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September Arrives
With AIDS Walks In Sight

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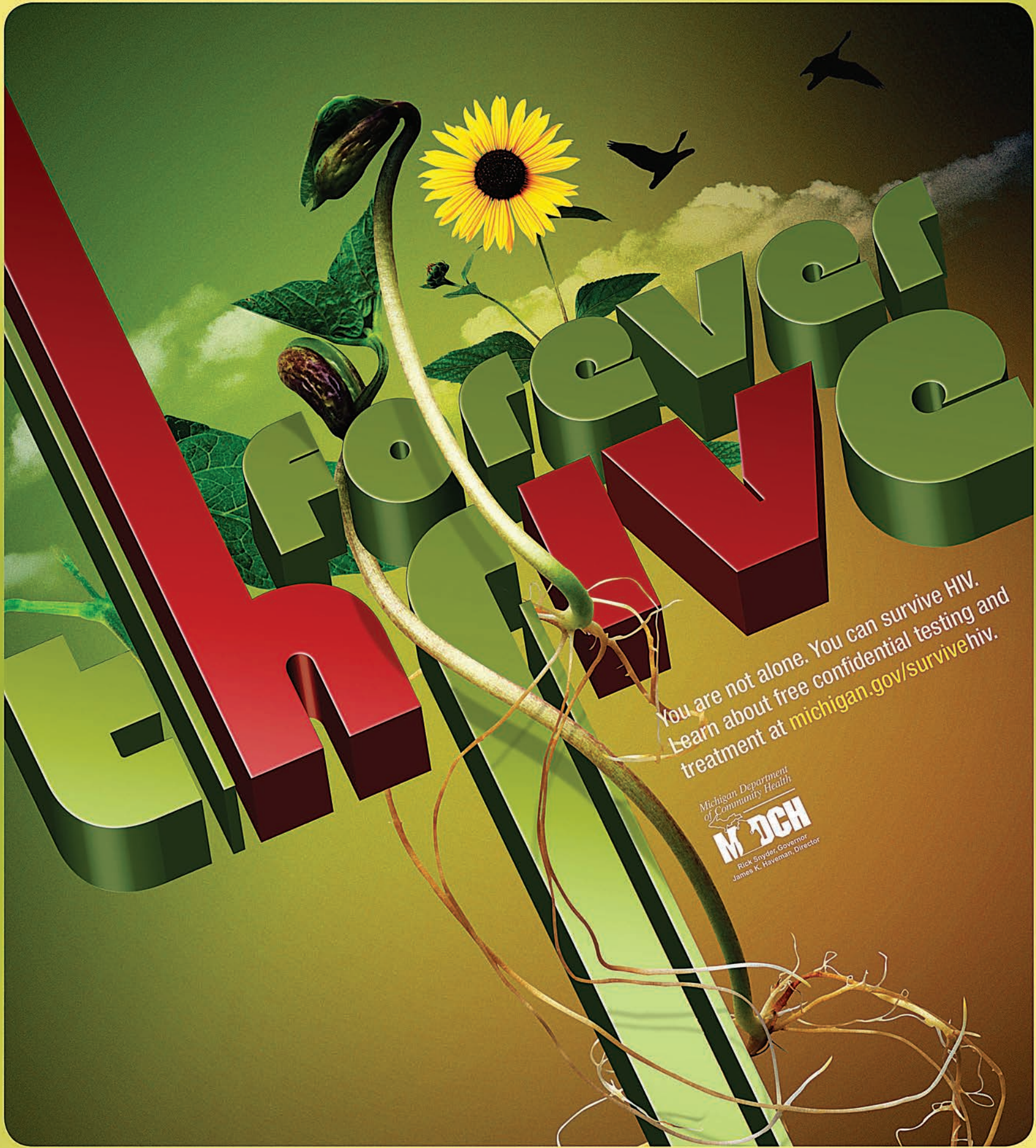
“ If you want to protect
historical buildings, if you really
want to shape a community,
this is how you do it. ”

– Mike McGuinness, pg. 4



He Dreamed A Dream

Accountant Overcomes Fear To Sing In Royal Oak's Les Mis



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COVER STORY

18 He dreamed a dream
BTL photo: Andrew Potter



I have thought of **leaving** (Russia), and I have even made plans to leave. The truth is, I don't want to. I **love** my home, my friends, my job, my life. And if **Putin doesn't like me, he can leave.**

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Revival: Pontiac Candidates Banking On Redemption

Former Oakland County Democratic Chair Mike McGuinness Hopes To Serve In City of Pontiac Two Years After Pleading No Contest To 6 Felony Charges

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

PONTIAC – The mural on the side of Luca’s Coney Island features a big purple whale and says “Pontiac is for Lovers.” If you ask 29-year-old city council candidate Mike McGuinness and 25-year-old library board candidate Ronnie Karpinski, they’ll tell you how true it is for them.

Three years ago they made a commitment to each other and to the City of Pontiac, buying their first home for under \$20,000 in the former red light district and fixing it up together. The pride led them to clean up around them, first the neighboring lots, then the block. Soon they were organizing the community, standing vigilant against illegal dumping, and leading the charge to have a blighted housing complex taken down.

They’ve gotten involved in the resurrection of downtown Pontiac as well. As the men walk hand in hand through the once-bustling county seat, they are greeted by everyone from businesses owners, to city leaders, to long-time residents and even regular transients. McGuinness and Karpinski are among a growing number of millennials who have fallen in love with the architecture, the art, the low cost of living and the potential to help shape a city of their choosing.

“There’s a lot more going on here than people know about. There are galleries, block parties, festivals, new businesses,” Karpinski said. “It’s like a small town feel in a historic urban setting. The community is very welcoming and there is a lot of confidence in the business community.” He noted a number of gay-owned businesses along the art-filled streets.

In this way, the whale could symbolize Pontiac’s redemption. A famous old story tells of a man who ran away from his problems, but was then trapped in the belly of a whale until he begged for a chance to do things right. When free, the man went back about the work he was destined for, helping a community find peace.

In that way, the smiling, loving whale could also symbolize what McGuinness and Karpinski will need if their campaigns are



29-year-old city council candidate Mike McGuinness and 25-year-old library board candidate Ronnie Karpinski have made a commitment to Pontiac. McGuinness hopes to serve on the city council come Nov. 5 and his partner Karpinski hopes to serve on the library board. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

going to be successful. In McGuinness’s case he is running against incumbent Kermit Williams who was unopposed when he claimed his first term in the 7th District of Pontiac in 2009.

But the bigger challenge McGuinness faces is running against his former self.

McGuinness has six felonies on his record after pleading no contest in charges relating to the 2010 state elections. At the time he was the chair of the Oakland County Democratic Party and he was involved in a scheme to put “Tea Party” candidates on ballots in political contests where splitting the Republican vote

would have made a difference in helping Democrats get elected. This was attempted in several elections across the state.

Encouraging misleading candidates to run is a distasteful, yet fairly common, political tactic. A well-known contemporary example was how someone encouraged a barber named Mike Dugeon to run against Mike Duggan in the recent Detroit Mayoral primary. A similar tactic is having people run under a party label that is misleading, such as when Republicans encourage Green Party candidates to run in order to draw votes away from Democrats, or when politicians from any camp market

themselves with a disingenuous party label.

In this case, however, McGuinness went beyond the bounds of the law. He took part in falsifying documents to get unsuspecting people placed on the ballots.

Oakland County Circuit Judge James Alexander sentenced McGuinness to a year probation, 180 hours of community service, and ordered him to pay over \$1,000 in fines and fees for the crimes of uttering and publishing a perjury. He and former Oakland County Democratic Party Political Director Jason Bauer both took the blame for

See Redemption, next page

“ We only have one life to live, and in my life I want to have a positive impact in the community. I’ve had to think about this. I know the black eye that this brings to myself and my community, but I also know the talents and gifts that I have, and I don’t want to waste that. This is the only life I have. I know it is worth whatever I go through to be involved. ”

- Mike McGuiness, former Oakland County Democratic Party Chair

► Redemption

Continued from p. 4

falsifying documents to register unsuspecting people as Tea Party candidates. Ruth Johnson, Oakland County Clerk at the time, discovered the scheme after someone who had been in Arizona during the filing time, reported receiving notices about the election. Their name had been placed on the ballot without their knowledge or permission.

McGuinness has contended publically that higher levels were involved, and even earlier this year said that former state party chair Mark Brewer was the one giving the orders higher up the food chain. Brewer denied involvement and told multiple media outlets that he was involved in the Grand Jury process against McGuinness.

"You had your whole future ahead of you. It was all there for you. Now, every morning when you wake up, you won't see a rising political star, you'll see a convicted felon," Judge Alexander said at the sentencing in 2011.

"I knew that it was shady," McGuinness said when questioned about his past. "But I did it. I did not know or consider the legal ramifications. I was stupidly operating like it was a political game, like all party politics are. I was so entrenched. Politics was my life and I thought that was part of it."

A Different Man Now

He says he is a different man now than he was at 26.

"When I was younger, I was living more in the moment and not looking at the long-term implications of my choices, looking at consequences, how it impacts those around you, those you work with, those you love. I am much more motivated to see the big picture... Then I could not see the forest through the trees."

The felonies do not preclude McGuinness

from running for office, although they do present some ethical decisions for him and for voters.

"We only have one life to live, and in my life I want to have a positive impact in the community," McGuinness said. "I've had to think about this. I know the black eye that this brings to myself and my community, but I also know the talents and gifts that I have, and I don't want to waste that. This is the only life I have. I know it is worth whatever I go through to be involved."

After his conviction, McGuinness set about building a life away from politics. He focused on his job in the mortgage industry and restoring that first home with his now decade-long lover. But the passion for politics could not stay gone for long. "Seeing our ability to clean up our neighborhood, and get people involved, is what motivated me to stay involved and to run."

Growing up, McGuinness spent much of his time in Pontiac, where his father has lived for decades. He marveled at the buildings, curious about the designs and the uses of old buildings. "I thought I wanted to be an architect, but as I got older I realized that it was government and politics that played a role in how things are built, what buildings get maintained and which do not. If you want to protect historical buildings, if you really want to shape a community, this is how you do it."

Another childhood experience pushed him down the political path.

"The reason I became politically engaged and interested is because my father has some mental health issues and had been a patient at Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac. I saw first-hand when the state cut funding and closed Clinton Valley, how much it affected our lives. And all those other people who had nowhere to go, no resources. It opened my eyes to the public process."

McGuinness got his BA from Oakland

See Redemption, page 16

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DETROIT/FERNDALE
100 Backpacks Needed For Ruth Ellis Center

The folks at MCC Detroit are about a quarter of the way to reaching their goal of giving 100 backpacks to youth at Ruth Ellis Center. The congregation works closely with REC all year round, collecting clothing and personal care items for young people who are homeless or at risk.

The backpack drive is one specific way the community can help. "Every year REC tells us what they need. Last year we did complete school supplies, but this year they wanted backpacks but with stuff they could live with," said organizer Ann Cox. The list of items that ideally should go in the bags are: hand warmers, gloves, a winter hat, a small roll up blanket, two bottles of water, non-perishable food items like crackers or fruit snacks, and optional bus passes.

"It's important that we support people who don't come to our church. Part of our commitment is to our community. Some of these kids have been kicked out of their homes just because they are gay or transgender, and that's not right. We should help them," Cox said.

Last year over 170 youth came to Ruth Ellis for backpacks and school supplies, according to Jessie Fullenkup, director of the drop in center. She said that other needed items include plastic grocery bags, hygiene supplies, new underwear, bras, socks and undershirts, new or lightly used shower towels, laundry detergent and first aid supplies like band aids and antibiotic creams.

MCC accepts donations year round for Ruth Ellis Center, but they hope to collect 100 bags within the next few weeks. Drop off times are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The address is 2441 Pinecrest Dr. Ferndale and the number to call for more information is 248-399-7741.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Common Ground Hosts Open House, Provides Resources and Training

New Website To Be Unveiled in Time For National Suicide Prevention Week

In recognition and support of National Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 8 - 17, Common Ground is opening its doors to the community to share information about its suicide prevention efforts on Sept. 13 from 2-6 p.m. at the agency's administrative offices located at 1410 S. Telegraph Rd.

Attendees will get the chance to meet staff and volunteers, learn about the programs, services and trainings offered and walk away with a suicide prevention packet filled with helpful information for suicide prevention efforts and tips for supporting survivors of suicide loss.

This free open house is just one of the agency's planned activities aimed at increasing community awareness during National Suicide Prevention Week. A new Common Ground suicide prevention website will be unveiled, which will provide information on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, as well as tips and resource links, all in one place at www.suicideprevention.commongroundhelps.org.

Common Ground is also launching the new one-day edition of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. Previously a two-day commitment, this one-day training saves participants time, but still provides all the information needed to provide the initial help to someone showing symptoms of mental illness or in a mental health crisis. The next session, scheduled for Sept. 26, will be held at Common Ground's administrative offices in Bloomfield Hills from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Register online at www.commongroundhelps.org by clicking the MHFA button in the lower right corner or call Joan Roberts at 248-451-3733.

To RSVP for the open house, or for more information, contact Amelia Lehto, Crisis Line and Suicide Prevention specialist, at 248-451-2613.

Extended briefs are available online at:
 >> www.PrideSource.com

Henry Ford Health System Recognized For Equality Efforts

Among Five Michigan Companies Recognized In The LGBT Healthcare Index

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

DETROIT – As a leader in LGBT healthcare equality, Henry Ford Health System's six facilities is one of five Michigan health organizations among the 464 healthcare facilities recognized nationwide by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation in its Healthcare Equality Index 2013. The other Michigan based health facilities are VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, VA John D. Dingell Medical Center in Detroit, VA Oscar G. Johnson Medical Center, Iron Mountain, and VAAleda E. Lutz Medical Center in Saginaw.

All the agencies cited "recognize that LGBT people are making vital contributions to the economy while being increasingly open about who they are." The agencies are committed to providing "equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families," according to the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index website.

"This recognition is a reflection of our diverse workforce who work together to bring an environment of inclusion to our patients, our co-workers and the communities we serve," said Anton Chastang, office of corporate diversity program manager at HFHS.

