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— Mike Duggan,
Detroit Mayoral Candidate, pg 4

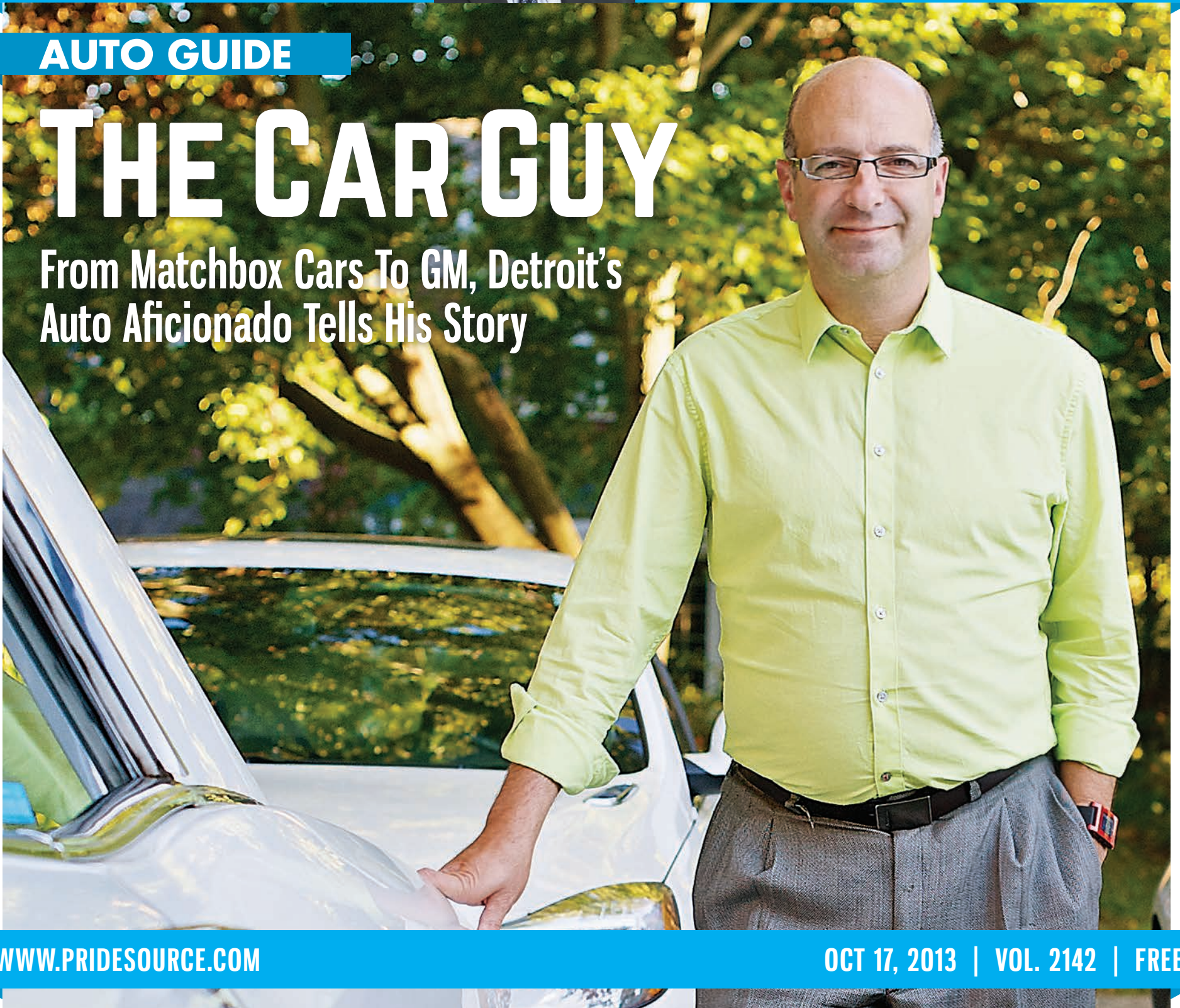
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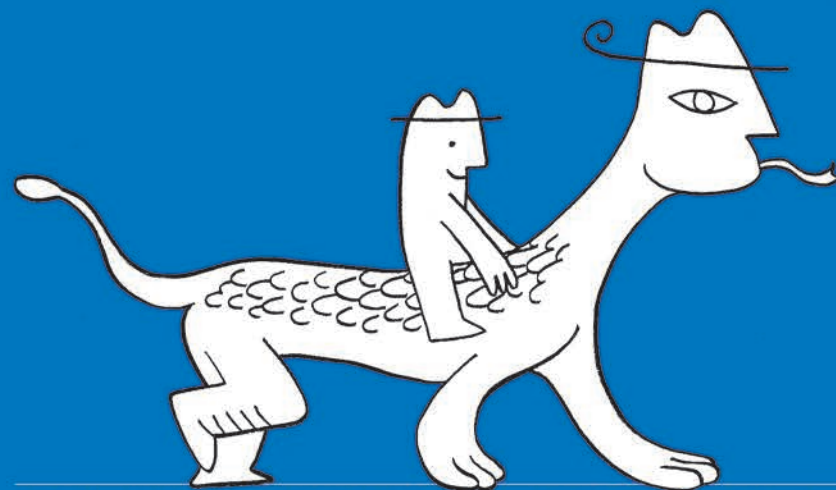


