

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Pope Francis Signals
New Era For LGBTs

In Depth: Obamacare
And The LGBT Community

“This ordinance will
provide an avenue of justice
that is currently not available
under current state or
federal law.”

– David Lossing,
Linden Mich. Mayor, pg. 6



Oh Joe

Our Gay Interview
With Joseph Gordon-Levitt

awkward **family** moments



coming september 23rd

THE **CW**50

7:30pm & 10:30pm

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COVER STORY

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David Lossing Photo Courtesy of Michigan Municipal League (www.mml.org)



“We became vegan to fight family health issues, so we wanted to make comfort foods healthier.”

– Kirsten Ussery (Right), pg. 13



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We're at a pivotal moment with a ton of momentum – now's the time to act. Sign up at www.Pridesource.com/VEP.html to receive information about pro-LGBT candidates next election cycle *and* help the Unity Michigan Coalition fight for discrimination at the state and local level.

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BRIEFS

FERNDALE

Transgender Health Fair Coming Up Sept. 28

The annual transgender health fair continues to grow, with one-stop shopping for transgender health care professionals, service providers and supportive organizations specifically for the “T”s in the LGBT family.

The event takes place Sept. 28 from 1-4 p.m. at Affirmations in Ferndale, and includes workshops and a vendor area full of booths with nurses, speech therapists, pharmacies, counselors, skin care professionals, beauty salons and more.

This year’s fair is gaining special attention, according to Transgender Michigan’s Rachel Crandall who organized the event. “The Pride Center of Western New York is using our transgender health fair as a model for their first transgender health fair,” Crandall said.

Affirmations Community Center is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Rd.

ROYAL OAK

Chetcuti-Evans To Host One Royal Oak Benefit Oct. 1

Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans will open the famous home in downtown Royal Oak for a cocktail party to benefit One Royal Oak, the campaign to retain the city’s inclusive non-discrimination ordinance. Voters go to the polls Nov. 5 to decide whether to keep the policy or rescind it.

Unlike most homes, there is a Mustang in the front room of this one, reflecting the owners’ passion for exquisite design – and of course, cars.

Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer will be the guest speaker. Schauer is an outspoken advocate for LGBT rights and strongly supports the ordinance.

Tickets start at \$100 and can be purchased online at www.oneroyaloak.org

YPSILANTI

Conference To Explore Spirituality And Being Transgender

Crossing Over: The Spirituality of Transformation, is a one day conference taking place Oct. 5 from 2 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at Eastern Michigan University’s Student Center, 900 Oakwood St. in Ypsilanti. “The conference will explore the spirituality that enables people who are transgender to claim the blessing of who they are,” according to the press release.

The keynote speaker for the event, Rev. Dr. Julie Nemecek, is one of Michigan’s leading voices on transgender issues and a regular guest lecturer on university and college campuses throughout the state and a frequent guest speaker at churches. She will be speaking at 2 p.m.

A 3:30 p.m. panel will include Dr. Nemecek, JJ Marie Gufreda, Noah Meeks, Joanne Nemecek and Jonah Thompson is the Studio Manager and Riot Youth Advisor for the Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor.

To register go to www.oasisministrymi.org. For further information please call 734-846-3578.

Pope Francis Signals New Era For LGBTs, Leaders Encouraged

BY CHUCK COLBERT

For the second time in fewer than two months, Pope Francis has spoken kind words of encouragement, indicating a new tone from the Vatican and giving gay Catholics hope for an LGBT-friendly church, even as some voice disappointment Francis has not ended anti-gay teachings.

In a wide-ranging interview, the pope said the Roman Catholic Church has been overly “obsessed” with condemning gay marriage, abortion, and contraception and should shift its focus, emphasizing compassion and mercy rather than “small-minded rules.”

“We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. This is not possible,” Francis said in a 12,000-word interview published last week by America, a weekly Jesuit magazine.

“When we speak about these issues, we have to talk about them in a context,” he explained. “The dogmatic and moral teachings of the church are not all equivalent. The church’s pastoral ministry cannot be obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines to be imposed insistently.”

The pope added, “We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel.”

Francis also said, “Religion has the right to express its opinion in the service of the people, but God in creation has set us free: it is not possible to interfere spiritually in the life of a person.”

From coast to coast, the reaction from LGBT Catholic advocates, pastoral ministers, priests, and church observers, even secular gay-rights activists, has been uniformly positive, even as some voice displeasure Francis has not gone far enough in jettisoning Vatican doctrine, which says homosexuality is “objectively disordered,” and its sexual expression is an “intrinsic evil,” while requiring mandatory, lifelong celibacy as the only sexual ethics and morality in full accord with church teaching.

Nevertheless, “Anybody who listens to what Pope Francis is saying” realizes that “fighting gay marriage is not the number one priority of the Catholic Church anymore,” said Jesuit priest, the Rev. Thomas J. Reese, a policy analyst for the National Catholic Reporter.

Based at Santa Clara University in California until the end of this year, Reese is the author *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*.

The pontiff is also saying, Father Reese



Celebration of the beginning pontificate of Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square. Pope Francis on the big screen . Italy, 19 March 2013, Rome, Vatican. Photo Shutterstock.

added, “The tone of the discussion has got to change, if we are going to be true to Pope Francis.”

For far too long, Reese explained, “The first words out of the church’s mouth, in meeting a gay person were, ‘You can’t have sex. You can’t get married.’”

Now, “The first words out of Pope Francis are, ‘I love you. I want to give you a hug. Jesus loves you,’” said Reese. “This is just a whole different ball game. The model is we are a family, not a political interest group, slugging it out, using any tactic.”

lives and our relationships, as the majority of Catholics in the United States already do, and we pray that this pope will move us closer to that goal.”

Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, an LGBT Catholic advocacy organization, voiced praise for what seems like a fresh start for LGBT Catholics in church relations. “We find much to be hopeful about particularly in the pope’s firm desire that the church be a ‘home for all people,’ and his belief that God looks at LGBT people with love rather than condemnation,” she said.

Similarly, Francis DeBernardo, executive

“We find much to be hopeful about particularly in the pope’s firm desire that the church be a ‘home for all people,’ and his belief that God looks at LGBT people with love rather than condemnation.”

- Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, an LGBT Catholic advocacy organization

LGBT Catholic Groups

For its part, Equally Blessed, a gay-affirming Catholic coalition, said in a press release, “The pope’s statements are like rain on a parched land for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their supporters,” adding, “We yearn for the day when the Catholic hierarchy can simply acknowledge the holiness of our

director of the Maryland-based New Ways Ministry, a gay-friendly Catholic ministry of justice and reconciliation for LGBT Catholics and the church, said the pope’s remarks indicate “a new dawn of hope and promise for LGBT Catholics and their supporters.”

An equally upbeat Arthur Fitzmaurice, resource director for the Berkeley, California-

See Pope, page 12

How Obamacare Affects The Community

Impact Of Affordable Care Act And Medicaid Expansion Discussed, Federal Programs To Benefit Same-Sex Couples

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

With the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) soon to be fully implemented and recent changes in policy being approved by many federal agencies in the wake of June's historic U.S. Supreme Court decisions impacting LGBT people, there is a lot to consider when looking at what benefits are now available. On Sept. 21 Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale held a workshop with Ryan Sullivan of Michigan Consumers for Healthcare and attorney Jay Kaplan of the ACLU to help get the LGBT community up to speed.

Sullivan shared Obamacare basics, beginning with online marketplaces that go into effect Oct. 1. He also discussed the recent Medicaid expansion that was approved in Michigan, which will take effect in April 2014. The expansion covers low income individuals and families that didn't qualify previously. A simple video explains what everyone needs to know on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZkk6ueZt-U.

Many of the specific needs of LGBT people are now met by the Affordable Care Act. According to Sullivan, 1 in 3 LGBT people is currently uninsured. There are many health disparities in the community, including increased discrimination and violence, risk of homelessness, barriers to benefits like healthcare, marriage discrimination, lack of official data, lack of funding set aside for LGBT-specific research and outreach, and lack of medical professionals with experience in how to interact with LGBT patients.

Sullivan explained that community-based preventions programs would help many low income people and that preventative care would make a huge difference for all patients who took advantage of it. "A lot of things have not been done because there is no profit in it, but there is huge costs saving in it," he said. "The Affordable Care Act makes some of those things possible."

Many insurance plans discriminate against transgender people by having broad exclusions. Unfortunately this will still be the case with many private plans. However, plans that are through the Federal government will not discriminate according to Sullivan.

Legal Decisions Affecting Access To Care

Kaplan explained how the recent U.S.



ACLU attorney Jay Kaplan and Ryan Sullivan of Michigan Consumers for Healthcare discuss the impact of recent rulings on LGBT people

The Affordable Care Act has ten key provisions that help the LGBT community:

- 1 Data collection
- 2 Patient's Bill of Rights
- 3 Public coverage expansion through Medicaid
- 4 Private coverage expansion through the exchanges
- 5 Preventative care, especially for women
- 6 Information resources at www.healthcare.gov
- 7 Healthcare workforce
- 8 HIV/AIDS care
- 9 Nondiscrimination protections
- 10 Community-based prevention programs

The official source for information on the Affordable Care Act is www.healthcare.gov.

Supreme Court decisions and several federal mandates affect access to care for LGBT people.

"One of the key components of access to healthcare is access to marriage," Kaplan said. "The decision in the Windsor case in June did not strike down the entire Defense of Marriage Act, only part of it. They [The Supreme Court] did not strike down section two that says states do not have to recognize marriages performed in other states."

In Michigan there is a Constitutional Amendment, passed in 2004, that says the state only recognizes the union "between one man and one woman is marriage," or "similar unions for any purpose."

"We have one of the most broadly prohibitive statutes in the country," Kaplan said.

Because of this broad prohibition of "similar unions," legislatures and courts have restricted equal access by LGBT couples to other benefits. "Two years ago the Michigan legislature passed a law that made it illegal for public employers to provide benefits to same-sex partners," Kaplan said.

The ACLU sued over the constitutionality of that law, and Federal Judge Lawson entered a preliminary judgment that states it discriminates,

but that is pending a final judgment. Kaplan said they have tried to work with Attorney General Schuette's office, but the state wants to have a full trial to argue the matter. It is expected to take place in April of next year. In the meantime, public employees that do have benefits can continue using them.

Benefits To Same-Sex Couples In All 50 States

One outcome of the recent U.S. Supreme Court cases is the Federal government will now provide benefits to people who have been legally married. However, Kaplan explains, it's still a patchwork quilt, because court cases have not yet defined exactly what that means.

Kaplan said there are more than 1,100 benefits associated with a legal civil marriage, but that some of those benefits are based on the "Place of Celebration," but other programs define marriage as based on your "Place of Domicile."

The Obama Administration has recently said that any programs they have authority over are going to change to make "Place of Celebration" the determining standard to qualify for federal benefits, although it is going to take time for them to go through every program and make those changes.

Some have been made already. The Department of Defense has extended spousal benefits to military personnel regardless of the state they live in. The Federal Government has also agreed to recognize legal spouses of employees regardless of what state they live in. And the IRS will allow same-sex married couples to file taxes jointly in all 50 states.

And just last week the Social Security Administration encouraged LGBT couples to apply for benefits in order to protect their filing date, stating they intend to change from being based on "place of domicile" to being based on "place of celebration."

As far as Medicaid goes, the law is not yet clear according to Kaplan. Medicaid is federally funded, but it is administered by the state. It should be clear soon how this will affect married couples in states like Michigan that refuse to recognize their unions.

The ACLU LGBT Project works to protect and obtain equal rights for residents in Michigan. Check out their website at www.aclumich.org/courts/lgbt-project for the latest information. The official source for information on the Affordable Care Act is www.healthcare.gov.

Canada Scraps Residency Requirement For Same-Sex Divorce

OTTAWA - Amendments to the federal Civil Marriage Act effective Aug. 14 provide a process for a Canadian court to grant a divorce to non-resident spouses who were married in Canada, and reside in a state that does not recognize their marriage. Prior to this legislation a married couple could divorce in Canada only if at least one spouse resided in Canada for at least one full, continuous year.

