. Prom is a formal event with a mature vibe. There is going to be dancing, entertainment, refreshments and of course the crowing of Royal Court, our version of Prom King and Queen.

What are your goals over the next few years, with activism, with work and your life?

I'm currently working on applying to Seminary for my Masters Degree. I want to continue my activist work and of course my growth as a leader. One day I'd like to hold a seat as a political leader. Really my main goal in life is to one day be an awesome mom. Hopefully my girlfriend reads this. Hint Hint.

Anything else BTL readers should know about you?

Come to Prom! It's going to be a really great night.

For a full calendar of Hotter Than July events, go to pg. 29

Chris 'Tall Guy' Sutton



How long have you been involved with KICK and what has that been like for you?

It's only been a little over one year since I first walked into the KICK Office (back in March of 2012). Although within that one year, the collaborations, connections, and friendships that have been

built are simply timeless. I stepped into KICK as an unknown tall guy and stepped out a year later as the "Tall Guy" within the LGBT community (shooting video productions with YBU, NEW and even the one and only Between The Lines).

Why is the Film Festival important?

The power of film has an impact on the human spirit that goes beyond measure. Sadly though, the beauty of our LGBT community is rarely captured on screen (especially within our LGBT community of color). But by being a filmmaker myself (who just happens to be a proud, openly gay black male as well), I am beyond driven in building a more vivid presence of our incredible LGBT community, using the power of film. So when offered the opportunity to become committee chairman of the HTJ-2013: Film Festival, I simply couldn't pass it up.

What film are you most looking forward to, and why?

The animated, sci-fi, lesbian epic. "Strange Frame."

Why do you think Hotter Than July is important, and why should people come to it?

Hotter Than July isn't just a simple pride, but it is unifying celebration of our Same-Gender Loving, African American community. From honoring our LGBT family who have passed on at the Candle Light Vigil, to enlightening our community with empowering discussions at the Annual Gathering, Hotter Than July offers our community a chance to productively progress (while having a good time).

Apart from your activism and involvement with KICK, what should BTL readers know about you? Your job? If you have a partner you want to mention? Your goals in the next few years? Anything like that I can use in your introduction?

My government name is Chris Sutton, but 99.9% of the population calls me "Tall Guy" (I'm not sure why)..? Well, maybe it's because I'm a seven-foot videographer (who happens to enjoy the beauty of filmmaking over bouncing a ball). Or maybe it's because I am a towering, strong, proud black gay man, who hopes to inspire our diverse LGBT community using the power film. More than likely, it's because my official website is titled www.HeyTallGuy.com (which is the perfect source to see some the inspiring video production work I've done within the LGBT community).

Rhiannon Chester

How did you first find out about KICK and what have you learned by being part of it?

I've learned indescribable lessons by being apart of the KICK family, but the think that I reflect on most is the fact that I do have a voice. So often in marginalized communities we are made to feel that we don't have a say, but through exercising my own voice I see that I have social, political and economic power.

What does the Young Adult Board of Advisors do? How many people are on it?

The Young Adult Board of Advisors serve as an advisory board to the Executive Board of KICK. YABA develops workshops, events, summits and fundraisers to bring awareness not only to the role Black youth and young adults already play in the movement but also serve as a reminder for the necessity of having youth in decision making positions. There are 11 voting members and members at large,

What is the Woman 2 Woman group? What are you most proud of about the group?

Woman 2 Woman us a program designed to create the bridge between generations of Black women in order to forge a solid sisterhood. We love and support each other, for that I am proud and grateful.



What was the most touching or memorable thing you experienced at Hotter Than July?

The most memorable thing I've experienced is being stopped by a 76 year old lesbian on my way into the park a couple years ago. She wanted to know my story because she "sensed" something. We talked for over an hour about our lives; she told me how her life was an out Black lesbian growing up. She taught me many things that I'll never forget. I'll never forget her even though I don't know her.

What are your personal goals over the next few years?

To establish myself as a non-commercial photographer of and in marginalized communities, especially Black women. It is my belief that we have to see ourselves visibly represented as beautiful and powerful to feel and act in accordance with that belief. I plan to enroll into the Master's of Social Justice program at Marygrove College. I also plan to learn financial literacy in order to make investments into my community.

to the OnlineXtral
<http://www.pridesource.com>

Read these interviews in full online. All interviews by Crystal Proxmire.

► Kaplan: Road To Marriage

Continued from p. 5

federal recognition of married same-sex couples, will resonate with the Court. Aside from these cases, there are six other federal marriage claims pending all around the country. Eventually one or more of these cases will make it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

5. Litigating in State Court - The ACLU is working to persuade states' courts that discriminatory marriage laws violate state constitutional protections. It pursuing such cases in New Mexico (as co-counsel with the National Center for Lesbian Rights) and in Illinois (with Lamba Legal). Since these cases raise claims only under state law, and not federal law, the state supreme courts will have the last word and opponents won't be able to get the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn favorable rulings. This strategy is unlikely work in Michigan as 5 out of the 7 Michigan Supreme Court justices are conservative and thus less inclined to find the amendment to violate Michigan's constitution.

6. Lobbying in state legislatures - The ACLU is working to pass freedom to marry laws in state legislatures with a current focus on Hawaii, Illinois and New Jersey. In addition, the organization has launched Out for Freedom, a campaign to raise \$10 million in special funds to ensure the success of a state by state marriage initiative. Steve Schmidt, former manager of John McCain's 2008 Presidential Campaign has been hired to work on securing Republican support for marriage equality in various states.

7. Organizing ballot campaigns to repeal state constitutional amendments - Equality Michigan is spearheading the efforts of the Michigan Marriage Coalition, which is a campaign to repeal Michigan's Marriage Amendment in the 2016 elections. The campaign estimates that it will need to fundraise at least \$12 million dollars to launch a successful repeal campaign. The ACLU will be working with state and national partners to build campaigns in Oregon (2014) and Nevada (2016) to build successful repeal campaigns. The overall goal of the national ACLU marriage equality work is to have at least 20 states with marriage equality by the end of 2016 (which currently is at 13 states, plus the District of Columbia).

So there are many roads that eventually lead to marriage equality in all 50 states, as well as the State of Michigan. There remains much work to be done, which includes careful and thoughtful strategic planning - because anything and everything that is done on behalf of the freedom to marry impacts the cause overall. Due to a number of factors, achieving marriage equality in Michigan is going to be a tougher road to travel than other states. We need to know our legislative leaders and to know our courts. However, these are very exciting and hopeful times, with an inevitable favorable destination at the end of these roads.

Jay Kaplan is an attorney with the ACLU of Michigan and heads the LGBT Project. He can be reached at www.aclumich.com



OPINION BY DANA RUDOLPH

Celebration and Caution After DOMA's Fall

Mombian

My 10-year-old son throws around the word "epic" on a daily basis. His newest Pokémon card? Epic. His latest zombie-defeating battle in Minecraft, his favorite online game? Epic. The word seemed in danger of losing its original clout—and then the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). That, I told him, was epic.

It's felt like a party at our house all week as the ramifications sink in—most notably, that our son will no longer have to wonder why his country (a country I want him to love and respect) was also treating his family as second class.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing the majority opinion, indicated that the interests of children were much on the mind of the court, too. He wrote, "DOMA . . . humiliates tens of thousands of children now being raised by same-sex couples. . . . The law in question makes it even more difficult for the children to understand the integrity and closeness of their own family and its concord with other families in their community and in their daily lives."

I couldn't have said it better. But there is one big caution that same-sex parents and prospective parents should still keep in mind, no matter what state we live in: second-parent adoptions (or court orders of parentage) are still necessary.