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15 The car guy
BTL photo: Andrew Potter



— Aino Jawo (right), pg. 30

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Election 2013: A Conversation With Detroit Mayoral Candidate Mike Duggan

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT - Mike Duggan wants to be the next mayor of Detroit, and on Nov. 5 voters will decide to either elect him or Detroit's former police chief, Benny Napoleon. Duggan sat down with BTL's co-publisher Jan Stevenson to talk about why he wants to lead our embattled city, how he plans to use his experience as a tough turnaround specialist to redirect Detroit and how having a lesbian couple within his close family has impacted his attitudes toward the LGBT community. He also talked about his role in the infamous "Bag-a-Fag" operation that entrapped gay men in Rouge Park and how his leadership at the Detroit Medical Center has prepared him to fight HIV in the city.

Q: Why do you want to be mayor and what skills do you have that would help Detroit?

A: I was born in the city and lived here as a young boy. I went to high school here and have worked here every day for the last 32 years. It breaks my heart to see the direction we are going, to see people forced to move out of their neighborhoods, and the way businesses have left town and the way violence has taken over. I just felt like we needed a mayor who has done turnarounds, who has looked bankruptcy in the eye and has restructured organizations and made them work better. So I feel like I could help and thought I'd give it a try.

At Wayne County when I came in with Ed McNamara we were facing near bankruptcy and we balanced the budget and kept it

balanced for nearly 14 years. I spent four years running the Smart Bus system when it was near closure and brought in a team that got that going in the right direction. Of course, Detroit Medical Center was on the verge of shutting down ten years ago, and we brought in a great team, and now there is \$850 million of new investment in the city. So there's a lot of talent in this city. We just don't have enough of it in city government and I'm going to see if I can change that.

Q: Detroit remains one of the few major cities that does not have a full time, dedicated liaison to the LGBT community. Would you create such a position?

A: I don't see it as a full time position but there is no doubt there will be senior people in my administration from the LGBT community and I would expect those individuals to act as liaisons. But my management style is not to designate somebody in just one role but to take good people and put them to work.

Q: The Midtown comeback is in part fueled by a large, active gay community, both in the business sector and especially in the large number of young residents. Would you capitalize on that energy to reinvigorate other areas of the city, and how?

