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“ I've always felt when (the gay) following is strong I'm kind of doing the right things. ”

- Sarah Brightman, pg. 16



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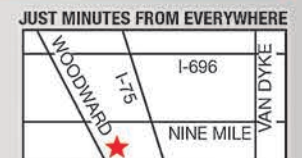
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COVER STORY

4 A walk to remember

Photo: Arlene and Michael Mondak unfolding the section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt containing their son's panel. BTL photo: Andrew Potter



“ I know I’ll have to set expectations and build something exciting. There are so many good things in Kalamazoo, and I think the key is ‘how do we tell these stories?’ We need to strongly advocate for our community and share what we’ve learned here.”

– Jon Hoadley, pg. 6

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VOL. 2138 • SEPT 19, 2013 • ISSUE 832

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

11920 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Associate Editor

Benjamin Jenkins, 734.293.7200 x 14
ben@pridesource.com

News Staff Writer

Crystal Proxmire

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia, curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark, shelby@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Todd Heywood, Jerome Stuart Nichols,
Kate Opalewski, Anthony Paull,
Andrea Poteet, Eric W. Rader,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Dawn R. Wolfe

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15
ed@pridesource.com

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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Business Office

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

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The 22nd AIDS Walk Detroit kicks off with a warm-up for participants in front of the Royal Oak Farmers Market Sept. 15. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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AIDS Walk Detroit Raises Funds To Stomp Out HIV

BY JAN STEVENSON

ROYAL OAK – AIDS is not over. That was the overriding message at the 22nd annual AIDS Walk Detroit. AIDS is not over for young gay men, it's not over for those already infected, and it is certainly not over for anyone who has lost a loved one to the virus.

Sept. 15 started with an emotional, solemn ceremony that featured the unfolding of 20 sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

"It doesn't get any easier," said Arlene Mondak as she prepared to unfold the section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt containing her son's panel. "You'd think it would, wouldn't you?" she asked through her tears.

Her son, Michael Mondak died Sept. 4, 1990 at the age of 27. Arlene and her husband, Michael, stood together, as they have at many unfoldings of the Quilt, with her heart breaking, tears streaming down her face.

"If this is the price we have to pay to have had him on this earth, then it is

worth it," she said.

Longtime NAMES Project volunteer Gary Dubois was on hand to teach the 160 volunteers how to properly unfold each section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Dubois first met Arlene and Michael Mondak in the early 1990s when the couple checked in the panel they had created for their son. They have stayed in touch over the past 23 years, and Dubois was one of the volunteers who helped the Mondak's unfold their Quilt section.

"We have the first panel ever made – Panel #0001 - and we have the newest one which is breathtakingly beautiful," said Dubois. Each year The NAMES Project, a national organization headquartered in Atlanta, unfolds sections of The Quilt at thousands of places across the nation.

A group of medical students from Oakland University's new medical school volunteered to unfold three sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

"We're members of the Advocates for Global Health and Human Rights at our school and specifically we're working with HIV and AIDS advocacy

for mental health awareness. That's why we mobilized all the medical students to promote community health and HIV/AIDS awareness," said second year medical student Amanda Lynn Marshall from Fort Benning, Georgia.

"We're medical students so we are interested in healthcare in all fields in all communities. So if we can help, we want to," said fellow medical student James Payne from Midland, MI.

After the Quilt opening ceremony the large crowd of walkers began a lively, upbeat warmup session in preparation for the 5K AIDS Walk through the streets of downtown Royal Oak. Each walker was charged with getting pledges to raise money to support a variety of AIDS organizations in greater Detroit.

Mary Jane Nowak, vice president of marketing at Fifth Third Bank, had a personal goal of \$1,000, but she said, "I actually ended up with over \$1,600 this time, which is pretty good. I have a lot of friends who are affected by the epidemic, so I have a lot of passion about this too."

See AIDS Walk Detroit, page 10

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GVSU Publicly Affirms Its LGBT Athletes

BY CAROL TANIS

ALLENDALE – LGBT athletes at Grand Valley State University should no longer have to worry about their sexual orientation or gender identity keeping them off the playing field. The University's athletic department has joined You Can Play, a national advocacy campaign working for equality for LGBT athletes in sports. "Locker rooms should be safe and sports venues should be free from homophobia," is the campaign's message. "Athletes should be judged on their talent, heart, and work ethic, not their sexual orientation."

Colleges and universities across the country, as well as teams from professional sports leagues have the joined the You Can Play campaign, which encourages teams to publicly state their affirmation of gay athletes by producing a video with that message. Grand Valley is the first NCAA Division II institution to join the You Can Play campaign.

The move to join the campaign was the vision of GVSU graduate Joe Miller who, as part of joining the project, produced a short video featuring GVSU Athletic Director Tim Selgo and several student athletes. Selgo states in the video, "At GVSU, you are not judged on your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, but rather on your commitment to the team and our university. If you can play, you can play."

Miller is currently a graduate student at GVSU where he works as a grad assistant in the Athletic Advising Office. He said the video was shown in August on campus at a season-kick-off event including student athletes from all of the university's teams where it received rousing support from the students and coaches. Miller is especially proud that Selgo was willing to go on camera voicing his backing of the project.

"It's huge to have the head of athletics up there saying the words 'lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender,'" Miller said.

Majoring in sports management at GVSU, Miller said he was closeted during his first three years at the school, which diminished his college experience. Later he did come out and became an intern at the University's LGBT Resource Center. While working there he learned about the You Can Play campaign and thought "we can do this at Grand Valley." He approached the student athletic advisory committee, which said go for it. He hopes this public declaration by the athletic department will enhance the college experience for LGBT student athletes so they can compete without the worry of discrimination or harassment in the locker room or playing field.

Miller credits the LGBT Resource Center on GVSU's campus for providing an affirming



GVSU graduate Joe Miller produced a video featuring GVSU Athletic Director Tim Selgo and several student athletes welcoming all students asserting "If you can play, you can play."

educational environment and the inspiration leading to his awareness of the You Can Play campaign.

Director of the Resource Center Colette Seguin Beighley says it's clear from the support this video has received from the athletic department that GVSU is committed to addressing homophobia in sports culture. She adds, "This is an ongoing conversation and there remains much work to be done. However, this kind of mandate from our athletic director, along with his powerful statement within the video, empowers that work and sets the tone for the future. We're grateful for the collaborative relationship the LGBT Resource Center has with GVSU Athletics."

The video was shot and edited by GVSU film and video graduate Mark Switzer who said that he's often heard athletes say they wouldn't have made anti-gay comments in the locker room if they had known their teammates were gay so he hopes the video will raise awareness of how language hurts others.

"This video is preventative in nature, making people who were unaware of the effect of their language more aware," Switzer said. "But I hope people realize this isn't a cure. We can offer lip service or say on paper that we care about inclusion of the LGBT community, but actually being that way is something completely different. It reminds people that we have these policies here and everyone is to be held accountable for any homophobic or transphobic, sexist actions."

GVSU's *You Can Play* video featuring University Athletic Director Tom Selgo and several students can be viewed at www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc/-you-can-play-video-154.htm.



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Michigan Legal Help Assists 200,000 In First Year Online

BY BTL STAFF

When MichiganLegalHelp.org launched on August 2012, initial estimates expected around 3,000 visits per week to the legal information website. According to MLH Project Manager Angela Tripp, “This estimate proved too conservative. Starting in January, there were over 5,000 visits per week, and that grew to over 6,000 per week by July. We are very gratified that so many people have turned to the website for help.”

The Michigan Legal Help

Marquette and Monroe counties. Information about locations and hours for the centers can be found on the MLH website.

Currently Michigan Legal Help has numerous resources including 30 toolkits, 74 articles, 312 common questions (with answers), 19 automated interviews that populate a total of 50 different forms, and referral information for over 212 organizations. The legal information content available includes Family Law, Protection from Abuse, Consumer Law,

Currently MichiganLegalHelp.org has numerous free resources.

website was created to provide free legal information to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney and need to represent themselves in simple legal matters. It makes legal information easier to understand and shows self-represented people how to navigate the court system properly and efficiently.

The website contains information on many areas of law in the form of articles, toolkits, forms and instructional checklists to help prepare people who represent themselves in court.

The website can help users look for a lawyer in their area if they need more assistance, and includes information about legal self-help centers and local community services as well as details about the court where a website visitor's legal issue may be handled.

Michigan Legal Help website also works with communities to open local legal Self-Help Centers, with staff called ‘navigators’ who help visitors find what they need on the website, answer basic questions about court practices and processes, and provide information about forms that are available on the website.

Neither the website nor navigators can give legal advice; they provide only legal information. Centers are now open in Wayne, Oakland, Allegan, Oscoda and Muskegon counties. More centers are expected to open over the next year, including in

Housing Law, Expungement, Income Tax, and Public Benefits. More content is added regularly.

The program plans to expand to cover more areas of law especially needed by low income persons. In addition, a LiveHelp feature will be launched this fall enabling website visitors to chat online with navigators who can help them find what they need on the website. Visitors can also access the site through a mobile device or tablet and by year end, much of the content on the website will be available in Spanish.

The program is the culmination of several years of work by the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force, which was established in 2010 by (then) Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly to improve and coordinate resources for self-represented persons. More than 100 individuals participated in the Task Force's work, reflecting input from judges, bar associations, legal aid, local self-help centers, libraries and others. Many of these groups continue to collaborate with the effort which is managed by the nonprofit organization, Michigan Poverty Law Program, based in Ann Arbor.

Michigan Legal Help website is funded by the Michigan State Bar Foundation, The Legal Services Corporation, and Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

Jon Hoadley: Ready To Run Seeks Kalamazoo State Rep. Seat In '14 Race

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Communications dynamo Jon Hoadley is ready to come out from behind the scenes to launch his first run for office. The 30-year-old campaign specialist and community organizer has announced his candidacy for State Representative from the 60th District, which serves Kalamazoo and parts of Kalamazoo Township.

The seat is left up for grabs as Democrat Sean McCann is going to be running for State Senate. Since Kalamazoo is traditionally Democratic, the primary is likely to be the toughest election for Hoadley.

In 2009 Hoadley was recruited by Unity Michigan to help lead the campaign for local human rights ordinances. Kalamazoo is now one of 27 municipalities throughout Michigan that offers protection for LGBT people in terms of housing, employment and public accommodations.

Hoadley's job is to make sure people know that in Michigan people can still be fired for being gay or transgender.

He also runs his own consulting business which works with nonprofits, small businesses and political campaigns to tell their stories to make policy change. Through his business, Badland Strategies, Hoadley has advocated against Right to Work, done workplace democracy training, worked with the Michigan Election Coalition to reform election practices, helped explain the Affordable Care Act to the public, and led the effort to get Justice Bridget Mary McCormack elected in the 2012 nonpartisan Supreme Court race.

Kalamazoo is a great home base for his work which reaches statewide. “One of the things that makes

Kalamazoo special is it's a strong, vibrant community that cares about social justice. People here aren't afraid to ask ‘what do we do about literacy, poverty, racism?’” He noted the successful university atmosphere created by Western Michigan and

the discussions about ‘how do we start a business? How do we create jobs?’

“We need a real advocate in the legislature for education. It's not just being on the right side of an issue, it's about being a strong voice.”

Hoadley attended Michigan State and earned his degree in Social Relations and Womens Studies. There, in 2004, he led a campaign on campus to get students registered to vote, and another pushing for transgender rights on campus. In 2006 he returned to his home state of South Dakota to run a marriage equality campaign. “We lost but we got 48 percent of the vote, which was amazing. I learned that when you have a thoughtful message and engage people on an issue it can move them,” he said. “I also learned that when it comes to important issues, we can never, never, never give up.”

After that Hoadley journeyed to Washington DC where he was the Executive Director for the Stonewall Democrats. “This was an amazing learning opportunity,” Hoadley said. “How do you get folks organized all around the country? How do you build a big enough team to make a real impact on the legislature? Overall, I'm more struck by our similarities more than our differences. What is the best way to educate children? How do we create jobs

to pay for our bills and keep our families secure? How do we have enough free time to enjoy our lives and families?”

Now that he's been in Kalamazoo for four years, this is where he will stay and has built a family of his own. “It was amazing how quickly I felt at home in Kalamazoo. We built the 2009 campaign on neighbors talking to neighbors. I fell in love



“One of the things that makes Kalamazoo special is it's a strong, vibrant community that cares about social justice. People here aren't afraid to ask ‘what do we do about literacy, poverty, racism?’”

Kalamazoo Community College, but also the fact that the Kalamazoo Promise program helps ensure that every young person has the funding to go to college.

On top of the educational focus, the area has a strong entrepreneurial culture, full of businesspeople like Hoadley. “There are the things that make me excited about representing Kalamazoo,” he said. “I want to bring these focuses to the state level.