Healthcare organizations awarded this distinction meet key criterion for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

Chastang is a member of the HFHS Diversity Council comprised of leaders from across all business units and of different races, ethnicities, genders, ages and different perspectives.

To assist the system in developing an inclusive corporate culture and an environment where diversity is valued, Employee Resource Groups have been implemented through the council over the years to build positive direct relationships with staff and maximize each employee's contribution to the mission, vision and values of HFHS.

Scientists), GenERG-Y (to leverage multi-generational differences and commonalities), and eMERGe (Middle-Eastern).

"We are extremely thrilled. It is not surprising that we have been recognized. The population knows this is our culture and expects that we're moving in this direction," said Bacigal, adding that plans are in the works to partner

with the Ruth Ellis Center and also with the HRC to develop employee sensitivity training.

Individuals in the organization who demonstrate a commitment to respecting and honoring diversity and inclusion do not go unnoticed. HFHS has an internal Diversity Hero Program that honors employees and leaders

throughout the system. The Ninth Annual Diversity Celebration will take place at the end of November 2013.

"We try to do our best to recognize folks doing some hard, important work," said Chastang. Throughout HFHS, nominations are submitted based on specific criteria. For example, someone who teaches his or her teammates new information about diversity may be nominated. Or someone who provides customer service above and beyond with respect to diversity and inclusion may be nominated.

Out of more than 50 nominations, around 10 are selected, one from each business unit. "These people embody these characteristics. It's not just something they do. It's part of their DNA. They know the importance of doing this," said Chastang.

Like Bacigal, who is a past recipient of the award. "We are being tested everyday on policies and procedures in place," said Bacigal. "We are ready and willing to serve."

To learn more about PRIDE e-mail: HFHSPRIDE@hfhs.org



Plans are in the works to have Henry Ford Healthcare System partner with the Ruth Ellis Center and also with the HRC to develop employee sensitivity training.

Employee Network Group

PRIDE was the first Employee Network Group to be established in 2004. In 2010, with approval of the council, PRIDE became the first newly created ERG doing things on a broader basis.

"We act as a patient advocate on LGBT issues. We are a resource for LGBT individuals to connect with others and we promote the hospital to the LGBT community," said Eric Bacigal, director of employee health, safety and wellness at HFHS.

Other groups include the Amigos (Hispanic/Latino), WIN (Women's Improvement Network), OPAL (African American Physicians and Research



Aug. 27 meeting of the Oshtemo Township Board which passed a human rights ordinance. Photo courtesy of Don't Change Yourself, Change the Law.

Human Rights Ordinance Approved in Oshtemo Twp, On the Table in Battle Creek

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

"I would love more than anything to bring my beautiful wife to our company Christmas Party without the fear of being fired." The words came from a woman speaking at the Aug. 27 meeting of the Oshtemo Township Board.

In Michigan it is currently not illegal to be fired for being gay, but in cities around the state with inclusive human rights ordinances there is more protection for LGBT individuals or individuals who are perceived to be gay. Oshtemo became the 25th community in Michigan to adopt such an ordinance.

In a 6-1 vote, the board adopted an ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and accommodations.

Jon Hoadley, who works with a group called Don't Change Yourself, Change the Law said, "Oshtemo Township trustees show fairness and equality do not have to be partisan issues, and local leaders are continuing to step up and protect their residents. We hope more local advocates want to work with DontChangeYourself.com and the Unity Michigan Coalition to bring a local ordinance

to your town."

As the 25th municipality to pass such an ordinance, Oshtemo joined with other cities and townships that include Detroit, Ann Arbor, Ferndale, Grand Rapids and Muskegon. Visit DontChangeYourself.com to see the complete list.

In Battle Creek, a group called One Battle Creek has been lobbying for a similar measure. The group gathered 1,129 signatures in favor of an inclusive ordinance. The vote among elected officials was 8-1 to approve the introduction of such an ordinance. The final vote is expected Sept. 3.

A human rights ordinance is also the subject of a vote Nov. 5 in Royal Oak. There the City Commission had approved an ordinance, but those opposed to equality gathered enough signatures to put the ordinance on hold and require a public vote. Volunteers and donations are needed for the One Royal Oak campaign so they can encourage residents to vote in favor of the ordinance.

For more information on the human rights ordinance movement in Michigan, check out www.DontChangeYourself.com.

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Quilt panels from the Names Project will be at this year's Steppin' Out Walk in Royal Oak Sept. 15. There is still time to sign up and walk, volunteer and donate. Visit the website to learn more. BTL file photo.

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Why Walk And When?

September Arrives With AIDS Walks Coming Up

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

“A lot of young people are doing things they shouldn't, thinking nothing will happen to them,” said long time AIDS Walk Detroit participant David Agius.

Though this is only one of the reasons he believes in the massive AIDS Walk fundraisers, it is one of the most important. People are still getting sick. People are still dying. The epidemic is not over.

“It doesn't get the print like it used to in the 70s and 80s,” Agius said regretfully. “The walk used to get a lot of publicity too, but things have changed. The media focuses on marriage. Volunteers get burned out after a while. We do see more young people getting involved though. The most inspiring thing is to see the challenges between the different high schools.”

He said that a few years ago Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South teams challenged each other to see who could raise the most money. Since then other high schools and universities have joined in, including Franklin High School, Oakland University and two



Volunteer David Agius and Terry Ryan of Michigan AIDS Coalition. Agius was honored for his extraordinary fundraising efforts. Agius also serves on the board of HELP and does work to support Children's Hospital for their summer camp program for kids with HIV. BTL file photo.

groups from Wayne State.

It also brings out corporate teams, raising funds from otherwise untapped sources of corporations, employees and employee friends and family. Compuware, Beaumont Hospital and Fifth Third Bank are among those involved this year.

Agius has been involved for nearly as

long as the walks have been going on.

“I've got several friends who passed away, close friends,” he said. In addition to walking to raise money for HELP (Health Emergency Lifeline Programs), Agius sits on their board. He also works to support a Children's Hospital summer camp program for kids with HIV and

See Walks, next page

Organizations statewide collaborate on the walks, and as funding becomes scarcer and changes happen to state and federal funding mechanisms, working together becomes more and more important. MAC recently teamed up with AIDS Partnership Michigan to pilot a shared giving program called Red Ribbon Remembrance through which donors can write one check that gets shared among participating organizations. They are looking to expand this to include more groups.

► Walks

Continued from p. 8

AIDS. And he is also on the committee that brings the AIDS Quilt to Michigan whenever it makes an appearance, which is done through the Names Project.

Twenty panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on hand for the opening ceremony of AIDS Walk Detroit in Royal Oak on Sept. 15. "I've got friends and family who made quilt squares in honor of those who have died," he said. "It's very important to me."

Many Walks To Choose From

There are many AIDS Walks around the state, and it's easy for people to donate online or to sign up to walk. Participants can walk for a designated charity or they can walk in general for the cause.

Terry Ryan, CEO of Michigan AIDS Coalition walks for his organization, which so far has over 20 people on their team for AIDS Walk Detroit. The event raises a few thousand dollars for MAC, which is not a lot compared to other fundraisers like DIFFA, but they help in other ways.

"It's a signature mark for us to be able to acknowledge that folks continue to come and walk every year," he said. "It's a sign that there is sustainability from donors walking to support a cause." He also values the opportunity to "bring as much exposure as possible" to the need to continue fighting the spread of the epidemic.

Having multiple AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) working together is a part of AIDS Walk that warms Ryan's heart. "Every dollar counts for the agencies and working together benefits us all," he said.

Organizations statewide collaborate on the walks, and as funding becomes scarcer and changes happen to state and federal funding mechanisms, working together becomes more and more important. MAC recently teamed up with AIDS Partnership Michigan to pilot a shared giving program called Red Ribbon Remembrance through which donors can write one check that gets shared among participating organizations. They are looking to expand this to include more groups.



Walk Dates

AIDS Walk Detroit takes place in Royal Oak on Sept. 15 beginning at the Farmer's Market at 316 E 11 Mile Rd. This walk is independent from the others around the state, which are tied together under the name of AIDS Walk Michigan.

AIDS Walk Michigan has six events scheduled:

Sept. 20 is the kick-off in Detroit, with a nighttime walk along the Detroit River, complete with glow sticks.

Sept. 21 the walk takes place in the Great Lakes Bay Region, serving Bay City, Saginaw and Midland.

On Sept. 28 there are two walks. One is in Jackson at the Riverwalk Amphitheatre. The other is for Central Michigan and is held at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant.

Then on Sept. 29 there will be the final two of the walk season. AIDS Walk Michigan Ann Arbor will take place at the Detroit Edison Building in Ann Arbor, and AIDS Walk Michigan Lansing Area will be at the Valley Court Park in E. Lansing.

INFO

September AIDS Walks In Michigan

>> For more information on any of the AIDS Walk Michigan events, go to their website at www.aidswalkmichigan.org. For more on AIDS Walk Detroit, visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org. Both sites have the ability for people to donate who are unable to attend the event.

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“Giving same sex couples the right to file jointly continues a pattern of lawlessness across the country. The Obama administration is intent on forcing same-sex ‘marriage’ on an unwilling public. Congress alone has the responsibility of determining federal tax law.”

Brian Brown, president of the National Organization of Marriage

“Committed and loving gay and lesbian married couples will now be treated equally under our nation’s federal tax laws, regardless of what state they call home. These families finally have access to crucial tax benefits and protections previously denied to them under the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act.”

Chad Griffin, president Human Rights Campaign.

This welcome clarification provides fair and consistent treatment for all legally married couples across the country. The federal government is right to recognize that people’s marriages shouldn’t dissolve when they cross state lines.”

James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project.

“There are going to be a lot of state tax attorneys working overtime next week. This is what everyone has been waiting for. Now states can release their own guidance.”

Verenda Smith, deputy director at the Federation of Tax Administrators.

“Equal federal tax protections will not only endow legally married same-sex couples with the respect and dignity they deserve, but will also provide critical financial security for countless loving families.”

Wilson Cruz, a spokesman for GLAAD, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender media advocacy organization.

“The decision will increase pressure on states that don’t recognize gay marriage or treat gay citizens equally since it will become increasingly intolerable for those states to continue to treat married gay couples as second-class citizens, especially given that the IRS will now afford them equal respect and dignity under the law.”

Roberta Kaplan, attorney for the plaintiff in *United States v Windsor*, the Supreme Court case that struck down DOMA.

“There will be enormous federal pressure now on states to conform to the IRS. The Supreme Court decision placed an [improvised explosive device] under every state marriage amendment in the land. I predict we will very quickly see legal action in the 37 states that do not give legal recognition to same-sex marriage to force them to conform to federal policy on their tax forms.”

Bryan Fischer, of the American Family Association

Thinking Out Loud

For Or Against My LGBT Opinions Aren’t So Simple To Come By Lately



BY ABBY DEES

When the deadline for this column loomed, I panicked. I have absolutely no clear opinions about anything this week, aside from my continued disgust about the status of LGBT civil rights around the world. Being disgusted by something, however, doesn’t immediately translate into having something interesting to say about it. Those leaders who are supporting everything from involuntary “corrective” therapy (Russia) to “corrective” rape (South Africa) for LGBT people need to be strung up by their toes. I don’t really have a middle ground to discuss. Moral people must take a stand, regardless of their opinions about – I dunno – same-sex marriage or teaching LGBT history to school kids.

Aside from such clear assaults on our humanity, I’m currently at a loss about what to think about the issues being discussed this week. Let’s start with the Sochi Olympics. Like I said, Russia is on my s\$#t list and in some weird reverse aging process where they’re going all 1950s on LGBT rights. Now what do we do about the Winter games there? After I read British actor and writer Stephen Fry’s impassioned call for a change of venue to some place mellow, like Canada, I had to agree. The scape-goating and harassment of LGBT people in Russia right now looks eerily like the early treatment of Jews around the time of the 1936 Munich Olympics. Seemed clear to me that reasonable people couldn’t possibly support the Sochi Olympics.

But then Greg Louganis, the out Olympian diver, publically opposed such a move, or any boycott of the games, because, he argued, it would hurt the wrong people. Going to the games as planned will give LGBT athletes an opportunity to show the world what LGBT strength and dignity looks like, and keep Putin from being able to act like a martyr for antiquated social policies in Russia. Oh well, that makes sense too. Hmm. I guess I’m against the boycott now.

Now let’s look at the ex-ex-gays – you know, the former Exodus leaders who have publically apologized for the all the damage they’ve done trying to make people straight. Last month I wrote in this column that I forgave these guys, even though I could understand why other people wouldn’t be so willing to. After a week, the only comment I got accused me of blaming the victim. OK, I get it. Maybe it wasn’t up to me to forgive. After all, I’ve never been to gay conversion therapy. I don’t know what it’s like to have the whole *Clockwork Orange* number done on my sexual psyche. I’m not quite willing to concede my right to forgive, but I can understand how this issue is more fraught than perhaps I originally suggested.

Let’s now move to pop culture – because our community certainly does love its high pop (and I will stand by this assertion no matter what anyone says). If you have broadband Internet, then you have by now binge-watched *Orange is the New Black*, a fabulous lez-poz spin on the old prison cliché. Not only is *Orange* clever, it deftly explores the myriad of human sexuality, with no one type of relationship being more healthy or “normal” than the other – of course, within

the context that prison makes everything bizarre.

Here I was, appreciating our progress in this respect, thinking that GLAAD should be so happy about *Orange*, when this morning I read a compelling commentary on the invisibility of bisexual identity in the show. Never mind that the main character is fairly obviously bisexual, no one ever calls her that. I see the problem. Damn, and I like the show so much.

Have I become wussy and uncertain in my opinions or has our community dialog become way more sophisticated? Back in the day, it seemed like we just pushed back. That’s not enough now. We have progressed to the point where we have choices. We have strategies to formulate. Everyone has a potential media presence to consider. I’ll go out on a limb and say that it’s not me, things are more complicated now. Please cut me some slack and I promise I’ll keep trying to figure out what I think about it all.