A: Of course I spent the last nine years in Midtown. The DMC, Henry Ford and Wayne State contributed significantly as well with the Live Midtown Program in which we created incentives for our employees to live in the area. My intention is to keep doing the same things that we've been doing; taking abandoned houses when they are first abandoned and making them available for individuals to buy, as we did in the prosecutors office. It is a way to take really solid neighborhoods, and in some cases historic neighborhoods, and fill them in. It doesn't matter if you're gay or straight. I want to make those houses available to everybody who would like to live there.

Q: What do you think about creating a LGBT section of the city, like the Halsted area in Chicago or Greenwich Village in New York?

A: I don't think it is government's job to tell people where to live. I think it is government's



Detroit Mayoral Candidate Mike Duggan on the campaign trail. Photo courtesy of Duggan campaign.

job to create the environment for people to live safely. I want to create an environment where people could choose to live where they want. I don't see designating any one area in any kind of classification.

Q: How would you change or revitalize the Detroit Human Rights Department to make it a more effective protector of LGBT rights?

A: You know I want to make sure everybody's rights are protected. I'm not sure if reinvigorating the human rights department is what needs to be done or not, but I'll deal with it on a fair basis. When I was a prosecutor I made sure nobody was discriminated against, whether it was members of the Arab community following the Sept. 11 attacks where there was backlash - and I prosecuted people for that; whether it was stepping in and stopping the law enforcement decoys in Rouge Park and other places where members of the LGBT community were being entrapped, and putting an end to that. My approach was that everybody's rights need to be protected. Whether that is a human rights department, I'm not sure yet. But I will make sure that nobody is discriminated against or treated unfairly.

Q: Since you brought up Rouge Park, while you were the Wayne County Prosecutor the Detroit Police Department engaged in the infamous Bag-a-Fag sting operation, entrapping gay men. The Detroit Free Press published a leaked memo

from your office detailing that sting operations in Wayne County had raised \$2.4 million from fines and car impoundments, which were used to give all the assistant prosecutors a raise. You were a leader in getting the policy ultimately changed, but the whole episode has left a bad impression of you with some LGBT people. Were the fines used for the raises?

A: Not from that they weren't - absolutely not. What that was about was the hooker decoys. What was happening then - and the memo probably wasn't as well written as I would like to have made it if I could do it over again - we had an enormous problem, particularly in the first mile or two around the border of the city - with hookers. We had kids getting off the school buses and prostitutes were out soliciting openly and the vast majority of the johns were coming in from the suburbs. They were driving into the city, soliciting hookers and having sex in the cars in the neighborhoods. So what we did with the Detroit police was put female police officers as decoy hookers, and when the guys would come in and solicit them for sex we would take their car for \$900. We did the same thing on the drug side. We had a lot of people coming in from the suburbs looking for drugs so we put decoy drug dealers - undercover police officers - and when they would come in and solicit to buy drugs we would take the cars.

I didn't think it was enough to prosecute the hookers and the drug dealers in the city. I also thought we should go after the suburbanites driving in and buying the services. As long as you have cars cruising up and down the street either looking to pay for sex or pay for drugs you are going to have somebody standing on the corner selling it. So I was trying to drive down the demand. But that had nothing to do with the LGBT community.

Q: So fines from cars impounded as a result of the Bag-a-Fag were not part of that?

A: Absolutely not. What happened at Rouge was a month after Benny Napoleon left as police chief the new, interim police chief called me. He said, 'We have a practice that I am really troubled about. I want you to come and look at what we are doing.' And what they were doing was essentially putting male officers out there soliciting individuals and then when the individuals would respond they would arrest them. And the new chief said 'I'm very uncomfortable with the practice.' And I put out a memo shortly after that, and it turned out the Wayne County

See Duggan, page 6

INFO

Duggan At A Glance

Career Highlights:

President and CEO of Detroit Medical Center, 2004-2012

Wayne County Prosecutor, 2001-2003

Wayne County Deputy Executive, 1987-2001

Education:

JD from Univ. of Michigan Law School, 1983

University of Michigan, 1980

Detroit Catholic Central High School

Personal Details:

Born July 15, 1958 (age 55)

Political party - Democratic

Married to Lori Maher for 27 years

Two adult children, Patrick and Carolyn

Lives in Palmer Woods area of Detroit

www.dugganfordetroit.com

Christian Activists Oppose Local Non-Discrimination Law

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

An ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations in Delta Township was shelved for two weeks Oct. 7, because community members claimed passage of the law would infringe on their religious conscience.