“As a small business owner I get

See Hoadley, page 8



Dale Morgan, left, and Norm Silk, right, opened their home Sept. 15 for a fundraiser to benefit Gary Peters' campaign for the U.S. Senate. Morgan and Silk, owners of Blossoms Flowers in Birmingham, had completely renovated this famous Dorothy H. Turkel House 1955 designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Peters, center, spoke about his commitment to LGBT rights and the tough race he expects to fill the Senate seat being vacated by Michigan's longtime Democratic U.S. Sen. Carl Levin. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Peters Energizes LGBT Donors

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Over 100 LGBT donors and their allies gathered to pledge their support for Gary Peters' U.S. Senate campaign. The Sept. 15 event was held at the home of Norm Silk and Dale Morgan, and is the only known house in the city limits of Detroit designed by America's most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Peters is running in 2014 for an the open U.S. Senate seat created by the retirement of U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, who has had the seat for the past 36 years. Peters described Levin as a mentor and a model for a principled, dedicated and thoughtful public servant.

"He will be missed, but the best way to honor his 36 year legacy is to keep this seat Democratic," said Peters who currently represents the 14th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Peters expects his Republican opponent will be Terry Lynn Land, Michigan's current Secretary of State. Most analysts expect this race for one of the few open U.S. Senate seats to be heavily contested and extremely expensive, with large amounts of national money pouring into both sides.

Peters explained that the political fight will be intense for control of the U.S. Senate. Republicans control the U.S. House of Representatives, but the Democrats now have a six seat majority in the U.S. Senate.

"I don't work in a particularly pleasant place right now," said Peters of the U.S. House of Representatives. "It is fairly dysfunctional. We have these Tea Party folks who are just the tail of the Republican Party – but a fairly fat tail. They stymie all efforts for progress and

are driven by ideology. For example, we voted last week for the 41st time – the 41st time! - to repeal Obamacare.

"Fortunately the Senate has a Democratic majority, so they don't have to take up all these extreme Tea Party measures coming out of the House. But the Senate majority is only 6 seats, so this race of mine will be highly contested. The Koch Brothers and other major Republican funders are pouring millions of dollars into this race, so it will be a challenge – a huge challenge," said Peters.

Peters talked about his support for issues such as environmental justice, women's rights, and he discussed the folly of the Republican controlled gerrymandering that has created polarized and sometimes bizarrely shaped congressional districts in Michigan. He reminded the attentive crowd that he has been a reliable supporter of LGBT rights for many years, including marriage rights, and was the first ever Michigan congressperson to join the House LGBT Caucus.

Peters co-sponsored legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and was a leader in the effort that successfully repealed the military's discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy in 2010.

Peters got a loud cheer from the crowd when he said he is preparing legislation to reinstate the military records of those who were dismissed from the military under DADT. "It is important to me that anything other than an honorable discharge be removed from their military record," said Peters.

For more information about the Peters for Senate campaign visit the website at <http://petersformichigan.com>

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Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

OPINION BY DANNE WITKOWSKI

If Tony Perkins knew you were coming he'd have baked a cake. That is, so long as you aren't gay and the cake mix doesn't have a certain homo-loving tart's name on the side of the carton. Because apparently Betty Crocker is to loving gays what Chick-fil-A is to hating them.



You see, back on Aug. 1, Minnesota became the latest state to allow same-sex couples to get legally married. You know, to each other rather than to unsuspecting straight people. And so Betty Crocker baked up some cakes and brought them on over in order to celebrate with the newly wedded couples. Because what's a wedding without cake? Even if that cake is made from a box mix, which

marriage was legal."

Silly Betty Crocker. One doesn't bring cake to a gay wedding. One brings protest signs depicting sodomy and the flames of hell. Tsk, tsk, tsk. For shame.

Perkins goes on to quote Laura Forero, a spokesperson for Betty Crocker, as saying, "Betty celebrates all families" and, "We don't want to be old fashioned."

"Unfortunately for General Mills, the majority of Americans think natural marriage is anything but old fashioned," Perkins went on. "And they've made it tough on companies like Target, Starbucks, and JC Penney who disagree."

If by "made it tough on" he means "made no discernable impact and claiming anything else is laughable," then he has a point. But the fact is, recent boycotts launched by Christian fanatic groups like FRC don't do anything but give a bigot a sense of righteous indignation when they, say, fill the cart

“Silly Betty Crocker. One doesn't bring cake to a gay wedding. One brings protest signs depicting sodomy and the flames of hell. Tsk, tsk, tsk. For shame.”

in many circumstances would be kind of sad, but in this historic instance was totally awesome.

Or, not so awesome if you ask Perkins, president of the anti-gay Family Research Council, a group with a name that only makes sense if you put ironic quotation marks around "Family" and "Research," because they are anti-both.

On Sept. 12, Perkins took to the right-wing airwaves to express his outrage over Betty Crocker's pastry pandering and to urge one-penis-one-vagina marriage supporters to boycott the brand in order to show Ms. Crocker who's cake boss.

"At Betty Crocker, the only thing they're mixing up is their priorities. If you ask conservatives, Betty Crocker's latest promotion is a recipe for disaster," Perkins begins, shamelessly employing back-to-back baking-related puns.

Perkins continues, "In Minnesota, where parent company General Mills is headquartered, Betty Crocker decided to donate wedding cakes to the first homosexual couples who exchanged vows on the first day that counterfeit

with Duncan Hines Devil's Food cake mix instead of Betty Crocker Angel Food cake mix. In fact outside of the insular world of the anti-gay right, the majority of Americans don't even know these boycotts are going on.

"Know where your money is going," Perkins warns, and though he's still talking about groceries, this warning is appropriate for anyone thinking of sending money to the National Organization for Marriage, which runs the Dump General Mills boycott page online, or to fraudulent groups like his own FRC.

And then Perkins ends with someone truly, and unintentionally, inspired. "When you're at the store," he warns, "think outside the Betty Crocker box!"

Yes, the phrase "think outside the box" is cliché, but it's not Perkins hackneyed phrasing that had me laughing out loud. It's the fact that Perkins apparently does not know or did not think about the fact that "box" is slang for "vagina." So Perkins is basically warning you to keep Ms. Crocker's box out of your basket. You know, for the children.

LGBT Community Center to Offer Alternative High School Program

FERNDALE – Affirmations Community Center is working with Michigan Educational Partnership to offer an Alternative High School program beginning this October. Affirmations is currently accepting applications for the 2013-14 school year.

Affirmations' Alternative High School program is designed for committed and motivated students 17 and above, who are interested in earning their high school diploma. Students can take advantage of accessible and effective learning spaces more conducive to their needs.

"We recognize that increasing access to economic opportunity for many in our community begins with getting a high quality basic education," Program Director Johnny Jenkins said, "Affirmations is perfectly positioned to offer such a program in a bully free and non-judgmental environment".

This accredited high school program follows the Michigan Merit curriculum and can be taken at Affirmations or online. All educational courses are rich in multi-media, using animations, simulations, exploration activities, video presentations, online

content and vocabulary activities.

"A lot of these kids don't believe they can do it and have fallen through the cracks of traditional high school," said Dave Garcia, Affirmations' executive director. "Here, they get more individualized attention and are instilled with the belief that they can succeed."

Those interested in applying for Affirmations' Alternative High School should contact Mark McMillan, Volunteer and Facilities Manager at MMcMillan@GoAffirmations.org or call 248-677-7224.

MY Voice Youth Advisory Council Looking For Applicants Ages 16 - 21 To Serve

The Michigan Youth Voice (MY Voice) for Sexual Health youth advisory committee is accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year. MY Voice, coordinated by the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), is seeking a diverse group of youth ages 16-21 years old from across the state interested in sexual health, teen pregnancy and STI/HIV prevention, leadership development, and making positive change.

The youth on this council receive professional development training and review materials and programs for state agencies and non-governmental organizations. Teen pregnancy and STI/HIV prevention programs are vital in improving the health

of Michigan's youth, and it is essential for programs and materials targeting youth to be vetted by this population to ensure appropriateness, cultural competence, and accessibility.

MY Voice youth are trained to be youth leaders in the area of sexual health. The perspectives of this key stakeholder group are utilized to inform the work of state-level policy makers and program developers on issues related to adolescent sexual health.

"In Michigan and across the nation for that matter, I believe it is important to generate peer-to-peer dialogue regarding adolescent sexual health. We [young people] don't need to hear what is 'right and wrong' from the adults, we need to talk to one another about

the choices we make, and how we can help each other make more positive choices. I think MY Voice is a great channel to facilitate the beginnings of this dialogue," said a 19 year-old MY Voice member.

Youth accepted to the 2013-2014 MY Voice advisory council will continue to develop many ongoing projects, as well as begin their own innovative initiatives. Council members are expected to attend monthly meetings, held on Saturdays, and receive a stipend for participation. Interested youth should visit the MY Voice webpage <http://www.moash.org/my-voice/> and go to the MY Voice online application.

Visit www.moash.org to find out more.

► Hoadley

Continued from p. 6

with the place and this is my home." He is proud of the fact that the human rights ordinance passed with over 60 percent of the vote.

This will be Hoadley's first campaign where he is the candidate, but he hopes his knowledge of managing others' campaigns will help. "It's a big jump. I know I'll have to set

expectations and build something exciting. There are so many good things in Kalamazoo, and I think the key is 'how do we tell these stories?' We need to strongly advocate for our community and share what we've learned here."

Hoadley and his partner Kris live in Kalamazoo with their beagle Benjamin. "We bought a house here in December of 2011 and in January Kris said he wanted to finally get a dog since we had the house for it. So we went to

the shelter in Three Rivers called Upcycled Pets. This adorable little girl who was 4 or 5 years old was carrying Benjamin around like he was a stuffed animal. You could tell it wasn't comfortable, but Benjamin was being so nice about it. He has an amazing heart and has been a great addition to our family."

To learn more about Jon Hoadley and his campaign visit his website at www.JonHoadley.com.

Ferndale Marijuana Ordinance Petitioner Arrested on Drug Charges

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE - Andrew Cissell, the main person responsible for putting marijuana decriminalization on the ballot for the Nov. 5 election, has been arrested and charged with several drug-related felonies following an Oakland Narcotics Enforcement Team sting operation.

According to Undersheriff Mike McCabe of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Narcotics Enforcement Team members "conducted an investigation and identified a subject who was selling marijuana in the areas of Ferndale, Oak Park, and Wayne County. The investigation was continued, and with the use of a cooperating individual the subject was identified as Andrew Robert Cissell." The investigation began in late August.

Cissell had stepped into the local limelight in early August as he led a successful petition drive to get marijuana decriminalization placed on the ballot in Ferndale. According to McCabe, Cissell was not a Ferndale resident at the time of turning in the petitions, having used his father's address.

His father's home on Drayton Avenue was one of three that was part of a search warrant, though when NET officers arrived they were told that Cissell had not lived there in three years. "No illegal contraband was located at the residence," McCabe said in a statement.

Two other homes were raided, both of which were in Oak Park. The report says Cissell was arrested after "the cooperating individual was wired and participated in purchasing marijuana from Andrew Robert Cissell on two different occasions. The marijuana deliveries were conducted in a controlled setting and the deals were recorded." The arrest took place at the second undercover purchase.

Prior to the investigation, Cissell advocated for marijuana legalization and when asked about his occupation, said he "networked with medical marijuana patients." Cissell also said he planned on running for the Michigan House of Representatives.

Ordinance Issues

Craig Covey, former Ferndale Mayor and current Mayoral candidate, is a strong supporter of marijuana decriminalization. He helped gather signatures for Proposal A, and plans on continuing to fight for its implementation.

"Three years ago the City of Ferndale was targeted for its attempt to allow zoning

The Ferndale City Clerk is working with The Michigan Bureau of Elections to determine the best course of action in regards to the petitions and the ballot proposal.

for medical marijuana dispensaries, and the result was police raids on the Clinical Relief business. That case is still in the courts, costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in prosecutor's and court costs. This does not change the view by many that the system of prohibition is broken. Vote Yes on Prop. A," he said, adding "I sure hope our sheriff's office doesn't use its powerful resources to target people for their political beliefs and activities."

As the result of the petition-gathering, Ferndale residents will face a proposal vote on Nov. 5, giving them the option of changing the code of ordinances to add Sec. 12 - 82 to the Ferndale Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12, Article III, to read: "Sec. 12 - 82. Non - Applicability to Certain Behaviors Involving Marijuana. "None of the provisions of Sections 12 - 79 through 12 - 81 shall apply to the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years."

Cissell was arraigned at the 45B District Court before Judge Friedman Appel on Sept. 11. His bond was set at \$50,000 cash on five felony counts of delivery/manufacture of marijuana. He is expected in court on Sept. 17 for a pretrial conference.