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



Memento mori – PT. 1



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's been over 30 years since media stories began to appear about what seemed the onset of a pandemic among gay men (and drug users). The acronym for these puzzling outbreaks on the east and west coasts was GRID. Gay Related Immune Deficiency, later to be called AIDS. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

No one - doctors, virologists, health officials, the Center for Disease Control - seemed to have a clue as to what was the cause of this growing plague, how it was spread, why it seemed to affect primarily gay men.

Given scant scientific/medical information it was little wonder that panic - with a capital P and several alarming exclamation points - set in. The panic seemed as contagious as the new disease.

Hard hit were those areas with high populations of gay men during what was called the "sexual revolution" of disco dancing, drug and popper use, bath house and backroom cruising, of the Gay Power Movement militancy of the 1970s.

(I recently watched a DVD documentary, "Gay Sex in the 70s." Interviews were of those gay men who were in New York City at a time when sexual activity seemed nonstop. This was also true of the San Francisco Castro area. It was a time of the so-called "clone look": Levi's, form-fitting plaid shirts, beards, mustaches, leather.)

It helps to keep in mind that the sexual revolution of the 70s was not a gays-only happening. Straights too were getting it on happy-go-lucky - or, unlucky - sex swapping in a big way. Pent-up frustrations prevailed, following the social upheaval of the previous decade. (On a lesser, but more sexually cautious scale, the same thing happened after World War I, leading to the uninhibited Roaring Twenties.)

A bit of background history: John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated in 1968. Viet Nam War protests erupted in major cities that same year. Jonestown, with poisoning Koolade drinks that killed 909 occurred in November 1978. That same year Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected San Francisco Supervisor, was assassinated by fired SF supervisor Dan White. White's "Twinkie defense" sentencing resulted in gay rioting.

In 1969, the Stonewall Riots happened, setting the stage for Gay Power, and ultimately the LGBT liberation we experience today. The first New York City gay/lesbian parade took place in June, 1970. Hundreds marched.

With the onset of the AIDS pandemic in 1981 gay men became pariahs. Because it was not known how AIDS was spread - could it be airborne? could it be just by touching an infected person - gay men became lepers. Restaurants known to have gay waiters were avoided. Few dared to visit quarantined wards. It would take President Ronald Reagan six years to publicly address AIDS.

Here in Detroit it was a scary time. As tallies of costal deaths climbed into the thousands, ten thousands, most of us wondered when the pandemic would hard hit here. Every spot, every cough, every bout of nausea, every ounce of weight loss, was viewed with anxiety. We asked ourselves, who's next? Treatment was painfully slow in coming.

Many again sought frightened refuge, hoped-for safety in the closet. AIDS was relentless.

Charles@pridesource.com

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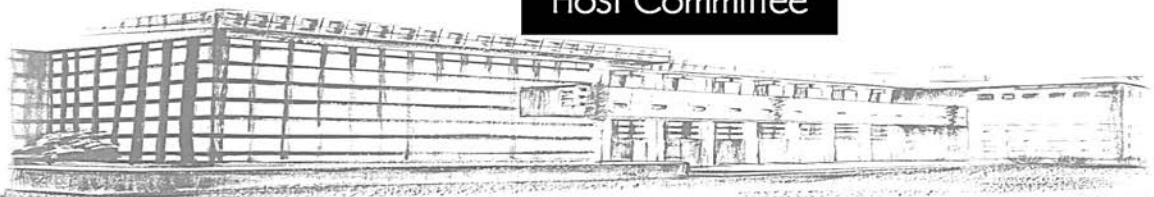
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Creep of the Week

Pat Robertson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

For decades conservative Christian yapping head Pat Robertson has made a living by saying really crazy shit. He says it on



TV, he writes it in books, he's on the Internet. So this crazy shit gets a lot of attention. And the shit just gets weirder and weirder.

Take the time when he blamed 9/11 on "pagans, abortionists, feminists, gays, lesbians, the American Civil Liberties Union and

Either way, it isn't true. There is not a gay mafia gag order on AIDS talk.

Robertson continues, and this is when shit gets real, "You know what they do in San Francisco, some in the gay community there they want to get people so if they got the stuff they'll have a ring, you shake hands, and the ring's got a little thing where you cut your finger," Robertson said.

Meeuwsen replies, "Really?" Which is probably the closest one can come to saying, "WTF?" on The 700 Club. She also is giving Robertson an out, a chance to say, "Just kidding, LOL! No one would possibly believe such a thing or say something so completely untrue and inflammatory on national TV!"

If slicing AIDS handshakes were a real thing, that would be shocking in itself. But that someone would say such a thing out loud and believe it is the real shock here.

the People For the American Way." Or when he made fun of people who have plastic surgery saying they've "got the eyes like they're Oriental" and then pulled his eyelids to either side and squinted. Or when he asked if mac and cheese was a "black thing." Or when he compared homosexuality to demon possession.

But the man was not content to stop there. He had not reached the apex of his insanity. And while some people said it couldn't be done, the man may have finally maxed out his crazy card.

On the August 27 episode of The 700 Club, while discussing AIDS with cohost Terry Meeuwsen, Robertson said, "There are laws now, I think the homosexual community has put these draconian laws on the books that prohibit people from discussing this particular affliction, you can tell somebody they had a heart attack, you can tell that they've got high blood pressure, but you can't tell anybody they've got AIDS," he continued.

Huh? So homosexuals have made it illegal to talk about AIDS? It's not clear from what he says if he means that gays have made it illegal to disclose your own status to people, or if he's talking about the legality of disclosing someone else's status.

But that's not what he says. He says, "Really. It's that kind of vicious stuff, which would be the equivalent of murder."

If slicing AIDS handshakes were a real thing, that would be shocking in itself. But that someone would say such a thing out loud and believe it is the real shock here.

So I got to thinking about how Robertson's not afraid to say ignorant, offensive, racist shit and, considering the derision he receives, he's not afraid to be laughed at.

And that's when I realized the truth about Pat Robertson. He's a stand-up comic on the down low. These aren't just the ravings of a fringe lunatic, they're bits. All this time he's been punking us.

Granted, he's not very funny. But it doesn't seem fair to hold him to the same quality standards as mainstream comics. I mean, that's how it works with Christian rock.

But his secret is out. And the fact that no one in his audience gets the joke helps explain why he's trying out more shocking material, like the AIDS ring bit. It's sad to watch a comic bomb. And sadder still that Robertson doesn't have people in his life who have the heart and the guts to tell him to get off the goddamn stage.

IRS Rules Same-Sex Couples Across All 50 States Can File Jointly

Veterans Benefits Addressed In Separate Los Angeles Court Ruling Post DOMA

BY LISA KEEN

The impact of the June 26 U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down the core provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) continues to roll out, both within the Obama administration and in court.

Two major federal departments announced that their interpretations of the Supreme Court ruling in *U.S. v. Windsor* will bring benefits to married same-sex couples regardless of whether a couple's state of residence accepts or bans their marriage.

The most impressive announcement came from the Internal Revenue Service, the tax-collecting arm of the U.S. Department of the Treasury on Aug. 29. An IRS press release announced that legally married same-sex couples "will be treated as married for all federal tax purposes," including for income tax filing, gift and estate taxes, individual retirement accounts, and in other tax regulations where marriage is a factor.

"Any same-sex marriage legally entered into in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory or a foreign country will be covered by the ruling," stated the agency in its Aug. 29 press release.

The Supreme Court's DOMA ruling striking down a provision that barred the federal government from recognizing any marriage license issued to a same-sex couple did not guarantee how and when the federal government would recognize such marriages. For instance, it did not spell out whether a couple married in a marriage equality state but residing in a state that bans marriage

equality would be considered married for federal purposes.

Conceivably, a presidential administration that opposed allowing marriage equality for same-sex couples could have

said the analysis. Given the ruling in *Windsor*, said the analysis, "individuals of the same sex will be considered to be lawfully married under the Code as long as they were married in a state whose

Conceivably, a presidential administration that opposed allowing marriage equality for same-sex couples could have interpreted the Windsor ruling in a way that only married couples residing in marriage equality states could be considered married. But the IRS, under the Obama administration, interpreted the DOMA ruling in a broader sense.

interpreted the *Windsor* ruling in a way that only married couples residing in marriage equality states could be considered married. But the IRS, under the Obama administration, interpreted the DOMA ruling in a broader sense.

In a 15-page document (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rr-13-17) explaining its analysis of the impact of *Windsor* on tax matters for married same-sex couples, IRS Special Counsels Richard S. Goldstein and Matthew S. Cooper note that, in regard to common law marriages, the IRS has, for the past 50 years, determined the marital status of couples based on where the marriage was created, not where the couple was later residing.

"A rule under which a couple's marital status could change simply by moving from one state to another state would be prohibitively difficult and costly for the Service to administer, and for many taxpayers to apply,"

laws authorize the marriage of two individuals of the same sex, even if they are domiciled in a state that does not recognize the validity of same-sex marriages."

"Had the Bush administration been in place, I doubt they would have seen the *Windsor* decision that way or accepted the good policy reasons for following a 'rule of celebration' recognizing all marriages as valid if valid where entered," said Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense. "That might well have led to lawsuits, the outcome of which are rarely assured. So, I think the Obama administration deserves our thanks and our respect. ... I think it highly unlikely that an administration like Bush's that had actively defended DOMA and the justifications behind it would agree that that is what *Windsor* required."

The IRS press release noted

See IRS Ruling, next page

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► IRS Ruling

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that the agency's interpretation of Windsor would not allow same-sex couples who have domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other non-marriage relationships to be considered married for federal tax purposes.

The press release also advised married same-sex couples to file their 2013 tax returns as either married filing jointly or married filing separately. And it noted that couples who were married prior to 2013 have the option of filing original or amended returns for tax years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

"Additionally, employees who purchased same-sex spouse health insurance coverage from their employers on an after-tax basis may treat the amounts paid for that coverage as pre-tax and excludable from income," noted the release. The IRS analysis indicated the IRS intends to issue additional guidance on implications for employee benefits.

Equal Access To Medicare

In other DOMA-related developments, the Department of Health and Human Services issued guidelines Aug. 29, saying the Windsor ruling ensures that all beneficiaries of Medicare can have equal access to coverage in a nursing home where their spouse lives, regardless of their sexual orientation.

"Prior to this," explained Marilyn Tavenner, administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), "a beneficiary in a same-sex marriage enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan did not have equal access to such coverage and, as a result, could have faced time away from his or her spouse or higher costs because of the way that marriage was defined for this purpose." The HHS announcement indicated guidance on other HHS-regulated matters would come later.

And on Aug. 30, a federal judge in Los Angeles cited the Supreme Court's decision in Windsor to order the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to provide benefits to a veteran and her same-sex spouse.

The Southern Poverty Law Center filed the lawsuit, *Cooper-Harris v. U.S.* in 2012, after the VA denied to the same-sex spouse of disabled Army veteran Tracey Cooper-Harris, benefits available to the spouses of other veterans. The two women were married in California, but both DOMA and the federal law governing veterans' benefits (Title 38) defined spouse to be only a person of the opposite sex.

In her summary judgment ruling (www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/order_granting_plaintiffs_motion_for_summary_judgment.pdf), Judge Consuelo Bland Marshall (a Carter appointee) said excluding same-sex spouses from veterans' benefits was "not rationally related to the goal of gender equality."

Gay Marriage Rush: Minn. Sees Rush To Gay Marriage

BY PATRICK CONDON AND BRIAN BAKST

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Same-sex couples received nearly 1 in 3 marriage licenses issued in Minnesota since they were allowed to wed, The Associated Press found in a statewide survey of the first month's impact of the new gay marriage law.

Since Minnesota became the 12th U.S. state to legalize gay marriage, at least 1,640 same-sex couples applied to be married. Counties aren't required to report such data to the state, so the AP built a database through calls to all 87 counties.

Millions of dollars were spent trying to block gay marriage in Minnesota, while many millions more were spent trying to achieve it. The rush by same-sex couples to take advantage of the new law likely reflects a pent-up demand by couples together for many years.

"This is the product of people who were living in the legal wilderness for so long, suddenly no longer being told their relationships are substandard," said Sen. Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis and a sponsor of the bill passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Mark Dayton in May. "There's an excitement out there right now. I've been going to so many weddings lately, it's like I'm two years out of college again."

AP obtained information from 83 of 87 counties. Among the findings:

- Demand was heaviest in the metro area, with three of every four licenses for gay marriages issued in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, which make up about 32 percent of Minnesota's population.

- At least 1,433 licenses were issued to gay couples in the 12 counties where most voters opposed a 2012 attempt to ban same-sex marriage in Minnesota's constitution. One county in that category - St. Louis - wouldn't provide a license breakdown.

- In 29 of the responding counties, no gay couples sought licenses. All are counties where voters favored the constitutional ban. They account for about 7 percent of the state's population.

- There was at least one application for a gay marriage in 40 counties where the constitutional ban had majority support. Clay County, where Moorhead is the population center, had the most with 31.

- Statewide, almost 3,600 licenses were issued to opposite-sex couples from Aug. 1 through the final days of the month, when the AP sought the information.

The AP's data aren't a precise reflection of



Minnesota turned back an anti-gay marriage amendment in 2012 and then passed marriage equality legislation.

the number of couples who wed beginning at midnight Aug. 1. Marriage licenses are valid for six months after receipt, and some people who seek one could later decide not to marry. Marriage certificates are issued after nuptials, but those documents don't list the gender of each party to the marriage.

State law requires marriage licenses applications to include a space for people to mark their gender. Some counties opened the application window for same-sex couples in June, but none of the licenses could take full force until August.

Officials in Pine, Rock and Todd counties refused requests for the information. St. Louis County also withheld the data, but said in response to an open records request that it would consider turning over details within two weeks.

State officials estimated this spring that 5,000 gay and lesbian couples would get married in the law's first year; the Census Bureau estimated in 2010 that there were 10,000 gay couples living in Minnesota.

Although Twin Cities-area counties led the way, same-sex marriage applications popped up in every corner of the state - from the seven in Cook County at the northeastern tip of the arrowhead, to the two in Lyon County in the southwest corner.

Minnesota for Marriage, the political group that pushed for the failed constitutional amendment and fought the gay marriage bill at the Capitol, has repeatedly highlighted the urban-rural split on the issue. Noting the one-month anniversary of the law, the group vowed again last week to try to defeat

lawmakers who supported gay marriage against the wishes of most in their district.