Here's why: Even if you live in a state with marriage equality or civil unions and can put both parents on a child's birth certificate, your ability to do so rests on the state's recognition of the adults' relationship to each other. States that don't recognize that relationship may not recognize the second parent's right to be on the birth certificate—and that could be a problem for families that move or travel.

Remember, it is still unconstitutional in 29 states for same-sex couples to wed. Section 2 of DOMA, which says states do not have to recognize marriages of same-sex couples from other states, still stands.

LGBT family law expert Nancy Polikoff, a professor at American University Washington College of Law, explained in an e-mail, however, that the lack of interstate recognition for same-sex marriages goes beyond just Section 2 of DOMA. "It is traditional family law that states don't need to recognize marriages that are against their strong public policy," she said. "Since states DO have to give

full faith and credit to court judgments of adoption or parentage, parents should get such judgments to guarantee that all states recognize the parentage of their children."

That's one more reason we cannot rest now. It is still insulting that a same-sex spouse must adopt a child (and go through the expense and hassle of a home study) in circumstances when opposite-sex ones need not. And joint adoption of children

Remember, it is still unconstitutional in 29 states for same-sex couples to wed.

should be equally possible for all couples everywhere, too. Full marriage recognition in every state would help shift this—but we should remember that opposite-sex couples do not have to be married in order for both people to be recognized as parents, and neither should same-sex ones.

Despite this caution, the DOMA ruling will still have immediate positive, practical impacts on our families, beyond the warm and fuzzy emotional aspects. As Justice Kennedy wrote, "DOMA also brings financial harm to children of same-sex couples. . . . And it denies or reduces benefits allowed to families upon the loss of a spouse and parent, benefits that are an integral part of family security."

Imara Jones, who writes about economic justice for Colorlines.com, said on the day of the decision that the ruling was "a major victory for the economic justice of LGBT Americans of color." He explained, "That's because LGBT couples of color have higher rates of poverty and are more likely to have children in their household

than white LGBT couples. Consequently, LGBT couples need the financial shot in the arm that the legal recognition of marriage can give."

And the benefits for some families are even more immediate. Minutes after the decision, a New York City immigration judge stopped deportation proceedings for a Colombian man married to a gay U.S. citizen. Other members of bi-national couples, including ones with children, are now receiving green cards so they can stay together.

Similarly, the military has said it will immediately begin the process for issuing military identification cards to same-sex spouses, and to provide the spouses with equal benefits, including medical coverage, housing, and internment at Arlington National Cemetery—all moves that will benefit couples with and without children.

We have the momentum to keep pushing for marriage equality everywhere, along with protections against employment discrimination—but we may still feel some insecurity knowing the Supreme Court also just struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—a measure that had been designed to prevent racial discrimination and voter suppression. The arc of the moral universe will bend, but it may oscillate first.

We have far to go, then, before all in this country are truly equal in law and people's perception. But the marriage victories show that change is possible—and that gives me hope that we will someday achieve justice for all. That would be, as my son has said, the "epic-est" outcome of all.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), an award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBT parents.



Gay Footnote To Shoah



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

This year is the 75th anniversary of the infamous Kristallnacht, the start of a mass seven-year pogrom undertaken by the Nazis to rid Germany and ultimately their conquered world, of all Jews.

It was the visible onset of the tragic holocaust ("the Shoah," in Hebrew) that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish men, women, children in concentration camps in Germany, France, Occupied Poland.

Prior to the November 9/10 "broken glass" night of terror -- rampant vandalism, arrest and murder of tens of thousands of helpless victims, setting fire to Jewish shops and synagogues -- the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 stripped Jews of all legal and citizen rights.

Jews could not teach, practice law or medicine, marry non-Jews, attend movies, concerts or theaters, own radios or pets, shop only during certain hours, add Israel or Sarah to their given name, have J for "Jude" stamped on ID cards, wear a yellow Star of David, visible on clothing at all times.

Failure to do so meant concentration camp imprisonment, beatings, torture, death. The excuse for the Kristallnacht rampage was the assassination of a diplomat in the German Embassy in Paris by a 17 year-old Jewish youth, Herschel Grynszpan. He shot Nazi Ernst von Rath in protest of the deportation of Grynszpan's parents to German Occupied Poland.

Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels was relishing such an excuse to unleash large-scale retaliation of Jews in Germany, Austria, the Sudetenland. Adolf Hitler, "der Fuhrer" (Leader), sanctioned the radical action. Police, fire fighters, military were ordered not to interfere. Stand by and watch.

The damage was brutal: 267 synagogues set ablaze, thousands of windows shattered, 7,500 business and stores burned, looted. To compound the 24-hour carnage, Jewish owners were ordered to pay about \$400 million for the total damage.

Propaganda Minister Goebbels responded to international media and broadcast outrage to the terror by telling a "big lie" strategy: Germany was responding to an international Jewish conspiracy for takeover of the civilized, Christian, "Aryan", world. Rath's assassination marked its beginning.

The trial of Herschel Grynszpan was -- because France wasn't defeated by Germany until 1940 -- to take place under French legal jurisdiction. In actuality Grynszpan's trial kept being postponed for a variety of war-related reasons, and when France was finally defeated, a trial in Germany was proposed.

It never got off the ground because of a perceived suspicion of gay hanky panky. Details have come to light in a new history, "The Short Life of Herschel Grynszpan: A Boy Avenger, A Nazi Diplomat, and a Murder in Paris," by Jonathan Kirsch (Liveright Publishing).

It was during the Paris trial preparation that a sympathetic French lawyer suggested to Herschel that his defense would go better if he said he was having a homosexual affair with the German diplomat. Herschel said no way! But once jailed in Germany he shrewdly changed his mind. He said he slept with von Rath to barter for his parents lives.

The Nazis kept postponing trial dates. No German diplomat could be gay. What's worse, would ever sleep with a Jew. Bad international publicity.

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My Gay Interview With Courtney Love

Scary Straights, Kurt Cobain's Lesbian Relative & Little Gay Guys

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Just give Courtney Love 10 minutes – the time I had to talk to her recently before her 8 p.m. July 19 Detroit gig at Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel – and she'll tell you a lot of things without you asking. She'll tell them rapidly, because that's how her mouth moves, and she'll tell them at random, because that's how her mind works.

In our quick chat, a blunt-as-ever Love told me about the modern-day rock queers she calls “ninja” gays, how she's actually “really normal” and her desire to educate Kurt Cobain's family on, I think, equal rights ... or something.

I know you know you have a lot of gay fans.

I do, indeed.

Have you noticed gays at the shows on this tour?

Hell yes! There was one show in Port Chester, N.Y.; I probably won't be returning there. There weren't any kids and there weren't any gays. It was all ladies who were my age ... with their hubbies! Some of them didn't take very good care of themselves. It was really freaky. I need the gays there. If I don't have the gays, I just go nuts, because they always know every word and they're the best core audience you can have. And it's just nice.

And you know no one's gonna attack you and you're not gonna get a crazy person. After the shows I can't go and sign autographs without a bodyguard,

“There was one show in Port Chester, N.Y. There weren’t any kids and there weren’t any gays. It was all ladies who were my age ... with their hubbies! Some of them didn’t take very good care of themselves. It was really freaky. I need the gays there. If I don’t have the gays, I just go nuts, because they always know every word and they’re the best core audience you can have. And it’s just nice.”

and I don’t have a bodyguard on this trip, per se, and all it takes is just one freak, because I’m so polarizing. I wish the gay kids and the kids would just go in one clump and then everyone else would go in another clump, because then I could go over to them and sign autographs and stuff and feel completely safe, but I don’t feel completely safe so I just wave and jump in the bus.

And some people have traveled seven hours, or nine hours, or 20 hours – I hear all sorts of stories – to get there and I try to give them an autograph, but I get really freaked out that there’s just gonna be some crazy straight guy with some crazy ass agenda who’s gonna try and hurt me.