The Ferndale City Clerk is working with The Michigan Bureau of Elections to determine the best course of action in regards to the petitions and the ballot proposal.

Mayor Dave Coulter said, "Law enforcement will handle the alleged manufacturing and distribution operation, which appears to have far exceeded the stated goal of allowing small quantities of personal marijuana. As mayor, however, the integrity of our elections cannot be compromised and I'm deeply concerned about the possibility of election fraud on the voters of Ferndale. We'll work closely with state election officials to determine the impact on the ballot initiative. If fraud is found I'll ask the Sheriff's office to take all appropriate measures to hold accountable anyone responsible."



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There were twenty Names Quilts on display Sept. 15 representing 180 panels of the 5,965 currently stored in Atlanta, GA. To right is Michigan Names Quilt Project volunteer Gary DuBois explaining the quilt to Gary Ciampa. Five of the quilts can be seen later this month at the DIFFA event held in Detroit to benefit Michigan AIDS Coalition. Below are the emcees Bill Thomas and Mary Liz Curtin, center, Haze from 98.7 FM, right, and their sign language interpreter, left. Curtin is holding Bertie Wooster, her new eight-week-old puppy. BTL photos: Andrew Potter.

► AIDS Walk Detroit

Continued from p. 4

Fifth Third Bank, a Silver Sponsor of AIDS Walk Detroit, has supported AIDS Walk Detroit for years. “Our LGBT business resource group at Fifth Third Bank gets an allotment of money and our inclusion council supports this event 100 percent. We’ve been doing it about seven or eight years now, and it’s a sure thing for us every year,” said Nowak.

“We want to give back,” said Ali Fakhri, owner of Northland Medical Pharmacy in Southfield who led a team of about a dozen walkers. “People come to us all year long [for medications] and we want to be a part of this event to show our support.”

Organizers set a goal of \$250,000 for the 2013 AIDS Walk Detroit. Totals are still being tallied, but as of the day of the walk they had already raised over \$151,000. Walker teams can designate a specific organization to receive all the funds they raise, or they can raise funds for AIDS Walk Detroit to be distributed via a competitive grantmaking process. Last year about 45 percent of the funds were raised by agency teams, and the remaining 55 percent was distributed through the competitive grantmaking process. Health Emergency Lifeline Program, or HELP, is the fiduciary for AIDS Walk Detroit and oversees the fundraising and distribution of the competitive grants.

Dave Garcia, executive director of Affirmations, walked with a team that raised about \$12,000 for the community center in Ferndale. “We do HIV testing at



Affirmations and we have other programs that educate and hopefully prevent infection in the LGBT community. It’s not over – not by a long shot – and we have to keep repeating the prevention messages over and over, especially to young people,” said Garcia.

DONATE

AIDS WALK DETROIT

www.aidswalkdetroit.org.

Donations can still be made to AIDS Walk Detroit by going to the website above.org. The site also has the application for competitive grants which must be for direct service programs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Sochi Olympics Bottom Line

Most See Proposed Boycott As Less Productive In Promoting LGBT Equality

BY LISA KEEN

While there are a few people who would like to see a boycott of the winter Olympic Games in Russia next February, proposed because of that nation's newly passed laws hostile to LGBT people, most see the idea as an example of the proverbial "throwing the baby out with the bath water." They don't want to throw away the precious opportunity for a peaceful gathering of the world's nations to make clear their distaste for the maltreatment of LGBT people in the host nation.

From President Obama to the Russian LGBT Network and the Federation of Gay Games, the belief is that more good can be done for LGBT people in Russia by going to the games than by staying home. And the Russian government agreed last week to sign onto the United Nations' symbolic "Olympic Truce" that promised to "promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind," according to a *New York Times* report.

Nonetheless, there is a distinct discomfort among many with the similarities of Russia's harsh treatment of LGBT people today and Germany's treatment of Jews, gays and others when it hosted the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936.

"Having rejected a proposed boycott of the 1936 Olympics, the United States and other western democracies missed the opportunity to take a stand that – some observers at the time claimed – might have given Hitler pause and bolstered international resistance to Nazi tyranny," states the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum website.

The Museum notes that Nazi officials toned down their "Aryans only" policy during the Berlin games and even "ordered that foreign visitors should not be subjected to the criminal penalties of German anti-homosexuality laws" during the Olympics.

Thus, it's not likely that many people were comforted when the International Olympic Committee issued a press release Aug. 22, saying a letter from Russian Prime Minister Kozak promised to comply with Item



Russian police detain a gay rights activist during an attempt to hold the unauthorized gay pride parade on May 28, 2011 in Moscow, Russia. Since then Russia has implemented antigay legislation that has raised concerns across the world. Some have called for a boycott of the winter Olympics scheduled to take place in Sochi, Russia. Photo: kojoku / Shutterstock.com

6 IOC's non-discrimination policy. Although IOC says Item 6 includes sexual orientation discrimination, the text, strictly speaking, reads, "Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement."

Nor was there any likely comfort gained when the IOC, on Sept. 10, elected German Thomas Bach as its new president and he told reporters, "We have the assurances of the highest authorities in Russia" that there will be no discrimination at the Sochi Games. Bach acknowledged there are many "political implications" for various decisions made by the IOC but said the IOC has to be "strictly politically neutral."

Obama Meets With Russian LGBTs

President Obama is not supporting a boycott of the Olympics but is not taking a neutral position either. Attending a G-20 economic summit in Russia, he met with nine LGBT

From President Obama to the Russian LGBT Network and the Federation of Gay Games, the belief is that more good can be done for LGBT people in Russia by going to the games than by staying home.

activists Sept. 6, telling them he supports their efforts to oppose the anti-gay laws in Russia.

"Nobody's more offended than me about some of the anti-gay and lesbian legislation that you've been seeing in Russia," said Obama.

And last week, gay icon Cher revealed that she rebuffed a Russian invitation to perform at the Sochi Games.

"I immediately said no. I want to know why all of this gay hate just exploded over there," said Cher in an interview with the Canadian magazine *MacLean's*, published Sept. 8. The official who invited her, said Cher, "said the Russian people don't feel the way the government does."

The Human Rights Campaign hasn't called for a boycott either but has found alternative ways to try and leverage some pressure on the IOC

and the Russian government. When Russian President Valdimir Putin published an op-ed in the *New York Times* Sept. 11 criticizing President Obama's claim that "American exceptionalism" compels the U.S. to respond to the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Syria — HRC issued a statement pointing out an incongruity between the Putin's statement that "God created us equal" and his support for treating Russia's LGBT people as lesser.

"If we're all equal, then it's time to put a stop to the anti-LGBT propaganda law," said the Sept. 12 statement on HRC Blog.

HRC sent letters to all ten of the major corporate partners of the Sochi Games, urging them to take a "public position" against the anti-gay law, "denounce" violence against LGBT people in Russia, and take other actions. HRC created

an "IOC Sponsor Watch" online to monitor how the corporate sponsors respond.

Olympic Corporate Supporters

A spokesperson for Dow Chemical, a top Olympic sponsor with a perfect score from the HRC Corporate Equality Index said, "Dow is globally committed to equality AND diversity and inclusion... We believe that the IOC will continue to uphold its commitment to non-discrimination in all aspects of the Games. We are engaged with the IOC on this important topic and support its recent statement that sport is a human right and the Games should be open to all."

"GE believes the Olympic Movement and the global attention the Games bring, has many positive influences beyond the sports arena," said GE spokesperson Megan Parker. "We expect the IOC to uphold human rights in every aspect of the Olympic Games." GE earned a 75 percent rating from HRC's index this year.

Coca-Cola corporate spokeswoman Ann Moore told this reporter Sept. 2, "We commit to continue demonstrating our values around diversity and inclusion through our actions and policies in communities throughout the world. We have great respect for the Human Rights Campaign and we look forward to continuing our dialogue with them on this important issue."

There has been other pressure aimed at the corporate sponsors too. On Aug. 17, a small group of Chicago area activists held up signs outside the McDonald's fast food headquarters in Oakbrook, Illinois, according to a Windy City Times report. McDonald's released a statement to local media saying, "Regarding the recent Russian legislation, we support the International Olympic Committee's belief that sport is a human right and the Olympic Games should be open to all, free of discrimination, and that applies to spectators, officials, media

See Olympics, page 12

Preydar Comes Out



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's a sociological truism that gays and lesbians are mainstreaming American metropolitan societies almost invisibly, certainly seamlessly, perhaps as never at any time before in our rainbow history.

Yes, increasingly, we are looking like everybody else. Only more so.

Born with innate God-given "gaydar" sixth sense, we have little difficulty identifying each other. A blessing of sorts, one supposes. It goes with the territory, even if the compass occasionally gets out of whack. Points in the wrong direction.

For others – fundamentalist and evangelical believers for example – ID-ing who is, who might possibly be, who isn't homosexual, presents ongoing challenges to their respective salvation beliefs, specifically to what's known as "bar ministry outreach."

What's triggered a growing alarm among fundygelicals is the recent number of choir directors, pastors, ex-Gay therapists, head ushers, board and vestry members, mega-church parking lot attendants, pastoral body guards, camp counselors who have, either by chance, foolhardy carelessness, persistent blackmail TXT-ing, been caught with their proverbial pinstripe pants unzipped and/or biblically down. Who would have thought?

Mind-blowing among such theocratic closet cases is Council Bluffs, Iowa, youth pastor Brent Giroeux who, reports Advocate magazine, allegedly had sex with several teenage boys – 60 counts of suspected sexual exploitation – while praying to rid them of 'homosexual urges'. (Obviously his spiritual zeal and discernment got just a tad out of hand.)

Interestingly, it seems that now such shocking breaches of morality and good manners are soon to be past history; at least it's hoped that such will be the case thanks to a new, Smartphone app called Preydar,

er, sorry, correction, Praydar, designed to identify at a glance bottom-line specifics of the so-called gay lifestyle, so many of us purportedly enjoy.

According to the Praydar inventor, Harley-Hamilton Noserunner, a Southern Baptist bona-fide deacon by total water immersion, and a distant cousin removed of famed (if somewhat tainted) evangelist diva, Aimee Semple McPherson, "This Smartphone app is a godsend to cutting to the quick about the Gay Agenda; yea, verily: a small, comfortable hand-held tool to use in these 'Left Behind' days before Jesus comes.

"By focusing the cellphone with this Holy Ghost end times app, it will be a piece of heavenly cake, so to speak – with flaming tongues and hasty genuflections – to tell when pointing at someone who's suspected of being gay if indeed they really, truly are, and not just pretending because it's thought to be the 'in' thing to do. Or, worse, because they're closeted.

"A discrete pink halo surrounds the app image. Straights halo as either green or puce. And, depending upon the brightness of the halo, you can also tell at a glance whether the sought-after sinner is sexually active or passive, well-equipped mentally or physically, and so suit your on-your-knees-to-pray conversion approach or debriefing strategies accordingly.

"While the app's designed to facilitate better bar ministry – witnessing for Christ in out-of-the-way watering holes, dimly lighted backrooms, adjacent church parking structures – there's also an ecumenical aspect.

"The Praydar app, provided by Catholic parents to teenage altar boy sons, can prevent possible misunderstandings during requisite confessions and very high holy days of obligation. The possibilities are rewardingly limitless. Amen!" (Pronounced Ah-men.)

► Olympics

Continued from p. 11

and athletes."

On Aug. 28, activists in New York City staged a "Dump Coca-Cola" action. In their press release, Queer Nation NY and RUSA LGBT (a group of Russian-speaking American LGBT activists) said the Coca-Cola Company is "sponsoring hate" by sponsoring the Sochi Games. The group demanded that Coca-Cola withdraw its sponsorship of the Sochi Games and implement in Russia the same non-discrimination policies it has for its workers in the United States.

The group has not yet gone after any of the other nine corporate partners but Queer Nation spokesman Alan Klein says protests against the others are "in the works."

"We started with Coca-Cola because they are a World Partner and major sponsor of the Games and have been associated with the Olympics since 1928," said Klein.

On the same day as the Queer Nation action, Coca-Cola posted a lengthy statement on its website, reiterating that it has "long been a strong supporter of the LGBT community" and that it does "not condone intolerance or discrimination of any kind anywhere in the world."

"We believe a more positive impact can be made through continued involvement, rather than by sitting on the sidelines," said the statement.

Coca-Cola is but one of 10 "top" corporate partners with the IOC for the Sochi Games. These partners provide millions of dollars to fund the staging of the games, support Olympic teams, and provide technology and expertise.

A petition at change.org, asking five of the ten sponsors to "pull sponsorship" from the 2014 Olympics had more than 211,000 supporters as of Monday (Sept. 16).