But an investigation by Between The Lines has found that two of the three concerned community members who authored the legal memo challenging the ordinance run a ministry with a stated goal of creating government that reflects its own brand of socially conservative Christian beliefs. And in spite of claims in the trio's letter of not harboring animosity towards the LGBT community, the public histories of two of the three men show otherwise. At the center of the controversy are attorneys



William Wagner speaking out against Sharia Law in Oct. 2012. He opposes a Delphi Township Human Rights Ordinance.

David Kallman and William Wagner.

Kenneth Fletcher, supervisor of the Delta Township Board of Trustees, called the Kallman/Wagner legal memo concerns "baseless," in an email to BTL.

"As soon as I read Mr. Kallman's memo, I knew that he wasn't just a 'concerned resident.' His claims that our proposed ordinance would legalize polygamy, incest, pedophilia and necrophilia were outlandish and inflammatory. It became very evident that Mr. Kallman was a far right activist with a radical and hateful political agenda," Fletcher said. "It's sad that Mr. Kallman would purposely mislead well intentioned residents with his hateful fear mongering campaign against our non-discrimination ordinance."

INFO

Online Resources

Find links to all the sources in this story online

>> www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=62654

Kallman runs a small family practice based in Delta Township - a community west of Lansing - while Wagner is a professor at the Thomas Cooley Law School in downtown Lansing. Cooley is a private law school and Wagner teaches Constitutional law there.

Both men serve on the board of the Colorado based Salt and Light Global ministries. The ministry was started by Wagner in 1986, although the organization is just now in the process of filing for formal nonprofit status with the IRS. Salt and Light was formed "to proclaim God's truth as relates to life, liberty and good governance under the rule of law." The ministry argues that it's mission is for "cultural transformation and renewal" and requires the recognition "that a proper understanding of the spheres of societal authority, and the First Principles that govern them, must be restored within the universal Church and society at large."

The ministry explains "First Principles" as follows: "First Principles are moral absolutes God reveals in His Word and places on the human heart. Present at the creation of the world, these self-evident truths correspond to reality and remain constant through time. First Principles therefore provide a reliable objective standard by which to measure whether an action is good or bad, right or wrong, just or unjust. Salt & Light Global recognizes that lasting transformation is only possible if grounded in God's law. Therefore, it desires to see First Principles embraced by every social sphere in every community."

In the ministry's worldview, the Bible is infallible, and "as followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to bring to life to our community and to ensure that the various social institutions are operating as God designed."

In short, Kallman and Wagner represent and run an organization whose purpose is to enforce their specific Christian worldview through all spheres of society - business, education and government as well as church - at the expense of alternative beliefs or values.

"Salt & Light Global believes that government was created by God and that the Bible is the standard by which we determine the legitimate scope of the government's power, which makes them dominionist in a broad sense," says Ed Brayton, a member of the board of advisors for the Center for Inquiry Michigan. He is currently writing a book on the response to plaintiffs in church-state lawsuits titled "By Their Love: Violence in Defense of Christian Privilege."

See Delta, page 10



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► Duggan

Continued from p. 4

Sheriff Dept. was doing the same thing in Hines Park and so were some of the other police chiefs. I brought all the police chiefs in and said, 'Look – you would not send an undercover female officer into a sports bar to solicit men. Of course not – that's ridiculous. So you can't send an undercover male officer into the park to solicit either.'