You and the gay community have something in common: We’ve both been bullied. What’s your advice on dealing with haters?

Don’t read the comments. (Laughs) I think you just let it rub off of you like a duck’s back. I said this recently on my Twitter feed; I was like, “Yo, Amanda Bynes, chill out,” and she went off on me and called me “ugly.” It’s like, “Dude, I’ve been called ugly since I was 13; honestly, that’s it? Ugly? That’s it? Oh, ouch. You hurt my feelings.” I mean, it so doesn’t hurt my feelings. That’s like calling me a slut. It’s like yeah, and ... ? It’s true! But I’m not saying that I feel ugly.

Five years ago you celebrated the passing of Prop 8 on your blog, where you noted you voted “yes” – a vote against marriage equality – on the amendment to ban same-sex marriage in California.

I did not mistakenly vote yes. I voted the right way. I printed (on the blog) that I mistakenly voted yes.

Thanks for clarifying that.

Yeah, well, good. I’m just bad at math and I didn’t write it down quite correctly.

How do you feel about the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned Prop 8, making it legal for gay couples to marry in California?

I’m really excited about it. I think it’s great. The saddest thing is to see, like, two old lesbians who’ve lived together for 1,001 years, and I’ve seen this happen with a relative of Kurt’s ... and Kurt’s family is so weird they won’t admit she’s a lesbian. But whatever. He actually had an uncle die of AIDS and they won’t admit that he died of AIDS. It’s just completely freaky. I think it has a lot to do with a lack of education in Grays Harbor, and with his family I’ve offered everyone down to the last cousin a college education ... and nobody wants it. It’s completely weird. Anyyyway. I feel like, um ... wait, I just lost track of the question. What was the question?

About your feelings on marriage equality in California.

Oh, I knew this older lesbian, and her partner died and she had no civil rights to anything. Nothing! And all of a sudden the family moved in and they’d been estranged for 20-some years and it was ridiculous. Then I have a younger friend named Jason who got married in West Hollywood about six years ago and all of a sudden his husband died of a heart attack and he was left with absolutely nothing. I tried to get him a lawyer so he could fight it; I mean, they were married legally at a time when it was legal. Nobody would take his case. I don’t know why. It was really horrible. He was left with nothing. It’s disgusting. Just disgusting. Embarrassing and disgusting.

Last year you and Perez Hilton were going back and forth on Twitter, and you told him you could make him a better gay man. What are your gay guru qualifications?

PERFORMING
Courtney Love
 8 p.m. July 19
 Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel
 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit
 www.soundboarddetroit.com

(Laughs) Well, be specific. What do you mean?

He was talking about not getting laid and you were coaching him, joking that he wasn’t a very good gay man.

Well, he’s mean; that doesn’t help. I’ve known that guy for so long, you have no idea. I knew him when his blog was a month old. But I don’t know what I meant. It was a tweet!

I don’t know how to make anyone a better gay man. I really don’t. What am I supposed to say ... listen to more showtunes? I mean, that’s ridiculous. And modern gay guys don’t actually listen to a lot of showtunes. There are a lot of rock gays, in New York anyway. There are a lot of little gay guys. I went to this thing Madonna was at and there’s all these kind of ninja gay boys – they’re really small – but I think they were her dancers. Then there’s this kind of rock club called The Electric Room and there’s always these little rock gay guys who wanna get in, and they do.

What will surprise people most when they read your memoir, which is supposed to be out at the end of the year?

That I’m pretty boring. (Laughs) Just that I’m pretty normal in some ways. In some ways I’m completely extraordinary, and in other ways I’m completely weird and eccentric. And in other ways I’m really normal.

Last words for your gay fans?

I love them. That’s about it.

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She's So Unbelievable

Cyndi Lauper Talks Tony Win & Reflects On Gay Advocacy

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Even before this year's Tonys, the legendary Cyndi Lauper was already considered a champion. A champion of the Grammys. A champion of the pop charts. A champion of gay rights.

But as a teary-eyed Lauper accepted her Best Original Score statue for the music of "Kinky Boots" (it also won Best Musical, for a total of six Tonys), the Broadway coming-of-age sensation about a drag queen and a shoemaker as unlikely business partners, she was recognized for something she had never been before: The girl who just wanted to have fun, with her apple-red hair and heavy Queens accent, was now a champion of the Broadway stage.

Between gigs on her She's So Unusual Tour, Lauper gave us a ring recently to chat about her emotional night at the Tonys, freaking out rock stars with her "wildly nutty" persona and the reason she's always stood up for her gay fans.

Big congrats on "Kinky Boots" and the Tony, Cyndi. Could you feel the good gay vibes that night?

Aw, thank you. It was unbelievable. And yes. Yes, I did. It was a shock.

This is one of the first times in a while you've been recognized on a mainstream level for your work. Was that at all on your mind as your name was being called? Was it maybe the cause of some of those tears?

Well, we worked really hard, and to have it be successful – and to be able to get to work with Harvey Fierstein and Jerry Mitchell, and see them that night – was great, but then to actually win a Tony was really unbelievable. Yeah, I wasn't even thinking. To have the (theater) community welcome me in like that, that was really something. You don't always get welcomed



Photo: Miranda Penn Turin

into a place, especially if you kind of, you know, talk a little funny. But that doesn't matter. I was just really touched by that.

Is that what was going through your mind when you won? That feeling of acceptance from the theater community?

I was just looking at everything, thinking, "Remember that you're here. You made it to the winners' circle." And then when they announced my name, I looked over at ("Kinky Boots" actress) Annaleigh (Ashford) in shock, but I was excited for Billy (Porter, who won for best lead actor in a musical); I was excited to see him and John Shivers (winner of best musical sound design), who graciously did everything to make that sound warm and welcoming.

Being the first woman to have won a solo Tony for Best Original Score is also a historical moment. Knowing that, how does it feel to break down gender barriers in that way?

I'm excited. I mean, they don't put us in the rice fields anymore, so that's good! (Laughs) And there's more of me coming up. I'm excited that I was able to do that, but I also feel like I just wanted to do a really good job. That was really important. But hey, I'm big on firsts! It's important to widen the horizon.

For years you've been sticking up for the underdogs – particularly, and obviously, the gay community.

I'm a friend and family member, so of course. And we were all able to come together, at this one point, with everyone who's worked at fighting for equality in the community for so long. This was an opportunity for everybody to step up at the right time, in the right moment – all of us together – and make a "little fable," as Harvey likes to say, and put together some ideas in a catchy, rhythmic way. It's to have people understand, because you can tell people stuff, but when you hear people's personal experiences, that's different. That's way different.

This does feel very relevant to what's going on in the world right now. It's like a love letter to the gay community. Was that at all one of your reasons for taking on "Kinky Boots" in the first place?

I took on “Kinky Boots” years ago. But yeah, I’m very excited that that’s the case – so is Harvey and so is Jerry and so are all of us, even the producers. This is a very key time for people to have an understanding about other people, to understand that you can overcome differences by acceptance and work together for the higher good.

In a sense, all of us can relate to drag performer Lola, played by Billy Porter, who struggles for acceptance. I sense that you two might have a lot in common. What do you think?

I was Lola for a long time before Billy showed up! (Laughs) Harvey was Lola, too. And then there was Billy. But I was all those characters. You have to be.

What was your personal relationship to “Kinky Boots”?

That Lola is a drag performer is inconsequential to the idea that here are people totally different from each other but yet they have something in common; they have the human being experience in common. I think everyone, no matter what, might or must feel at one point that they disappointed their dad. It’s about overcoming and acceptance, you know. And healing.

Thirty or 40 years ago, did you see Broadway in your future?