Same-sex marriage was legalized in Canada in 2005, and since then thousands of U.S. couples have gone north to become legally married, including Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer. Windsor was the plaintiff in the recent U.S. Supreme Court case that struck down key parts of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, U.S. v Windsor.

This new, easier divorce mechanism for same-sex couples will come as a relief to those couples that got married in Canada but have since split apart. Until now there has been no way to dissolve their marriage unless one of the spouses resided to Canada for a full year. For those people who live in states where marriage is not recognized, such as Michigan, the inability to divorce caused few tangible problems. But that has changed dramatically with the Windsor decision and a new ruling by the U.S. Treasury Dept. that same-sex marriages performed anywhere will be recognized in all 50 states for federal purposes, including federal income taxes.

Civil Marriage Act divorce applications in Ontario will be accepted at any family counter of the Superior Court of Justice. Divorce applications under the Civil Marriage Act must be filed either jointly or by one spouse with the consent of the other spouse, in the province where the parties were married.

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

Dievendorf On AG Schuette's Bedroom Duty

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is demonstrating the state's desire to regulate bedroom relations, with his most recent filing in the case of the Hazel Park women seeking to marry and jointly adopt their children.

In his Sept. 9 filing, the Attorney General's office stated that "one of the paramount purposes of marriage in Michigan – and at least 37 other states that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman – is, and has always been, to regulate sexual relationships between men and women so that the unique procreative capacity of such relationships benefits rather than harms society."

He stated that, "Responsible procreation and childrearing are well-recognized as legitimate State interests served by marriage," and further argued that, "Before 2004, when the Massachusetts courts decided to redefine marriage to include same-sex relationships, it was commonly understood that the institution of marriage owed its very existence to society's vital interest in responsible procreation and childrearing. Undoubtedly, that is why the Supreme Court has long recognized marriage as "fundamental to our very existence and survival."

He also cites a 1962 book called *Sex, Culture and Myth* by Bronislaw Malinowski that stated, "[T]he institution of marriage is primarily determined by the needs of offspring, by the dependence of the children upon their parents," and also an 1852 text that defines marriage to meet his view.

Emily Dievendorf of Equality Michigan responded to the brief stating, "This absurd overreach is a desperate move by a man with too much power. Attorney General Schuette's insistence on government in our personal lives is hypocritical, and in conflict with the Supreme Court of the U.S. Ten years ago when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws, and this past summer when it ruled against DOMA, it found that regulating sex for the purpose of procreation is not a role for our government. Marriage is about more than just procreation, as the Supreme Court said this June, 'marriage is a way for couples to define themselves by their commitment to each other.' Suggesting the benefit of marriage is limited to just producing children is more insulting and damaging to the institution of marriage than anything Schuette fears. The notion that people who cannot, or choose not to, have children are not worthy of committing their life to another person is preposterous."

"If it were not so harmful, it would be amusingly ironic that an attorney general whose party supports deregulation and smaller government is demanding this larger regulatory role for government in our daily lives. This brief also flies in the face of any family values platform. In the U.S. the share of unmarried couples has increased by 25 percent over the last decade and in 2012 there were 56,315 marriages and 39,892 divorces in Michigan - both statistics largely representing opposite-sex couples. If Attorney General Schuette wishes to preserve the institution of marriage, he should be allowing and encouraging both same and opposite-sex couples to opt in. The attorney general is fooling nobody on this most recent attempt to stop progress for LGBT families. In truth, as long as the law is tied to marriage the lack of marriage equality creates instability on every level and that is no good for anybody."

A Double Shot Of LGBT Advocacy By Linden Mayor David Lossing

Advocates For Amending State's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

In December 2012 a 17-year-old boy who attended Linden High School took his own life. His parents blamed bullying, and the entire community was faced with understanding the pressures of being young and gay in a world where that is not always accepted.

The youth's suicide is what prompted Linden Mayor David Lossing to introduce a Human Rights Ordinance for the city, which passed on Sept. 9, making Linden the 28th municipality in Michigan to pass one.

Lossing did not just stop with Linden. In addition to being Mayor, he is the outgoing President of the Michigan Municipal League. At the League's annual convention, he announced big news.

“This ordinance will provide an avenue of justice that is currently not available under current state or federal law.”

— Mayor of Linden David Lossing.

"The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to join Unity Michigan, a broad-based coalition whose goal is to advocate for the amendment of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to add sexual orientation and gender identity as two new items in which citizens of the state of Michigan cannot be discriminated against."

Lossing told those gathered, "Currently, citizens can be fired for their sexual orientation or gender identity. If the Governor is committed to talent attraction and retention for the state of Michigan, then we have to be welcoming to ALL new residents, regardless of their orientation and gender identity. Our State has done a horrible job of not stepping up and protecting all of our residents from any form of discrimination," Lossing said.



Linden Mayor David Lossing wants Michigan to protect its LGBT citizens. Linden is also the outgoing President of the Michigan Municipal League where the Board of Trustees recently passed a resolution to join the Unity Michigan Coalition.

Lossing describes Linden as "a small community with a population of 4,000 plus, a walkable community, great schools, a community with a 'blue trail' via the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail, wonderful neighborhoods."

"I felt it important that since the State has yet to amend the Elliot-Larsen civil rights act, that the responsibility falls to local units of government to protect all of our residents from any form of discrimination," he said. "We had a Linden high school student who was

gay and took his own life about a year ago because of being bullied for his sexual orientation. A very sad loss of life that should not have happened. So this ordinance will provide an avenue of justice that is currently not available under current state or federal law.

"It provides an avenue for justice for our residents that may have experienced discrimination. Residents and businesses alike know that we will protect our citizens. As one of our business owners said, it's sad that we need to legislate common sense and decency, but she is very supportive of our efforts."

Unity Michigan is the main organization behind the city-by-city strategy to gain equal rights protections for LGBT residents. To get involved with the movement, connect through their website at www.unitymichigan.org.

RESOURCE

Don't Change Yourself, Change The Law
A project of Unity Michigan. Sign-up and learn more today.

>> <http://dontchangeyourself.com>

Obituary: Dillon Ptaszek

Dec. 13, 1987 – Sept. 13, 2013

Dillon Ptaszek, 25, was killed instantly in a one-car rollover accident Sept. 13 on I94 west of Ann Arbor. He was a graduate of Ypsilanti High School and held a degree in marine biology from the University of New England and worked at Fish Doctors in Ann Arbor. He is survived by his life partner Chris Kitley, parents Mark Ptaszek (father), Deborah Pippins, Deborah Pearson (mother), Jim Hadden, his sister Alexis Hollis (Ptaszek) and her husband Luke, his brother Harrison Ptaszek, his grandmother Jane Pearson, step-grandparents Charlie and Maggie Brown, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Kitley, his partner of six years and owner of AG chocolates, delivered the following eulogy at the funeral Sept. 17:

Dillon and I came together though our love of fish. I was explaining an issue I was having with my saltwater tank to him at Fish Doctors. He offered to come over to my house

and give me advice. From that night forward, we quickly realized we belonged together. Our relationship happened quickly, and within a few weeks there no doubt that we loved each other very much. Right from the beginning I couldn't see what he saw in me, or how I would deserve such a special person in my life. I expressed this to Dillon many times, and he would always toss it back to me, and say that he was the lucky one. We had this conversation many times throughout our relationship, and it's one argument I don't think he could win.

We soon learned that our deep love for each other was something we could not contain, and we wanted to share our love for one another with our family and friends.

On one of the many cards that Dillon gave me included a quote by Jim Morrison that he said made him think of me.

"Friends can help each other. A true friend is someone who lets you have total freedom to be yourself – and especially to feel. Or, not feel. Whatever you happen to be feeling at the moment is fine with them. That's what

real love amounts to, letting a person be what he really is."

Dillon said that I always made him feel that he could be who he was and that he hoped he could do the same for me, and he did. This was the very foundation of our relationship. Although we had different talents, we loved spending time together, and Dillon opened my eyes to so many different things. He was even willing to put up with my disc golf skills. We enjoyed many concerts, vacations, skating and bike riding on trails together, Dillon helped me with chocolates, and chocolate events. What was important was that we were together. Dillon even wrote in a card to me that I had given him a sense of completeness that he had never felt before, and that feeling was mutual.

With the recent developments of more and more states legalizing gay marriage, we had talked about marriage several

times. A couple of weeks ago, we talked about us getting married, and I said, "When was this going to happen?" and he said, "Well, I haven't been proposed to yet." I asked, "Well, in this type of relationship, who proposes to who?" and he quickly replied, "Well, I guess you have to propose to me, because I can't afford the rings."

Our goal was to move to Maine together, where he could be able to work in his field, and I would open my first chocolate shop.

I am deeply grateful to have had Dillon as my partner, and my best friend. Because of what a true friend he was in life to everyone, I am also deeply grateful for the love and acceptance that all of his friends and family has given us.

On our 5th anniversary, Dillon gave me a beautiful handcrafted box with a quote carved on it. The quote reads: "Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain." Dillon, I guess I need to finally learn how to dance.



Dillon Ptaszek, left, with partner Chris Kitley. Photo courtesy of Chris Kitley

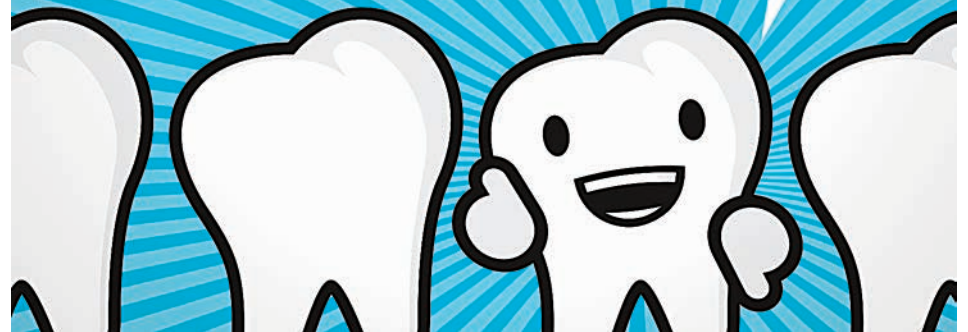


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The Pope Opens The Church Door

“There’s no change on the Catholic Church’s view on homosexuality. He may have had his own Pope Francis way of putting it, different from maybe the way Pope Benedict would put it, but they’re saying the same things.”

Archbishop Allen Vigneron, spiritual head of metro Detroit’s 1.3 million Catholics

“The world evolves, and I believe that the Catholic Church is seeing that it is being left behind, and that is not good. So I think that they chose this Pope Francis because he is progressive, has to change things.”

Irene Delgado, 57, Havana, Cuba

“He knows that his highest and most sacred responsibility is to pass on the timeless teaching of the church. What he’s saying is, we’ve got to think of a bit more effective way to do it. Because if the church comes off as a scold, it’s counterproductive.”

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

“We find much to be hopeful about, particularly in the Pope’s firm desire that the Church be a ‘home for all people,’ and his belief that God looks on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people with love rather than condemnation.”

Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity U.S.A.

“We are called to love and support everyone in our community regardless of their sexual orientation. And, I might add, regardless of the gender of their spouse.”

Julie Sullivan, president of the University of St. Thomas, a Catholic school in Minnesota

Certainly, the church’s teaching is not going to change during a press conference on a trans-Atlantic flight. But he reminded us that whomever you’re interacting with, they should be welcomed and treated with sympathy and compassion and love. (Practicing gays) need to be accorded respect, compassion and support. That’s the Christian outlook of how to treat people.”

Most Rev. David Walkowiak, bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, as reported by MLive

Finding Life In Death



Viewpoint

OPINION BY KENNY ROSEN

I am writing while listening to angry riot grrrrl music at a coffee shop just like the closet queer kid I was at 14. Twenty years later, there is a part of me that is still that kid. There may always be a part of me that is “that kid” due to living in a hetero-normative culture.