And the interesting thing was that a great majority of the chiefs called me and thanked me because I gave them clear direction that said if you come upon lewd activity going on in the park or in a car you should make the arrest. But you cannot go and initiate the contact and then arrest people for responding. I think today – now we're 15 years later – no one would question the fact that was the correct thing to do. But at the time I took a fair amount of heat for doing it – but it was the right thing to do.

Q: Do you publicly support adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act?

A: Sure. I don't know how much you know about me, but my wife, Lori, and I will celebrate our 27th wedding anniversary next week. But when we started dating, her sister Patty was with her partner, Lois, and they are still together today. Patty and Lois were openly in a committed relationship and from the time I came into the family they have been the in-laws. If you talk to them, Lois refers to herself as my sister-in-law and I refer to her as my sister-in-law.

My kids growing up would go to Uncle Vince and Aunt Megan one weekend and Aunt Patty and Aunt Lois' house the next. It's just the way they were raised. They got to be about nine or 10 years of age and they came home and said, 'Kids at school say I'm supposed to have an aunt and an uncle.' And I'd

“It was just normal at the family gatherings that three of the couples were male/female and the fourth was female/female. It's a part of the family and it's natural. The things you are asking me are the same things that we've talked about at the family table.”

sit down and have a conversation and say that people who love each other can have lots of different kinds of families. I asked them if they were uncomfortable at Aunt Patty and Aunt Lois' house and they said, 'Oh no – we love it there.' So I said you need to tell your friends that people who love each other don't always have to be an aunt and an uncle.

You talk to my kids today and they think any kind of discrimination is absurd because it is what they grew up with. It was just normal at the family gatherings that three of the couples were male/female and the fourth was female/female. It's a part of the family and it's natural. The things you are asking me are the same things that we've talked about at the family table. They are both activists in the Ypsilanti community and were active in the ordinance fight a few years back.

Q: According to a study by the Office of National AIDS Policy, at current infection and transmission trends, when 20 year old black, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men reaches age 50, half of them will be infected, and 70 percent of black MSM will be infected. BTL has condemned the public health response, claiming that health policy leaders have no compunction about ignoring black MSM and allowing this epidemic to decimate a generation. Would you be willing to publicly declare a war on HIV and support – with funding – more HIV prevention programs that target black MSM?

A: I will support public health to the maximum extend possible, so the

answer is yes. At the DMC we ran a special HIV clinic. It was something the DMC supported deeply and believed in deeply when I was the CEO. And so within the public health department – which Bing has eliminated but that I intend to bring back...

Q: You do?

A: Oh yeah. Privatizing the city's public health department I think was a terrible mistake. So I will bring it back and put professional public health administrators in charge. But I do not know a single public health administrator that doesn't take HIV as a central charge in the mission. So the answer is yes – it will be important. Now, what will be the exact step? – I can't tell you but I am going to put professional public health people in charge and we will respond appropriately.

Q: What we are looking for is visible, vocal leadership. Black gay men have been treated by some as an expendable population.

A: Well there are a whole lot of them in my campaign and they don't have any trouble advocating around here. It will be an important part of the health department and we will reinstate the health department so we can garner the resources to fight it.

Q: Any final comments?

A: We are going to have a city where everybody is equally valued, and obviously my candidacy is a testament to the fact that the people in this city want change and people want a city where everyone is valued. That's going to apply to the LGBT community just as it applies to black, brown, Christian, Jewish and Muslim. We are going to build a city where everyone is going to be equally valued – something I talk about at every single event and something the vast majority of the city is behind.

BTL has reached out to the Napoleon campaign for an interview that we hope to make available in the coming weeks.

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Election 2013 Between Ourselves: Holland City Council Candidate Donald Martin

Donald Martin is hoping to be elected to a city-wide seat on Holland's City Council Nov. 5. He loves his community and hopes to keep battling the big C of Conservatism in West Michigan.