Forty years ago? No! No, no. I was just trying to get the hell out of those clubs.

Thirty years ago?

No. I wanted to record music. I was very excited about recording music.

So when did Broadway become a reality for you?

When Harvey called me. It was Harvey’s thing. He basically took me under his wing.

What are the kinkiest boots you have in your closet?

All kinds of boots. I’ve got the big, red boots with the straps and buckles. I got a lot of boots! I don’t think of them as kinky; I think of them as pretty and sexy.

What’s it like touring for your very first album, “She’s So Unusual”?

Well, it’s the anniversary, so this tour’s a little different because I’m actually singing the record the way it was recorded.

Right. What’s it like to have that, your earliest career accomplishment, intersect with the success of “Kinky Boots,” your latest accomplishment?

It’s odd. I didn’t know I was gonna win the Tony, and I didn’t know that “Kinky Boots” would be nominated 13 times. So then we had to work, so I went to work. But I had no idea. I thought, “Well, I’ll have off in May, Tonys will come in June, then the tour.”

How has your relationship with the songs on “She’s So Unusual” changed since you wrote and recorded them for the first time over 30 years ago?

I listen to it and understand why some other rock ’n’ rollers were frightened of me. It was a little different and confusing, I guess, for some people. It was funny, wildly nutty and yet it had some very deep moments, which must have been very confusing. Though I think it made perfect sense. It was very much me.

Are you still so unusual?

I don’t know. I never really thought I was to begin with.

See Cyndi Lauper, page 26



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Simply Rahsaan

Out R&B Sensation On Sexuality, Self-Discovery & Chaka Khan

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Rahsaan Patterson has no qualms when it comes to sharing reasons for not wanting to be a gay music icon. "Why should I be? It doesn't define me. Any relationship takes work," he explains.

It's the passing of gay community stereotypes as music artistry that gets him hot with frustration.

Seconds into our telephone interview,

I let the "diva" cliché slip as means of complimenting Patterson's falsetto vocals on his last album "Bluephoria," released in 2011. It's clear I've hit a wrong note. An awkward silence follows and I check to see if he's hung up. Changing the subject to his upcoming performance at Chene Park in Detroit on July 31, I ask if it's his first time at the venue.

"No," he says flatly. "Is it yours?"

burning a hole through my sorry attempt to recover the conversation.

Patterson may not care for stereotypes, but there is no denying a start in showbiz that fits a pop star-producing formula. Consider the evidence of his childhood stardom: Before gay music icons Beyoncé, Britney and Christina walked the "Star Search" stage, a young Patterson won over judges with a voice that seemed before his time. As "The

“ I know people hear my music and they have their own views on what they think it is and what it sounds like. I understand because the style is so vast. However they want to define it, that’s fine. Ultimately though, it’s just me. ”

PERFORMING

Rahsaan Patterson

7:30 p.m. July 31
Chene Park
2600 Atwater St., Detroit
cheneparkdetroit.com

Kid” on the TV show “Kids Incorporated” – think “Glee” set in the ’80s – Patterson showcased impressive dance and lip-sync skills beside fellow future stars Shanice Wilson and Fergie.

But don’t define him as a “pop princess” or a child star. Patterson only wants to be a poster boy for good music. And there may be something iconic still about his attitude.

“Maybe you don’t have enough stereotypes to be popular in one particular musical arena,” I suggest to help him ponder his audience.

“I know, right?!” he says, laughing. “And I ain’t mad about that. I am not your average anything. This has been my life and I don’t fall into any one category. And I am fine with it. But I do see it’s difficult for people to identify with because it’s not so basic.”

Patterson refers to his musical style as being “not of this world,” which is also the name of his official website. But he doesn’t mean alien. Just “Rahsaan.”

“I am simply Rahsaan. That is what I have grown into with my artistry. And I have developed a style and range that is unique unto myself. I know people hear my music and they have their own views on what they think it is and what it sounds like. I understand because the style is so vast. However they want to define it, that’s fine. Ultimately though, it’s just me.”

Patterson’s lyrics are heavy with notes on love, which speaks to a universal vulnerability, he says. He doesn’t shy away from feminine or masculine roles in his songs but embraces them with a voice that layers each where he feels appropriate. Chaka Khan, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and Prince, to name a few musical comparisons. “They’ve been extremely influential in my development as

a singer and artist,” says Patterson, recalling important advice.

“When I first met Chaka, one of the things she told me was to stay true to my vision of myself as an artist,” he says. “And Stevie basically co-signed that same thought. That’s what I have done, and it’s never been an option to do anything else. It was great to have them affirm that is the way artists need to navigate to maintain integrity.”

Patterson follows this same advice when it comes to separating his sexuality from his musical sound.

“And this takes me to a human place. OK, I know that I am gay. The world now knows I am. But that is not who Rahsaan Patterson is in totality. That’s not who anyone is in totality. Before they are anything else, they are a human being, and sometimes we put labels on ourselves and limit what we can receive.

“A lot of times that is based in fear as well. But not everyone is ready to have that conversation, and there’s a lot of gay people who are not ready to have the conversation either. But they want to point fingers and have issues with your views because they don’t identify. And they are the kings of being gay. Is there a handbook on it? Did y’all motherfuckers write it? It’s like you can’t win for losing sometimes and it’s just a pain in the ass. I don’t have the tolerance for the judgements and how people sometimes are not as compassionate as they could be because they don’t relate to it.”

With Patterson’s Chene Park performance approaching and the work on his seventh album in the beginning stages, Patterson says to expect surprises and a continuation of character discovery he started with his first self-titled album.

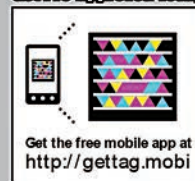
“(My albums) all reflect where I am or what I have just grown from,” he says. “I started writing my first album at 18 years old. It was very much expressive in the ways of discovering love for the first time. Going through the joys and pains of it, at the initial stages of arriving at what you believe love to be. It was still very much a process of self-discovery, so with each album it has been further identifying who I am.”

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 18

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.

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to meet and discuss films of interest to men. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Friday, July 19

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

White Party 9 p.m. Dj GLITTER. Battle Creek Pride, 910 North Ave., **Battle Creek**. 269-964-7276. Partnersbar.com

Saturday, July 20

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

Community Disc Golf Tournament 10 a.m. \$400 in prizes. Tickets: \$15. Battle Creek Pride, **Battle Creek**.

Recess 10 a.m. Open to all training clients. Living Out Loud Studio, 207 Fieldcrest St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-660-8056. Livingoutloudllc.com

Battle Creek Pride Community Picnic 11 a.m. Battle Creek Pride, 1392 Capital Ave. NE, **Battle Creek**. jameshaley61161984@gmail.com

A Taste of Summer 12:30 p.m. A white wine tasting event. GOAL, 207 Fieldcrest St., **Ann Arbor**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Women's Potluck 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to for four to six to pass. Coffee, tea, pop and water provided. Alcohol and

Get Out Bike/Shore to Shore Training - Grosse Ile 10 a.m. GOAL, **Grosse Ile Township**. 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

Fellowship for Today 5:30 p.m. Open and Affirming. Lansing Korean United Methodist Church, 2400 E. Lake Lansing Road, **East Lansing**. 517-337-4070. info@fellowshipfortoday.org

Monday, July 22

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

for information: 313-966-8515 and 313-832-6300, ext. 2132. Sinai Grace/WSUPG, 2727 Second Ave., Suite 101, **Detroit**. 313-577-3988.

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

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

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

Tuesday, July 23

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

Gay Business Networking 8 a.m. Networking for LGBT business owners

Editor's Pick



The nation's third oldest celebration of African-American LGBT culture comes to Detroit this week with Hotter Than July! The black gay pride festival will encompass a variety of events this week, starting with a Candlelight Vigil in Palmer Park on Tuesday.