Even so, I fully realize, most of me is not that kid anymore; and much of that is due to my extended queer family. Reflecting as I sit alone thinking of then and now, I say with great sadness, two gay friends of mine, one 24 and one 33, died unexpectedly within about a week’s time recently.

Circumstances of both deaths are irrelevant, but the fact that they were openly gay matters. We have lost two more people in Detroit that increased visibility of LGBTQI people, two more people who had hope for a better world, two more people to inspire us and to share love, two more people to combat injustice, two more people to build relationships and bring people together.

Living in a hetero-normative culture, I value my queer friends and allies deeply. At such moments, I am compelled to reflect about how we find meaning and hope in the early death of friends? How do we maintain our mental, emotional, and spiritual health?

Just over two years ago, I was confronted with these same questions when I said goodbye to David Blair’s physical form; or, as many knew him, Blair. He was a gifted friend, an unapologetic queer poet and fighter for social justice. Blair’s memorial was a parade down Cass Avenue in Detroit, coinciding, as it happened, on my birthday. What a gift.

I often wonder how different our LGBTQI communities might look if we spent more energy on parades celebrating and honoring our stories of resilience, rebelliousness, and fierceness as well as recognizing our faults and struggles?

Maybe it is death and grieving that will allow LGBTQI communities to evolve and heal. In reality, we are always grieving because we are always feeling the loss of someone or something in our lives. Grief allows us to examine our losses but also

“Although some of us may think and feel that there is nothing more finite than death, its occurrence often becomes a beginning for those still living. And, as such, we are privileged to carry on the memories of our loved ones by embodying all that they were.”

our gains, our downfalls, our collective triumphs, and if we are open, grieving forces us to become more conscious of what really matters in this indeterminate time here.

Grieving makes us feel everything, sometimes all at once, which can be painful and confusing. However, in my experience, nothing has been more healing than sharing my deepest thoughts and feelings as well as crying and laughing with some of my closest friends. How different might our relationships, communities, and movements look if we did more of this?

LGBTQI people are dying every minute due to suicide, hate crimes, war, state violence such as poverty, and limited treatment and prevention for HIV/AIDS. The list goes on. As incomprehensible as these atrocities are, there are opportunities here for building upon a history of coming together and creating new traditions that inspire hope and resilience.

And although LGBTQI people still remain divided by race, class, gender, age, and various other differences, at this time of my own personal grieving, I think of the

HIV/AIDS movements of the 1980s and 90s where many people came together to honor and celebrate their loved ones’ lives.

Whether through quilts, vigils, or marches, there was visibility of LGBTQI people. Even in death, people were alive.

Although some of us may think and feel that there is nothing more finite than death, its occurrence often becomes a beginning for those still living. And, as such, we are privileged to carry on the memories of our loved ones by embodying all that they were. We have the capacity to do all that our loved ones were not yet able to do. We have the ability to build stronger relationships, communities, and movements.

When we know death more, we have the potential to love, fight, and live more.

Kenny Rose, MSW Wayne State University, is a Medical Case Manager at AIDS Partnership Michigan, celebrating 30 years in the fight against HIV/AIDS Oct 19. More information is available at aidspartnership.org.



Mason/Dixon Cross Dressers



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Footnoted in the pages of Civil War history is the intriguing story of a “Mrs. Nash.” First name unrecorded. She’s listed in 1878 U.S. Army military records to have had “a succession of soldier-husbands” (a not unenviable achievement, then as now, I reckon).

Her last, a naive corporal in General George Armstrong Custer’s ill-fated Seventh Cavalry, blew his brains out when his “Mrs.” so-called, upped and died unexpectedly. Undertakers told hubby she was actually a he.

Another deceiving duo got moonshine drunk one night and tumbled amorously interlocked into a nearby river. They almost drowned. Resuscitated by their Army counterparts, it soon became obvious to all concerned that there was something amiss both above and below their conjoined Mason-Dixon line.

A chance happening also exposed two other unknown Civil War Pvts. with unknown privates of their own. They may likely have been the first dykes in American wartime service. If so, they started a long and time-honored tradition. These bivouac butches get passing mention in Union General Philip Sheridan’s memoirs: “An intimacy had sprung up between them,” he comments succinctly, describing one as “masculine,” the other as “prepossessing”.

Of the thousands of brave women who served as nurses (including Florence Nightingale), some 400 “others” – Northerners, Southerners, free, slave, citizen – also served as combatants or spies. They close-cropped their hair, pledged honest loyalty to serve – no physical required – polished their rifles not their nails, learned to “chaw tuhbae,” fought like hell, and died in fields where blood ran so deeply and so richly red.

Two well-known cross dressers did received high honors for valor: Dr. Mary Walker, and Flint Michigan’s neglected hero(ine), Sarah Emma Edmonds, aka Frank Thompson. Dr. Walker, a surgeon, lived in drag most of her long life, and spent four months butchly undetected in a Confederate prison. She received a Medal of Honor from President Andrew Johnson.

Once Sarah Emma Edmonds (later Mrs. Seelye) proved – 19 years after the Civil War ended – that she was Pvt. Thompson, she was granted a Congressional Honorable Discharge and a handsome \$12 monthly pension. She became the only female veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Edmonds was born in Canada, fled a brutal father at 19, rafted the Windsor border to settle in Flint. When a call for 2nd Michigan Volunteer enlistment came, she decided to cross dress. She passed muster after four tries and became a male nurse, then a spy (once shadowing General Robert E. Lee).

Pvt. “Frank” spied as “Cuff,” a black man. Silver nitrate darkened her skin. When an observant slave noticed she seemed to be getting lighter, Cuff quipped, “I always suspected I had a white mother.”

Other disguises were Irish peddler Bridget O’Shea and cook Aunt Sunny. It was all very Victor/Victoria, Civil War style. Unfortunately, “Frank” contracted malaria. Fearing army hospital detection, she went AWOL. Sarah Emma Edmonds (Seelye) died in Texas in 1897.

She was Michigan’s first drag king; and, with two years of distinguished Army service, a damn fine soldier to boot.

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RO Business Leaders Say YES To Proposal A

BTL STAFF REPORT

ROYAL OAK – Thirty-five business leaders in the City of Royal Oak announced Sept. 24 that they urge citizens to vote YES on A, the proposal to uphold the Royal Oak Human Rights Ordinance.

“It’s beyond belief that in 2013, right here in Royal Oak, it is legal to fire someone from their job or deny them housing just because they are gay or transgender. It’s not right and it’s not Royal Oak,” said Laura Harrison, owner of The Ladybug Shoppe.

A recent poll conducted by Small Business Majority reports 61 percent of small business owners in Michigan believe Michigan should have a law prohibiting discrimination against gay and transgender people, and 54 percent of small business owners think nondiscrimination laws boost the bottom line by attracting and retaining talent to the area.

The Royal Oak City Commission voted six to one March 4 to adopt an inclusive human rights ordinance. Opponents gathered enough signatures to force the ordinance to a public

vote Nov. 5.

Since the city commission passed the human rights ordinance, six other municipalities in Michigan have adopted local nondiscrimination ordinances including Battle Creek, Kalamazoo Township, and Pleasant Ridge.

“The economic centers around Michigan like Grand Rapids, Detroit, Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor already have these ordinances on the books. East Lansing has had an ordinance for over 40 years. It’s time for Royal Oak to do the right thing and vote Yes on Proposal A,” said Greg Reyner, proprietor of Café Muse based in Royal Oak. “I want the place I do business to be one where everyone is treated fairly and equally under the law.”

“Keeping the Human Rights Ordinance in place is one small, but important tool in bringing our downtown to a healthy, vibrant blend,” said Gary Baglio, owner of FIVE15 Media Mojo and member of the Downtown Royal Oak Task Force. “It is for this reason I ask you to vote in favor of keeping the human rights ordinance in place.”

Leaders from these businesses support the YES on Prop

A Campaign:
Annabelle’s Couture
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Blu Jeans Bar, LLC
Cafe Muse
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Chrome Inc.
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The 20-page report by Small Business Majority finds overwhelming support by Michigan’s small businesses for workplace nondiscrimination policies.

Full Small Business Majority poll available at: <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/downloads/060413-MI-workplace-nondiscrimination-poll-report.pdf>. For more information about the campaign or to make a donation go to www.neroyaloak.org

First Openly Gay Circuit Court Judge Confirmed

Michigan’s Judith Levy Nominated For Federal Court

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Senate voted Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 24) to confirm openly gay nominee Todd Hughes to serve on the U.S. Circuit Court for the Federal Circuit. The 98 to 0 vote makes Hughes the first openly gay nominee to be confirmed for a federal circuit position.

The confirmation comes just one week after the Senate confirmed Elaine Kaplan to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Kaplan was approved by a vote of 64 to 35, the fourth closest margin out of 19 roll calls on judicial nominees this year. All 35 “No” votes were Republicans, including both Texas senators and reported presidential aspirant Marco Rubio of Florida. But 11 Republicans voted for Kaplan, including both senators from Tennessee and reported presidential aspirants Rob Portman of Ohio.

In opening debate over Hughes’ nomination, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy noted that Hughes would become the first openly gay judge in history to serve on a federal appellate court and asked that his other remarks be inserted into the Congressional Record. Then, Leahy used his time to speak against efforts to cut food stamps to people with low incomes. No other senator spoke before the roll call.

A native of Ohio, Hughes, 47, graduated from Harvard College and then Duke Law School and, since 1994, has served in the Commercial

Litigation Branch of the Department of Justice Civil Division. His questionnaire to the Senate Judiciary Committee indicated he was a member for one year (2010-11) in the National LGBT Bar Association and the GLBT Attorneys of Washington. He also volunteered legal advice on a variety of issues at the LGBT-run Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., for people with HIV-related legal issues.

Kaplan, a 58-year-old native of Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from the State University of New York-Binghamton and Georgetown University Law Center. She served as general counsel to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management since 2009, and as its acting director since April, when openly gay OPM Director John Berry resigned. Kaplan also served as head of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel under President Clinton. She also noted her membership (from 1995 to 1997) in the Gay and Lesbian Attorneys of Washington, D.C. group, and brief memberships in Gay and Lesbian Parents International, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The Senate Judiciary Committee advanced the nominations of both Kaplan and Hughes without asking them gay-specific questions—a practice of committee minority leader Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) with many gay nominees.

The confirmations of Hughes and Kaplan bring to eight the number of openly gay

candidates confirmed to the federal bench during the Obama administration. President Obama initially nominated Washington, D.C., attorney Ed DuMont to the Federal Circuit appeals court, but Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee blocked DuMont’s nomination and DuMont withdrew his nomination.

Hughes now becomes a member of one of the nation’s 13 federal appeals courts. While 12 of those have specific geographical jurisdiction, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which has 12 judges, deals specifically with disputes involving international trade, government contracts, and federal personnel, among other things.

Kaplan becomes one of 16 judges on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, each with a 15-year term of office. Kaplan currently serves as general counsel and acting director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The Senate approved three other openly gay judicial nominees this year were confirmed on voice votes, as well as openly gay nominee Stuart Delery to serve as assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice’s civil division.

Michigan’s Levy Nominated

Only two nominations are still pending among President Obama’s openly gay nominees for the federal bench. One is William

Thomas for a seat to the U.S. District Court in Miami. The other is Judith Levy to a seat on the federal district court for the Eastern District of Michigan (Detroit).

Thomas, 46 and a native of Pennsylvania now working in Miami, was originally nominated in November 2012. A majority of an American Bar Association committee that vets nominees voted him to be well qualified. An openly gay African American, Thomas was recommended by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund’s Presidential Appointments Project.