Texas-based Global Language Monitor, which specializes in auditing the value of various corporate brands, says most Olympic sponsors sign contracts that provide the sponsorship relationship through summer, winter, and Paralympics games. It estimates that corporate sponsorship of the Olympics over the course of a four-year period costs each company about \$1 billion in fees paid to the IOC and in costs associated with advertising and merchandising.

"The Olympics have the ability of make, break, energize, or hasten the decline of global brands," wrote GLM President Paul JJ Payack. "As



A gay rights activist chants slogans during a demonstration in front of the Russian consulate in New York last month. Russian vodka and the Winter Olympics in Sochi are the prime targets as gays in the United States and elsewhere propose boycotts and other tactics to convey their outrage over Russia's intensifying campaign against gay-rights activism. AP Photo: Mary Altaffer

they become an ever larger presence in an evermore wired world, their importance to the global marketing community will only increase in new (and possibly disruptive) ways. Successfully affiliating one's brand with the Olympics can result in billions of dollars in revenue differential."

In A Bind

Gay political commentator Richard Socarides said in an Aug. 20 essay for The New Yorker, the Olympic corporate sponsors are in a bind but so are activists.

"Last year's boycott of the chicken-sandwich chain Chick-fil-A for its financial support of anti-gay groups saw mixed results after conservatives rallied around the company and visited it in droves," noted Socarides.

There is a distinct discomfort among many with the similarities of Russia's harsh treatment of LGBT people today and Germany's treatment of Jews, gays and others when it hosted the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936.

There's another complication when it comes to evaluating some of these sponsors. Many sponsor LGBT events and make significant contributions to the LGBT community. For instance, Procter & Gamble contributed to the effort to repeal Cincinnati's anti-gay initiative, a move that prompted Focus on Family to urge a boycott of its popular toothpaste Crest and detergent Tide. The Visa corporation offers a rainbow Visa card for consumers who want to show their pride and HRC offers an "HRC

Visa Card" that allows supporters to automatically contribute a percentage of each purchase to the lobby group. The McDonald's fast food corporation has a "Lesbian Gay Career Development" class that "teaches our employees how to move from awareness to action in the area of inclusion and intercultural management." General Electric's LGBT employee group hosts 50 LGBT community service projects each year and sponsored the World Pride event prior to the 2012 London Olympics. And Coca-Cola, which has sponsored several LGBT pride events, the NGLTF Winter Party Festival, reportedly pressured the Atlanta-based law firm of King & Spaulding to drop its initial contract to defend the Defense of Marriage Act for the House's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group.

"But whatever the impact on

the bottom line," noted Socarides, "the [Chick-fil-A] controversy did generate a lot of media coverage, and certainly the Olympics offer a much bigger media platform for gay-rights supporters than a take-out chain.

"If Russia continues to arrest, harass, and stigmatize gay people, then human-rights activists will no doubt continue to protest and the Olympics in Sochi," he said, "could turn out to be one of the most politically explosive Games in history."



Above: REC's executive director Jerry Peterson welcomed guests to Voices. Upper Right: REC youth Nellie Jackson strutted her stuff at Voices fashion show. Lower Right: These four student designers from CCS helped the REC youth create their fashion statements for the show. BTL photos: Andrew Potter

Voices Tells REC Youth Stories, Raises Funds

DETROIT – Fashion, food and fun brought 250 Ruth Ellis Center supporters to Voices Sept. 12 at the College for Creative Studies. The event raised over \$91,000 for the organization for homeless and at-risk LGBT.

Last year's Voices brought in \$70,000, augmented by a \$15,000 gift from Wanda Sykes who appeared at the event.

"I was ecstatic with the event and the community support," said Jerry Peterson, the new executive director of REC as of August. "It was very clear that we don't need to bring celebrities in to bring the community to this event. It is the young people in the center who have the heart of the center. So that is what we will feature at Voices in the future - the incredible strength and creativity of these young people. That was an amazing experience for me to see the community come around them in this way," he said.

Lear Corporation was the top sponsor of the event, and in his remarks Matt Simoncini, CEO and President of Lear, renewed their \$25,000 commitment to Voices 2014. "That's a strong indication of how powerful this event was for the people there. He renewed right on the spot, on stage," said Peterson.

Peterson said he is really enjoying his new job and getting to know Detroit. "One of the best things Laura [Hughes, former executive director] did was leave a team of really competent people here at REC, and I'm really enjoying working with them all."



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Tim Selgo, Grand Valley State University Athletic Director

“It is important to me that anything other than an honorable discharge be removed from their military record.”

U.S. Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI Dist. 14) on legislation he plans to introduce to reinstate the military records of those who were dismissed from under the military’s former don’t ask, don’t tell policy.

“Would you like a World Cup where naked people are running around displaying their homosexuality? The answer to that is quite obvious. The Olympics and World Cup are not a stage for various views... not for Nazis, not for any other ways of life. It should be about football and nothing else... [high-level government officials have assured that the law would not affect athletes or fans] unless someone intends to be actively involved in the propaganda of this.”

Alexey Sorkin, CEO of the Russia 2018 Olympic Committee

“[We are happy to] lend their voices to the healing work of making our families, our society and our church more welcoming places for our LGBT brothers and sisters.”

Steve Young, a Mormon and the 1992 NFL Super Bowl MVP. He and his wife will speak at a pro-LGBT Mormon conference in Salt Lake City this month.

“[Teams] ask you, like, ‘Do you have a girlfriend? Are you married? Do you like girls?’ Those kinds of things, and you know it was just kind of weird. But they would ask you with a straight face, and it’s a pretty weird experience altogether.”

NFL prospect Nick Kasa explaining how team scouts probed him and others about their sexual orientation at the NFL Scouting Combine, an annual showcase for potential recruits, on ESPN Radio Denver

A Gift For Myself



Viewpoint

OPINION BY DAVE COULTER

As a thirty-one year old man focused on my own success – with a great corporate job, wonderful friends and family and a passion for politics – I saw the road ahead as paved with promise and possibilities. Then my best friend killed himself.

Nothing prepares you for suicide. There may be other life events that are as crippling, but fortunately I have not yet discovered one. It’s the kind of tragedy that instantly delineates one phase of your life from another, as if your innocence and all the years up to that point are somehow also killed.

But this isn’t a story about death, or even about my friend, Michael LaGatella. I’ll simply say about Michael that he was more full of life than any person I had ever known, and at twenty-four years old he was finally overcoming a difficult childhood. He was excited to be enrolled at Wayne State, and he had found a partner he deeply loved.

Michael didn’t share with us the reason why he did what he did, but his family and friends were left to share something that would live with us forever, and in our own ways we gradually began to search for some meaning to it all.

I’m not sure who had the original idea to create a scholarship for Michael. It may have been his partner, Mike Laber, or his partner’s friends John Burchett or Tim Mahoney, or maybe even me. But one of us did, and we all instinctively knew it just felt right.

So we poured our grief into creating something in his name that would last. We learned that if we raised \$10,000 at Wayne State we could endow a scholarship that would award \$500 a year forever. That was the beginning of the Michael P. LaGatella Memorial Scholarship, the first ever in Michigan for LGBT and supportive students.

It took nearly two years to raise the funds, but we did it. The four of us then became the committee to review applications, and for the next several years we would meet to evaluate the candidates. I was always inspired to read the stories of so many promising students, and I

“Today, I’ve been fortunate to live out my youthful dream of being in politics, but with a deeper appreciation for the meaning of public service and giving back. Whatever you go through, being of service to someone or something beyond yourself is a reward for you, too.”

couldn’t help noticing their similarities with Michael.

Some were very accomplished, and some were struggling to find their way (like Michael), but taken together they revealed a diverse mosaic of the best in our community. Granting scholarships helped turn our sorrow into joy in a most unexpected way.

That was twenty years ago, and time has been very good for our scholarship. Additional fundraising and a healthy stock market helped the endowment grow to more than \$100,000, and this October I’m proud we’ll be granting \$6,600 to five unique and deserving Wayne State students.

I also know this: working on the scholarship and building something to help students fulfill their dreams was exactly

what I needed to work through my loss. Even in a culture obsessed with how much we can get, I’ve learned that giving is a gift you give to yourself. The scholarships are, in a very real sense, also for me.

Today, I’ve been fortunate to live out my youthful dream of being in politics, but with a deeper appreciation for the meaning of public service and giving back. Whatever you go through, being of service to someone or something beyond yourself is a reward for you, too.

Dave Coultter is the mayor of Ferndale, MI. For more information about the Michael P. LaGatella Memorial Scholarship, contact the Wayne State University Office of Student Financial Aid at 313-577-2100 or email them at studentservice@wayne.edu.



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Sarah Brightman Talks Trendy Gays & How Singing Is Better Than Smoking Pot

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sarah Brightman knows what it means to “shoot for the stars.” A one-of-a-kind soprano, the “Phantom of the Opera” singer, who originated the iconic role of Christine 27 years ago and performs on Sept. 27 at the Fox Theatre, has a voice that can reach as high as the cosmos.

Soon, so will the singer herself, as she becomes the first singer to record a song from space as part of a three-person team that will orbit the Earth 16 times daily. Her first album since 2008, “Dreamchaser,” is an extension of this intergalactic mission – a trip that shouldn’t surprise her gay fans. Brightman did, after all, lose her heart to a starship trooper.

We chatted with the renowned singer about that campy disco-era music video, being a “heavenly” diva and getting high off those high notes.

How did you select the cover songs for this album?

Because of the journey I’m hoping to take in a couple of years to space, I wanted to create a body of work that incorporated the feeling of our emotions of space. I wanted to collect pieces which really felt very expansive – some with deeper meanings and from a different perspective – and that would bring all sorts of emotions up, so a lot of the songs were pieces I’d wanted to do for a long time but couldn’t, because I am an interpreter of music rather than a composer of it. These pieces kind of all fell into place when I thought of the theme of this album. It was really a journey for me collecting them all and putting them all together.

How did Sia’s “Breathe Me” fall into the vision that you had for the album?

That song has a deeper meaning; it’s not just the voice that goes to extraordinary places, but it’s about what it’s saying. I think the same with, for example, the piece “One Day Like This,” which Elbow originally did. The song is really trying to explain an experience – one experience we can have can last a lifetime. I think in today’s world, we’re very greedy for experience, and what we sometimes forget is that the smaller experiences that we have are actually the bigger ones, and we’re losing the beauty of them. I think “One Day” is similar to the Sia piece “Breathe Me,” and I also liked the idea of “Breathe Me” being about space – there

is no oxygen out there – and so it has something to do with the physical feeling of breathing, as well. I thought of that and what it means – it holds our life together.

You will be the first professional singer to take a trip to space in the next year or two. Isn't this some kind of Guinness World Record?

Yes, but that came afterwards. That wasn't the reason for going. It's a much deeper thing which one could either talk about or not. But yes, I do happen to be the first professional singer to go up.

Has this been a lifelong dream of yours?

It has, yes. I grew up through the '60s, and space was very forefront at the time. I watched the first man land on the moon on my black-and-white TV screen. It opened my eyes and my mind to what we were capable of, and that we could do things that were completely out of the box if we wished to do so or felt we had the force to. It gave me a force, and it gave me an energy. It was a very open time and very experimental time, and I thank that time for the career that I have because it gave me the courage, in a way, to move forward and to work really hard.

A lot of the pieces on television, the TV dramas, and in the movies were very space-oriented because space exploration was all opening up, so we were very influenced at that time and really felt that space and space exploration and moving off the planet and into different places was going to be very much part of our lives – when in fact it wasn't. So when the opportunity came up for me to be able to take a flight on the Virgin Galactic, and then further on down the line to make this particular journey on the Soyuz, I sort of grasped the opportunity and hoped that I would get through the medicals and the training, which I did. It brought me to this moment now, of us talking.

It'll be interesting to hear your stories after you return to Earth.

Yes, I know. That's one of the things I really want to share. I'm not a scientist and I'm not a doctor and I'm not an engineer and all of those things, so I probably will see some of it from a different perspective and might be able to reach people more normally in that way.

You are, however, a phenomenal singer. What's the highest note you can sing?

When I was younger it used to be much higher, because, of course, as you get older your high notes can still be reached but they don't mean as much. The voice does richer things. It used to be an E flat; I think that used to be my highest note. Now I think it's probably a D. Generally the repertoire I do doesn't need that note – that's more sort of "Queen of the Night

Aria."

When you're hitting a note that high, what goes through your mind? Do you have to think about it? Does your body convulse?

(Laughs) You have a fair amount of air rushing from your lungs to your vocal cords, and then obviously the resonances open up in your head, which actually makes you feel quite sort of light-headed and high. So they give you a ... fun feeling. (Laughs)

Like smoking pot?

It's much better than having a spliffy. (Laughs)

Have you ever nearly passed out?