"We did not forget," the group said in an email to supporters.

One of the swing votes for the law came from Rep. Jay McNamar, a Democrat from Elbow Lake in western Minnesota. In the seven counties included in his district, only four gay couples applied for marriage licenses.

"Come election time it will get brought up, I know that. But I don't regret what I did," McNamar said. He said he heard from more gay-marriage supporters than opponents from back home when the bill was moving through the legislative process. McNamar said he recently got a wedding announcement from a gay couple in Morris, who likely account for the lone license application in Stevens County.

Robert Marcum and Joel Hoppe were one of two gay couples to apply for a license in central Minnesota's Aitkin County. "Oh, there was another?" Marcum said last week.

Marcum and Hoppe wed Aug. 1 in the yard of their home in McGregor. Together 17 years, Marcum said they had no intention of waiting any longer. Marcum, 61, said he's not surprised gay marriage is coming slower to rural areas.

"For many years, when you were gay in a small town you moved to the city," said Marcum, a member of his township board who said he's yet to hear a single unkind remark about his marriage. "But the longer examples like us are out there, the more that's going to change."

Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg Officiates At Gay Wedding

BY BRETT ZONGKER

WASHINGTON (AP) – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg officiated at a same-sex wedding last weekend in what is believed to be a first for a member of America’s highest court.

Ginsburg officiated Saturday at the marriage of Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser and John Roberts, a government economist.

“Michael Kaiser is a friend and someone I much admire,” Ginsburg said in a written statement Friday. “That is why I am officiating at his wedding.”

The private ceremony took place at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a national memorial to President John F. Kennedy. The 80-year-old Ginsburg, an opera lover, is a frequent guest at the center.

Same-sex marriage is legal in the District of Columbia and 13 U.S. states.

“I think it will be one more statement that people who love each other and want to live together should be able to enjoy the blessings and the strife in the marriage relationship,” Ginsburg told *The Washington Post* in an interview.

Kaiser told *The Associated Press* that he asked Ginsburg to officiate because she is a longtime friend.

“It’s very meaningful mostly to have a friend officiate, and then for someone of her stature, it’s a very big honor,” Kaiser said. “I think that everything that’s going on that makes same-sex marriage possible and visible helps to encourage others and to make the issue seem less of an issue, to make it just more part of life.”

Justices generally avoid taking stands on political issues. The wedding, though, comes after the court’s landmark ruling in June to expand federal recognition of same-sex marriages, striking down part of an anti-gay marriage law.

While hearing arguments in the case in March, Ginsburg argued for treating marriages equally. The rights associated with marriage are pervasive, she said, and the law had created two classes of marriage.

Landmark Gay Marriage Hearing Approaches In Pa.

BY MARK SCOLFORD

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – For two months, an elected court clerk in the Philadelphia suburbs has been giving something to same-sex couples they have not been able to get anywhere else: a Pennsylvania marriage license.

Now a court has to decide whether the clerk has singlehandedly added Pennsylvania to the growing list of states that formally sanction same-sex marriages or whether he has been acting illegally and must be stopped.

Wednesday’s hearing in Harrisburg pits Gov. Tom Corbett’s Health Department against D. Bruce Hanes, Montgomery County’s register of wills, who issues marriage licenses as part of his duties as clerk of the county orphan’s court.

Hanes began giving marriage licenses to gay couples in late July, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court threw out portions of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Pennsylvania is the only Northeastern state that has neither gay marriage nor civil unions, but the legality of the more than 150 such licenses Hanes has handed out remains an open question.

David Cohen, an attorney representing 32 couples who received licenses from Hanes, says it’s too early to speculate on the legal status of those marriages.

“That’s certainly unknown because it would depend on the scope of the decision,” Cohen said. But he added that there’s plenty of legal precedent for courts to look at the core issue of how a local official decides whether an action is constitutional.

The case is one of several nationwide that have put county clerks in a legal spotlight of late and harkens back to initial efforts in California nearly a decade ago to push for same-sex marriage.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed clerks to issue same-sex marriage licenses in 2004, citing the state constitution’s equal protection clause. His order came months after Massachusetts’ Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in that state.

However, California’s high court stopped the practice a month later after about 4,000 same-sex licenses had been given out. The court reversed itself in 2008, legalizing gay marriage, but voters the following year approved Proposition 8, which banned the unions.

In the latest twist, the U.S. Supreme Court this year let stand a lower-court

ruling that struck down Proposition 8 as unconstitutional. And the California Supreme Court followed suit in August, refusing to block gay marriages.

In New Mexico in the past week or so, hundreds of same-sex marriage licenses were issued after a county clerk along the U.S.-Mexico border concluded that state law didn’t prevent him from issuing licenses. So far, clerks in six counties have begun issuing licenses, and a seventh has been ordered to do the same.

In the Pennsylvania case, “there’s a great deal at stake,” said Michael Geer, president

The case is one of several nationwide that have put county clerks in a legal spotlight of late and harkens back to initial efforts in California nearly a decade ago to push for same-sex marriage.

of the Pennsylvania Family Institute, which advocates for conservative social policies. “The biggest issue is whether or not our public officials, whether local or statewide, will obey the law and follow the oath that they took when sworn into office.”

Ted Martin, executive director of Equality Pennsylvania, which advocates on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, said Hanes’ decision and the resulting case have brought attention to and encouraged discussion about ways such people are treated differently.

If Hanes wins in court, Martin said, “the ramifications would be pretty remarkable. I think Pennsylvania legislators would have to look long and hard about what’s out there. It would be pretty interesting, at least.”

Commonwealth Court has told the lawyers to address whether the judges have jurisdiction given Hanes’ status as a judicial officer; whether handing out marriage licenses amounts to a judicial act; and whether the constitutionality of the state marriage law is a defense in the case.

Attorney General Kathleen Kane, a Democrat, delegated defense of the marriage law in a federal lawsuit to Corbett, a Republican. Kane’s position has been that the law, which limits marriage to between a man and a woman, is unconstitutional.

The court also directed the lawyers to address whether the Health Department has standing to file the case and, if not, the implications of Kane’s position.

Corbett’s lawyers have warned that Hanes’ actions, if allowed to stand, will produce chaos and have said his actions may amount to a crime.

“This case is about one thing: whether a local official may willfully disregard a statute on the basis of his personal legal opinion that the statute is unconstitutional,” Corbett’s lawyers wrote in a filing last week.

A spokesman for Corbett’s Office of General Counsel, Nils Frederiksen, said local officials like Hanes don’t have the authority to disregard state law based on their personal legal opinion.

“Decisions about the constitutionality of a state law are in the hands of a court,” Frederiksen said.

Hanes’ legal team has said the Health Department needs to be more specific about whatever harm it thinks could occur and has argued there is a conflict between the state’s marriage law and Hanes’ oath to uphold the national and state constitutions.

The state’s marriage law, they wrote this month, “affects a fundamental human right, and precludes an entire class of individuals from enjoyment of that right.”

Bryn Mawr residents Joanne Glusman and Joan Bennett are one of the couples who obtained a license from Hanes. The native Pennsylvanians have been together for 18 years.

“We went into it not really knowing what it would mean for us legally,” Glusman said, but the hope was they’d get the same rights their married siblings have.

Cohen wouldn’t speculate on whether his clients will take further legal action if the ruling goes against Hanes. But Glusman said waiting on the courts is stressful.

“It causes a lot of unease,” Glusman said, adding that the couple is “disheartened and actually fearful” over what may happen if the Corbett administration prevails in the case.

“We were both born and bred here. We don’t want to move,” Glusman said.

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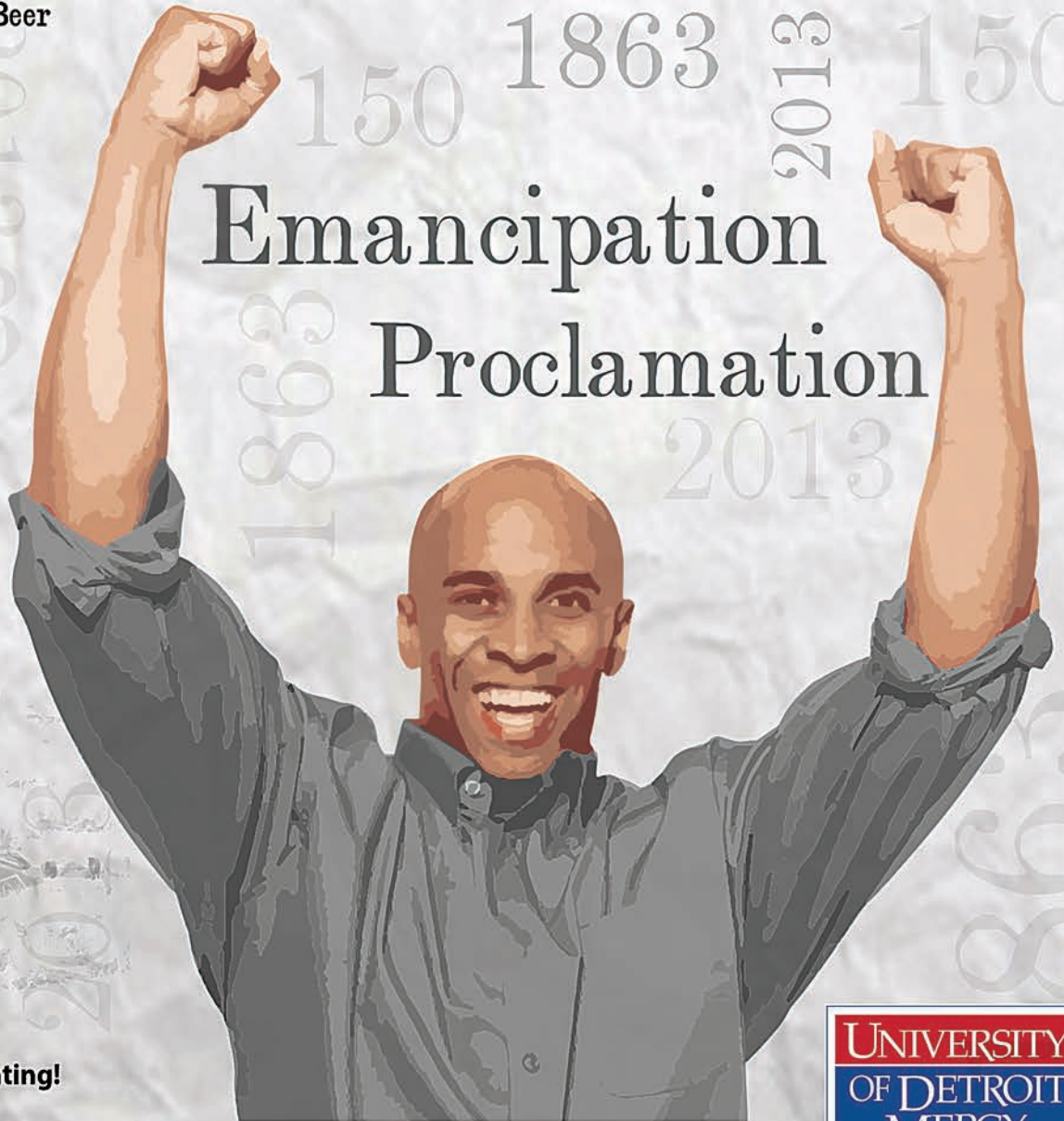
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► Redemption

Continued from p. 5

University, where he was student body president and the president of the Gay Straight Alliance. In 2009 he was given a Rising Star Award at the annual Pride Banquet, which was hosted by multiple LGBT organizations. He's also worked as a Michigan House of Representatives legislative staffer.

His partner, Karpinski, has also been involved in the community. When the two met, it was at a rally at Meadowbrook where Judy Shepard, mother of slain LGBT youth Matthew Shepard, was speaking. Karpinski was involved in his GSA at Davenport University and is "an accountant by day, an artist by night." His most recent project involved a series of hub-cab-created flowers with license plate leaves that he was able to sell at the Woodward Dream Cruise. He used to live in Midtown, and sees the same blossoming spirit in Pontiac along with McGuinness.

The couple fixed up their first home and sold it at a loss to a single mother who had helped them in their neighborhood revitalization efforts. They also worked together to pressure the city to demolish the abandoned Bela-Vista apartment complex. Now they live in another older home, within walking distance of city hall and the library.

McGuinness is running with an eye toward economic stability for the city.

"Four years from now I want to ensure that our city government has proven to the residents and the state that we are able and willing to be financially independent and secure," he said. He added that losing General Motors' facilities was an obvious start to Pontiac's financial decline, but he also said that "city leaders were unwilling to make the hard choices to live within our diminishing means."

"We had nine community centers and over 500 employees at one point," he said. The city had an Emergency Financial Manager appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder, who turned over police services to Oakland County and privatized many of the city services, moves that McGuinness agrees are good ones. "I want to see us continue to move forward and make good decisions as a community," he said.



Karpinski is also running at a crucial time for the Library Board. "There are some exciting things happening," he said. "There is a capital campaign to move the library into a bigger building, and those on the board will have a say in how that works out." Sharing his partner's love of architecture and history, Karpinski's eyes light up as he lists the possible locations for the new facility.

McGuinness said that his felony record "has not proven to be a problem for my neighbors," and that the 14th Congressional Democrats have even endorsed his campaign. BTL was unable to verify the endorsement by presstime.

To learn more about Mike McGuinness, see his campaign page at <http://pontiacmipride.webs.com/about-mike>. For more on Ronnie Karpinski go to <http://pontiacmipride.webs.com/about-ronnie>.

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Putin Bans Rallies In Sochi Near The 2014 Olympics

MOSCOW (AP) – Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree banning demonstrations and rallies for two and a half months in Sochi around the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The Rossiyskaya Gazeta, the official government newspaper, published the presidential decree Friday, listing an array of measures tightening security in the Olympic host city, including the ban on public assemblies. All “gatherings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets” that are not part of the Olympics or the Paralympics will be prohibited in Sochi from Jan. 7 to March 21, the decree said.