President Obama nominated Levy, 55, in July of this year. She served as an intern at Lambda Legal Defense during the summer of 1994, is a member of the board of directors for DOJ Pride and the Human Rights Campaign. She received a scholarship from Parents and Friends of LGB Students and has spoken on a number of panels concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act and its application to people with HIV. She also spoke at a White House Conference on Homelessness in LGBT Communities and at a University of Michigan Women Lawyers Association forum, “Multiple Layers of Identity: Being a Minority, Gay or Transgender Woman in the Workplace.” A native of Indiana, she has a B.S. and a law degree from the University of Michigan. She currently works in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Detroit as chief of its Civil Rights Unit.

More online at www.pridesource.com

Creep of the Week

Vladimir Putin

Want to be horrified? Do a Google image search for “anti-gay attacks in Russia.” Scroll through the photos of gays, lesbians, and pro-LGBT rights protesters being arrested, harassed, and beaten. Let’s just say that Russia makes places in the United States like Alabama and Virginia and Michigan seem like an LGBT paradise.



While Russia has never been known as a progressive place, life for LGBT people has become considerably more dangerous after the passage of a strict law banning “gay propaganda.” The law was intended to keep impressionable children from hearing that homosexuality is anything but evil. Not surprisingly, the law is very broad and basically makes it illegal to be openly gay in Russia. Rainbow flags are, literally, a crime now.

Needless to say, gays and lesbians who are either planning to attend or compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia are a little worried. A lot worried, actually, that they will be fined, or put in jail or, say, kidnapped and tortured by anti-gay thugs. Because that’s a legitimate hobby in Russia now.

“The latest laws against so-called gay propaganda ... have essentially legalized violence against LGBT people, because these groups of hooligans justify their actions with these laws,” Igor Kochetkov, head of the Russian LGBT Network, told *The Guardian* earlier this month. “With this legislation, the government said that, yes, gays and lesbians are not valued as a social group.”

Kochetkov described the law as “an action to terrorize the entire LGBT community.”

Of course, this nightmare could have never come true had it not been for Russian President Vladimir Putin’s signature. But not only did Putin sign it, he also had the audacity to claim that gays and lesbians are not discriminated against in Russia.

According to the Associated Press, Putin claimed only “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors” was banned under the law. There is “no infringement on the rights

OPINION BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Russian journalist and lesbian activist Masha Gessen recently fled the country in order to protect her family. She doesn’t trust Putin one bit and she’s been watching him closely for years. Her advice to LGBT people is to “get the hell out” of Russia.

of sexual minorities,” he said.

Tell that to a young gay man kidnapped and raped with a bottle after being tricked into a meeting on a gay social media site.

Tell that to Dmitry Isakov, a 24-year-old man arrested for standing outside with a sign that read, “Being gay and loving gays is normal. Beating gays and killing gays is a crime!”

Tell that to the 17 activists arrested in St. Petersburg, the proving ground for the law that became nationwide in late June, for wearing rainbow suspenders and waving rainbow flags last year.

Tell that to the parents in Russia who risk having their children taken away should Putin sign a bill currently advancing in the parliament. Should this bill pass, gays and lesbians would have their parental rights terminated. Just for being gay.

Russian journalist and lesbian activist Masha Gessen recently fled the country in order to protect her family. She doesn’t trust Putin one bit and she’s been watching him closely for years. Her advice to LGBT people is to “get the hell out” of Russia.

“Historically this kind of scapegoating is used by politicians to solidify their bases and draw attention away from their failing policies, and no doubt this is what’s happening in Russia,” wrote Harvey Fierstein in a July 21 op-ed in the *New York Times*. “Mr. Putin’s campaign against lesbian, gay and bisexual people is one of distraction, a strategy of demonizing a minority for political gain taken straight from the Nazi playbook.”

Comparing anyone to Hitler is usually ridiculous, but Putin is truly a dangerous man. It’s not hard to imagine him with a mustache.

► Pope

Continued from p. 4

based Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry, said his organization “feels blessed by Pope Francis. We are enthusiastic to have a pope who thinks and feels the way we do. He said we must heal the broken and not begin any conversation by condemnation.”

“We hope Pope Francis’ remarks will begin the healing process for many LGBT Catholics who have felt alienated by the church,” said Fitzmaurice.

Joe Murray of Chicago’s Rainbow Sash Movement, an advocacy organization, voiced praise for the Vatican’s new “welcoming tone,” and views the pope’s “recent interview as a step in the right direction.”

Nonetheless, “Many people have been abused by the church, many were forced to leave the church because of integrity,” said Murray. “The pope’s words will not bear any fruit until he is willing to address the issues of sexism and homophobia.”

The Door Is Open

Specifically addressing homosexuality, the pope said during the interview, “A person once asked me, in a provocative manner, if I approved of homosexuality. I replied with another question: ‘Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person?’ We must always consider the person. Here we enter into the mystery of the human being. In life, God accompanies persons, and we must accompany them, starting from their situation. It is necessary to accompany them with mercy.”

The Rev. Gary M. Meier, a priest in the St. Louis Archdiocese, who recently came out as gay, said he remains “cautiously optimistic” with the pope’s who-am-I-to-justice approach.

“What he hasn’t yet said is that we are basically wrong about our teaching when it comes to homosexuality as intrinsically disordered,” said Father Meier. “The good news is that the pope won’t be leading the charge with that teaching,” although “unfortunately bishops do.”

Still, Meier remains optimistic



the pope’s kindness toward gays “will continue to open up the dialogue between gay Catholics and the hierarchy, which for years has been off the table,” he said.

“At least the door is open,” said Meier.

Still, “The bottom line is that gay people cannot be full members in the church,” he said.

But with “a radical shift in tone,” said Meier, the possibility exists for “conversations to lead to conversion.”

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Meanwhile, the pontiff’s comments have also encouraged gay-rights leaders. “Pope Francis has pressed the reset button on the Roman Catholic Church’s treatment of LGBT people, rolling back a years-long campaign at the highest levels of the church to oppose any measure of dignity or equality,” said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT political organization.

“Anybody who listens to what Pope Francis is saying realizes that fighting gay marriage is not the number one priority of the Catholic Church anymore.”

- Jesuit priest, the Rev. Thomas J. Reese, a policy analyst for the National Catholic Reporter

“Now its time for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to catch-up and drop their opposition to even the most basic protections for LGBT people.”

Griffin was referring to, as one example, the USCCB’s continued opposition to the Employment Non-discrimination Act, proposed federal legislation, which would provide nationwide workplace

protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Duddy-Burke of DignityUSA could not agree more with Griffin. “If this is not a call to the bishops to end their anti-gay campaign, I don’t know what is,” she said referring to the pope’s remarks.

It’s as if Francis is giving the bishops “a get-out-of-jail ticket,” said Jesuit priest, the Rev. Donal Godfrey, associate director for faculty and staff, spirituality and ministry, at the University of San Francisco.

“He’s giving them room to get out with dignity and grace,” Father Godfrey said in a telephone interview. “I hope that our bishops are able to take this opportunity and run with it.”

Godfrey is the gay author of *Gays and Grays*, a 2007 book, based on his doctoral dissertation, about gay men and elderly parishioners finding common ground in the worshipping community at Most Holy Redeemer in San Francisco’s Castro neighborhood, a gay enclave.

While disappointed there was no change in church teaching on homosexuality, Duddy-Burke said, more important right now is “people will respond to Francis in saying God looks on gay people with love and respect as the new starting point for our relationships between the church and the LGBT community.”

The Equally Blessed coalition also voiced hope the US bishops take the pontiff’s remarks to heart. In its press release, the organization said, “Pope Francis

has sent a clear signal that the [USCCB] and organizations like the Knights of Columbus need to end their multimillion dollar campaign to marginalize LGBT people in the church and the wider society and commit themselves to gaining a deeper understanding of the lives, beliefs and ministries of LGBT people, their families and their friends.”



Detroit Vegan Soul owners Erika Boyd and Kirsten Ussery hope vegans and non-vegans gravitate to familiar foods that are tweaked to drop animal based products. Photo courtesy of Detroit Vegan Soul.

New Restaurant To Offer Comfort Food Favorites With Vegan Twist

BY SHELBY CLARK

DETROIT – Soul food lovers who have turned to vegetarianism or veganism can reunite with their mac and cheese or fried “catfish” soon.

Detroit Vegan Soul, the vegan soul food project from Kirsten Ussery and Erika Boyd, opens this week in Detroit. The lesbian couple had been operating a successful catering business around veggie-based soul food for the past year, when customer response became so positive that opening a cafe became inevitable.

“Detroiters are ready for this,” says Ussery. “Detroit’s one of the most obese cities, and now people are more conscious of the food they eat leading to this problem. People are excited for vegan foods.”

Ussery, who works as the baker for the business venture, has already had an influential hand in Detroit. She’s championed LGBT children in Detroit Public Schools, held leadership roles in SPICE (Sistas Providing Intelligence, Creativity, and Empowerment) and worked for former City Council President, Charles Pugh.

Boyd, the primary chef, considers herself a lifelong entrepreneur, owning and operating a natural hair care business and working as a licensed barber. Both are fans of cooking, with Boyd coming from a family of good cooks.

“We became vegan to fight family health issues,” said Ussery, “so we wanted to make comfort foods healthier.” As the only 100-percent vegan establishment in Detroit, the women are hoping both vegans and non-vegans gravitate to familiar foods.

Restaurant-goers can expect to find their

“ We became vegan to fight family health issues, so we wanted to make comfort foods healthier. ”

- Kirsten Ussery

comfort foods tweaked to drop animal-based products. Soy-based proteins like tofu and tempeh can be found in BBQ Tofu and Smothered Tempeh. Unique twists like Coconut Collards-n-Cabbage, Curry Navy Beans, and Sweet Corn Mashed Potatoes fill the extensive sides list.

Dessert is not to be forgotten with traditional favorites: sweet potato pie, peach cobbler, and chocolate cake among more.

Detroit Vegan Soul opens Sept. 28 at 8029 Agnes St., Detroit, with a ribbon cutting and live music to celebrate.

OPENING

Detroit Vegan Soul

Sept. 28 at 8029 Agnes St., Detroit, with a ribbon cutting and live music to celebrate. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. Breakfast will be served on Sundays. For more information on the cafe, call 313-444-9402 or