Since 1996, the festival has provided one of the more unique experiences in the U.S., with a variety of events and issues used to enrich and empower the community for LGBT people of African descent

in Detroit and southeast Michigan. Founded on the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, creativity, purpose and faith), Hotter Than July! promises a series of events that are not only fun, but educational and encouraging.

Hotter Than July! events, running July 22-28, can be found on their ad on page 29 or online at www.hotterthanjuly.org.

smoke free event. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 2800 Tecumseh Road E., **Windsor**. windsorpride.com

Battle Creek Pride Bash 9 p.m. Hosted by Karma Vuitton. Presenting Miss Battle Creek Pride 2013-2014. 910 North Ave., **Battle Creek**. 269-964-7276. Partnersbar.com

Sunday, July 21

Battle Creek Pride Fest Battle Creek Pride, **Battle Creek**. battlecreekpride@yahoo.com Facebook.com/pages/Battle-Creek-Pride-Public-Page

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

Healthy Support 2 p.m. A community support group initiative to help meet the needs of consumers. Various topics will include: Healthy Relationships - Legal Service, Healthy Living, Benefits - Specialty Care, Medication & Side Effects, Community Resources - Counseling & Testing, Financial Literacy. Further contacts

and professionals. Every fourth Tuesday of the month. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GetOutAndLive.me

People of Victory 12 p.m. A bi-weekly support group for all women living with HIV. People of Victory, 4201 St. Antoine, **Detroit**. 313-805-7061.

Second Annual LGBT Midwest Job Expo 12 p.m. An open and safe environment to pursue employment without fear of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Candle Light Vigil 6 p.m. Meet by Blue Spruce Memorial Tree. Pay respect to those that have gone on before and rejoice in our lives and freedoms. Hotter Than July!, **Detroit**. hotterthanjuly.org

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

Wednesday, July 24

Hotter Than July! Detroit Black Gay Pride Festival The nation's third oldest celebration of African American lesbian, gay, bi and transgender culture. A variety of events throughout the week. KICK, **Detroit**. hotterthanjuly.org

Boat Ride 6:10 p.m. Celebrating

See Happenings, page 28

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Read All About It! Travesty In Ferndale!

BY JOHN QUINN

The tabloid journalist lurking inside me will do anything to divert your attention from the glorious mid-summer weather, and he's not above using somewhat-misleading headlines. It's all semantics. You think of "travesty" as "a debased, distorted, or grossly inferior imitation." But the solons at Merriam-Webster consider the primary definition to be "a burlesque translation or literary or artistic imitation usually grotesquely incongruous in style, treatment, or subject matter." The Ringwald Theatre has earned a reputation for elevating the grotesquely incongruous to an art form. Any similarity between Jamie Morris' original comedy "Mommie Queerest" and a certain 1981 biopic is strictly intentional.

To quote head RAZZberry John Wilson in The Official Razzie Movie Guide, "The Mother of All Razzie Movies, 'Mommie Dearest,' is based – incoherently – on Christina Crawford's memoir of life with a monster of a mother. It's also as close to laugh-a-minute incompetence as mainstream Hollywood movie making has ever gotten." Oh, yes, it's an awful picture. In 1990 it won the Razzie for worst movie of the decade. More than 30 years later, one still poses the question: What was Paramount Studios *thinking*? Was *anybody* thinking? Certainly not Faye Dunaway, who arguably tanked her career starring in this bomb.

But sometimes endeavors can be so bad they're good; thus we enter the realm of "camp."

"Camp: n. something so outrageously artificial, affected, inappropriate, or out-of-date as to be considered amusing." One may think "Mommie Dearest" is as campy as it can get. But no, "Mommie Queerest" trumps its source in that department. Morris, who also penned 2010's "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode," the revival of which was last summer's addition to the Ringwald's "Summer Camp" theme, presents a gleefully malicious script that deftly highlights the film's



The Ringwald's Joes, Bailey and Plambeck, in a photo mash-up in "Mommie Queerest." Photo: The Ringwald

REVIEW

Mommie Queerest

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through Aug. 5. 85 minutes (with intermission). \$10-20. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

flaws. Then, for good measure, tosses in a Ringwald-style twist that leaves the audience thinking, "Why of course! We should have guessed that!"

Travesty is an edgy genre. Success depends on a go-for-broke, unashamed

In 1990 it won the Razzie for worst movie of the decade. More than 30 years later, one still poses the question: What was Paramount Studios thinking? Was anybody thinking?

commitment to the material, no matter how silly. Dyan Bailey, in her directorial debut, got everything right the first time. Not only are her performers on top of their game, her video design – a mash-up of clips

from the flick, phony news headlines and altered photos – functions like an additional actor.

In "Mommie Queerest," the four guys donning multiple dresses, wigs, heels and – gasp – bathing suits are comedy veterans sincerely committed to their roles. Big, brash Joe Bailey plays Faye Dunaway playing Joan Crawford in makeup inspired equally by Groucho Marx and Bozo the Clown. His every line reading, gesture and attitude is thoroughly over the top and therefore just right for campy comedy. Joe Plambeck plays Diana Scarwid playing Christina Crawford, capturing every forced exaggeration Scarwid brought to her utterly vacuous film performance.

Valiantly portraying everybody else in the film are Dan Morrison and Richard Payton. This is a quick-witted quartet who can glibly ad-lib through the minor snafus of an opening night. All in all, it appears the cast is having a blast on stage and they've been gracious enough to let us join the picnic.

Party hearty, dudes, party hearty!

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sara Bareilles, Merry Clayton



Sara Bareilles, 'The Blessed Unrest'

Maybe you didn't ask for it, but Sara Bareilles wrote you a love song anyway. Actually, she wrote you many love songs. With her third disc, the pop pianist is giving the gays their wedding theme: "I Choose You," an undeniably irresistible ditty – cello included for added romanticism – that's a sweet ode to love, the good and the bad. And her boy-chasing gets the best of her on pretty ballad "1,000 Times." But besides the safe first single, the LGBT-inspired anthem "Brave," Bareilles shakes up her tried-and-true formula heard on past hits "Love Song" and "King of Anything" for more uncharted territory. "Eden" stands out most as an exhilarating turn and a definite highlight in the mix; the track borrows from Prince and then reaches a chorus that flicks with glistening near-dance synths while her heart breaks all over it: "No way to make the pain play fair," she sings. "It doesn't disappear just because you say it isn't there." She gets in musical mode for "Little Black Dress," a celebration of singlehood. While Bareilles stories the ups and downs of relationships, presumably

her own, she also dedicates a song – the moving "Satellite Call" – to "the lonely child." If you ever wondered what Sarah McLachlan sounded like singing over a Sigur Rós track, wonder no more. *Grade: B+*



Merry Clayton, 'The Best of Merry Clayton'

Give it up for "20 Feet from Stardom," the wonderful documentary

that's finally spotlighting voices too big to just be backup. Because of it, Merry Clayton is, at last, basking in the limelight. Sony Legacy's "The Best of Merry Clayton" puts the diva front and center for her pivotal moment on The Rolling Stone's riveting wake-up call "Gimme Shelter" – but now the track is all hers, and the woman who can sing circles around most owns more than just the famed "rape, murder – it's just a shot away" bit. Songs from her only solo effort, the one that was supposed to make her a star (and should have),

get a second life on this triumphant collection: She tears into Neil Young's "Southern Man," goes soft and sweet on the Carole King contribution "After All This Time" and croons "Country Road" with a raw realness that defines the essence of this soul queen. She takes "The Mighty Quinn" to church, turning the Dylan ditty into a gospel rouser. Her belty "Bridge Over Troubled Water" is felt deep, deep down. And then, somehow, it gets even better: "Suspicious Minds" is a stirring version of the Elvis classic that comes to an emotional break that gets you in the heart. Those 20 feet? You won't find them on any song here. *Grade: A*

Also Out



Laura Marling, 'Once I Was an Eagle'

Folk has been reincarnated so many times – and in so many ways – it's hard to recall

what it used to sound like. With 23-year-old Laura Marling's fourth album, now we know. The British import's LP – which she completely owns no matter how closely she resembles Joni Mitchell and Fiona Apple – is a stunning throwback to the collective power of just a guitar, a voice and little else. Every song reminds you of that.