The Winter Olympics is taking place Feb. 7-23 in the Black Sea resort, and the Paralympics are being held March 7-16.

Government-imposed protest bans across entire cities where Olympics are held are unusual.

Putin’s decree could be aimed at heading off demonstrations against Russia’s ban on alleged gay propaganda, a new law that has been sharply criticized in the West.

Among other measures in the decree are restrictions on vehicles entering Sochi. Only cars with local license plates, emergency vehicles and those accredited by the Olympic organizers will be allowed to enter the host city between Jan. 7 and March 21.

Rights organizations have voiced concerns about what they described as the “harassment and intimidation of civil society” advocates in Sochi. Human Rights Watch said in a statement that environmental, human rights and other activists have been “the targets of attacks, detention for peaceful protests and police searches.”

The International Olympic Committee received a letter Thursday from Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak giving assurances that the host country will comply with the Olympic Charter’s provision against discrimination of any kind. The letter, however, defended Russia’s new anti-gay law and said it would be enforced.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said Aug. 16 that he is “comforted” by Russia’s assurance the charter’s ban on discrimination will be respected.

“We are going to inform now all the national Olympic committees and all the athletes who want to have clarity,” Rogge told reporters after addressing the U.N. General Assembly.

Gay activist Nikolai Alexeyev told The Associated Press that he would petition the Supreme Court next week to contest the presidential decree banning rallies in Sochi as “violating our right of freedom of assembly.”

Russian authorities have repeatedly denied gay activists’ applications to set up a Pride House in Sochi during the games, but Alexeyev said he would apply for permission to hold a gay pride rally in Sochi on the opening day of the games anyway.

Russian Journalist Pulls Back Vladimir Putin’s Iron Curtain

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Do a Google search for Vladimir Putin and you’ll find a treasure trove of photos of the President of Russia in iconic tough-guy poses: shirtless on a horse, shirtless in a lake, shirtless with a rifle, arm wrestling, playing hockey, riding a snow mobile, staring down a leopard, throwing a man to the floor in a judo match, deep sea diving, driving a race car, flying a plane, riding a motorcycle with a biker gang. That guy from the Old Spice commercials? He’s got nothing on Putin.

Note that these aren’t paparazzi photos like that shirtless photo of Barack Obama frolicking on the beach. Putin very much wants these photos to be seen. But why? I mean, the guy is one of the most powerful people in the world. The whole thing smacks of narcissism and desperation.

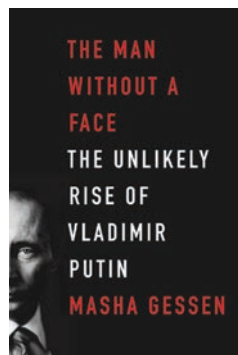
Then again, calling Putin a desperate narcissist is probably one of the gentler ways to characterize journalist Masha Gessen’s portrait of him in *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, out in paperback last month.

Gessen basically hates the guy. She writes that he has “the wit and social-graces of a street thug.” *The Man Without a Face* provides ample evidence that Putin is a corrupt, violent, incompetent, greedy, lying, tyrannical sociopath. Shady business deals, assassinated rivals, gagged media, government stacked with cronies. Putin has hardly been the progressive leader many Russians had hoped for.

“He’s a small guy. He’s a small guy in every sense,” Gessen said on *The Daily Show With John Stewart* in February of last year. Naturally Stewart and his audience cracked up, immediately thinking of Putin’s penis.

Gessen, however, was not trying to be funny. She takes the topic of Putin very, very seriously.

Gessen argues that Putin, who



The Man Without a Face provides ample evidence that Putin is a corrupt, violent, incompetent, greedy, lying, tyrannical sociopath. Shady business deals, assassinated rivals, gagged media, government stacked with cronies. Putin has hardly been the progressive leader many Russians had hoped for.



Gessen is openly lesbian, an opposition journalist active in anti-Putin protests, and has a widely read book exposing Putin as a scumbag. She lives in Moscow with her partner and children. One can’t help but fear for her safety.

was “elected” (Gessen argues that the election was a sham) president of Russia for the second time last year (he’d previously served from 2000-2008), was literally a faceless bureaucrat who rose to power almost at random. Putin was a member of the secret police early in his career, and as a result, Gessen argues, no one really knows much about his past. He was a blank slate. “Everyone could invest this grey, ordinary man with what they wanted to see in him,” she writes.

Once in power, he systematically dismantled Russia’s every progressive step, creating a country in which people live in constant fear of retribution and violence.

According to Gessen, Putin employs “a rhetoric based on homegrown vulgarisms even when many Russians seem to have had enough of his ways. What used to look like macho decisiveness and directness now looks unenlightened. Putin’s thug myth may ultimately contribute more to his demise than it did to his rise to power.”

There is an ever-growing opposition by the Russian people to Putin’s reign.

“What’s going on is a very diverse, very

massive movement of people who are fighting for their dignity,” Gessen told NPR’s *Fresh Air* last year. “The battle cry of the movement is fair elections. But really the main motivator is this humiliation that you feel from dealing with the Russian state. And the elections have become the focus because in a way there’s nothing more humiliating than going to vote and having your vote blatantly stolen and essentially being told you don’t exist.”

Although she is not speaking specifically about gays and lesbians here, she might as

well be. While the average citizen in Russia is oppressed, gays are doubly so even though homosexuality was decriminalized in 1993.

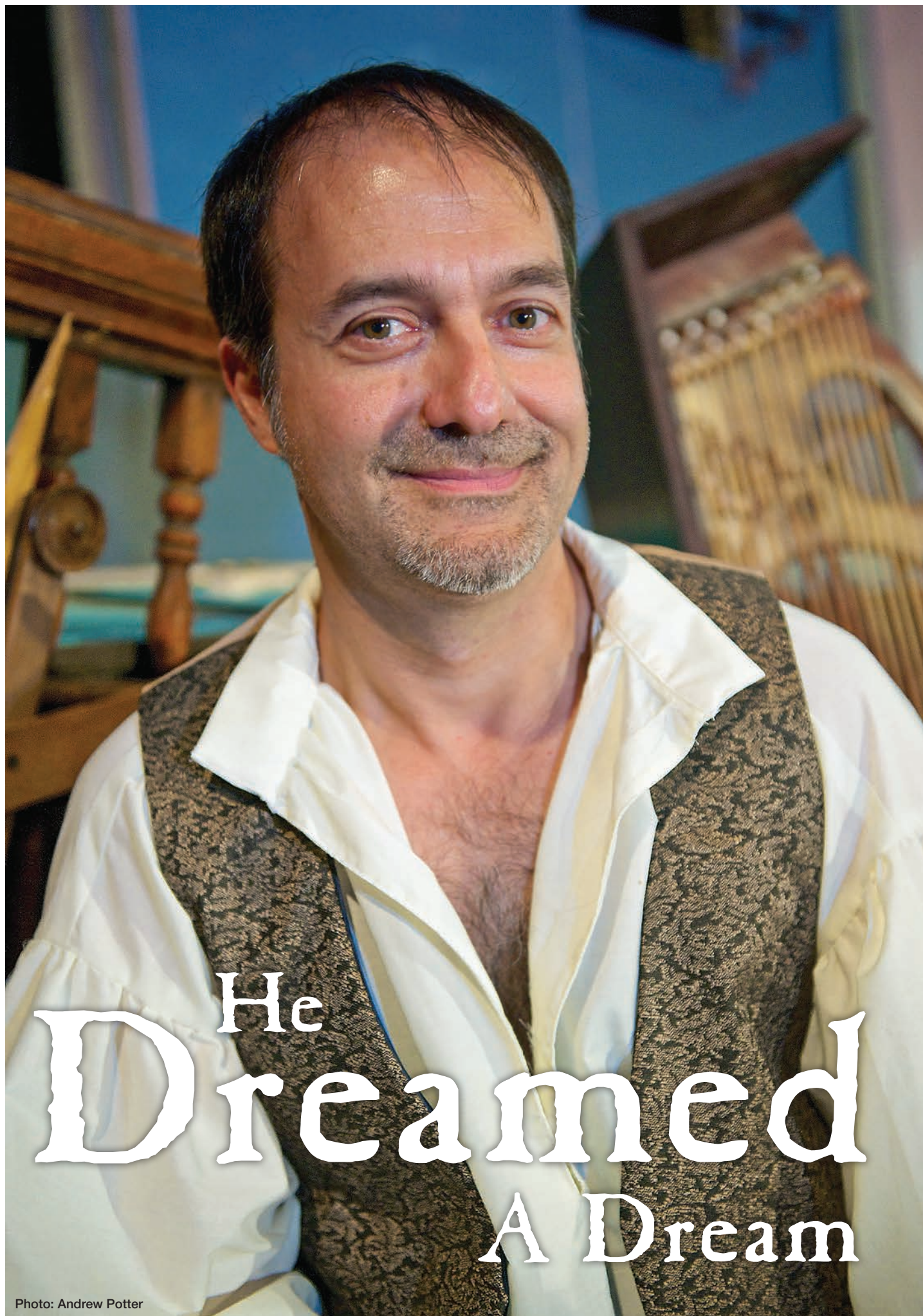
Currently on the national level there’s a law that passed which bans “homosexual propaganda.” It makes things like gay pride parades and civil rights demonstrations illegal, as well as bans public displays of affection by same-sex couples.

The bill was heavily supported by Orthodox Christian activists. In fact, Orthodox activists have clashed violently with LGBT activists at recent public protests, resulting in mostly LGBT activists being imprisoned.

Gessen is openly lesbian, an opposition journalist active in anti-Putin protests, and has a widely read book exposing Putin as a scumbag. She lives in Moscow with her partner and children. One can’t help but fear for her safety. (On Aug. 22 Gessen appeared on Chris Hayes’ MSNBC show and told Hayes she will be leaving Russia and moving to NYC, so she can protect her children, since Russia is talking about potentially removing children from same-sex couples.)

When asked last year by the *New York Times* if she still felt safe in Russia she said, “I have thought of leaving, and I have even made plans to leave. The truth is, I don’t want to. I love my home, my friends, my job, my life. And if Putin doesn’t like me, he can leave.”

If Gessen’s book is any indication, this is not a man who will exit quietly. Or peacefully. He’s not one to mess with. Then again, neither is Masha Gessen.



He Dreamed A Dream

Photo: Andrew Potter

Accountant Overcomes Fear To Sing In Royal Oak's Les Mis

BY EMELL D. ADOLPHUS

Bubbly accountant Alan Semonian is now bubbling with anger on stage as he stomps a few steps forward with a bread thief in tow. In a black tunic and pants fitted with leather belt, and tall boots, his 19th century dominatrix ensemble is complemented with a billy club. He scowls a moment before pushing Jean Valjean hard to the floor. After more than a few rehearsals, Semonian is a believable constable, one of three roles he plays in *Les Misérables*.

To put a turn on the famous verse, "I dreamed a dream in time gone by..." Semonian is proof, at 51, dreams may go by with time, but can return to the dreamer to be just as satisfyingly sweet.

Semonian was contestant No. 2 of about 200 people hoping to get a part in *Les Misérables*. He arrived early to Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak, thinking coming early to auditions, like job interviews, would better his chances. Everyone had a number, "like 'America's Got Talent,'" Semonian remembers, with a giddy grin.

During a recent rehearsal, Semonian leans back in an auditorium chair, explaining tryouts. He looks up with eagerness frequently to see if it is time to take the stage again.

He didn't mind the anticipation to sing for judges. "I was trying out for the chorus because it was my first time," says Semonian. "I just wanted to be in the show. To me, this is perfect because it's not overwhelming. I can handle it."

Numbers at musical auditions are the

“What I learned from this is that there are things that maybe we have all wished to do and we think that we are too old to start. It doesn't matter how old you are, you can go after your passion.”

only familiarity for Semonian. After all, as a Certified Public Accountant, business owner (Ameritax Plus in Berkley), and the president of Berkley's Chamber of Commerce, numbers are kind of his thing. Singing publicly is not. Semonian says he has never auditioned for any type of performance and can only muster the courage for karaoke when he's out of town.

“I think for me, singing has always been something that I just enjoyed. I am always breaking out in a song when somebody brings something up that may have a song tune to it,” Semonian says. He shares with me the chorus tryout song, “At The End of The Day,” by singing a few lines with bouncy rhythm, “At the end of the day your another day older...”

“The key here is to actually feel the emotions of what you are singing and what you are singing about. So just trying to put yourself in that place of what it would be like to be in that role,” says Semonian, whose roles includes constable, student revolutionary, and monsieur No. 2. “It's all new to me; that's what makes it challenging. I am über observant of how things are happening around me.”

For someone whose only musical training comes from childhood piano lessons, Semonian may speak softly, but he sings with a sturdy voice that borders between baritone and tenor. Rehearsing on stage, his voice is loud with professional like theater diction when serenading his solo as constable.

“It's kind of surprising I am not being intimidated by being on stage. I am still focused on what time you have to be out

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there, even what we were adding today; today was about moving,” says Semonian, sharing with me his favorite song in Les Misérables, “Do You Hear the People Sing?”

“For me, it's giving 100 percent. I am totally into showing up for rehearsals and giving it my best and trying something new each time. What surprises me is that I am not intimidated by constructive criticism. I am not used to having someone say there is a better way to do this and that's been a nice process,” Semonian explains, self-reflecting. “This (musical) is absolutely my favorite. That's why I was so motivated to try out for it. I love all the music. This is what I would consider modern-day opera.”

While on the subject of opera, Semonian affirms, “I am having a ball.” But he's also seeing his dream come true.

“What I learned from this is that there are things that maybe we have all wished to do and we think that we are too old to start. It doesn't matter how old you are, you can go after your passion. That's the message in it for me. This is something I've always wanted to do, and I've never made the time to do it. (At) 51 years old, I'm like, ‘You know what? I'm going to start.’”