You do actually feel very faint sometimes. I have often, yes. Sometimes you get a lot of those resonances when you open them and there's air going through. Obviously air doesn't go through the head – it's only imaginary – but the lungs are filled and you're using certain energies. It is a wonderful feeling when you're getting it right. (Laughs)

For people who've never experienced a Sarah Brightman show, what is that experience like?

I like to take people somewhere else completely. I like to take them to different worlds. This time, it's going to be definitely outer planetary. (Laughs) It's definitely a journey to the stars, but in the most romantic ways, as well – in a beautiful way. In the most jewel-like, crystalline way I can think of.

There will also be moments of huge amounts of energy in it. The beauty of technology today is that with these wonderful screens we have and what we can put on them, as well as the singer singing along, everything melts together with light, with the persona there and also the visuals behind you. You can really create stunning atmospherics for people to really just enjoy the music to, and that's what I intend to do.

Can we talk about the "I Lost My Heart to a Starship Trooper" video?

Of course we can! (Laughs) See, that proves my love of space, even though it was so tongue in cheek then.

You really were futuristic, even in the 70s.

I know, and in my Mary Quant tights. Mary Quant did wonderful makeup and glittery things and tights and stuff like that. It was a very sort of "in" look at that time. And those silvery suits were by Mary Quant.

Is that video the gayest thing you've done in your career?

(Laughs) So I'm told! I did it a few years back for gay pride in England, and I was

INFO

Sarah Brightman

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able to go on and do "I Lost My Heart" to its fullest. I had loads of dancers and everybody was going crazy out there. It's a really fun song to do.

You've been around gay people your whole life. Your brother is gay and so is a second cousin of yours. What's your relationship like with your brother?

It's the best. It's always been wonderful, since he's been a baby. There's been a real sort of connection there. It's lovely with him because he's got that female side, so he understands all points of view. He loves theater and he loves music and he loves what I do, and he loves my mother and looks after her because I can't always be there for her. He's just a lovely guy.

When was it that you noticed you had a gay following? When you were performing with Hot Gossip?

Yes, it was. And it's very important to me, because I always feel that the gay following – they generally know what's gonna happen before it does. They're very "in the know" with all the arts, and so I've always felt when that following is strong I'm kind of doing the right things, because they have good taste and are very happy to explore. They love the fantastic and all of those areas where a lot of people wouldn't necessarily go.

It's been a long time since you've done Broadway. Are your theater days over?

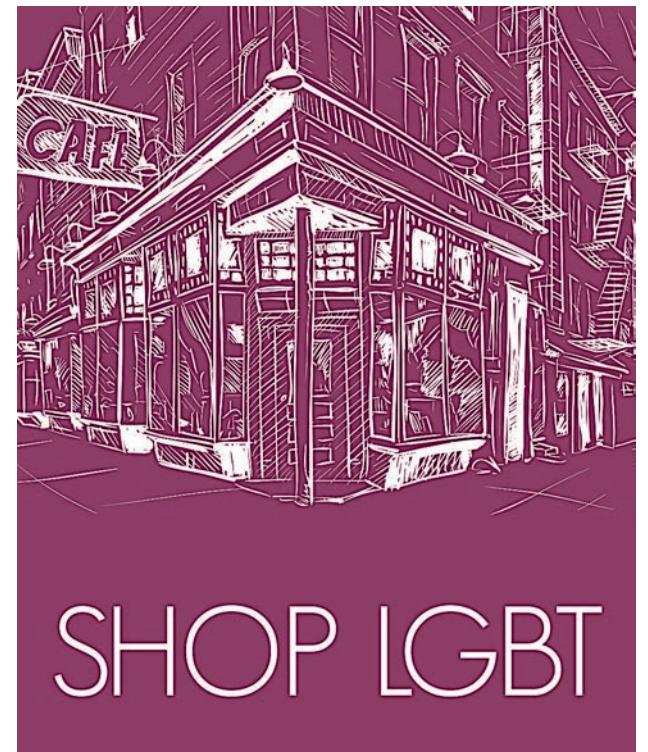
It's never say never with these things. I can't imagine it at the moment, but there may be a point where I say, "You know, I really would like to be in one place and do a Broadway show or a play or something in New York or L.A. or London, wherever it may be, and really enjoy myself focusing just on that."

Females who can sing as well as you are usually recognized as divas. Is that a term you would consider yourself?

Well, it's funny – "diva" actually means goddess-like, and I think it's an extremely positive term. There have been negative connotations – "diva" meaning difficult and throwing their weight around – but I never see it as something like that. I see it as something that's heavenly.

And in that way, you certainly are a diva.

(Laughs) I hope so. It does seem that I'm flying off to the heavens!



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Catching Up With Michael Urie

Actor On Breaking From 'Ugly Betty,' Sexually Mysterious New Role & Being Barbra

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Michael Urie doesn't mean to disappoint you. It's just that after basically becoming Marc St. James on "Ugly Betty," the hit ABC comedy that launched his career, he's often expected to be a flamboyantly catty queen.

And he's not.

His role in "Petunia," a new indie from Wolfe out now on DVD, is almost the antithesis of Marc: aloof, not-so-effeminate and sexually ambiguous, George is the kind of man the 33-year-old actor has longed to play.

In addition to his enigmatic part in "Petunia," Urie talked about entertaining the idea of a polyamorous relationship, the trick to impersonating Barbra Streisand and not living up to people's "Ugly Betty" expectations.

George is a different role for you. What was it like stepping into his shoes for "Petunia"?

That's exactly what I was so excited about when I read it. I thought it was such a good script. Halfway through reading it I was laughing at situations based on character traits, not just jokes and physical bits. I was really interested in it because I love – as you can probably imagine – camping out and being silly and being the center of attention and the colorful one, but it was really great and exciting for me to tone it down and play a more introspective character.

Did you know filmmaker Ash Christian and his work before this script came to you?

I got to know it because of this. He and my partner, Ryan, are old friends, so I knew him socially. He'd also been on an episode of "Ugly Betty," but I didn't work with him, so I didn't know him from that. I remembered his work, though, because he's a great actor as well.

Are you and your family anything like the Petunias?

(Laughs) No. Nooo! I think the



Photo: Christopher Beyer

three boys' dynamic is a pretty specific thing and my parents – we're from Texas – spent most of their lives in Texas. I have an older sister who's about seven years older than I am and is married to a woman, so we have a very different thing going on. She's in northern California, I'm in New York, my

parents are now in Virginia. We get along very well but don't meddle in each other's lives like the Petunias, so there's a lot less friction and conflict in our family.

Helps being so far apart from each other.

Yes, it does! It absolutely does. So

the time together is isolated and lovely. (Laughs)

You've been with women in the past, and you identify as "queer" and not gay. So was this sexually mysterious role something you were interested in on a personal level?

Yeah! That was another thing

that I thought was really cool – that there was this character (Ash) wrote who wasn't entirely happy in his marriage but wasn't necessarily looking to get out of it. I loved the scenes where George wants to have his cake and eat it too. The moment where he thought maybe he could have a wife and a boyfriend – that was really interesting. And obviously I know that's not a healthy thing, but I can't say I haven't thought about it. (Laughs)

Well, there are people in polyamorous relationships who seem to make it work. What are your thoughts on poly relationships, and do you think you could make one work?

I don't know. Ultimately, if I could make that work, obviously all three parties would have to be 100 percent on the same page.

One partner is plenty of work anyway.

That would be the thing for me. I mean, I'm lucky in life that I'm quite busy, so keeping up with one partner is plenty, but what I loved about (George) was the idea that maybe I could vicariously see what that felt like. I don't think it would actually work for me personally. Maybe for other people, or maybe as an experiment for a period of time. I don't think Ryan would be so into it. (Laughs)

Currently you're starring in the off-Broadway production of your one-man show "Buyer & Cellar." Because of it, you've said you're more invested in Barbra Streisand than you've ever been. What have you learned and observed about Barbra from doing this show that even her most devoted gay fans wouldn't know?

In preparing for this show and preparing to play her, what was most beneficial to me was not her singing, which is what she's most popular for I would imagine, and

See Michael, page 20

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► Michael

Continued from p. 18

not her interviews – for the most part she keeps interviewers at arm's length and she's pretty guarded – but it was her performances in movies. And I'm certainly not the first person to discover that Barbra Streisand is a great actor, but I realized that when we watch her in movies, especially movies like "Funny Girl" or "What's Up, Doc?," we get to see that sense of play that you don't really get in her concert banter or in interviews. That to me is the real her.

That is the her that we have in our play, and our play is a fictional story of what it might be like to work for her and her street shops that she keeps in her basement – that is very real, by the way. (Laughs) It's sort of a fantasia on that, and so I found that watching her silliness in movies, and watching that fun that she had and is now continuing to have, is the real her. And I don't know her. I have never met her. I don't know if I ever will. But that, to me, is probably the Barbra that is really there if you were to break down the barriers ... and live in her mall. (Laughs)

Will you bring the show on the road?

I hope so. I would like to. We'll see. There are some rumblings but nothing to report just yet. I would like to do it. We're gonna stay in New York for a while longer and there are certainly other cities I would like to play in, so I think so.

Within the last year, two gay-themed shows were canceled after just one season. One of those was your show, "Partners." Do you think gay-themed shows are tough sells on major networks?

I don't know if it's a gay-themed show thing. I think network television is a very tricky beast, and ultimately I feel like "Partners" could've found its footing. Unfortunately we had a lot of episodes – there were seven episodes that never saw the light of day – that are brilliant. But it's tricky. Networks are becoming more and more niche, and "Partners" really belonged amongst different shows. We were surrounded by very funny shows like "How I Met Your Mother" and "2 Broke Girls," but maybe we needed to be in a different crop of shows. I think it was less about the gay thing and more about just finding a family of shows that we fit better in. But it's funny: Six-and-a-half million viewers is a lot of people. A lot of people saw that show, but on CBS, that unfortunately is not a hit. And I get it. Though it would've been nice if they would've nurtured us.

Look on the bright side: At least you got to kiss Brandon Routh.

(Laughs) That's exactly right! There was a really funny blooper that, of course,

nobody will get to see where we did the kiss and then I messed up a line and I said, "I'm sorry, can we do it again?"

Your role on "Ugly Betty" as Marc St. James was so iconic and sometimes, when you essentially almost become that role, it's hard for people to separate you from the character. Did you experience that at all?

Absolutely. In real life I'm more like George in "Petunia" than Marc. I enjoy playing characters like Marc, but me personally, I'm not generally like that. I can get excited, but I'm not bitchy or fashionable or a sycophant or any of the things that Marc was, but those characters are so much fun to play.

What I found very quickly when that show started and was at its height in popularity – I was new to L.A. – was that I was not meeting anyone's expectations. People wanted me to be Marc. They wanted me to be like that, and then immediately, as soon as they'd lay eyes on me, they knew I wasn't. Especially when they started talking to me, they realized, "Oh, he's not that," or they'd think I was playing coy or being shy. That was a very interesting period for me to realize that, on the one hand, I liked the attention but I wasn't going to be able to give people what they wanted. I had to remain aloof and keep myself in an air of mystery because I wasn't going to be what they wanted. I wasn't going to be the king gay – the catty, stylish, fashionable, funny guy they all wanted me to be. That just wasn't in my nature. I needed someone to clothe me and give me lines to say in order to be that. It was an interesting lesson learned, actually.

How did it feel knowing you couldn't be that person to them?

I felt bad. But it was probably for the best. I don't really wanna be like that guy. It's not in my nature.

There have been rumors of an "Ugly Betty" movie. Are you open to the idea?

Oh my god, are you kidding? All I want in life is to work with those people again. I'm always trying to come up with ways to get back with all of them. We've really remained as tight of a group as we were without being able to see each other on a daily basis. I know everyone of us would jump at a chance to make a movie. Unfortunately, it's not our call. I hope it happens. I think it would be terrific.

Are you looking at any new TV roles?

Nothing in particular, but I would love to get back on TV. My appetite was very much whetted with "Partners" last year. We shot that in front of an audience – that's where my bread is buttered, being out in front of an audience. Doing a multi-camera show, it's so much fun. It's the best of both worlds for me.

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European And Japanese Artists Present Tale Of 'Shun-kin'

BY AMY J. PARRENT

ANN ARBOR – In 1933, Jun'ichiro Tanizaki wrote a story called "Portrait of Shun-kin," a fictional biography so believable in its dense, fragmented style that critics thought the mock documentary was a true account. In fact, when Complicite theater director Simon McBurney first studied the piece, he too was almost fooled by the work, which had actually been inspired by a Thomas Hardy short story.

Now re-envisioned for the stage by McBurney, "Shun-kin" is a contemporary collaboration of European and Japanese artists utilizing timeless traditional Japanese theatrical forms.

And yet, said Michael Kondziolka, director of programming at Ann Arbor's University Musical Society, which will present "Sun-kin" Sept. 18-21 at Power Center, "The work is meant to be looked at by someone who doesn't have knowledge of all these layers and styles."