1 Why did you decide to run for office?

Back in July, 2011, I witnessed Holland City Council reject a unanimous recommendation by its own human relations commission to begin addressing the lack of basic civil rights for LGBT residents. The experience changed me. I was no longer the same person because Holland was no longer the same city. It was far more complex than I realized, and my reaction to that night's events were far more complex than I would have imagined. Mostly, I felt frustrated that five elected leaders voted to strangle the civil rights debate in its crib before it ever had the chance to breathe. That is not OK. Those choices are the opposite of leadership. Indeed, they are the definition of ideology. I believe that Holland deserves much better. I had to get involved but, on that dark and rainy night, I didn't know how to do that.

For months afterwards, the words of Martin Luther King Jr. ran through my mind, that everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service. In that spirit, I rejected passive frustration in favor of active citizenship. That change in attitude led me to get involved with many of Holland's community development organizations: those that promote racial equity, those that advocate for the homeless, those that develop Hispanic youth leadership, and those that work to guarantee basic rights for LGBT people. The wealth of experience I gained over the last two years opened my eyes to two truths: that all of the elements for greatness exist here in Holland right now and that great things happen when good people work together.

That's why I'm running for office - to advocate for community service that connects good people to the resources that they need to achieve great things for our entire city.



2 What are the biggest issues in this election?

I ask this same question to Hollanders and almost never get the same answer. Having said that, no one has told me that they want Holland to stay the same. The diversity of response I hear does share in common a desire for a different kind of representation in Holland. That desire for the new points to a crucial aspect about Holland that many people overlook: the difference between little-c conservatism and big-C Conservatism. Hollanders are fine with little-c conservatism that encourages people of different opinions to live together with respect and trust - summed up in a "you do your thing, I'll do mine" way of living. After all, how could an openly gay man like myself run in Holland if this attitude were absent? What

I hear Hollanders rejecting is the big-C Conservatism. Big-C Conservatism enforces one group's identity and values onto others. Let me be clear: it absolutely exists here but I think that its power is on the wane - which alarms some very powerful people. I understand the appeal of ideological thinking. It is comfortable and familiar. It provides an answer to every question in defiance of unique circumstances. It is, however, lazy thinking. It weakens the public trust for its privileging a romantic past at the expense of the very real present. Hollanders living in the present, facing very real challenges and celebrating very real successes, need representatives that can honor Holland's past by embracing its present and planning for its future.

See Between Ourselves, page 10

Q&As Clear Up Controversy in RO Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

ROYAL OAK - At the most recent Royal Oak City Commission meeting, members of the public spoke on both sides of the Human Rights Ordinance issue. City officials had been discussing the idea of publishing a letter that would answer questions about the ordinance, which is on the ballot for Nov. 5. However, City Attorney David Gillam advised that if they sent a letter it could only have the wording of the ballot proposal in it, not questions and answers.

In lieu of such Q & A, City Commissioner Jim Rasor - also a seasoned lawyer - grilled Gillam about what the ordinance does and does not do. The discussion lasted over ten minutes, and provided some of the most concise facts about the issue from a legal perspective.

Rasor: So is it completely legal in Royal Oak to refuse jobs, housing or public accommodations to gay, lesbian, and bisexual or transgendered citizens?

Gillam: In terms of the current city code there is nothing that prohibits it.

Rasor: And there is nothing at the state or federal level that prohibits it? Is that right?

Gillam: Not to my knowledge.

Rasor: So if I put a sign in front of a rental property and it said, "No gay people allowed to rent here" that would be completely legal.

Gillam: To my knowledge, yes.

Rasor: And if I put a sign in front of my business that said, "No gay people allowed to shop here" would that be completely legal in the City of Royal Oak?

Gillam: To my knowledge, yes.

Rasor: What if I put up a help wanted sign that said, "No gay or lesbian applicants may apply. We don't hire you."

Gillam: Same answer.

For the complete transcript of the Q&A session, go to www.pridesource.com To learn more about the campaign to pass the human rights ordinance and how you can support the campaign visit www.OneRoyalOak.com



Royal Oak City Commission discussed the upcoming Human Rights Ordinance on the Nov. 5 ballot.