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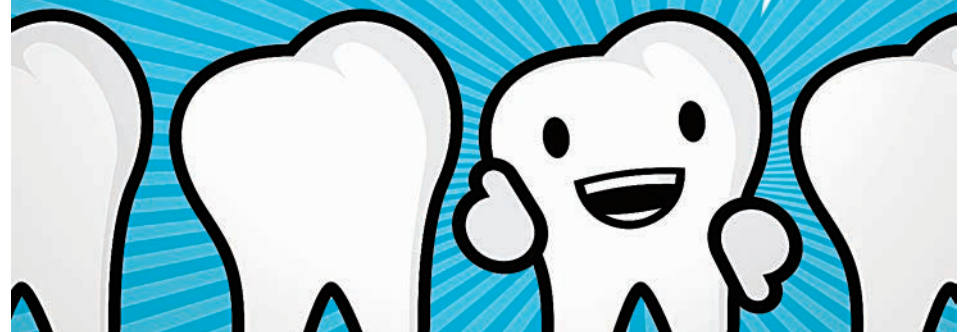
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Detroit Musician Records Anthem For Marriage Equality

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Remember this name: Logan Mario. A hometown superstar in the making, this 25-year-old Detroit native is a gifted singer/songwriter with a lot to offer. He has a new single, "Love Is Love," available now on iTunes, and an album in the works.

"Music has kind of been a long time coming for me," Mario says. "I grew up in the church, and every Sunday I would see my mom singing with the choir and leading praise and worship. I would just sort of look to her with a sense of pride. Her singing kind of taught me the dos and don'ts of music."

Mario joined the choir himself when he was 12.

"I did that for a few years, and then I started to develop my own taste in music, not necessarily what my parents were listening to," he says. "Then when I was 16, I wrote this song called 'Something Else.' It was about high school love, puppy love if you will, and I've been writing ever since."

An '80s baby, Mario cites a couple of '90s divas as his greatest musical inspirations.

"A lasting influence on me is actually the late Aaliyah," says Mario. "Her effortless artistry speaks to me to this day. Vocally, I would have to say Brandy. Brandy is the vocal Bible to me. Some new ones are Frank Ocean and Miguel. Then there are some classics, too, like Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston."

Mario released his first single last fall, called "Love Or War." He followed it up a few months later with "Human." Both of these can be found on his bandcamp website, which is loganmariomusic.bandcamp.com.

But now, Mario has released his first single on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and Rhapsody. It's called "Love Is Love."

"I actually wrote 'Love Is Love' in about 20 minutes," Mario says. "I had this track for about a month and I had been sort of letting it marinate. Then one day I was ready to write to it and I played it and it kind of spilled out of me."

The song is a powerful affirmation of marriage equality and universal love.

"I had been around a lot of people



Logan Mario performs at the Hotter Than July youth prom earlier this summer. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

who were against gay marriage," he explains. "They were really vocal about it and I sort of internalized those feelings. Then when I played this track they really came out. I believe that whatever love someone builds for themselves, whether it be homosexual or heterosexual, should be respected and I believe that we should all have rights when it comes to marriage. So I do support marriage equality. That's sort of the theme of 'Love Is Love.'"

"Whatever your love is, it deserves the same rights as any other love out there."

Having written and released what amounts to an anthem, Mario is now focusing on his music full time.

"I was working for AT&T but I was

having a hard time finding myself in what I was doing," he says. "It just got to the point where it was interfering with my art – and the sacrifice I was making was too great. As of right now, I'm a full-time independent musician."

Up next for Mario is a full album.

"The album will be coming next year, but before it comes out I'm actually going to release sort of a free play," he says. "It will actually be about the length of a full album but it will be for free. That's to get my name out there and build a fan base. Then I'm actually working on a music video for 'Love Is Love,' and I'm working on a couple of showcases so people can get a feel for me live. So those are some of the things that I'm working on."

Art Fair Kicks Off Sept. 21

Annual Event Celebrates 39 Years In Birmingham

Common Ground's Birmingham Street Art Fair celebrates its 39th anniversary Sept. 21-22. The fair returns to South Old Woodward, the celebrated gateway to downtown Birmingham. Unique shopping and fabulous restaurants line the street, drawing residents from throughout Oakland County and beyond. More than 160 juried artists will be featured in this elegant setting; more than 80,000 fairgoers attend annually.

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Village Players Addresses Gay Marriage With 'Regrets Only' Beginning Sept. 13

BY DANA CASADEI

To kick off its 91st season, the Village Players of Birmingham are doing a show a bit unlike anything they've done before.

"Regrets Only," written by Paul Rudnick, will be the company's first openly gay show they've produced since their founding in 1923. The company has done shows before that had gay characters or innuendoes, but nothing of this caliber.

"I don't think it was because they never wanted to do it, but I think they're just coming more into play now," said Michael Gravame, the show's producer and a member of the company's artistic board. "In the last 10 years, more shows have been written with openly gay themes than before."

The 2006 play centers around a powerhouse attorney, his socialite wife and her dearest friend, a gay fashion designer who recently lost his partner. When Jack, the attorney, agrees to consult with President Bush on the drafting of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, the trio must question their relationships with each other, and re-define what makes a marriage. And what makes a friendship. Add into the mix a daughter's engagement, death and even more questioning – and the result is a drawing room comedy perfect for modern-day audiences.

The show covers some heavy topics, but it is in fact a comedy, which played a part in why it's opening the Village Players' season. "You always want to open with a musical or a comedy," Gravame said.

Originally the play was going to be in the middle of the company's season, but after finding out that other theater groups were doing huge musicals to kick off theirs, Village Players decided to switch it up. Gravame said they knew that musicals would take away some of their talented players – so cue the situational comedy with a message!

The show is not done in a preachy way or in a "we're going to educate the non-educated" way, Gravame said. It just enlightens it in a comedic "what if" way. "It's so funny that the show's set in 2006 and we're presenting it where 13 states have adapted marriage equality and that California passed the marriage act," he said. "It's so relevant that we're doing this show right smack in the midst of all these headlines that are just hitting so



Chris Stepnitz, Sally Savoie and Paul Gillin in "Regrets Only" at the Village Players Playhouse. Photo: Village Players

PREVIEW

Regrets Only

Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. 8 p.m. Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21 and 2 p.m. Sept. 15, 22. \$17. 248-644-2075.

www.birminghamvillageplayers.com

close to home."

The themes of the show will not only hit home for some of its audience members, but also its director, Carl Jones. "I was really compelled by – first of all – the issue behind the plot, second the comedy of the story, and the third part of it is just the way it deals with relationships and marriage in general," Jones said.

The show also has a personal connection for the director.

"The real icing on the cake is that one of my sons is gay, and he's been with his partner for about four years," Jones said. "Of course they've been somewhat frustrated with the fact of where they can live and find the rights that they believe they should have and be allowed to have an open relationship."

Jones, who has been with the Village Players for 10 years, has been able to see firsthand the impact this struggle has on those he cares about. "I think it's a story that needs to be told," he said.

Jones mentioned that this show isn't one that's produced often, and that it's kind of

a sensitive subject for some community theaters. And professional theaters want more blockbuster-type shows (with all their bells and whistles). Given all that, "Regrets Only" is a much more intimate show, which is great for a smaller venue like the Village Players. Luckily for Jones, the theater's board eagerly accepted the show for its 2013-14 season.

It's also a show where audiences will be challenged, and hopefully open up to discussing gay marriage. "I like doing shows that challenge the audience to think for themselves through the material," Jones said. "If we don't engage in a conversation with people that really need to see this show, for example, we can't go anywhere. It's all based on that open conversation and dialogue. We have to keep up with that."

With that open discussion, Jones hopes this show will eventually be able to be seen as a historical document of the struggle for marriage equality. Discussing this with his son and his partner, and his friends, they said they would like a life that's the same as everyone else's – without any consideration of being different.

"I would love to see it get to the point in our society where it's (gay marriage) something that just is the way it is," Jones said.

In the future, the show may become irrelevant – or maybe seen as a form of fiction. That'd be kind of nice, wouldn't it?



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 5

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

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Foster Parent Orientation 6 p.m. Learn more about how you can help children in need by becoming a licensed foster parent. Call to register today. Free event. Judson Center, 12723 Telegraph Road, Suite 200, Redford. 313-255-8258. Foster_Care@judsoncenter.org Judsoncenter.org

LGBT Professionals Network Mixer 6 p.m. Light appetizers, drink specials, and great conversation. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Kglrc.org

Speak Out 6:15 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org JimToyCenter.org

Beautiful-Monthly Social 7 p.m. A monthly get-together for people living with HIV and their families and friends. Beautiful, 1415 Glynn Ct., Number 111, Detroit. 313-733-8183.

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

JGN Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-432-5661. jgnmi.org

Soccer 7 p.m. Out For Kicks Detroit, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield. info@OutForKicksDetroit.com OutForKicksDetroit.com

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

Friday, Sept. 6

Riot Youth 4 p.m. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

Friday Night Socials: Aff Trivia 6 p.m. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Anjelah Johnson: That is How We Do It/Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 7

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

Shore to Shore Equality Ride 10 a.m. An exciting four day Bicycle Tour across many scenic parts of lower Michigan,

beginning in the Detroit Metropolitan area and ending on the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

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

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

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Sunday, Sept. 8

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

Flea Market 10 a.m. Admission: \$2. Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia. 734-425-6880. ci.livonia.mi.us

Flag Football 10:30 a.m. Metro Detroit Flag Football League is open to LGBT players and our friends. All levels of play are welcome, beginners, too! We provide a recreational, fun and supportive environment. Our travel team is competitive and competes at the national level. Michigan Panthers, 19550 Sunset St, Livonia. info@MDFFL.org MDFFL.org

Bookapalooza! 11 a.m. Used books from good to like-new condition will be available. There will be 2 tents of LGBT Favorites and Best Bargains. Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-663-0036. glbtbooks@gmail.com Glbttbooks.com

Leon & Lulu's Girls Night Out 1 p.m. Various events with wine, goodies and more for women. Proceeds from sales during events will go towards supporting AIDS Walk Detroit and Almost Home Animal Rescue. Free. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. Fourteen Mile Road, Clawson. 248-288-3600. Leonandlulu.com/girlsnightout

Older Lesbians Organizing 1 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. JimToyCenter.org

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

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

Monday, Sept. 9

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

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

Social Knit Night 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 319 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. lahronline.org

Movement with Kristi Faulkner Dance 7 p.m. Tickets: \$5. 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

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

Tuesday, Sept. 10

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.

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

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Committee/Boards Meetings for TWC 2013 6 p.m. Together We Can Detroit, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. twcdetroit.com

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

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

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Out4Equality-Open Mic Performance Series 7 p.m. Monthly open mic series. Donations: \$0-5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

Wednesday, Sept. 11

TransCend Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Personal Training Workout & Nutritional Counseling 8 a.m. Special discounted rate for members of GOAL. GOAL, 1035 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Behaveweightloss.com

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics

pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Jam Sessions 3 p.m. Bi-weekly support group for youth (13-24) years of age living with HIV. The Horizons Project (WSU School of Medicine/Children's Hospital of Michigan), 3127 E. Canfield, **Detroit**. 313-966-2589.

G2H2 5:30 p.m. G2H2 is a community social event that provides an LGBT-friendly venue in which all people are welcome to attend and meet other LGBT and allied community members. G2H2, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. outcenter.org

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

Expression 5 p.m. Fifth Annual Ruth Ellis Center Fundraiser. Strolling dinner and drinks. Tickets: \$75-350. Ruth Ellis Center, 460 W. Baltimore, **Detroit**. 313-252-1950. info@ruthelliscenter.org

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "El Ten Eleven" 18+. Tickets: \$12-14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sept. 7. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Henrik Karapetyan and Karen Hakobyan" Violin and piano. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 5. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sept. 11. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Floodwood" Tickets: \$15. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Sept. 7. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Patti Smith and her Band". Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 7. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

University Musical Society "Jason Moran's Fats Waller Dance Party" Featuring Meshell Ndegeocello. University Musical Society, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 6. ums.org

FESTIVALS

Media Arts Academy and Kalamazoo Junior Girls "All GURLZ Film Festival" Cash prices. Free. Douglass Community Association and Southside Park, Kalamazoo. Sept. 7-Sept. 8.

Michigan Renaissance Festival "Michigan Renaissance Festival" Entertainment, food, drink, and various things to purchase. Various discounts available for tickets. Tickets: \$9. 50-20. 95. Michigan Renaissance Festival, 12600 Dixie Hwy., Holly. Aug. 17-Sept. 29. 248-634-5552. Michrenfest.com



Editor's Pick

Some of the new generation of jazz innovators comes to Kerrytown Concert House next week. The Andrew Rathbun trio will perform a variety of unique pieces featuring lyrical, harmonically complex jazz. The Andrew Rathbun trio features Andrew Rathbun on saxophone, Jeff Hirshfield on drums, and Scott Lee on bass.

Kerrytown Concert House is a unique feature of downtown Ann Arbor. The venue is set in a Victorian house in the historic Kerrytown area. The

concert house features a variety of musical performances, from classical to contemporary, as well as rotating art exhibits.

The Andrew Rathbun Trio performs at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13 at Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$5-25. For more information, call 734-769-2999 or visit www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com.

Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. getoutandlive.me

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

First Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. One Voice is a LGBTQIA mixed voice choir under the direction of Dr. Joseph D. Daniel. One Voice Chorus, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Open Arms 7 p.m. Weekly support group for all people infected and affected by HIV; provides monthly informational speakers and monthly dinners. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 429 Livernois, **Ferndale**. 248-545-1435.

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

Thursday, Sept. 12

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.