McBurney's driving passion was to understand and adapt to a Japanese style of thought and the expression of that thought.

A non-Japanese speaker, McBurney has said that when he asked the cast in rehearsal to pause at the end of a sentence, "I appeared to have a rebellion on my hands."

At last the translator explained to him there should be no full stops, "no short phrases to quicken the narrative."

McBurney also described Tanazaki's style as "meandering and crossing one event into another," leaving questions.

But the Japanese cast told him, "It is precisely the intention that we should be left in ambiguity."

Truly Render, press and marketing manager for UMS, said the production is seamless and smooth in part because Japanese traditions are so alive and well. "That culture has done a fine job of preserving itself," she said. "The play uses every theatrical trick, and does it in front of you. The music is performed live; you can see how the special effects are done."

She praises the show's incorporation of bunraku as performed by puppeteers from the London-based Blind Summit Theatre. "It's beautiful watching a team work to animate a character," said Render. "Shun-kin starts as a puppet, a cold-hearted person, and then she becomes a (real) person."

Render, mother of a pre-schooler, said, "It is crazy to see the puppet portraying a 4-year-old. I thought, 'That's exactly how a child moves.'"

Along with live actors, puppets and



"Shun-kin" is coming to Ann Arbor's Power Center Sept. 18-21. Photo: Tsukasa Aoki

PREVIEW

'Shun-kin

University Musical Society at Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Sept. 18-19 and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 20-21. \$18 and above. 734-764-2538.

ums.org

musicians there is a narrator. (The play is performed in Japanese with English supertitles.) But it's not just about the words, said Kondziolka. "We tend to privilege words in Western theater," he said. "We read plays as literature. We think of a play as a delivery of words. This piece privileges other things as much as words: Music, the images they create, objects—the puppets, movement and action. All things are narrative."

"It's the way the parts move together to create a sense of the story that wants to be told," said Kondziolka. "It's the essence of the work; the details are not important. The emotion the details create is what's important."

McBurney said, "Ninety-nine percent of the average audience will not remember what is said. What will be remembered is what is felt."

Said Kondziolka, "All of Simon McBurney's work is about what feeling

he's leaving you with."

"Shun-kin" marks a return to the UMS schedule of McBurney's London-based Complicite and Japan's Setagaya Public Theater, following their 2004 UMS debut with "The Elephant Vanishes." (Complicite also appeared in Ann Arbor in 2008 performing "A Disappearing Number.") "I still have people coming up to me nine years later to talk about 'The Elephant Vanishes,'" said Kondziolka.

Kondziolka said he is pleased when UMS is able to have "a true master" such as McBurney in Michigan, comparing it to the past performances of Robert Wilson and Philip Glass's "Einstein on the Beach" and an upcoming production by Peter Brook.

A small bonus for those who've seen other Complicite works is to recognize certain onstage images and themes that reoccur. "'Shun-kin' is part of Complicite's complete body of work," said Render. "There are visual through lines that they've been doing over the years. Simon is interested in long-range thinking."

And while a description of the play may sound like overload, the execution doesn't feel heavy, said Render. "There is narrative; it's a play," she said. "It is innovative in its use of theatricality to get to the narrative pulse. It's told as a story, and the audience should relax and enjoy that story."



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Editor's Pick



Three nights of art, dining and more are coming to Detroit in an effort to raise money in the fight against AIDS. DIFFA, the "Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS," is hosting the three-day "Dining By Design" fundraiser.

A silent auction complete with music, dancing and cocktails opens the three-day benefit with "Cocktails by Design." The following evening brings the art event of

the season, with "ArtWorks Detroit," an art auction accompanied by 28 dining installations. DIFFA's event will end with "Dining by Design," the gala dinner catered by Novi Chop House, Coach Insignia, Northern Lakes Seafood, and more.

"Cocktails by Design" begins at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 26, with "ArtWorks Detroit" following the next day at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27. The gala dinner, "Dining by Design," starts at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28. All events are being held at the Former Federal Reserve Building, 160 W. Fort St., Detroit. Ticket prices range from \$75-250. For more information, call 248-545-1485, ext. 105 or visit www.michiganaidcoalition.org.

Happenings

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 19

Faith Alliance Meeting 12 p.m. Welcoming new members who would like to be involved with the intersection of faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 2208 Winchell Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

The Parent Network 6 p.m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

Womyn's Poetry Fest 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor poets Dawn Richberg, Jill Halpern, and Charlotte Young Bowens are joined by performance artist Callie McKee in this celebration of womyn and their creative spirits. Open Mic. Free refreshments. Common Language Bookstore, 325 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0036. dawnrichberg@gmail.com

Friday, Sept. 20

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

An Evening with Greg Louganis 7 p.m. 25th Anniversary of AIDS Care Program. Four-time Olympic gold champion Greg Louganis. Sacred Heart's Rehabilitation Center, 7400 Bay Road, **University Center**. 989-964-4000. Svsu.edu

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

Friday Night Socials: Game Night 7 p.m. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Burlesque. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

SONIA and disappear fear 8 p.m. SONIA of Disappear Fear performs progressive songs about LGBT rights and more. Tickets: \$0-15. Green Wood Coffee House Series, 1001 Green Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-665-8558. katiegeddes@provide.net Fumc-a2.org/coffee_house.cfm

Saturday, Sept. 21

Ninth Annual AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region Four-time Olympic champion Greg Louganis will speak. Sacred Heart's Rehabilitation Center, **Downtown Bay City**. tbrubaker@sacredheartcenter.com Sacredheartcenter.org

Get Out Bike - Tour de Troit 9 a.m. Registration required. GOAL, Michigan Ave., **Detroit**. tdt2013.eventbrite.com

LezHike - Birdhills Park 11 a.m. LezHike, **Ann Arbor**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Obamacare and the LGBT Community: What it Means for You 1 p.m. Community presentation and Q&A session. Light refreshments provided. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Summer Tea Party 4 p.m. Admission: \$10. KICK, 6426 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. e-kick.org

Voter Ask Event 4 p.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. e-kick.org

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

Sunday, Sept. 22

TransCend TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

Women's Month at Campit 12 p.m. September is Women's Month at Campit. September 20 will be hosted by Chris and Lynn who will be hosting a Ladies in Lace social for women and a women's breakfast. Campit Outdoor Resort, 6635 118th Avenue, **Fennville**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Queer Women's Committee Potluck 1 p.m. Monthly potluck on fourth Sunday of each month. All lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally women welcome. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

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

Monday, Sept. 23

Panel Discussion on Deviations A Gayle Rubin Reader by Gayle S. Rubin 4 p.m. Deviations is the definitive collection of writing by Gayle S. Rubin, a pioneering theorist and activist in feminist, lesbian and gay, queer, and sexuality studies since the 1970s. Free. Institute for Research on Women & Gender, 911 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-9537. irwg@umich.edu research.umich.edu/

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, **Royal Oak**. 586-427-1259. info@hghiv.org

Nest Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Monthly Bible study focusing on LGBTQ issues. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 508 Denner St., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Tuesday, Sept. 24

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

Gay Business Networking 8 a.m. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

See Happenings, page 29



Julia Marsh wrote and stars in "Please Give Me Your Money ... So I Can Buy a Vagina!" every Friday at 7 p.m. through the remainder of September at The Ringwald. Photo: Scott Lipiec

A Tale Of Two Titties

Ringwald One-Act Recalls The Price Of Serenity

BY JOHN QUINN

The Ringwald Theatre has justly earned a reputation for presenting unique shows. "Please Give Me Your Money ... So I Can Buy a Vagina!" is beyond unique. Julia Marsh wrote and performs this sketch comedy, with Joe Bailey of The Ringwald as director. Both witty and provocative, this one-woman show is an intimate account of a journey toward "quiet confidence."

Julia Marsh is a pre-operative transsexual. The title of the play, therefore, is self-explanatory. While I can count a fair number of transgendered people among my friends and acquaintances, I've pretty much ignored their more personal stories. I think of the opening line, sung by the female impersonators of "La Cage": "We are what we are" – but what transsexuals are is *not* an illusion. Transvestitism and transsexuality are not the same.

I found the website Transsexual.org, the iGuide resource for the Encyclopedia Britannica (which unfortunately hasn't been updated in a while), to be helpful in putting Julia's monologue into a larger context. Transsexual people identify

REVIEW

Please Give Me Your Money ... So I Can Buy a Vagina!

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, 20 & 27. 55 minutes. \$10. 248-545-5545.
theringwald.com

as a member of the sex opposite to that assigned at birth, and desire to live and be accepted as such. Transsexuality is not about sexuality; it is about identity, about being one's self. "Sex is how the body is shaped, how it functions, male or female. Gender is the 'sex' of the brain, apart from the body."

According to Marsh, her odyssey toward "transgender congruence" began at birth. She leavens fact with a little fantasy, recalling her own circumcision – and her disappointment that it wasn't more complete. "Please Give Me Your Money ... So I Can Buy a Vagina!" recounts a life-long pursuit of balance in her self-image, self-reflection and self-expression.

Kudos to director Bailey for demonstrating that monologue need

not be monotonous. Moreover, as artistic director of The Ringwald, he was savvy in remounting this one act from this year's Gay Play Series. The audience is arranged around a roughly triangular performance space, and no one is far from the performer. Her director keeps Marsh in motion, moving from areas distinguished by lights – floor lamps, chandeliers and conceptual street lights. All in all, it's a remarkably personal experience.

Marsh's material is strong, compelling and very entertaining. That she is an accomplished performer but not an "actress" lends an unabashed realism to the show. The trials she withstood – the alienation from her family (and the subsequent homelessness) to a beating by thugs – should have left bitter, spiteful scars. They didn't. For all its serious moments, this is an upbeat piece of theater illustrating a recurring literary theme: the triumph of the will.

Now "Please Give Me Your Money ... So I Can Buy a Vagina!" is not "The Little Engine Who Could"; it is not a show for everybody. Everyone is on his or her own spectrum toward achieving congruence. How long is the trip from hatred to tolerance to acceptance?

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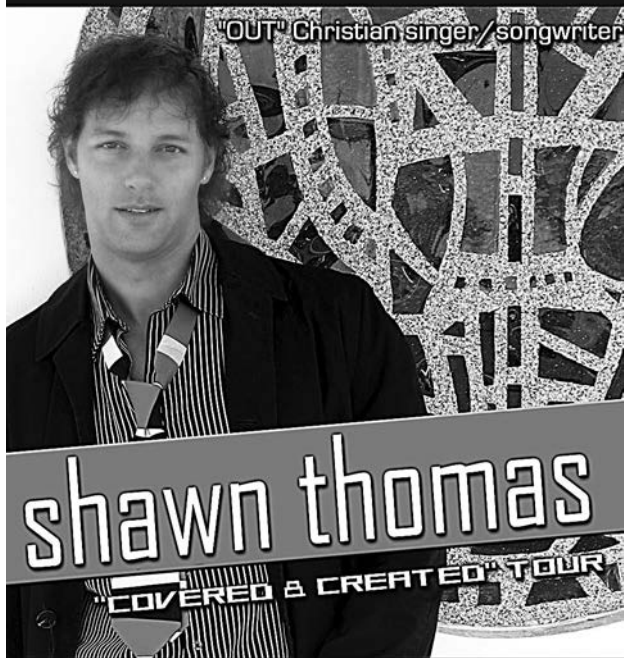


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100 Backpacks Needed For Ruth Ellis Center