Kendra Morris, 'Mockingbird'

On her sophomore release, Kendra Morris applies her soulful croon to ... covers? Not exactly what

you'd expect from a girl still making a name for herself, but this just might be the breakthrough Morris' many gifts – that voice, mostly – merits. Because not only does the New Yorker rework classics like Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game" and "Walk on the Wild Side," making them sound almost brand-new, she sings with a passionate burn that will please Amy Winehouse fans.

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► Cyndi Lauper

Continued from p.17

The only reason we called it that was because we were doing “He’s So Unusual” with “Yeah Yeah” and (producer) Bill (Wittman) turned around and said, “She’s so unusual.” And then we’re like, “Oh yeah, that’s a great title.” I knew for the rest of my life that’d be my handle ... but, you know, I was a good sport! I never really thought I was that different. I thought what I wanted to do was different. The artistic things I wanted to do, maybe they were very different.

What can we expect from the next album?

I don’t know. My upcoming project is to take some time and sit on my big ol’ butt and not think for two seconds ... and then it’ll come to me. Yes, I do want to do something else. I would like to work with Jerry; I’d like to work with Harvey. But right now I’m on tour. Maybe that was a good thing. Get away from it and think about what I’d like to do, and then choose wisely.

Few performers have the connection you do with the gay community. Reflecting on your career, when did you decide to take the community under your wing?

Well, I always saw people being discriminated against – my friends and people that I work with. At first, I was going to just take refuge and sing in the clubs at night. I thought, “Hey, that’s a lot of fun.” But when I couldn’t take the conservative

straight community, I would run home kind of, and then I started seeing a lot of disparity going on, things that were wrong. I just felt like, “These are my fans. You gotta help them have more love for themselves.” As they were taking civil rights away, I thought, “Somebody better say something. And in two seconds, I will.” And I did.

I had seen Harvey Fierstein speak and he said something once, that happy people don’t self-destruct – and I thought, “That’s right.” That’s all you want. People are different,

but as long as they’re all happy, healthy-minded people then we’re all doing good, and how can I kind of change the image for them?

And then one thing led to another. First it was just some T-shirts. It was talking at Cher’s concert. It was doing stuff with (my sister) Ellen for PFLAG. One thing led to another till I saw more opportunities. We did the True Colors Tour. I wanted my own tour and everyone said, “Why don’t you call it ‘True Colors?’” I said, “We can’t call it ‘True Colors’ without including the community, because

this song has become a very important song for the community.” I started to see more and more what could and should be done. With the Give a Damn Campaign, I saw an opportunity because I’m straight. I thought, “I shouldn’t be the only straight guy here. In every civil rights movement, you need everybody to stand up.”

I think everybody coming from all sides breaks down the walls a little bit. Things are changing. You have to just get your foot in the door so it doesn’t close, and then keep widening that door till it opens.

“ I just felt like, ‘These are my fans. You gotta help them have more love for themselves.’ As they were taking civil rights away, I thought, ‘Somebody better say something. And in two seconds, I will.’ And I did. ”

Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thurs- day

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills- Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

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

106 ANNOUNCEMENTS - GROUPS

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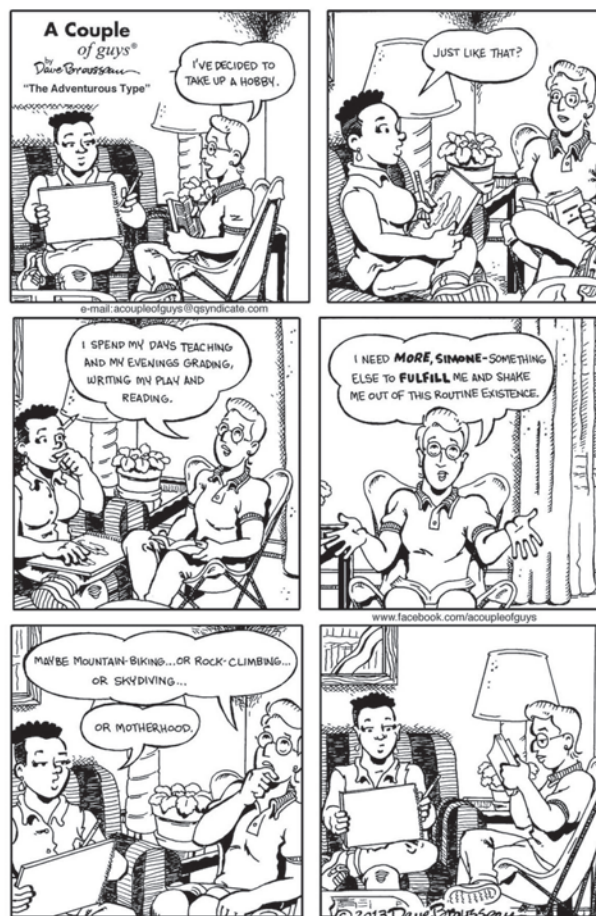
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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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► Happenings

Continued from p. 26

KICK's 10 Year Anniversary. Three hour cruise. Admission: \$55. KICK, Detroit. hotterthanjuly.org

Thursday, July 25

12th Annual Neutral Zone Golf Classic 9 a.m. The NZ Golf Classic is a four person scramble. Participants may register as a team or individually. Registration fee includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, lunch and a steak dinner. Tickets: \$300-1,000. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

Hotter than July Film Festival 5:30 p.m. A presentation of featured and short films. Tickets: \$20. KICK, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit. hotterthanjuly.org

MUSIC & MORE

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

City of Ann Arbor "Ann Arbor Art Fair". City of Ann Arbor, 721 E. Huron St. #200, Ann Arbor. July 17 - July 20. 734-994-5260. artfair.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Week After Art Fair Song Fest" Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers, artistic director and soprano. Kevin Bylsma, artistic director and piano. Free. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 23 - July 26. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Michigan Opera Theatre "DOH Summer Dance Intensive with Eisenhower Dance Ensemble" 1526 Broadway, Detroit. July 22 - July 27. 248-609-0370.

The Palette "Happy Hour". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 18 - Sep. 26. 810-234-1695.