>> www.detroitvegansoul.com



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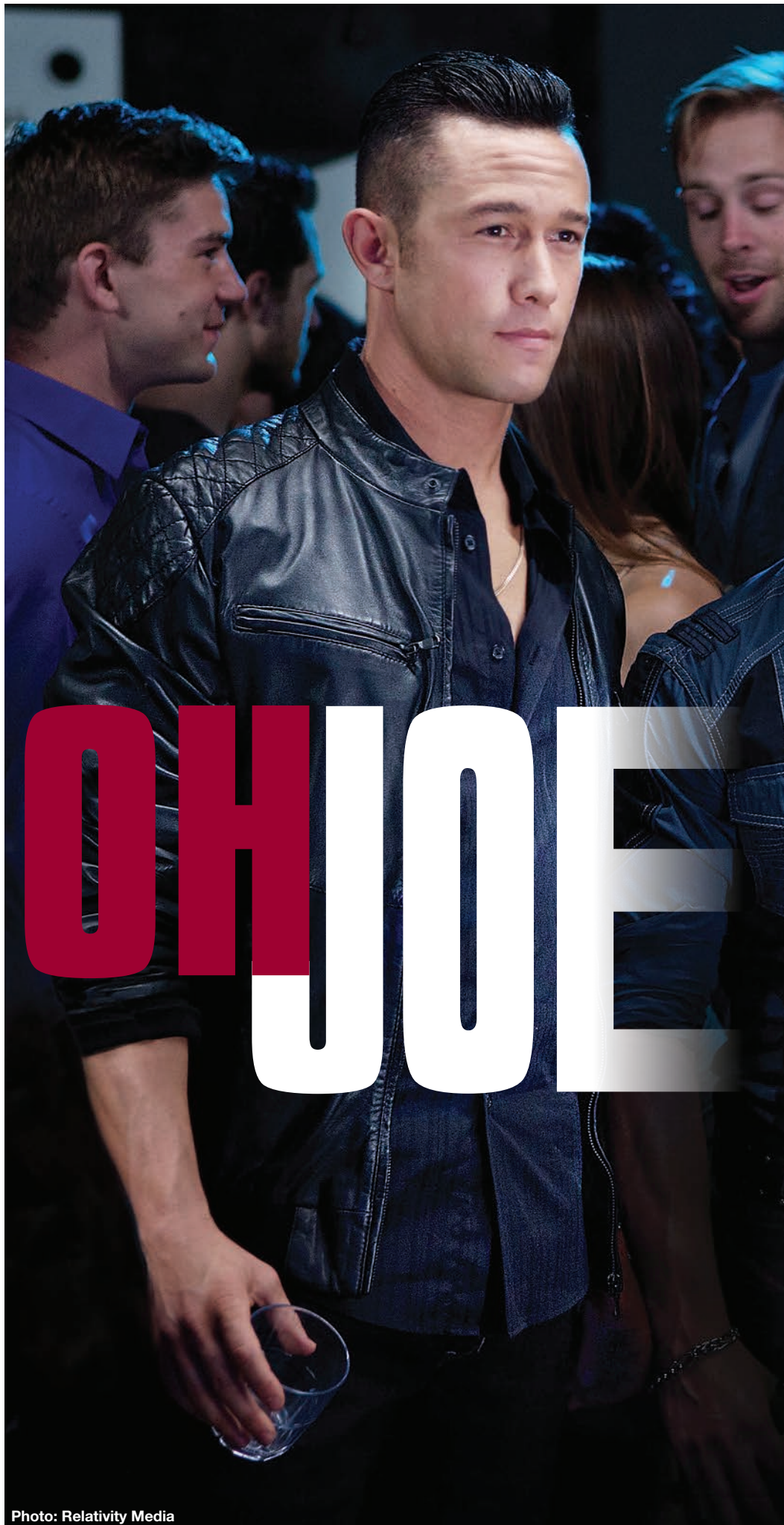


Photo: Relativity Media

'Don Jon' Actor On Sex, Gay Kiss And Being The 'Perfect Man'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Who doesn't see Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the "perfect man"? The one man who knows him best: Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

And neither should you, he says.

After playing a gay hustler in "Mysterious Skin," a Mormon homophobe in "Latter Days" and Batman's cool sidekick in "The Dark Knight Rises," the actor takes on a porn-obsessed womanizer in his latest film "Don Jon," a sex comedy he wrote, directed and stars in that contends there's more to a person than meets the eye.

Surely, plenty of Gordon-Levitt meets the eye in "Don Jon": that chest, those arms and all the near nakedness of the New Jersey lothario he plays. Yeah, it's easy to see why people might think he's pretty perfect.

In our interview, Gordon-Levitt discusses the dangers of believing he's the ideal mate, contributing to the gay rights movement and what he's really doing during those masturbation scenes in "Don Jon."

Let's talk about this intense, seductive look on your face during those masturbation scenes. What were you actually thinking about? And were you really watching porn?

Nah, I wasn't really looking at porn. But I was pretending I was looking at porn.

I've never pretended to watch porn.

(Laughs) I have now!

There's a bit of sex in the movie – and you're always the one having it. How do you direct yourself in a sex scene?

See, the sex scenes – with one exception – are very, very highly stylized and

they're not so much scenes that play out in real time; they're more like narrated storybook versions of a look inside the mind of this guy, and so shooting them is like putting together a puzzle. They're made of lots of little pieces. When you put the puzzle together it seems like a sex scene, but when you're shooting it, it's not like that at all.

This is a movie that has sex at its core, and we see plenty of boobs but never any Joseph Gordon-Levitt bits. Was it a conscious decision for you to avoid being completely naked?

Yeah, because that would just be distracting. It's really not the point of the movie. This is not a movie of brutal realism; it's a comedy and it's a story. It's sort of a parable, so there would really be no reason to have any nudity. The only nudity that's in the movie are these clips from real pornography videos, but they're all very edited and cropped and they're all very quick and sort of sanitized to fit into a Hollywood movie, if you want to call this movie a Hollywood movie. It's sort of an atypical one, but it's a movie about mainstream culture, so I wanted it to become part of mainstream culture. I always intended it to be that way. I think, in that way, it's self-referential and it wouldn't be as strong or effective or as complete a film if it were outside of those Hollywood filmmaking traditions.

How much did you want to get away with in this movie, and how much did you actually get away with?

What's in the movie is exactly what I wanted it to be. I wrote it exactly that way. I don't think it's all that sexually explicit; there are some very modified and stylized clips from pornography videos because that's a central symbol in the movie, but there aren't really any realistic sex scenes. It's not a movie that's about shocking you with anything graphic.

This film demonstrates what you've discussed in the past: that the media – the films we watch, the music we listen to, and so on – can really screw with our minds. When choosing films, do you think about how much influence you have on the people who watch them?

I do, yeah. It's always a balance between trying to keep an eye on my own self-fulfillment so that I'm always doing what's inspiring to me, but also thinking about what this will mean to people who see it. I know for me, the movies and TV shows that I watch, and the songs or the books or the articles, are a big part of how I make sense of the world. I feel fortunate to be a part of that cultural conversation. And I try to be something positive.

The way in which media affects romantic relationships is also explored in another film of yours, "(500) Days of Summer," in which you embody more of the traditional female archetype. What parallels do you see between that film and "Don Jon"?

Yeah, there's definitely a real parallel between "(500) Days of Summer" and "Don Jon" in that both male protagonists are quite selfish at the beginning of the story. Both of them in their own ways are very much objectifying the opposite sex. With Jon, his ideas of what women are supposed to be, or what love or sex are supposed to be, are sort of preset, and he's not paying attention to the actual people in front of him. Then, they're similar also in that they're both coming-of-age stories, and by the end you see them both beginning to break out of their old ways and grow up a bit.

You seem like the complete opposite of a meathead, so how did you get in the mind and body of Don Jon?

Yeah, I worked out a ton. And I ate a ton of chicken! You know, I think we all know guys like that, and we all have some of Jon and some of Barbara (his love interest in "Don Jon," played by Scarlett Johansson) within us. I know that I have some of both. They're both at extreme ends of the spectrum of cultural norms: what a man is supposed to be and what a woman is supposed to be. But I think we all have that tendency in a way. It's easier to just oversimplify ourselves and our identities and our lives, and especially our love lives. It's very seductive to think that it just ought to be simple – and in real life, it's not.

You use the word "faggot" at one point in the film, and even though it feels appropriate to the character, was there ever a discussion or any hesitation to use a word that many in the gay community find offensive?

Like you said, that character would say that at that point. It's at a moment when he's sort of feeling threatened. His buddy just said that there was a hotter girl at the club than his girl, and so in that moment of insecurity he uses that word. I think that's usually where that sort of hateful language comes from: out of people's insecurity.

When it comes to directing, what did you learn from Gregg Araki on "Mysterious Skin" that you fell back on during the filming of "Don Jon"?

I remember working with Gregg and being very struck by the fact that he could watch the movie in his head while we were making it. It allowed him to be very decisive and specific because he knew how the whole movie was gonna cut together already, whereas oftentimes films are made and you just shoot lots of angles and cut it together later. With "Don Jon," we took more of the approach that's closer to what Gregg did. I already had in mind how I wanted the thing to be cut together while we were shooting. Another filmmaker who is like that is Rian Johnson ("Looper"). Another one is Christopher Nolan ("The Dark Knight Rises"). These are the guys who are thinking that far ahead. Gregg really stood out in that regard.

You first really reached a gay audience with "Mysterious Skin." How aware are you of having a gay following?

I don't spend much time distinguishing people into categories like that, so to be honest, I can't say it's really something I think about any more than I think about, "Oh, how many black people are watching my movies?" and "How many Catholics are watching my movies?" I don't really think about it in that way.

If you were gay, you might realize how many gay people adore you.

Well, that's very nice to hear! I'm glad to hear it.

With "Don Jon" and your new beefy body, are you prepared for the extra attention you might get from the gay community?

(Laughs) I hadn't thought of it. My body's not like that anymore. I was working out every day to play that character, but bodybuilding isn't really my thing. I've lost most of the weight.

How do you reflect on your kiss with Topher Grace during a 1998 episode of "That 70s Show" – the first gay kiss on North American primetime TV?

Yeah, proud moment!

When you look back on that moment, how far do you think we've come since that landmark kiss?

I was actually just talking about this with a good friend of mine who's gay. We were saying there really has been a change. I mean, that was more than 10 years ago that we shot that episode, and a lot has changed. I do think that television and movies have played a big part in it. It's certainly not solely responsible, but that has been a part of it becoming a more

normal and accepted part of our culture – that some people are gay and that's just how it is, especially for people who are not used to that or close-minded toward that. There's been a pretty big change, and we're certainly not all the way open-minded – I mean, there was a civil rights movement in the '60s and there's still plenty of racism in the world – but we've come a long way. I certainly am proud to have made that small contribution of whatever kind to that progress.

BuzzFeed recently named off 42 things that prove you're the perfect man. Included on that list: the forearms, your chic style, that you look great in women's underwear. Even the "3rd Rock from the Sun" pigtails got a mention.

(Laughs) That's exactly the kind of oversimplified fantasy shit that I'm making fun of in "Don Jon."

So you don't like being the "perfect man," then?

To be honest, I understand it's all in good fun and that's fine, of course. We all have our media that we consume that we can admit is not the most healthy or positive, and sometimes I eat French fries and sometimes I'll smoke cigarettes. We all do things that we know are bad for us. But I think it's worth pointing out that stuff like that, it's not harmless, especially if you consume a lot of that kind of media.

I think it does seep into your brain and into your identity and will absolutely interfere in your ability to be happy – and that's exactly what "Don Jon" is about. It's a young man who watches too much pornography and a young woman who watches too many romantic Hollywood movies, and neither one of them can be satisfied in their relationship because they're too busy comparing real life to these simplistic fantasies that they've seen on screen.

Real life is so much more beautiful and rich and nuanced than those oversimplified fantasies, but you won't feel that beauty if you're too busy comparing it to the 42 reasons why your favorite actor is the perfect man. There's no such thing as a perfect man. Every human being is a unique person.

There's been talk of you starring in a remake of "Guys and Dolls" with Channing Tatum. Should we expect to see you in it?

It's one possibility. Chan and I really like the idea of doing a musical together, and we're working on making that happen. We don't know exactly how it will happen or what it'll be or how long it'll take, but we're determined to do it.

I must say that every gay man also likes that idea.

(Laughs) I'll keep that in mind!