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

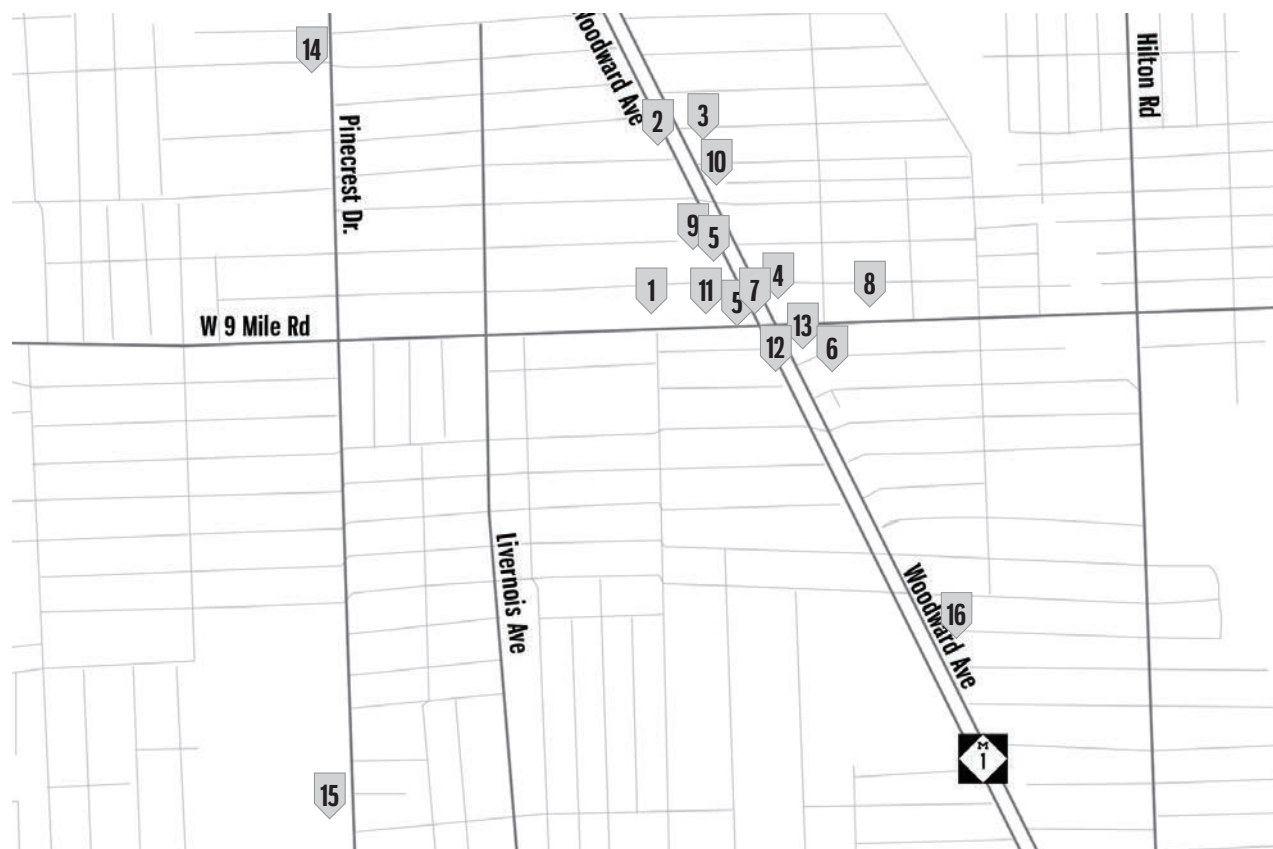
go in the bags are: hand warmers, gloves, a winter hat, a small roll up blanket, two bottles of water, non-perishable food items like crackers or fruit snacks, and optional bus passes.

"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 Fullenkamp, 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 Drive, Ferndale. For more information, call 248-399-7741.



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01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, Birmingham Unitarian
Church, 38651 Woodward,
Bloomfield Hills, lower level
classroom - enter first walkway off
Woodward entrance. Big Book/12
& 12 Meeting.

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.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

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

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

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Solution to puzzle from page 34

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N	C	A	A	L	E	C	H	E	D	R	O	P	
T	A	L	K	A	L	L	A	N	L	E	N	A	
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Editor's Pick

Metro Detroit is becoming a beacon of craft beer and mead; now, cocktails made from artfully made liquor are joining the scene. In the burgeoning era of "buy local," head over to Valentine Distilling Co.'s for a tour full of historic facts and craft spirits. The company uses all locally sourced ingredients and partners with multiple Michigan companies.

Opened in 2009 by Rifino Valentine, the company uses old world techniques and equipment to create hand-

distilled vodka. Since then, the distillery has introduced finely made whiskey and gin. Be sure to try their classic, craft cocktails at the tasting room following a tour.

Tours at Valentine Distilling Co. are booked between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., with groups of eight or more preferred. The up-and-coming cocktail bar opens at 4:30 Wednesday through Friday and noon on Sundays at 161 Vester St., Ferndale. For more information on tours and events, call 248-629-9951 or e-mail nick@valentinevodka.com.

Happenings

Continued from p. 24

Detroit. 313-805-7061.

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

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. Women's

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

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

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

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Drag Battle! 8 p.m. Raven vs. Jujunbee. Alexis Mateo vs. Manila Luzon. Latrice Royale vs. Willam. Roxxy Andrews vs. Detox. 18+. Murray & Peter, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak.** 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

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

Thursday, Sept. 26

Cocktails by Design/ArtWorks Detroit Auction 6 p.m. Original works of art by 150 artists, silent and live auction, entertainment, free valet parking, and appetizer stations by Epicurean Group. Tickets: \$75-100. Michigan AIDS Coalition, **Detroit.** mmills@michiganaidcoalition.org michiganaidcoalition.org

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

Gay and Christian: Further Conversations 7 p.m. Speakers: Dr. Matthew Clark, Ruth Bell Olsson and Daniel Dobson. Discussion. Open to all. The Clark Institute, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids.** 616-458-0692. Theclarkinstitute.com

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor.** 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Latrice Royale 10 p.m. Drag queen performance. Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit.** 313-863-3934. Menjosbar.com

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Encore Detroit (Alliance Franciase de Detroit) "Bayou Detroit" The first annual Bayou Detroit Cajun & Zydeco event will take place at the Majestic Theatres rooftop Alley Deck. Cajun music jam session open to all (bring your acoustic instrument), followed by a dance lesson with dances that are core to the Cajun music scene. Louisiana two-step, waltz, and Zydeco. Cajun-Creole band Creole du Nord will play. Tickets: \$12-15. The Majestic Rooftop Alley Deck, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 6 p.m. Sept. 21. 734-323-1761. Bayoudetroit.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Kimwana Doner" With guest artist, Vincent Chandler. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor.** 8 p.m. Sept. 25. 734-763-

4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MOCAD "Body/Head" Kim Gordon & Bill Nace. Tickets: \$10-15. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 7 p.m. Sept. 25. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "Juliana Barwick" Tickets: \$7. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 8 p.m. Sept. 22. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MSU College of Music "Symphony Band". Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24. Music. msu.edu/event-listing

MSU College of Music "Anne Nispel and Harlan Jennings". Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. 3 p.m. Sept. 22. Music. msu.edu/event-listing

Oakland University "Guitar Ensemble Concert". Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Sept. 24. 248-370-2030. Oakland.edu

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Sarah Silverman" 18+. Reserved Seating. Tickets: \$45. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak.** 7 p.m. Sept. 22. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Shovels and Rope with special guest Shakey Graves" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor.** 8 p.m. Sept. 19. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Band of Heathens" Tickets: \$17. 50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor.** 8 p.m. Sept. 21. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Tales of Cream & Rattlesnake Shake" Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale.** 7 p.m. Sept. 20. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Wildcat! Wildcat!" Tickets: \$10+. Magic Stick Lounge, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 7 p.m. Sept. 20. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Majestic "Pokey LaFarge with the Thornbills" All ages. Tickets: \$12. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit.** 8 p.m. Sept. 25. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "The Eagles" Tickets: \$63. 60-208. 05. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., **Auburn Hills.** 8 p.m. Sept. 21. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

FESTIVALS

Detroit Creative Corridor Center "Detroit Design Festival" Will feature 60 events hosted in neighborhoods across Detroit. The festival will connect 300 designers and creative practitioners with new markets and more than 15,000 consumers in 5 days. The festival was created by DC3 in 2011 as a vehicle to position Detroit as a global center for independent design and creative innovation. Various, **Detroit.** Sept. 17 - Sept. 22. Detroitdesignfestival.com

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

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Hairspray \$15-18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, **Canton.** Through Sep. 22. 734-394-5300. Spotlightplayersmi.org

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

See Happenings, page 31

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 29

Les Miserables \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 27 - Oct. 13. 269-343-1313. kazoo.civic.com

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

The UFO Show IV: The Pirate Edition \$8. Emergent Arts at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Sep. 19 - 20. 734-961-8704. Emergentarts.com

PROFESSIONAL

Amy and Freddy \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 21. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

An Iliad \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 26 - Oct. 27. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Banana for Turtle \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Sep. 28. 313-961-7777. Puppetart.org

Big Bully - A Rock Musical Appropriate for grades K-8. \$10 adult, \$7 child. Children's Theatre Network at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. Sep. 28. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story \$60-65. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Sep. 27 - Sep. 28. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

ComedySportz A family-friendly show! . ComedySportz Detroit at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Sep. 21 - Nov. 30. 877-636-3320. Comedysportzdetroit.com

Hello, Dolly! \$20. The Snug Theatre, 160 W. Water St., Marine City. Through Sep. 21. 810-278-1749. thesnugtheatre.com

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

Macbeth \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Sep. 20 - Feb. 25. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Miss Saigon \$35-90. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 24 - Oct. 6. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Momix: Botanica \$30-250. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 27. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

No Child... \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Sep. 20 -

Oct. 13. 313-967-0599. Matrixtheatre.org

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

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

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

Ring of Fire \$31-33. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sep. 20 - Oct. 12. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

Shun-Kin \$18 and above. University Musical Society at Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 18 - 21. 734-764-2538. ums.org

String Up The Moon \$5-15. Fratellanza at Jam Handy (Detroit Design Festival), 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 20 - 21. Fratellanzatheater.org

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \$18-23 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Sep. 27 - Oct. 20. 248-850-9919. Twomusetheatre.org

The Dixie Swim Club \$25. Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Sep. 27 - Oct. 5. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

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

The Vast Difference Contains mild adult language and themes. 18.50-\$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Sep. 20 - Dec. 14. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

The Wiggles: Taking Off! \$18-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 2:30 p.m. Sep. 22. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

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

ART'N'AROUND

4731 Gallery "Stretch the Strangle Hold" 4731 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Sept. 21 - Oct. 5. 313-355-3273.

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

Detroit Artists Market "The Chosen" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 13 - Oct. 19. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Acanthus Art Society Meeting". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 26 - Oct. 23. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Fandangles' "September 2013 Art Exhibit" Featuring Sue McKee, Nancy Pennell, and Ann Stone. The Marketplace at Flushing, 6429 W. Pierson Road, Flushing. Sept. 1 - Oct. 4. 810-659-2700. Fandanglesmi.com

Flint Institute of Arts "Modern Dialect: from the John & Susan Horseman Collection" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Aug. 1 - Sept. 22. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Krasl Art Center "American Painting Today: Physical & Visceral" Styles, forms, boundaries and mediums resist limitation. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. Sept. 1 - Oct. 20. 269-983-0271. Krasl.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "A Visual Wow" Work by Laura Whiteside Host and Sherry Adams Foster. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Sept. 4 - Sept. 28. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Leon & Lulu "Pewabic at Leon & Lulu" The Pewabic team will share examples of the tile studio's most glamorous and historic design installations and will advise guests on how to use Pewabic tiles in their own projects. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson. 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19. 248-288-3600. Leonandlulu.com/events

Michigan State University Museum "An Extraordinary Document of Our World and Detroit Resurgent" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Sept. 8 - Jan. 12. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "Vdrome" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 6 - Nov. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design "Simon McBumey" Free. Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Sept. 19. 734-764-3464. Umich.edu

Riverside Arts Center "Reflections of Hope" A Sandy Knapp solo exhibit. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sept. 5 - Sept. 28. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.com

Step On Bus Tours "Great Art Escape in Saugatuck, MI" Pick up destinations in Madison Heights, Novi & Wixom. Tickets: \$85. Ferndale, 215 W. Troy, Suite 2046, Ferndale. 7:30 a.m. Sept. 26. 248-619-6692. Stepontourstours.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Performing Still Images" Two-dimensional photography becomes an experience in space and time. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 28 - Jan. 5. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



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Editor's Pick

The Children's Theatre Network of Performance Network Theatre invites audiences of all ages to "Big Bully - a Rock Musical" at 1 p.m. Sept. 28, with book and lyrics by Aral Gribble II and Carla Milarch, and music by Jim Wheeler.

"Big Bully - A Rock Musical" is an original show commissioned by Performance Network after

interviews with educators revealed the pressing need to address this issue.

Bullies are everywhere - at school, on the bus, online. But where do they come from? How can our children know if they are being a bully and how they can stop bullying behavior from other children? Follow Biff, an ex-bully, on the musical journey of how one brave friend helped him turn his life around. Appropriate for grades K-8.

Tickets are \$7 for children, \$10 for adults, and \$20 for a family package of four. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling 734-663-0681.

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jodie Foster leaves prison, moves into 'House of Cards'

Jodie Foster's next feature as a director, "Money Monster," is in that weird no-person's-land known as pre-production, so in the meantime, the double Academy Award-winning actor has been dropping in for guest spots directing cool episodic television. She helmed the fittingly-titled "Lesbian Request Denied" episode of the hit Netflix series "Orange Is The New Black," and will now step into David Fincher's shoes to work on an upcoming episode of "House of Cards," the critically acclaimed and Emmy-nominated political drama, also from Netflix, starring Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright about a manipulative—and murderous—congressman with his eyes on the White House prize. Producer/director Fincher is stepping back for the show's second season, so Foster (in addition to Spacey and Wright) reportedly will direct at least one episode. If she keeps on working with Netflix, will Foster get her own special section of streaming product there? It would make it a lot easier to watch "Freaky Friday" and "Bugsy Malone" whenever we want. And we really do want.