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Sounds of Summer" Tickets: \$10-20. Clarkston High School, 6093 Flemings Lake Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. July 18. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Katri Ervamaa and Maria Sampen" Cello and violin. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 20. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

CONCERTS

826michigan "S'Mittenfest" More than a dozen Michigan performers will play music from hip-hop to folk and beyond. All proceeds support free literacy and literary arts programs in Detroit schools. Tickets: \$10+. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. July 20. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com/magic-stick-detroit/

Avanti Summer MusicFest 2013

"Avanti 2013 First Student Concerto/Solo Competition" Workshop for students aged 13-18. Tickets: \$10. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 22 - July 27. 313-576-5111. avantissummermusicfest.org

City of Birmingham

"Sinjon Smith" Part of the 2013 In the Park Summer Concert series. Family Night featuring line dancing and face painting. Shain Park, Birmingham. 7 p.m. July 24. bhamgov.org/summerconcerts

Olympia Entertainment "Jimmy Buffett and The Coral Reefer Band" Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. July 20. 313-471-6611. Olympiarentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "M. I. A." Tickets: \$22. 50-25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. July 20. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Bob Schneider" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 22. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Palace of Auburn Hills "The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour Starring Beyonce" Tickets: \$59. 05-268. 45. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. July 20. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Charlotte's Web \$5-7. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. July 25 - 28. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Fools \$11-12. The Twin City Junior Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Through July 21. 269-429-0400. Twincityplayers.org

Little Me \$7-10. Penny Seats Theatre Company at West Park Band Shell, 215 Chapin St., Ann Arbor. Through July 27. 734-276-2832. Pennyseats.org

Next to Normal \$12-\$17. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Through July 20. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

The Bikinis \$15-35. The Crosswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through July 21. 517-264-SHOW. Crosswell.org

PROFESSIONAL

All Shook Up \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

Andronicus Bound \$15-18. Threefold Productions at The MIX Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. July 19 - 28. 734-968-8717. Threefoldproductions.org

Becky Shaw \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 28. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Deathtrap \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through July 21. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

Ernie \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 11. 800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Faith Healer \$25. Three Oaks Theater Festival, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. July 27. 269-756-3879. Threeoaksfestival.com

Fiddler on the Roof \$10-\$27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 20. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. July 19 - Aug. 17. 586-771-6333. Broadwayonstage.com

I Am Woman \$12-20. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. Through July 31. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

Kolobok \$5-10. PuppetART Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through July 27. 313-961-7777. Puppetart.org

Les Miserables \$22-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 18. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Life Could be a Dream \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. July 19 - Aug. 11. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

Miles & Ellie \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 31. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Mommie Queerest \$10-20. The

Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 5. 248-545-5545. Theringwald.com

Peter Rabbit and Friends \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 19 - 27. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Romeo + Juliet \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

She Stoops to Conquer \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. July 25 - Aug. 11. 517-796-8600. Michiganshakespearefestival.com

Super Happy Funtime Burlesque \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. July 19. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful (And Her Dog!) \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Studio Theatre in DeWitt Center, 141 East 12th Street, Holland. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

The Glass Menagerie \$25. Three Oaks Theater Festival at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. July 20. 269-756-3879. Threeoaksfestival.com

The Light in the Piazza \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 East 12th Street, Holland. July 19 - Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Tuna Does Vegas Previews July 18 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Aug. 18. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.org

Under the Streetlamp \$100-125. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. July 20 - 24. 248-377-3300. mbrtheatre.com

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. Hope.edu/HSRT

ART 'N' AROUND

Chelsea River Gallery "Natural Phenomena and Synthetic Wonder" Jessica Joy London. 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. July 11 - Aug. 17. 734-433-0826. Chelsearivergallery.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "A Driving Force: Cranbrook and the Car" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 13 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Chinese Slat Books" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 2 - July 30. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - July 26.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Night Conversations" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. July 4 - July 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "What Can You Do? with Brenda Hutchinson" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. July 21. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

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

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit "Let My People GO! The Soviet Jewry Movement 1967-1989" Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. June 9 - July 25. 248-661-1900. jccdet.org

JULY 22-28 | Detroit

SBA/NBJC LGBT ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TOUR

Monday, July 22
9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Robert Riverwalk Hotel
1000 Riverwalk Drive, Detroit
\$25 with online registration
www.nbjc.org/many-faces-one-dream-detroit

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Tuesday, July 23
6:00 pm to dusk
Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit
Free

BOAT RIDE

Wednesday, July 24
Boarding 6:10 pm &
Sailing at 7:00 pm
Rivard Plaza on Downtown
Detroit's Riverwalk
\$55 per person

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUMMIT

Thursday, July 25
12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
U of M - Detroit Center
3663 Woodward Ave
Free with online registration*

FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, July 25
5:30 pm - Midnight
Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave
\$20 per person

ANNUAL GATHERING ON LGBTQ ISSUES

Friday, July 26
8:00 am to 6:00 pm
U of M - Detroit Center
3663 Woodward Ave
Free with online registration*

PROM NIGHT

Friday, July 26
7:00 - 11:30pm
Liberal Arts Gallery
3361 Gratiot Ave | \$35 per person

ECHOVERSE PASSION FRUIT A SENSUAL EROTIC OPEN MIC & SLAM

Friday, July 26
8:00 pm
1515 Broadway, Detroit, MI
Open Mic: 8:00 pm Slam: 9:30 pm
\$10. Slam registration is \$20

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Saturday, July 27
9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Palmer Park, Detroit MI | Free

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\$20, slightly higher at the door

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9:00 pm to 2:00 am
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Sunday, July 28
11:00 am
WHOSOEVER Ministry
2930 Woodward Ave | Free

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, July 28
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Roberts Riverwalk Hotel Detroit
1000 River Place Dr
\$50 per person/ \$90 per couple



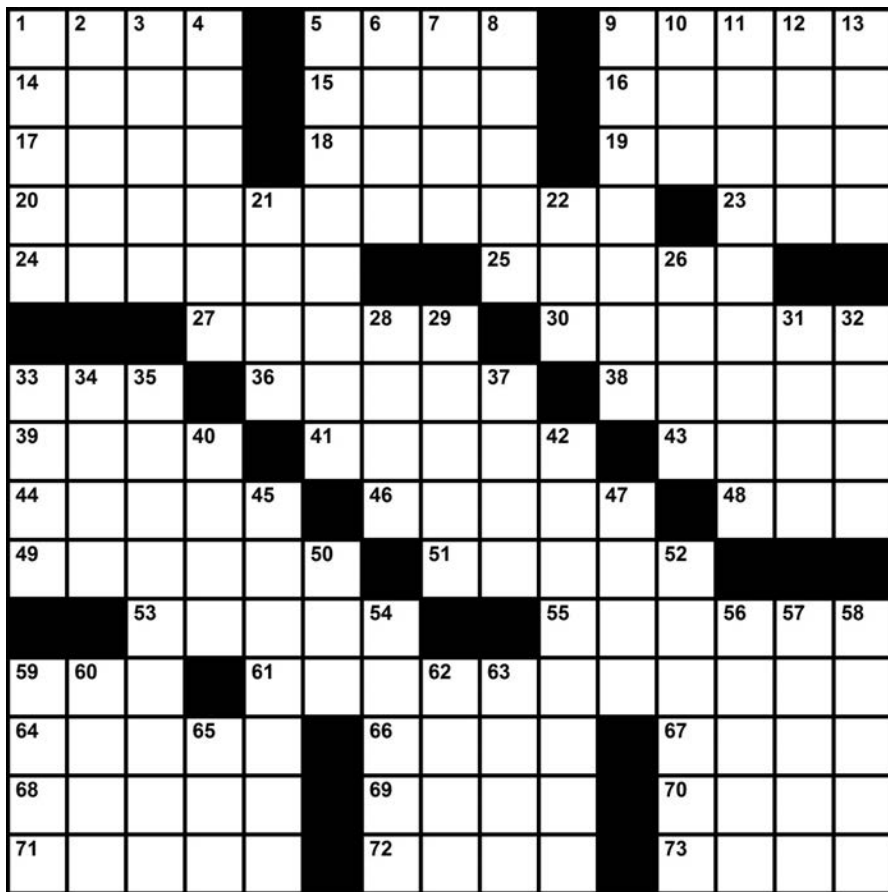
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magazine

SEE MORE OFFICIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ADDED ON OUR SITE