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Hear Me Out

Elton John, Chvrches

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Elton John, 'The Diving Board'

The advantage of being an aging icon is the artistic freedom to do whatever the hell you want. And when you're Elton John – legend, diva, grand master of pop – your high-ranking order merits an LP like “The Diving Board,” a throwback in the sense that he recorded it, upon the request of producer T Bone Burnett, much like the albums of his heyday: by not overthinking it. This approach makes for a respectable, mostly non-mainstream work still rooted in John's name-making blues brand and blossoming balladry. “Home Again,” the first single, is the latter – a tuneful adult-contempo meditation that's primed for Disney film closing credits. That's not a bad thing, necessarily. It's a lovely piano composition. It moves you. It's Elton John post-millennium. The drug-less John. Dad John. Also: It doesn't flicker out as soon as it's over like some of the more languorous, here-and-gone melodies on “Diving Board” (there's little weight to the bluesier tracks). And that the production slightly falls short of the words that John's longtime writing partner Bernie Taupin scribed is unfortunate; the album is a lyrical masterpiece in scope and poeticism. There are many times, though, where

divine production meets divine songwriting, and during them – the graceful piano piece “My Quicksand,” and the true-story song “The Ballad of Blind Tom” – John reminds you that, yes, at 66 he's still got it. *Grade: B*



Chvrches, 'The Bones of What You Believe'

Mark my word: The whole world will soon be worshipping Chvrches (pronounced churches, but not because they're holy rollers), one of the best new bands to enter the electro-pop fold in the last few years. Their shimmering alt-pop singles – the tremendous “Lies” and “Recover” among them – have already boosted their profile from Glaswegian basement band to blog-born new-wave Einsteins. With their '80s-chic-meets-Robyn-bleak spirit, and the childish sweetness of lead vocalist Lauren Mayberry, the Scottish trio's debut LP is a wonderland of ear-sugar and earnest displays of endearing lyricism – its heart beats as much as those delicious hooks. With its stuttered go-oh-ohs and yo-yo sound, “The Mother We Share” wraps your mind instantly in its infectious

reverie. “We Sink” does synth circles before dropping into an ominous chorus that has Mayberry warning, “I'll be a thorn in your side till you die.” “Gun” whoops into a frenzied confection, the lurching “Lungs” finishes with vocal contrast from bandmate Martin Doherty, and the penultimate “By the Throat” is a refreshing tonal shift – slowed down and dreamy, but like the rest of this charming set, easy to get lost in. “The Bones of What You Believe” is the beginning of the next big thing. *Grade: A-*

Also Out



Natalia Kills, 'Trouble'

You can just lay off the Lady Gaga comparisons when it comes to Natalia Kills; with “Trouble,” the English siren is making a name for herself. Her sophomore follow-up to “Perfectionist,” featuring breakout single “Mirrors,” is a major step up from her debut. With more to say, and with better beats to deliver those childhood-inspired stories, Kills rocks her pop-dance sound with some Pink-ish badassery (see hooky “Trouble”). But there's plenty of pain, too. “Marlboro Lights” is a wistful song that cuts deep, and “Saturday Night” dances off the heartbreak of a broken home.



Gloria Estefan, 'The Standards'

There's no body shaking for the conga queen on her second album of covers (you remember 1994, when Estefan released a single off “Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me” with drag queen lookalikes). This, however, is Gloria's first go at the Great American Songbook, a low-key collection of cabaret-style numbers that find her reinterpreting classics from Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. The proceedings are fairly standard themselves, as the production, which includes Dave Koz on sax, faithfully sticks to the originals. It's all kind of “been there, done that.”

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Hilberry's 'Macbeth' Takes Traditional Approach

BY CAROLYN HAYES

People conform to certain accepted behaviors, they appear outwardly normal, but there's no telling what diabolical contradictions are bubbling in them under the surface. This is a key component of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," which examines how one man's private ambitions are spurred by the promise of power, and how he is further transformed by its achievement. The Hilberry Theatre's season-opening production can be described in roughly similar terms. Although director Paul Barnes's traditional approach to the baleful "Scottish Play" delivers the expected gruesome villainy, it does so while slyly unpacking the script's rich duplicity, finding a natural impetus for barbaric behavior that we might not like to accept as comprehensible.

As the production begins, the assembled company names the play and setting, then executes a swift roll call to familiarize the viewer with titles and basic relationships – a useful tool, especially given that some actors are double and triple cast. The ensemble then plunges headlong into the tyrannical tale of Macbeth (Miles

Boucher), an upward-striving titled warrior who receives a prophesy by three witches (Sarah Hawkins Moan, Megan Barbour, and Danielle Cochrane) that he will rise through the ranks and become Scotland's king. His path is strewn with obstacles, including the seated king, the wise yet benevolently humble Duncan (Brandy Joe Plambeck), but Macbeth, together with his compelling wife (Annie Keris), seizes a dastardly opportunity for assassination in order to seal his foretold destiny. Yet the price of obtaining power pales in comparison to the mounting costs of keeping it, as the new king's bloodied reign alienates him from former allies, including onetime confidante Banquo (Topher Payne) and the apprehensive Macduff (Brent Griffith).

The work of Barnes and company is noteworthy for its streamlined playing of counterpoints, stringing the viewer smoothly through the polar extremes of its dark and devious tale. What's more,



The Hilberry Theatre opens its 2013-14 season with Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Photo: Hilberry Theatre

REVIEW

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Crain's Detroit House Party 4 p.m. Six tours that highlight all that Detroit has to offer. Crain's, 1 Washington Blvd. #401, **Detroit**. 313-446-0300. cdbevents@crain.com

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

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

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

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**. mllms@michiganaidcoalition.org michiganaidcoalition.org

Farm-To-Table Meal 6:30 p.m. A five-course dinner sourced via local farms and purveyors. Tickets: \$65. Paesano, 3411 Washtenaw Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-971-0484. Paesanosanarbor.com

Michigan Marriage Challenge Fund Raiser 6:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. Appetizers and Cocktails by Jeff Zak Catering of Plymouth. This fundraiser will support April DeBoer, in DeBoer v. Snyder, which could be the landmark case for LGBT rights in Michigan, and possibly across the nation. Michigan Marriage Challenge, 290 W 9 Mile Rd, **Ferndale**. Gofundme.com/MarriageEqualityMichigan

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

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

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

Soccer 7 p.m. Encouraging players of all levels (especially beginners/first timers) to participate and improve their skills through club-sponsored soccer academy sessions and pick-up play. Out For Kicks Detroit, 27725 Greenfield Road, **Southfield**. OutForKicksDetroit.com

Trivia with Terry 7 p.m. Join Terry for Trivia upstairs. No registration required. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

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

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. OutCenter, 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

Friday, Sept. 27

AIDS Walk Bay City/Midland/Saginaw PFLAG, **Bay City**. Pflag-mbs.org

Veteran's Affairs Support Group 3:30 p.m. A support group for any veteran or Veteran's Affairs (VA) patient. Meets every other Friday; call for dates and room location. Veteran's Affairs, 4646 John R. St., **Detroit**. 313-576-1000, ext. 6.

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

Friday Night Socials: evolution. an open mic affair. 6 p.m. Snacking and beverages will be available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Help & Heal 6 p.m. A monthly support group for HIV-positive gay or same-gender-loving (SGL) men of color. KICK, 41 Burroughs St., Suite 109, **Detroit**. davidnelson@e-kick.org

Artist Talk: Mary Sibande 7 p.m. Free for members. MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Polyqueer Womens Group 7 p.m. Open meeting to lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women who are polyamorous or curious about women-centered polyamory. Meets the last Friday of the month. JTCC, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. JimToyCenter.org

Queer Women's Community 7 p.m. Bonfire with s'mores. All lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally women are welcome. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 3636 Lowden, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Bear Trap 9 p.m. All new weekly party for bears, cubs and their admirers. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. 313-581-8913. Hayloftsaloon.com

Pride Friday 9 p.m. The one and only gay night. 18+. Guys with college ID get in free before 11 p.m. Cover: \$5+. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-5835. Thenecto.com

Bears in the Woods BBQ 10 p.m. 21+. BBQ on the Patio. R&R Saloon, 7330 Michigan Ave., **Detroit**. 313-849-2751. Rnrsaloon.com

Saturday, Sept. 28

Saline Farmer's Market-Saturdays 8 a.m. Saline Farmer's Market, S. Ann Arbor St., South of Michigan Ave., **Ann Arbor**. Cityofsaline.org/

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

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

LEAD Academy Orientation 10 a.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Homecoming Weekend and Homemade Soup Challenge 11 a.m. Enter your favorite homemade soup and vote for the best while catching a game at the clubhouse in the afternoon. Formal Homecoming Dance Saturday Night. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, **Owendale**. 989-375-2586. obisite8@yahoo.com Windoverwomensresort.com

Kayak, Canoe and Rafting Trip 11 a.m. Many different LGBT+ groups are coming together to enjoy our great outdoors. Recommended to pack a lunch. Admission: \$18-60, plus \$1 donation. Team Michigan, 1055 Longshore Dr., **Ann Arbor**. info@TeamMichigan. US TeamMichigan. us

Hockeytown BrewHaHa 1 p.m. Craft Beer Festival. Tickets: \$37. 50-60. Olympia Entertainment, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., **Detroit**. 1-800-745-3000. Detroitredwings.com/BrewHaHa

Transgender Health Fair 1 p.m. Exhibits, panels, speakers and more. Free. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

LezRead 4 p.m. Ann Arbor book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Saturday of every month. LezReads, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Lezread@yahoo.com LezRead.com

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

Outfest 5 p.m. A community celebration. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

DIFFA: Dining by Design 6 p.m. Tickets: \$250. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 160 W. Fort, **Detroit**. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.org

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

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

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Macho City 10 p.m. Disco debauchery. With special guests Salvatore Principato and BMG. R&R Saloon, 7330 Michigan Ave., **Detroit**. 313-849-2751. Rnrsaloon.com

Bark for Life: A Canine Event to Fight Cancer 10 a.m. A Relay for Life fundraising event that honors the caring qualities of canine companions. Dogs must be on a 6 foot leash. Tickets:

See Happenings, page 24

www.PrideSource.com

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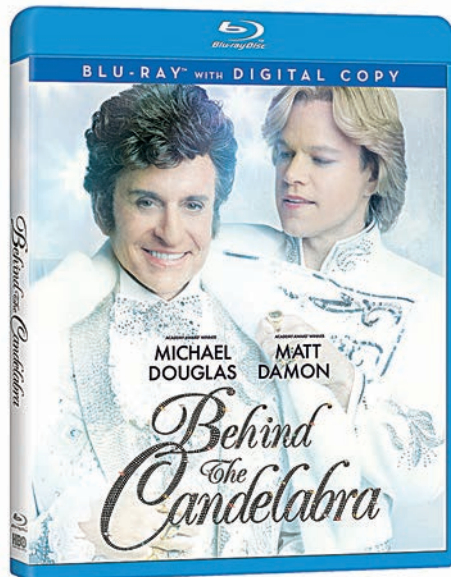
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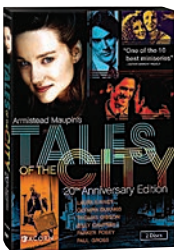
Screen Queen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Behind the Candelabra

Looking beyond the razzle-dazzle – though plenty of sequins shake out in this Emmy-loved HBO telepic – director Steven Soderbergh evades camp kitsch for a sexually fearless and captivating exposé on the vanity, fame and obsessions of the iconic Liberace. The intimate/bizarre story takes a magnifying glass to the entertainer's mutually toxic relationship with younger beau Scott Thorson (his 1988 memoir inspired the film) – and it's a dark, dangerous rabbit hole they go down, rife with insecurities, codependency and superficiality – all the way through Mr. Showmanship's AIDS-related death in 1987. Michael Douglas slips into the role – and in and out of some very feathery fabooshness – with an uncanny ease, illuminating every idiosyncrasy of Liberace's narcissism and musicianship (he, and/or some really convincing camera tricks, even works that piano with impressive finger-dancing dexterity). Displaying as much skin as he does dramatic acting chops, Matt Damon, as Thorson, is also spectacularly uninhibited. And Soderbergh, who's already demonstrated you can make magic out of male strippers, does career-best work finding the humanity in an otherwise cartoonish story. He bails, though, on the special features, leaving just a short EPK featuring the two leads.



Tales of the City

The television adaptation of gay novelist Armistead Maupin's classic saga premiered 20 years ago – and it looks it. That's no reflection on the greatness of this zeitgeisty miniseries, which ran for six episodes back in 1993; it's a terrifically scripted coming-of-ager about a fish out of water getting acclimated with the bohemian, anything-goes lifestyle of pre-AIDS San Francisco in the '70s. There are gays and pot gardens and

nakedness and ... wait, this was on PBS? Considered ahead of its time, the series cast a riveting Laura Linney, as a Bay Area newbie, into the limelight, and endeared us even more so to Olympia Dukakis, the free-spirited trans woman who takes Linney's character under her wing. The show, of course, is an absolute delight – a time-capsule yarn that revels in an emphatic cast of colorful characters as seen through the innocent eyes of Mary Ann Singleton (Linney). Its DVD is not. The two-disc set is marred by the same distracting graininess of its initial now-out-of-print 2003 release, which is to say it looks a lot like watching it on VHS. Carried over from that same set: cast commentaries on three episodes, nearly 40 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage and a color insert with a Maupin intro.