Voices... An Evening of Fashion and

Kerrytown Concert House "Andrew Rathbun Trio" Andrew Rathbun, saxophone. Jeff Hirshfield, drums. Scott Lee, bass. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 13. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MOCAD "Breeze One with Isles of ESP" Tickets: \$5. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. Sept. 6. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

Olympia Entertainment "Il Volo" "We are Love Tour." Tickets: \$35-99. 50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "Alabama" "Back to the Bowery" Tour. Tickets: \$39. 50-89. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Alt-J". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "The Good Lovelies" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 11. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Ruby Velle & the Soulphonics" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Peter Hook & The Light" From New Order. Tickets: \$30+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave.,

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Les Miserables \$13-\$25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sep. 5 - 8. 734-971-0605. www.a2ct.org

Les Miserables \$20-22. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Sep. 6 - 29. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

M*A*S*H \$8-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 12 - 22. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalktheatre.com

Regrets Only \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham. Sep. 13 - 22. 248-644-2075. www.Birminghamvillageplayers.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Antigone Pay as you wish. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 6 p.m. Sep. 5. 248-370-2030. www.Oakland.edu/artsafterwork

PROFESSIONAL

Adult Education \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Sept. 13. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

See Happenings, page 27

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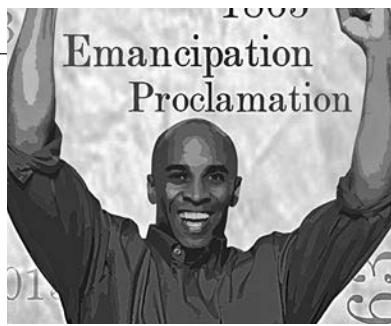
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Editor's Pick

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the UDM Theatre Company is pleased to announce the world premiere of the multimedia docudrama production "Jordan Anderson Writes a Letter" by Dr. Arthur J. Beer. This production was created to be shared with young audiences in school environments.

After the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Jordan Anderson and his family fled their

Tennessee master's plantation to find a new life in Dayton, Ohio. Their courageous journey from slavery to freedom was later challenged by the demands of his former master to return home.

"Jordan Anderson Writes a Letter" will premiere at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History at 8 p.m. Sept. 6 and 7. The evening includes the performance and a talkback with Beer and researcher Dr. Roy Finkenbine. Tickets, which are free to the public with a suggested donation of \$10, can be reserved by calling 313-993-3270.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 35

Blithe Spirit Previews Sept. 5-6 (\$20). \$27-\$32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Sep. 5 - Oct. 13. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Improv Mondays \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Dec. 30. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Jordan Anderson Writes a Letter Free; suggested donation of \$10. UDM Theatre Company at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Sep. 6 - 7. 313-993-3270. <http://Theatre.UDMercy.edu>

Lost in Yonkers \$32-39. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Sep. 5 - 28. 517-672-6009. www.Diotheatre.com

My Name is Asher Lev \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 8. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

November \$10-\$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sep. 6 - 28. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Planet Ant Late Night Saturdays \$10 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sep. 7 - 28. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Please Give Me Your Money... So I Can Buy a Vagina! \$10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 13 - 27. 248-545-5545. www.Theringwald.com

String Up The Moon Outdoor performance. \$5-15. Fratellanza at Frolich Amphitheater in the Michigan Legacy Art Park, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville. 6 p.m. Sep. 14. www.Fratellanzatheater.org

String Up The Moon \$5-15. Fratellanza at PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Sep. 5 - 8. www.Fratellanzatheater.org

The Kitchen Witches \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Sep. 13 - Oct. 12. 586-771-6333. www.Broadwayonstage.com

The Play about the Baby Donation only. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette, Detroit. Sep. 6 - 28. 313-454-1542. www.Theabreact.com

UniverSoul Circus \$16-31.50. UniverSoul Circus at Chene Park, 2600 E. Atwater, Detroit. Sep. 5 - 15. 1-800-745-3000. www.Ticketmaster.com

Wolves \$5-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 7 - 30. 248-545-5545. www.Theringwald.com

ART'N'AROUND

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "Ellsworth Kelly: Prints" As a thorough overview of his printmaking activity, it presents the consistency that is characteristic of his never-ending interest in exploring the effects of pure color and form through the now familiar curves, contrasts and grids that became his preferred motifs. All the prints come from the collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer of Portland, Oregon. The exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 4-Sept. 8. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Acrylic Class" Facilitated by Ken Barb. Drop-In. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. Admission: \$15. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 8-Oct. 26. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Modern Dialect: from the John & Susan Horseman Collection" This collection of paintings focuses on images from across the United States and chronicles the rapidly changing American scene between the 1920s and 1940s. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Aug. 1-Sept. 22. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Nights at GRAM" Unwind during Friday Nights at GRAM with art, live music, and good conversation. Galleries are open late each Friday, and a cash bar is available in the Museum Lobby. Tickets: \$0+. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 7-Oct. 25. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Saturday All Day with The Arts" Drop-in family activities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 8-Dec. 28. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Inner State Gallery "ASKEW ONE: Entropy" Where the medium and the portrait's subject become a metaphor for a much bigger conversation. Inner State Gallery, Eastern Market, 1410 Gratiot, Detroit. Aug. 23-Sept. 19. 313-744-6506. Innerstategallery.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Kate Roesch". Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 4-Oct. 1. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Michigan State University Museum

"An Extraordinary Document of Our World and Detroit Resurgent" Two related bodies of photographs; the first is a selection of worker portraits made around the world over the last two and half decades while the second is a set of portraits commissioned in 2012 by the Michigan State University Museum and the MSU Our Daily Work, Our Daily Lives program, to document people whose work is part of the resurgence of the greater Detroit economy. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Sept. 8-Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum

"Extraordinary Ordinary People: American Masters of Traditional Arts" A journey across America through the lives of people whose creativity is rooted in a deep sense of cultural identity. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Sept. 3-Dec. 20. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "The Past is Present" New murals based on the history of Detroit. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 6-Jan. 5. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "David Stark Design and Culture Lab Detroit" Guided by David's artistic vision, Pewabic has created an original piece that was inspired by a recent visit to Detroit. One-of-a-kind dinnerware piece will be on display. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 7-Sept. 30. 313-626-2000. pewabic.org

Riverside Arts Center "Reflections of Hope" A Sandy Knapp solo exhibit. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sept. 5-Sept. 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.com

The Scarab Club "Night & Day: Images of Detroit" An exhibition by Bruce Griffin & Stephen Magsig. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Aug. 28-Oct. 12. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Brett Weston Landscapes" One of the iconic photographers of the 20th century. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 17-Dec. 1. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

Wendell Heers & River Gallery "Presence of Place" Wendell Heers opens his private residential sculpture park to the public. One day only. Wendell Heers & River Gallery, 3893 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Sept. 7-Sept. 7. Chelsearivergallery.org

Yourist Studio Gallery "Thom Bohnert Drawings and Sculpture" His evocative, archaeological forms challenge viewers to expand their thinking about the possibilities of clay as medium. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Aug. 26-Oct. 4. 734-662-4914. Youristpottery.com

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From left to right: Zeb Atlas, Hot Rod and Ryan Rose. Photos courtesy of David Forest.

Sex Stars From Top To Bottom

Porn Threesome Talks Before Detroit Stop

BY EMELL D. ADOLPHUS

Porn honcho David Forest knows what you do late in the night and he wants to give you a hand. Surely, sometimes, maybe late at night or early afternoon for some – after you’ve failed to take someone home from the bar, and you’re watching gay porn with the volume just loud enough to hear man grunts – you’ve fantasized about how fun it’d be to meet a porn star.

When Forest, the “grand daddy” of gay adult films, brings his “I Wanna Meet A Pornstar” live show to Menjo’s in Detroit on Sept. 24, he hopes to make your naughtiest dreams come true. The show stars porn performers Ryan Rose, Hot Rod and Zeb Atlas in near-naked

stripteases that give the audience a look inside their ... um ... personalities.

How did you get your name?

Ryan Rose: “Ryan” is close to what my real name is, and I am actually from Chicago. The Chicago Bulls have a player that was named MVP, Derrick Rose, and I kind of wanted to represent where I came from.

Hot Rod: They used to call me “Hot Rod” when I was younger.

Zeb Atlas: The original photographer (erotic photographer Ron Lloyd) thought that I was strong like Atlas, the man holding up the world (in Greek mythology).

What do you consider masculine?

RR: In my eyes, if you open your mouth and glitter unicorns and a purse drops out, that’s usually of the effeminate side.

HR: If I am the top I like a softer guy. I am very much into someone I can kind of kiss on the forehead, fuck them. I don’t like for people to

challenge me.

ZA: It’s so varied, for me it’s a strong man with chiseled features, someone who is athletic and (has) a deep voice.

Are you a Republican or Democrat?

RR: You could say I have an active role in politics, definitely.

HR: Neither. I absolutely don’t care about politics. Politics nowadays seem to me like a very big popularity contest. I’ve never been big into politics. It gets confusing and my brain ... I just ... I just can’t.

ZA: I am actually not registered. Shame on me, but I think I would swing more toward democratic views.

What’s your favorite movie?

RR: A couple actually: “The Shawshank Redemption,” “Dazed and Confused” and probably “Scarface.”

HR: Um, I like comedies. I like some older comedies. “The First Wives Club” and “Mean Girls.”

INFO

I Wanna Meet A Pornstar

10 p.m. Sept. 14

Menjo’s

928 McNichols Road W., Detroit

www.menjosbar.com

ZA: Probably “The Shawshank Redemption” and “Wedding Crashers.”

Are you reading any books at the moment?

RR: I am actually re-reading “The Great Gatsby.”

HR: I don’t really like books, to tell the truth. I don’t really read books. If I need to know something, I Google it. I don’t like books for entertainment. I have a short attention span, so even if I wanted to read I would never make it through a book.

ZA: I’m not much of a reader to be honest.

Do you want kids?

RR: Yes.

HR: No. I want a dog.

ZA: Yes. I think so.

How do you feel about same-sex marriage?

RR: If one person has the right to be married, I think all people deserve the right to be married.

HR: I absolutely don’t want to get married. I don’t care to who – a woman or a man.

ZA: I am all for it. Everybody should be equal.

What feature turns you on most about a guy?

RR: I like someone who is well-grounded. I am a sucker for great eyes. Eyes you can just get lost in. And, of course, physical features: a well-defined body and abs. Not so much very feminine guys. If I wanted a chick, I would get a chick.

See Porn Threesome, page 30

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► Porn Threesome

Continued from p. 28

HR: I like both masculine and feminine, but I can't do too feminine.

ZA: This is the one I really did not want to answer. I would say eyes if you really need something.

What are some difficult things to deal with while on the job?

RR: There's a couple of shoots that I have had with gay-for-pay guys that were completely scared of some things. Also, sometimes with gay-for-pay guys they wouldn't know how to properly clean themselves.

HR: Hygiene. Make sure your ass doesn't stink.

ZA: As a top, you have to be able to get hard all the time. I guess it's more difficult for the top.

Is it hard to avoid an emotional connection while working?

RR: In my eyes, it may not be a lustful connection, but it's human nature you form a bond with the person you have sex with. You connect on a different level than if you meet at a club and just are friends.

HR: I just get into character. The lights come on and I have a job to do.

ZA: No. I can separate it, because sex is sex, and sex with someone I love is love.

What keeps you in the mood at work?

RR: I strive for a connection, but if not, I always have memories of hot times in my head that really get my engine going.

HR: I like being with someone I have chemistry with. When I am attracted to someone and the scene goes as it should, that's when Hot Rod comes out and everyone is satisfied at the end of the day.

ZA: A good imagination and a cell phone with pictures or video.

What part of your body hurts after a hard day's work?

RR: Usually, your dick gets sore. Your balls throb. If you're bottoming your, uh, rear gets tender. Depending on where you are shooting and the position, your legs or your arms turn to Jell-O.

HR: I can't even say my dick or my ass. Believe me, it's a full body work out.

ZA: Legs and calves.

Biggest drawback about your job?

RR: Everybody thinks we are sexaholics or nymphos. Or that we are blowing a cameraman in between takes. I wish

someone would have told me how hard it would be to find someone willing to be in a relationship.

HR: A lot of people try to take advantage of you.

ZA: Probably just public perception. That it's taboo. Especially on the gay side, how it's perceived (doing) gay porn.

Lights on or off?

RR: Dimmed. I like to see their body and facial expressions, like if I am hitting the right spot. I'm kind of a big pleaser.

HR: I like to see what's going on, so, on.

ZA: Oh, I like them on.

Do you keep your socks on?

RR: The situation would dictate. Maybe if I didn't get ample time to take them off. If it's in the heat of the moment, it can wait.

HR: It depends on the day. If I am thinking about it, I take them off.

ZA: If you're really in the heat of the moment, you can leave them on, but most of the time I prefer them off.

Does size matter?

RR: To be honest, I am kind of a size queen – even with people who are bottoms.

HR: Yes. I'm pretty big, so you kind of expect the same on the other end. And nobody wants to be stabbed. Little things hurt: needles, fingers, dicks.

ZA: Um, I will pass.

What is the best sex you've ever had?

RR: It would probably be when I was in boot camp at the Marine Corp. It was at night and I was standing guard and everyone else was sleeping and one of these other guys, an incredible stud, kind of gave me this look. So I followed him and was like "Hey, are you all right?"

I knew I was gay at this time, but not telling anyone because, of course, I am in the military. I went in for a kiss not knowing what the outcome was going to be and before I knew it we were ripping off each other's clothes. Meanwhile, our drill instructors were in the next room sleeping, so if we were caught it would have been extremely bad. So we are going at it and he says "fuck me." He started sucking my dick and I slid it in. The risk of everything was very hot and very sexy.

HR: I had sex once around my birthday in Puerto Rico on the rooftop of the resort we were staying in at night. I've had amazing sex in the car. Like, you would have never known a car had so much space. It felt like an SUV; it was in a Chrysler 300.

ZA: I don't know. I've had so much. I think meeting somebody for the first time in a hotel room. Hotel room sex is pretty hot.

Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

- Ann Arbor-Friday**
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. 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, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.
- Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group**
Wednesday 8pm
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting
- Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group**
Saturday's 8pm
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
Closed Meeting

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Solution to puzzle from page 34

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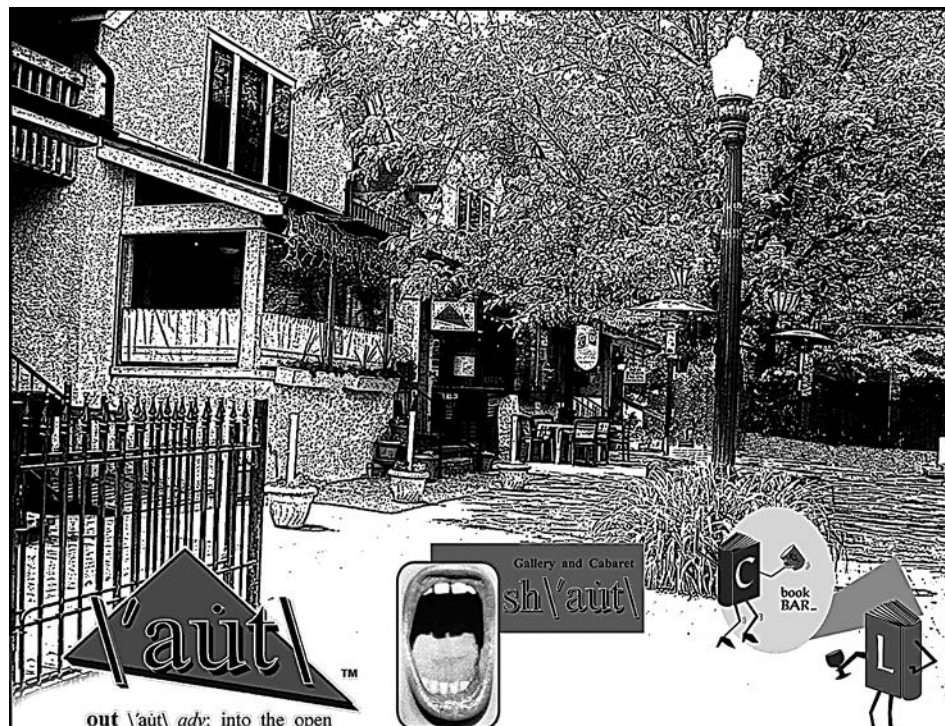
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Welcome out, Wentworth and Whishaw

Actors going public with their sexual orientation may be a more and more frequent occurrence, but it's still a big deal when they do it. And it's especially good when it feels like their own decision, rather than, say, being hounded by the press to hurry up and get it over with after you're seen kissing your personal trainer in public and then buying a house with her (or him). So welcome to the other side of gayness, Wentworth Miller (who chose to come out as a political



Wentworth Miller. Photo: Shutterstock.com

statement when he refused to attend a Russian film festival) and Ben Whishaw (who apparently just got around to it being a relevant topic of conversation). Both men have upcoming projects in the works: Miller, the former "Prison Break" star who also wrote this year's thriller "Stoker," has just wrapped "The Loft." Co-starring James Marsden, Karl Urban and "Modern Family"'s Eric Stonestreet, it's a thriller – due in theaters during the summer of 2014 – about five men who share a loft for extramarital affairs until one day the body of an unknown woman is found in the clandestine love nest. Meanwhile, the hardworking Whishaw has five projects on his plate, including the new Terry Gilliam film "The Zero Theorem," starring as "Moby Dick" author Herman Melville in Ron Howard's "The Heart of The Sea" and, of course, he's got Daniel Craig to deal with as he continues his role of Q in the next James Bond movie. Meanwhile, other actors, it's your turn; who's next?

Lance Bass producing hard-hitting gay doc

When you're one of the former members of 'N Sync and you don't happen to be Justin Timberlake, it's easy to become the butt of uninformed where-are-they-now jokes. And as the lone gay member of the crew, Bass receives more than his share. So what has he been doing? Not sitting around, yearning for the good ol' days, for starters. In addition to taking on various small acting roles, Bass is also stepping into the part of activist/producer with "Kidnapped For Christ." A documentary from first-time director Kate Logan, it explores the extreme behavior modification techniques employed by conservative Evangelical Christian camps for troubled, often gay, teenagers. The film explores the inner workings of Escuela Caribe,

a "therapeutic Christian boarding school" in the Dominican Republic run by Americans and, thanks to her past as a missionary herself, Logan gets more than the normal degree of access.

Expect to be outraged and moved to action when it comes to an LGBT film festival near you.

Naya Rivera's 'Home' is full of Satan

What does a singing, dancing lesbian cheerleader with a gold medal in sarcasm do on her summer break? Make a horror movie, of course. It's not all featured spots in M&M commercials for Naya Rivera, who plays the girl-loving Santana on "Glee." She's using her

spare time to climb the role-rung in Hollywood and, for young women, that usually means a horror film or two. She'll star in "Home" – due sometime in 2014 – about a young woman investigating a house that appears to be haunted by the previous tenant, a woman who had chosen to invite the devil into her life. It co-stars "Maria Full of Grace"'s Catalina Sandino Moreno and "The Client List"'s Colin Egglesfield and word is that Rivera does "not" play the demonic ghost. But wouldn't it be kind of cool if she did? And if the ghost were the hero of the film? Somebody make this happen.

Matt Bomer finally gets to show up for work in pajamas

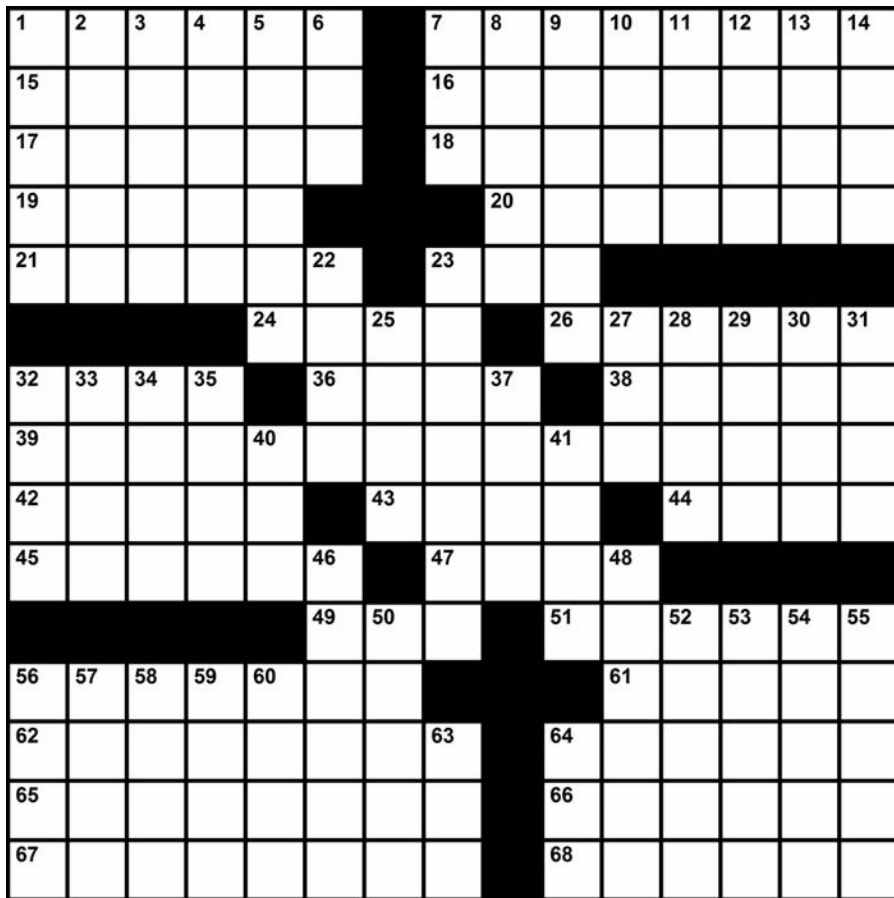
He's a busy guy, that Matt Bomer. "The White Collar" star also has a busy movie slate with this year's "Winter's Tale," the film adaptation of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart" and the indie comedy "Space Station 76." So he's probably a little relieved that his next gig doesn't involve make-up, costume fittings or green screens, only arriving at a recording studio and wearing headphones for the animated feature "B.O.O.: Bureau of Otherworldly Operations." He'll be adding his voice to those of Seth Rogen, Rashida Jones and Melissa McCarthy in the family film about ghosts who work for a secret government agency that protects people from evil hauntings. Who knows what's up after that. For all we know he'll also return for the sequel to "Magic Mike." But until that half-naked day, let's allow the man a chance to do his job with bedhead. He's earned that.

Romeo San Vicente makes them earn their bedhead. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

An advertisement for SQUIRT.org. At the top left is the SQUIRT.org logo with the tagline "Hot 'n horny hookups." To the right, the text reads "LAPTOP OR MOBILE WE'RE VERSATILE". The main image shows two men: one in a dark suit and tie, and another shirtless man in a white shirt. A red circular callout on the right says "Join for FREE Get 5 Days Unlimited access".

An advertisement for the Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. It features a yellow background with a speech bubble that says "We speak LGBTQIA". Below this is a black and white photo of a man being kissed on the cheek. At the bottom, there is a phone number "800.872.2437" with each digit in a colored circle. The text below the number reads "The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm." At the very bottom, it says "All calls with our live expert are free and anonymous." and includes the logo for "AIDS PARTNERSHIP MICHIGAN" funded by MDCH.

Going To The Mat For Family



Across

- 1 Hauls ass
 7 Beach's partner Monnier
 15 Bitches
 16 Bargain hunter's goal
 17 "A Taste of Honey" trumpeter
 18 Freud's specialty
 19 Darren, who recently came out in an interview at an airport
 20 What Darren does professionally
 21 Snow White's dwarfs, e.g.
 23 Fair grade
 24 Clash of heavyweights
 26 Sprints at the Gay Games
 32 Cannon in films
 36 t.A.T.u., e.g.
 38 Go down on a hill
 39 Darren's comment on coming out
 42 Takes off
 43 Coupling device
 44 Box material in "Six Feet Under"
 45 "The Wizard of Oz" scorer Arlen
 47 Portion (out)
 49 Binges, briefly
 51 Doghouse warnings
 56 Issues you haven't dealt with
 61 With 56-Across, airport area where Darren came out, ironically

- 62 Adapts musically
 64 Rivera portrayer, in "Frida"
 65 Top athletes
 66 Rubber
 67 Iona and others
 68 Can't stand

Down

- 1 Goes either way
 2 Sevigny of "Boys Donit Cry"
 3 Turn into confetti
 4 In regard to
 5 Comes together
 6 Boom source of old
 7 Turkish title of honor
 8 "___ now our gay apparel ..."
 9 Sounded like a pride of lions
 10 "Spamalot" writer Eric
 11 Maker of some fruity flavors
 12 Jay's house
 13 Get in the sack
 14 "Showboat"'s "Nobody ___ But Me"
 22 Biggest brass instrument
 23 "No glove, no love" subjects
 25 More than enough
 27 Essen exclamation
 28 Billy Crystal played gay on this sitcom
 29 Drag queen ___ Phace

- 30 Where to see sweaty men
 31 Eyelid ailment
 32 Rooftop fixture
 33 Village People hit
 34 Petri dish gel
 35 Cold war defense assn.
 37 Where the little Dutch girl stuck her finger?
 40 Big initials in fashion
 41 Subway Series team
 46 Determined
 48 "More!" on Broadway
 50 Mower maker
 52 ___ once (like simultaneous orgasm)
 53 Make erect
 54 Thespians should know them
 55 "Designing Women" co-star Jean
 56 Black Party, for example
 57 Johnson of "Laugh-In" fame
 58 Snatch
 59 Teri of "Tootsie"
 60 Thesis start
 63 Snake sound
 64 Dose of AZT, e.g.

Solution on pg. 31

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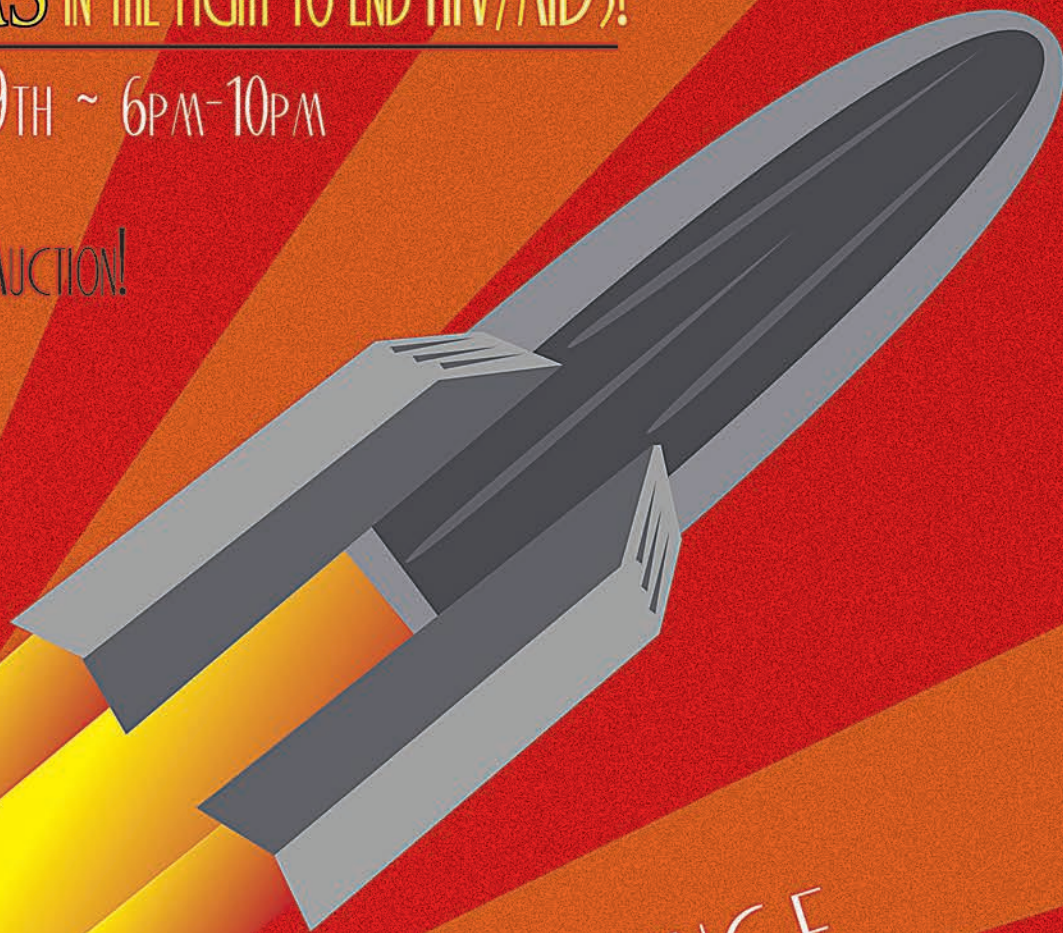
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