Jodie Foster. Photo: Featureflash

Dane DeHaan does Dean

For a man who starred in a grand total of three films, James Dean still fascinates millions of fans, generations after his death. In fact, more films have been made about him than by him; he's been portrayed by more than a few young, brooding actors, including James Franco, and now it's time for the Millennial take on the icon. Up-and-comer Dane DeHaan ("Chronicle," "Lincoln") will star as Dean in "Life," the latest film from director Anton Corbijn. His co-star? Just some guy named Robert Pattinson (building on the cool cred and decent reviews for David Cronenberg's "Cosmopolis" in his post-"Twilight" bid for a career beyond heartthrob status). Pattinson will play photographer Dennis Stock and the story will follow the friendship the pair forged when Stock was assigned to photograph the emerging star. "Life" is scheduled to go before the cameras in February of 2014, plenty of time for you to watch "Rebel Without A Cause," "East of Eden," "Giant" and every other biopic on the man. You know, just in case you've been slacking off and not doing your homework.

De-gaying Tchaikovsky in Russia. Of course.

Re-writing history is a good way to control it. And that's what's happening right now as a new Russian biopic on the life of classical composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky plans to strip the man of his homosexuality. The film, partially underwritten by the Russian Ministry of Culture, will censor itself before anyone else gets a chance to—if you've been living under a rock you might have missed the avalanche of recent news reports about a terrifying, government-instigated wave of anti-gay laws and cultural sentiment—removing the gayness from the famous musician. The film's screenwriter, respected scribe Yuri Arabov, has, in a bizarre twist, been quoted as saying that Tchaikovsky was not a man who loved men, even though earlier drafts of the script suggested otherwise. And in spite of all the historical evidence to the contrary, it looks like misinformation is going to rule the day here and the sanded down version of the man's unhappy life is the one the world will get. Next for Russia? A remake of "Behind The Candelabra" where Liberace finally finds love with a good woman.

Romeo San Vicente loves plenty of good women, just not that way. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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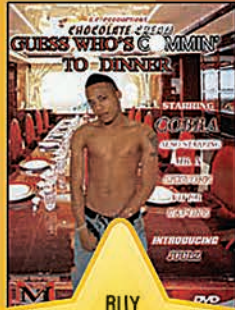
McKellen and Condon reunite for a 'Trick'

"Dreamgirls"/"Twilight" director Bill Condon's latest drama, the WikiLeaks-themed, Benedict Cumberbatch-starring "The Fifth Estate," recently premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, so the man has his autumn promotional tour already planned. But after that he'll go back to his roots, working with Sir Ian McKellen on a project currently titled "A Slight Trick of The Mind." The filmmaker and actor first collaborated in the '90s on the acclaimed indie "Gods and Monsters," a movie that earned McKellen a Best Actor Oscar nomination and won Condon an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. "Trick," though, promises McKellen in a role currently co-owned by both hyperactive Robert Downey Jr. and the hypnotic Benedict Cumberbatch, that of "Sherlock Holmes." The new film "Holmes," based on the novel by Mitch Cullin, will focus on the retired sleuth, haunted by a 50-year-old unsolved case. Brilliant ideas: Cast all three men as various incarnations, or just go "Clumps"-style and make it a vehicle for McKellen in multiple roles, including all female characters, the villain and Gandalf, who shows up to help Holmes solve the case in 1.5 seconds. Too irreverent? Probably. But look, there are no bad ideas in brainstorming.

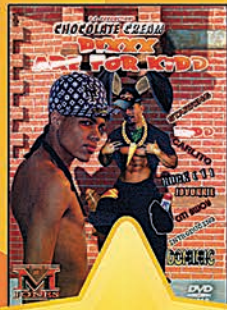
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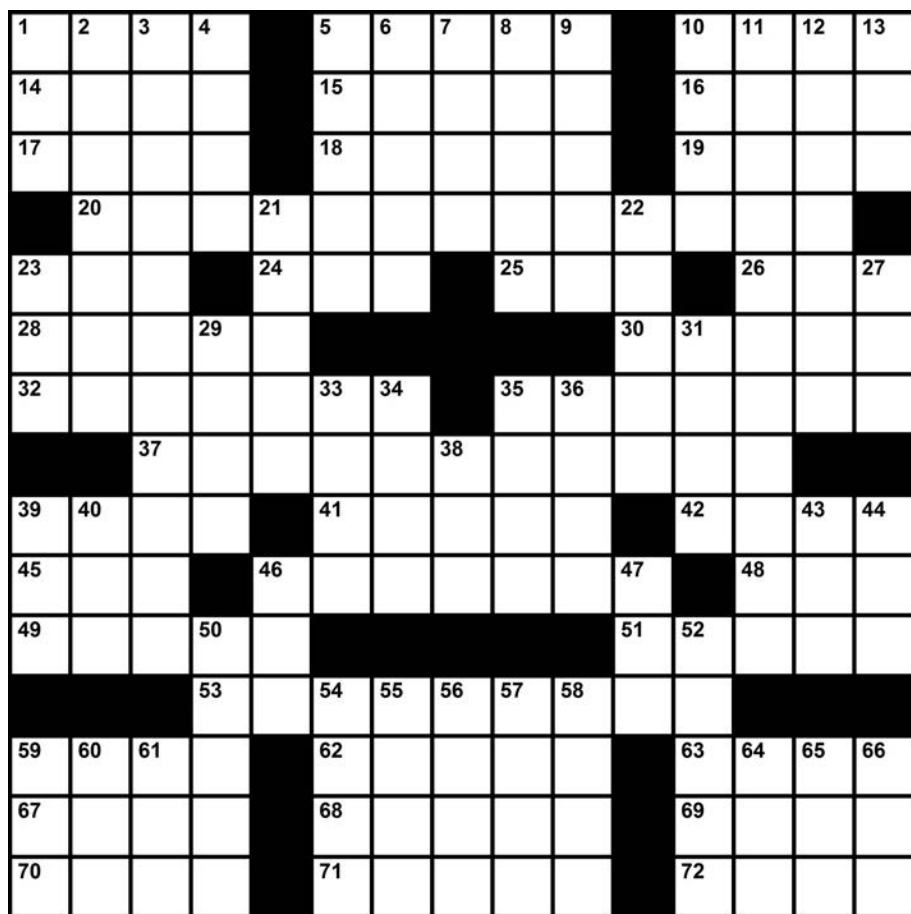
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- 1 Partners of bottoms
- 5 Vidal's "Visit to a ___ Planet"
- 10 Words before delighted
- 14 Final Foursome org.?
- 15 Cafe con ___
- 16 Go down
- 17 Hudson and Day pillow activity
- 18 Spear of Minnesota
- 19 Sultry Horne
- 20 Tom Cruise danced in his briefs in this flick
- 23 Storage spot
- 24 Eavesdropping org.
- 25 Folk singer DiFranco
- 26 Elbow-bender
- 28 Excessive
- 30 Still in the closet, perhaps
- 32 Some cracks are full of it
- 35 They shoot up when they shoot off
- 37 With 46-Across, song to which Cruise danced
- 39 Coloratura Gluck
- 41 "West Side Story" girl
- 42 Decorated man, maybe
- 45 Born in Boulogne
- 46 See 37-Across
- 48 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
- 49 Beat (out)

- 51 "Not to worry"
- 53 Singer of the song
- 59 Positive sign
- 62 Response to an on-line personal
- 63 Nick Adams character Johnny
- 67 Actress Skye
- 68 Rimbaud's turf
- 69 Ditch school for the day
- 70 Hockey thug
- 71 Trojan beauty
- 72 Just your type?

Down

- 1 Explosive stick
- 2 Ovate wind instrument
- 3 Air an aria, avid diva
- 4 Fifth Avenue store
- 5 Puts in stitches, like Kate Clinton
- 6 Moore of "Hair"
- 7 Rights-defending org.
- 8 Tibetan capital
- 9 Big dictator in the land of Peter the Great
- 10 "Spamalot" writer Eric
- 11 They cover the knees of drag queens
- 12 Yves' evening utterance
- 13 Ecology org.
- 21 Work with the hands
- 22 Big bang cause, briefly
- 23 It picks people up who

- eventually get off
- 27 QB feats
- 29 Home of the Bruins
- 31 Problem for skin
- 33 Gay-dog owner of "South Park"
- 34 Object to
- 35 "Get ___ the Church on Time"
- 36 By mouth
- 38 Russian commune
- 39 Bannan of '50s lesbian pulp fiction
- 40 Bloom of "The Producers"
- 43 ___ Speedwagon
- 44 Hard woody one
- 46 Busy activity
- 47 Tell a tall tale
- 50 "The Wizard of Oz" dropout Buddy
- 52 No-tell motel meeting
- 54 Aleph follower
- 55 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
- 56 Banjoist Scruggs
- 57 Wilde country
- 58 One side of Ed Wood
- 59 Party in a fairy tale threesome
- 60 Elton's john
- 61 One, to Frida
- 64 Ho's instrument
- 65 Be social
- 66 "Rent" unit (abbr.)

Solution on pg. 30

#TIME2KNOW
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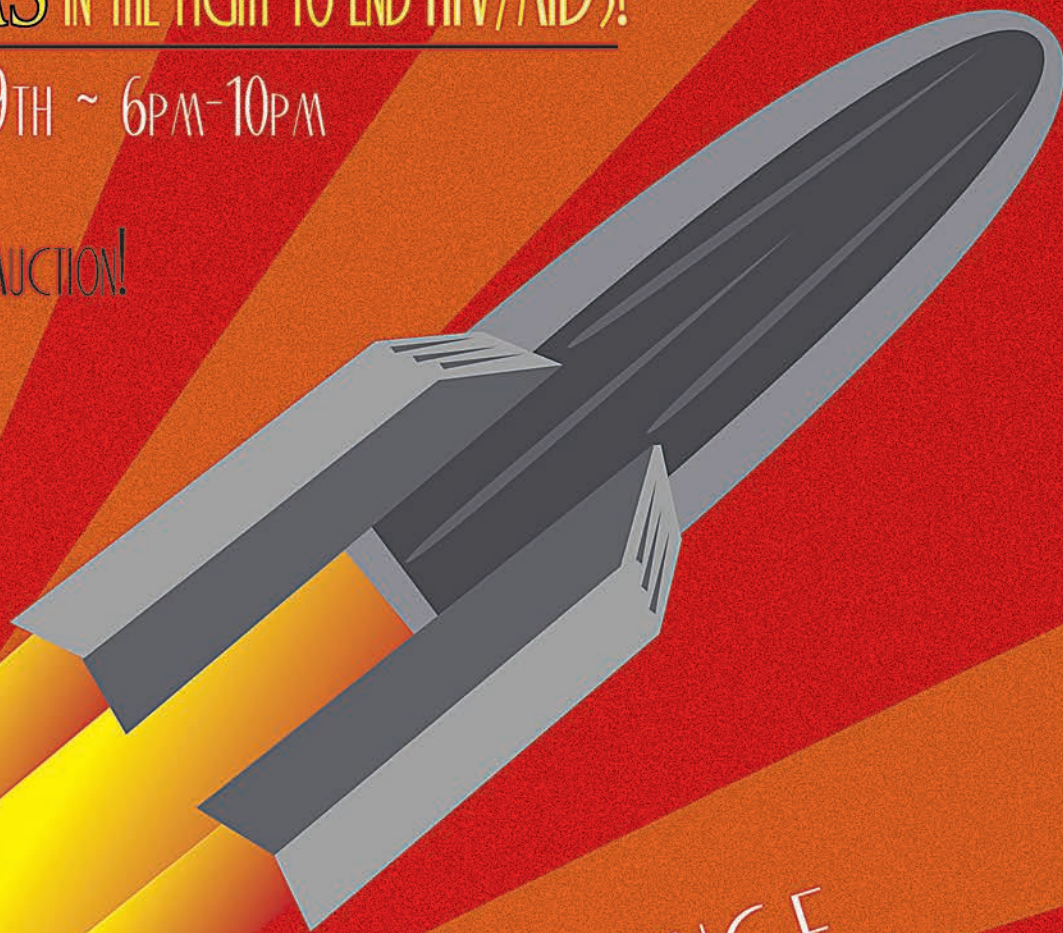
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- Tobacco companies have used LGBT civil rights leaders to help them frame smoking as a "freedom" so they can target us more successfully.
- If you call the quitline you are up to 5 times more likely to successfully quit smoking versus going cold turkey.
- One phone call can get you a FREE quit coach, FREE quit plan, and answers and support to help you quit smoking today.



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