The Sapphires

How do you hate something with Motown music? With a heartwarming story based on fact? And with Chris O'Dowd, the Irish dreamboat who wanted to make cupcakes with Kristen Wiig in "Bridesmaids"? You don't. You can't. Unless you also hate kittens. So while its trite, shameless sentimentality and loosely explored social commentaries can seem a little Lifetime, this entertaining-but-flawed musical dramedy – about singing Australian sisters and their gal pal who get a gig in 1968 Vietnam performing for the troops – is big on charm, laughs and soul sing-alongs. And O'Dowd, as the bum manager with a heart of gold, is a delicious lead – a role requiring tart humor, bold dramatic turns and unexpected sweetness that he handles with awards-caliber capability. His sudden romance with one of the girls rings false in the end, when the film falls into sappy histrionics, but a few sour notes can't ruin the flash and fun of seeing these girls make their dreams come true. The real Sapphires talk about the movie and their lives in a too-brief bonus interview.

Also Out



Girls: The Complete Second Season

The drama gets heavy in season two of Lena Dunham's Emmy-winning HBO hit show, where Hannah (Dunham) and her girlfriends continue navigating life as a 20-something: being broke, complicated, relationship-challenged ... and, you know, letting Patrick Wilson put it in you. The second season makes the piss-in-

See Screen Queen, page 27

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

\$20+-. American Cancer Society & Bark For Life of Redford Michigan, 18250 Beech Daly Road, **Redford**. 734-564-0017. heather.barkforlife@gmail.com Relayforlife.org/barkredfordmi

Get Out Bike-3 Parks 10 a.m. Get Out Bike, 17385 Haggerty Road, **Belleville**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

AIDS Walk Lansing/East Lansing 11 a.m. Join the Lansing Area AIDS Network, our hosts, the Evans Scholars of Michigan State University, our official registrants, the National Association of Black Accountants Michigan State University Chapter, and hundreds of other walkers as we take one step towards a solution in the battle against HIV/AIDS! Free registration and t-shirts. LAAN, Valley Court Park (Behind Peoples Church), **East Lansing**. 517-394-3719 ext. 13. Laanonline.org

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

Monday, Sept. 30

Mailing Volunteers Needed! Volunteers needed throughout the month of September. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian

Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Board Meeting 6 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Fun Run & Walk Program 6:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

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

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

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Thinking Fresh About Detroit: Food Issues and Concerns 10 a.m. Tickets: \$119. Feet on the Street Tours, **Southfield and Detroit**. Enjoythed.com

Outdoor Kick-off 1 p.m. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/LGBTRC

Trans/Genderqueer Peer Group 4 p.m. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

SWEAT 6 p.m. A weekly support/social group to encourage those of us who need to achieve wellness and or weight loss. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org

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-



Buddy explodes onto the stage in a jukebox musical fully loaded with his classic songs.

Tickets are \$65 gold circle and \$60 house; seniors 55-and-over, students and military save \$5 per ticket. For tickets or information, call 586-286-2222.

398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MaleBox Booty Contest 11:30 p.m. All-male booty contest. Jadein Black hosts. DJ Jimmy. Part of \$2 Tuesday Night. MaleBox Michigan, 23365 Hoover Road, **Warren**. 586-806-2390. Facebook.com/malebox2

Wednesday, Oct. 2

COBO Support Group 5 p.m. Coming out, being out. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal 7 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Whiskey Wednesday 8 p.m. Country line dancing. Free juke box. MaleBox Michigan, 23365 Hoover Road, **Warren**. 586-806-2390. Facebook.com/Male

Editor's Pick

In just three short years, Buddy Holly set the music world on fire, breaking the mold and forever changing the face and sound of rock 'n' roll. Broadway's "Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story" charts his meteoric climb, legendary adventures and tragic fall on the fateful day the music died. "The Buddy Holly Story" will have you on your feet and dancing in the aisles Friday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Armed with a Fender Stratocaster guitar, his signature specs and a charismatic blend of rockabilly swagger,

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Ann Arbor Art Center "A2 Art & Brew" Enjoy the art of brewing and the fine arts at one event. Fundraiser. Tickets: \$50-60. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:30 p.m. Sept. 26. 734-994-8004. Ann Arbor Art Center.org

The Majestic "Garden Bowl 100th Anniversary Party" Family fun bash, retro bowl, Big Lewbowski & King Pin costume contest and more. Garden Bowl, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 11 a.m. Sept. 28. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "Taylor Gang Invasion featuring Chevy Woods & Berner" 18+. Tickets: \$20-30. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sept. 26. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Baths" 18+. Tickets: \$12-15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sept. 27. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Cathedral Choir "Choral Evensong" The beloved traditional service of Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir. The service is followed at 5:00 p.m. with a thirty-minute organ recital. Ample, well-lit parking is available by entering the Cathedral complex via eastbound Warren Avenue. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Sept. 29-Oct.

27. 313-833-7547. Facebook.com/detroitcathedralmusic

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Lang Lang with the DSO" Program: Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto. Tickets: \$35+-. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Parisian Soiree" Cabaret. Deanna Relyea, mezzo-soprano. Monica Swartout-Bebow, mezzo-soprano. Shelley MacMillan, singer/actress. Gabe Bolkosky, violin. Kevin Bylsma, piano. Tickets: \$15-35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MOCAD "Matvei Yankelevich" Free for members. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 26. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony" Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26. Music.msu.edu/event-listing

Oakland University "Steve Wogaman" Piano. Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Sept. 29. 248-370-2030. Oakland.edu

Olympia Entertainment "Sarah Brightman "Dreamchaser World Tour"" Tickets: \$54. 50+-. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 27. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Travis" Tickets: \$29. 50-55. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "John Mulaney" 18+. Tickets: \$25-30. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal

See Happenings, page 27



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Matrix Season Opener: No Child's Play

BY JOHN QUINN

"You had to be there" arises to confirm that a situation beyond description actually exists. It is a condemnation of society that such a phrase is the last resort of the men and women in the trenches, teachers in the dysfunctional urban school districts. Playwright Nilaja Sun has "been there," and her experiences form the backbone of a (mostly) one-woman play. Matrix Theatre Company's production of "No Child ..." celebrates 23 years of socially conscience theater in Southwest Detroit.

The production is not only a primal cry for attention from a society too willing to adopt facile "solutions" to complex problems, it represents stunning achievement in the actor's art. While the observant eye and ear of director Courtney Jo-Dempsey Burkett is ultimately responsible for this success, her artists, Sunkari Clifford Sykes and the mesmerizing Morgan Breon, are the meat and potatoes of this production.

"No Child ..." draws its realism from Sun's experiences during eight years of leading theater workshops – as a "teaching artiste" – in some of the most destitute schools of the New York City system. The old aphorism "write what you know" is working here, but how she wrote is extraordinary. Janitor Baron is Prologue and Narrator. All 15 other characters – principal, teachers, parents, security guards and students – are portrayed by only one actor. Generally, this would mean serial monologues, with generous use of costume and hair pieces to delineate the different characters. That is not the case in "No Child ..."; a single performer creates entire scenes, full of multiple characters.

In the context of the play, Sun – as is so often among professional actors – is between engagements and, to supplement her income, accepts a six-week residency with a sophomore class at Malcolm X Vocational High School in the Bronx. Her objective is to have her students read, discuss and give a performance of Timberlake Wertenbaker's 1988 drama, "Our Country's Good," in which a British officer directs a group of convicts sent to Australia's penal colony in a production of George Farquhar's 1706 comedy "The Recruiting Officer." To her alienated, foul-mouthed charges – and even to some well-spoken theater critics – the proposition seems preposterous; yet there is method in



Morgan Breon excels in "No Child ..." through Oct. 13. Photo: Matrix Theatre.

PREVIEW

No Child ...

Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday & 3 p.m. Sunday through Oct. 13. 80 minutes; no intermission. \$15-20. 313-967-0599.

www.Matrixtheatre.org

her madness. Performing arts force self-discipline, structure, the necessity to work collectively toward a common goal on the self-centered. Even the theme of "Our Country's Good" resonates with the class. They identify with society's outcasts, imprisoned in colonies marked by decaying schools and generational poverty. But Sun faces an up-hill battle against the status quo.

Morgan Breon creates whole scenes of dialogue alone, moving from character to character using an utter mastery of voice and body to slip seamlessly from one to the next. Her work is a tour de force. In the cacophony dialect and intonation there is only one minor flaw; it takes a while to realize there are, in fact, two Asian characters, one teacher and one student, in the classroom scenes. But even a theater critic catches on quickly.

Paired with the young and enthusiastic young Sun is the older, wiser Mr. Baron, a sage who has seen it all. In many ways, the character functions like a Greek chorus, not only

reflecting on the plot but challenging the audience to learn from it. Sunkari Clifford Sykes creates a warm, humorous, witty janitor as comfortable in his way as a well-worn sweater.

Adam Crinson's stark scenic design is marked by subtle but telling detail. There is broken trim on the chalk board. The clock on the drab, water-stained walls is so filthy one can barely make out the numerals. No matter; it's stopped at 8:04. But the floor best stands as a metaphor of a crumbling school system – a dirty, paint-daubed checkerboard in black and white, broken and cracked at the edges. Neil Koivu's lighting is tight, omnipresent yet completely unobtrusive.

Although "No Child ..." is an optimistic play, it ain't "To Sir with Love." Although championing the idea that the lost children need, first and foremost, someone to care about them, playwright Sun is experienced enough to know there are no answers in the back of the textbook. Not every life can be transformed – but that is no reason not to try. The solutions are still out there for those determined to find them.

There is a change at Matrix Theatre this season, as the company welcomes Megan Buckley-Ball as artistic director. It would seem that there is no change in its mission of producing some of the most relevant and thought-provoking theater available to local audiences.



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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 24

Oak. 8 p.m. Sept. 27. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Static Network "Motor City Breakdown" Featuring performances by The Lockouts, Loudmouth Baby, The Farleys, The Wet Wipes!21+. Tickets: \$5. The Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. Sept. 27. 313-964-5103. corktowntavern.com

The Ark "Vienna Teng and Barnaby Bright" Tickets: \$21-26. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Rebirth Brass Band" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 27. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Magic Bag "Tom Green" Tickets: \$25. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Sept. 29. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Calabrese" All ages. Tickets: \$8+. The Magic Stick Lounge, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 30. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "Blake Shelton" With Easton Corbin and Jana Kramer. Tickets: TBA. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Sept. 28. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

University Musical Society "Hubbard Street Dance Chicago" K-12 Field Trip on Friday (featuring "One Thousand Pieces"). Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 27-Sept. 28. 734-764-2538. ums.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Bonnie & Clyde \$13-18. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane,

South Lansing. Through Sep. 29. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

Dracula \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Oct. 4 - 27. 269-429-0400. twincityplayers.org

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

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

The Real Thing \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Oct. 4 - 13. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Glegarry Glen Ross \$5-20. The University Theatre, Western Michigan University at York Arena Theatre, Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Sep. 26 - Oct. 6. 269-387-6222. wmich.edu/theatre

PROFESSIONAL

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

Blithe Spirit \$27-\$32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 13. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

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

ComedySportz ComedySportz Detroit at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Company \$18-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Sep. 26 - Oct. 20. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Evil Dead: The Musical \$29.50. The Ringwald and Olympia Entertainment at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2 - 26. 800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

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

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

Macbeth \$12-30. Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 12. 313-577-2972. hillberry.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. Sept. 27. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

No Child... \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Oct. 13. 313-967-0599. matrixtheatre.org

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

Opera at The Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Planet Ant Late Night Saturdays \$10 at

See Happenings, page 29

▶ Screen Queen

Continued from p. 23

the-shower scene of the first look like batting practice, because here, Dunham – whose riskier writing polarized as much as it titillated the water-cooler talk – goes in some very unexpected and audacious directions that make your 20s look so boring. HBO gives the sophomore chapter an impressive set of special features, most notably Dunham's sit-down with the show's male ensemble.