Above dates are subject to change

Mad Persons



Across

- 1 Poppycock
- 5 Pinball wizard foul
- 9 Old infantry spears
- 14 Stud fee?
- 15 "Nurse Jackie" star Falco
- 16 Shake in bed?
- 17 Biweekly tide
- 18 Bottom priority of a top
- 19 Type of sex you have on the phone
- 20 Gay "Mad Men" character who said "(Your boyfriend) doesn't own your vagina"
- 23 Up to, for short
- 24 Enticing words at Barney's
- 25 Utopia and Shangri-la
- 27 Adds color
- 30 Works of Tennessee Williams
- 33 They prosecute perps
- 36 Needed some BenGay
- 38 Enliven, with "up"
- 39 Writer Dinesen
- 41 Current coins of Amsterdam
- 43 Gillette brand
- 44 "Terminal Bar" playwright Paul
- 46 Sometime poisonous plant
- 48 Line of dresses
- 49 Lambda Literary Award winner Greene
- 51 "Let's make it a threesome!"
- 53 Way to serve your meat
- 55 Committed to penetration?
- 59 Scenery chewer
- 61 Closeted bisexual "Mad Men" character
- 64 He recently praised the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage
- 66 Taylor or Boulanger
- 67 Popeye's ___'pea
- 68 Like a rambling sentence
- 69 Anticipatory nights
- 70 Puts on the dog?
- 71 Brought up the rear?
- 72 Silence for Copland
- 73 You don't want them in your pants

Down

- 1 Instrument strummed in "Mame"
- 2 "There's a single runner" to Billy Bean
- 3 Has more than a one-night stand
- 4 Swinger of old
- 5 Playwright McNally
- 6 It comes out of your head
- 7 Neeson of "Kinsey"
- 8 Closemouthed
- 9 Petitions of Jane Spahr
- 10 Debtor's letters
- 11 Gay "Mad Men" character from Germany
- 12 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
- 13 Bear market order
- 21 "East of Eden" director Kazan
- 22 Teaching deg.
- 26 Wine region south of the Russian River
- 28 Like so
- 29 Vital fluid
- 31 A lot, maybe
- 32 Fashion line?
- 33 Star Canyon serving
- 34 On "The Love Boat," perhaps
- 35 Gay "Mad Men" character caught sleeping with a bellboy
- 37 Rounded top
- 40 Brick oven
- 42 Wilde, for example
- 45 "Me and My Shadows" subject Judy
- 47 Neighbor of Mass.
- 50 "Science Guy" of PBS
- 52 Black Sea port
- 54 Lurer of phallic fish
- 56 Field Marshal Rommel
- 57 Force out
- 58 Use a steam iron
- 59 ___ d'oeuvres
- 60 Lie alongside
- 62 "Hand it over!"
- 63 Britten's pub potables
- 65 Utterance at a gay rodeo

Solution on pg. 27

We speak LGBTQIA

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Community Buzz

Community Advocate Runs For Kalamazoo City Commission



Local community advocate, out lesbian and candidate for Kalamazoo City Commission, Tracy Hall, officially kicked off her campaign on July 8 with a rally at Bronson Park.

Hall is a teacher at Western Michigan University in Gender & Women's Studies and Political Science and Sociology at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She has lived in Kalamazoo for 20 years.

Hall has worked with many community organizations to help better the lives of citizens in Kalamazoo. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Professional Instructors Organization, is a member of the executive committee for the West Michigan Federation of College Education and is a member of the KVCC Federation of Teachers.

Tracy has been with her partner, Melissa Bouman, for seven and a half years.

"I'm running because I love where I live, and it's time for me to give back," she says. "It's important to have a progressive voice that speaks for all people, from all walks of life, on the City Commission."

As an out lesbian, Hall feels equality is an important issue – but this doesn't extend only to the LGBT community.

If elected, Tracy Hall would be the first out lesbian City Commissioner in Kalamazoo.

For more information, go to www.hallforkzoo.com.

Battle Creek Pride Events

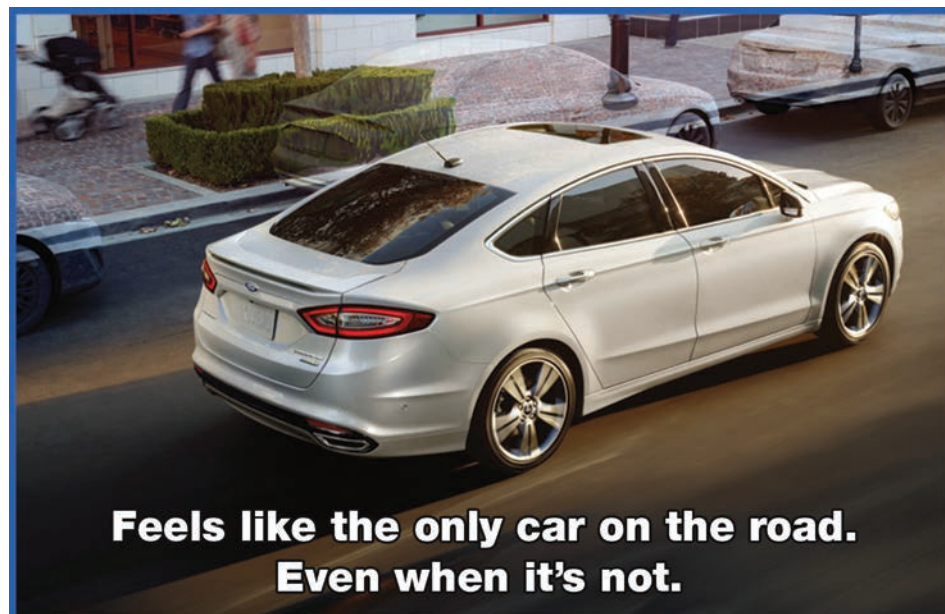
Battle Creek Pride takes place July 19-21 with three main events to encourage acceptance and diversity in the community.

The weekend kicks off with the second annual White Party July 19 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Partners, 910 North Ave. in Battle Creek. DJ Glitter will be providing the dance music, Karma Vuitton will be hosting, and Mr. Partners Louie Vuitton will be the featured guest.

The Community Picnic is a day of family, kids and community with games, food, a disc golf tournament and more. This third annual event is at Bailey Park on Capital Avenue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 20.

The Candlelight Vigil brings awareness to bullying and to commemorate the loss of innocent lives due to bullying, July 21 at 8:30 p.m. at Sojourner Truth Park at the corner of Division and Michigan Avenue in Battle Creek.

For more information on Battle Creek Pride, visit their website at <http://www.battlecreekpride.org> and follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-Creek-Pride-Public-Page.



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800-398-GAYS (4297)

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Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center

Zach Bauer, Exec. Dir.

629 Pioneer St., Suite 102 Kalamazoo, MI 49008
www.kglrc.org

269-349-4234

LGBT Youth Group, Transgender Support Group, Resource library of over 3,000 lgbt items, LGBT friendly health provider and other professional referrals. Workplace diversity training, Speaker Panels, Community activities and events.

OutCenter

132 Water St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022
www.outcenter.org

269-925-8330

Providing support and advocacy for respect, understanding and nondiscrimination to LGBT+ persons and their families in Berrien County.

KICK

The Center in Detroit

41 Burroughs St., Ste. 109, Detroit, MI 48202
www.e-kick.org

313-285-9733

Perceptions Saginaw Valley

P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641
www.perceptionssv.org

989-891-1429

A non-profit community organization that offers educational, social and networking opportunities for residents of the Tri-Cities (Midland, Bay City and Saginaw) and surrounding areas.

Lesbian & Gay Community Network of Western Michigan

343 Atlas Ave., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
www.grlgbt.org

616-458-3511

Jim Toy Community Center

319 Braun Ct.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.wrap-up.org

734-995-9867

The center exists to provide information, education, social events and advocacy by and for the Queer and Ally Community in the Washtenaw County area.

Detroit Latin@z

Detroit, MI
Ramagdaleno@gmail.com

734-474-2372

Social organization for metro area latina women. Meets at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale.

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Herion Park, Fiber