Amour

There are moments so real in Oscar winner "Amour" you forget those are actors you're watching. You forget there's a director behind the camera. And you certainly forget, as is often said about horror films, that this is just a movie. Michael Haneke's "Amour" is the worst kind of horror – the real kind. It's what Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) experiences when his wife Anne (Emmanuelle Béart) suffers a heart attack, putting their love – and his loyalty – to

the test. It's grim, poignant and wrenching, and the roles Riva and Trintignant play are beyond performances – they're as honest as life. They discuss their parts during a short making-of.



The Muppet Movie: The Nearly 35th Anniversary Edition

Call it a kid classic if you want, but the Muppets – going from TV variety show darlings to silver-screen stars with this 1979 flick – did more than entertain with songs and silliness; they got to your heart. But aside from "The Rainbow Connection," this road-trip rollick about hope and dreams and destiny, where Kermit and his flamboyant puppet posse (and real peeps like Cloris Leachman and Steve Martin) hope to bring people to their happy place, is a film for the ages. All ages. With just some sing-alongs and a short Kermit interview, this Disney release surprisingly skimps on extras. But still, these are the Muppets. This is their first film. For all you dreamers, this is a must-have.

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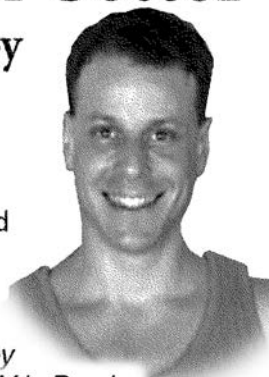
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Classifieds

**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 Pincrest. 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)
Pincrest & Drayton, Ferndale
Closed Meeting

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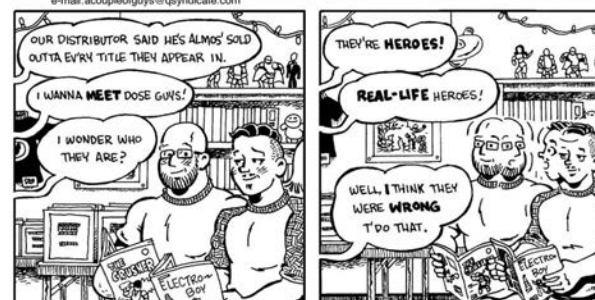
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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 27

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

Presumed Incompetent \$20+. The Push Nevada Show at International Institute of Detroit, 111 E. Kirby St., Detroit. Oct. 5-6. 313-320-9620. Eventbrite.com/org/928837689?s=16972717

Pvt. Wars \$5-20. University of Detroit-Mercy Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. Sep. 28 - Oct. 6. 313-993-3270. <http://theatre.udmercy.edu>

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

Sundays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

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 Circuit \$15. The Hinterlands at Play House, 12657 Moran St., Detroit. Sep. 26 - 27. 313-454-1756. thehinterlandsensemble.org

The Circuit \$15. The Hinterlands at Trinosophes, 1464 Gratiot, Detroit. Oct. 3 - 4. 313-454-1756. thehinterlandsensemble.org

The Complete History of America (abridged) \$16-18. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Sep. 27 - Oct. 5. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

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

The Kitchen Plays \$10-20. Royal Oak Kitchen and Bath, 32790 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Oct. 4 - 12. 248-658-8390. thekitchenplays.bpt.me

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

The Play about the Baby This Edward Albee absurdist comedy has adult

themes, nudity and language; no one under 17 will be admitted without parent or guardian. Donation only. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette, Detroit. Through Sep. 28. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

The Sisters Rosensweig \$41-\$48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Sep. 25 - Oct. 20. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

The Vast Difference 18.50-\$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 14. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Thursdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

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 Art Museum "Ralph Rapson: A Son's Perspective of a Pioneering Modernist" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 4 p.m. Sept. 29. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.com

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

Downriver Council for the Arts "Open Studio" Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 6-Oct. 31. 734-720-0671. downriverarts.org

Fandangles! "September 2013 Art Exhibit" 6429 W. Pierson Road, Flushing. Sept. 1-Oct. 4. 810-659-2700. fandanglesmi.com

Flint Institute of Arts "Free Saturdays" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Sept. 14-Feb. 22. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Ghoultime Gathering "Seventh Annual Ghoultime Gathering" Tickets: \$0-20. Chelsea Fairgrounds, 20501 Old US-12 Hwy, Chelsea. 10 a.m. Sept. 28. ghoultimegathering.com

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Grand Rapids ArtPrize Art Adventure" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Sept. 27-Sept. 29. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Off the Wall: Art in Three Dimensions" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sept. 17-Sept. 30. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Nancy Wolfe and Michael Nagara" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann

Arbor. Oct. 1-Oct. 30. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Krasl Art Center "Philosophy of Art" 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. June 27-Sept. 26. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Krasl Art Center "In the Artlab: Past, Present and Future Perfect by Laura Elayne Miller" 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. Sept. 1-Oct. 20. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Krasl Art Center "American Painting Today: Physical & Visceral" 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

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. June 4-Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Evolution in Action" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. June 4-Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

MOCAD "Matvei Yankelevich" Free. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 26. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "David Stark Design and Culture Lab Detroit" 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 7-Sept. 30. 313-626-2000. pewabic.org

Riverside Arts Center "Reflection of Hope" 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sept. 5-Sept. 28. 734-483-7345. riversidearts.com

Saginaw Art Museum "Great Lakes Bay Women: Art & Selections by Edwina Jaques" 1126 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. Oct. 1-Oct. 31. 989-754-2491. saginawartmuseum.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Point Counterpoint" 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Sept. 1-Nov. 9. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "American Aesthetic: Clyde Burroughs Dinner Lecture Series on American Art & Design" 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6 p.m. Sept. 26. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Adolph Gottlieb: Sculptor" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 21-Jan. 5. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "PLAY during ArtPrize 2013" Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. Sept. 18-Oct. 6. uica.org



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Editor's Pick

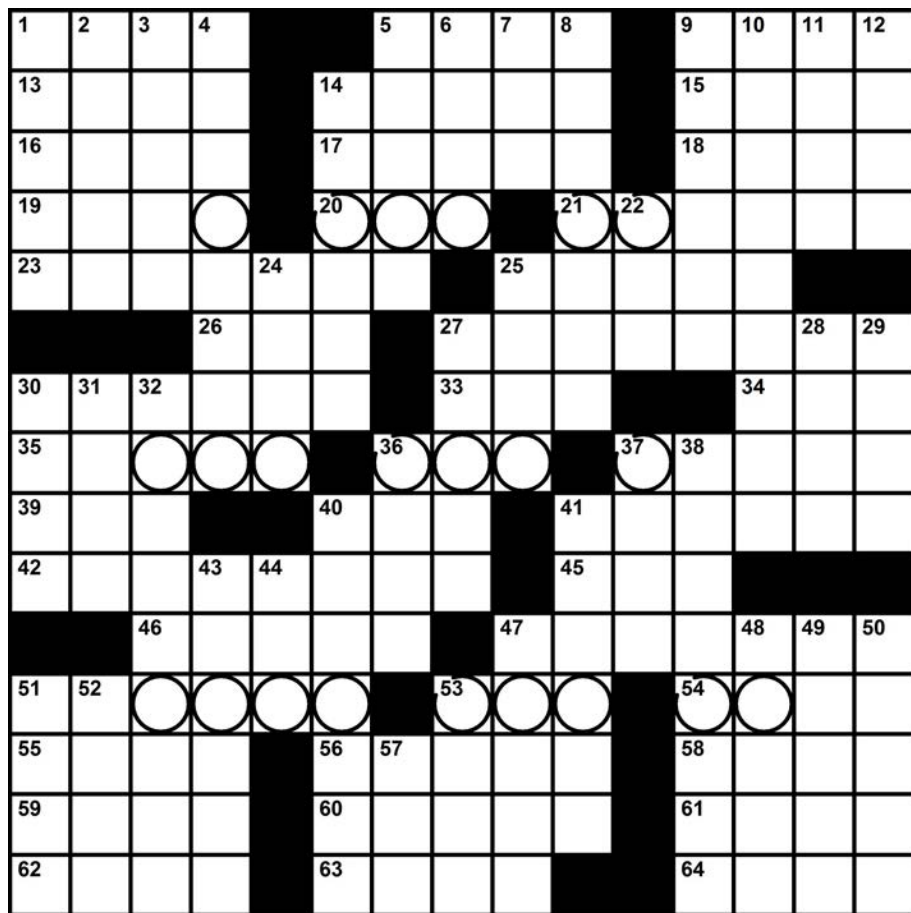
Learn about Michigan's involvement in the Civil War with Michigan State University Museum's historical collection. The museum's current exhibition, "Michigan and the Civil War," features a variety of artifacts and historical information. See authentic Civil War uniforms, weapons, medical equipment, and more.

Some standouts in the exhibit include objects related to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Luther Baker, the man who led the capture of Lincoln's assassin, was a Michigan native. Another highlight includes artifacts from General John G. Parkhurst, a native of Coldwater who spent time in the infamous Confederate Libby Prison.



The "Michigan and the Civil War" can be seen at MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call 517-355-7474 or visit www.museum.msu.edu.

She Did It!



Across

- 1 Place for a rubber duckie
- 5 Land of the city in the 4th row, where a 53-hour swim began
- 9 Lavish party
- 13 K through 12
- 14 "When ___ said and done ..."
- 15 Police incursion at Stonewall
- 16 "Break ___!"
- 17 Leonardo's home
- 18 Military force
- 19 Trig, e.g.
- 20 Gardner of "Show Boat"
- 21 City on the Loire
- 23 Clever one
- 25 Grab a cheek, perhaps
- 26 Not in the pink
- 27 Mantra of the swimmer in the 12th row
- 30 Hog-ties
- 33 Street where Debussy lived
- 34 Photo ___ (camera sessions)
- 35 Pitched properly
- 36 Bentley of "American Beauty"
- 37 Pointed
- 39 Waikiki paste
- 40 Brown's "Murder, ___ Meowed"
- 41 Do a slow burn
- 42 Signed up
- 45 Vestment for Mychal Judge
- 46 Rehoboth Beach setting

- 47 Say again
- 51 Gandhi, e.g.
- 53 E. Lynn Harris' " ___ Way the Wind Blows"
- 54 Second fruit eater
- 55 Use your hands instead of your mouth
- 56 German engraver Albrecht
- 58 1994 Tommy Lee Jones flick
- 59 Jackie's designer
- 60 Sadists, to masochists, in a way
- 61 Gardner of mystery
- 62 Famed Loch
- 63 Over and done
- 64 Origin of a pansy

Down

- 1 Puts on a happy face
- 2 Islam's deity
- 3 Letter after eta
- 4 Like tall buildings
- 5 Owen of "Closer"
- 6 Bone below the elbow
- 7 Something to flick
- 8 Cockamamie
- 9 Lingua ___
- 10 Bait shop critter
- 11 What they do behind bars
- 12 Ben and Jerry's rival
- 14 Serves the purpose
- 22 " ___ the Band Played On"

- 24 Trick
- 25 Papal name
- 27 Out
- 28 Recess at St. Peter's
- 29 River of the Singing Nun's country
- 30 Bound along
- 31 At once, to the Bard
- 32 Winter vacation places
- 36 "Stop pouring"
- 37 Q to a Scrabble player
- 38 Bear hugs, e.g.
- 40 Kind of comic
- 41 Well-endowed old goats?
- 43 Sweet spreads
- 44 Place for a cruising sailor
- 47 Nonreacting
- 48 Get down on your knees in front of
- 49 Put aside
- 50 Get into the sack?
- 51 "Time ___ My Side"
- 52 "Aida" backdrop
- 53 "Xena" deity
- 57 Land of the city in the 8th row, where the swim ended

Solution on pg. 28

We speak LGBTQIA

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