► Between Ourselves

Continued from p. 9

3 Do you think that the fact you are gay has a role in this election? Is anyone making it an issue?

I strongly suspect that I am not the best person to answer this question. Nobody (that I know) has made my sexual identity an issue. It certainly hasn't appeared in the public discourse. People both inside and outside of Holland have expressed surprise that it's not become political fodder. But, to be honest, it doesn't surprise me at all. It seems that Hollanders assess the value of my candidacy based on the breadth of my perspective, the content of my character, and the wisdom of my choices. What else should anyone expect?

4 How long have you lived in Holland? If you did not grow up there, how did you end up being there? What do you love about the Holland community?

I moved to Holland in 2005, when my employer transferred our department from the Detroit area to here. I knew nothing about Holland save for its popular stereotypes

“Nobody (that I know) has made my sexual identity an issue. It certainly hasn't appeared in the public discourse. People both inside and outside of Holland have expressed surprise that it's not become political fodder. But, to be honest, it doesn't surprise me at all.”

of political and religious conservatism, so I came here kicking and screaming. My brattish attitude didn't last long after I found a fantastic group of people, local businesses, and organizations that kept open the doors of friendship. I bought my first house here in Holland in 2009. The day I received the keys was the day that I knew that Holland was home. My neighbors, a married couple, came over and introduced themselves while I ran a Detroit Tigers flag up the pole in the front yard. By the time our first conversation ended, we agreed that they would clear the snow in exchange for storing stuff in my garage. Every summer I borrow their yard tools and every

autumn they store a turkey in my freezer. My neighbors made Holland my home. It continues to feel wonderful.

5 I see you use a lot of bilingual communications. Can you explain the importance of reaching Spanish-speaking constituents?

The simple answer is that I adore the Spanish language and take every opportunity to use it. The practical answer is that the 2010 Census revealed that 25 percent of Holland residents claimed Hispanic as their racial identity. That's an extraordinary number for a city our size. Of course, not everyone who identifies

as Hispanic speaks Spanish but I think that anyone running for office in Holland ignores the concerns, challenges, and successes of a quarter of our community at their own peril.

6 What is your profession and what experience do you have that will be helpful for being on council?

This question reminds me of the joke “what can you do with an English Major?” For me, the answers to that question are: solve problems, advocate for the community, mentor kids, build coalitions, and - if elected - I would add represent the City of Holland to that list.

7 Anything else we should include?

Come to Holland. This is a great city. We have great people here. We have great restaurants here. We have great breweries here. We have great neighborhoods here. Everything one needs is here. I'm also to understand that we have a lake, a windmill, and some flowers. But really, come to Holland for the people. Tell them that Donald Martin sent you.

BTL is compiling local election information. Please check online throughout the month of October for endorsements and updates at www.pridesource.com

► Delta

Continued from p. 5

Anti-gay History

Despite a claim that the pair harbor no animosity towards LGBT or other minorities, their histories tell a different story.

In 2000 and 2001, Kallman represented the American Family Association of Michigan in fighting the creation of a Gay Straight Alliance at Jackson High School in Jackson. In a press conference announcing a possible lawsuit against the school - in which Kallman wrongly alleged the school district did not allow religious clubs to form or meet and later had to retract that claim - the attorney alleged approval of a GSA was equivalent to creating a club to celebrate marijuana use.

“The scientific evidence is clear on the dangers of homosexuality,” Kallman was quoted in a November 2000 report in the Jackson Citizen Patriot. “Clearly we wouldn't allow a group that encourages smoking pot. Why would we allow one that encourages other dangerous behavior?”

The attorney went on to claim homosexuality was dangerous because of higher rates of HIV infection. He did not acknowledge that the CDC says anti-gay animus, like that espoused by Kallman and his clients, contributed to those higher rates by driving gay and bisexual men deeper into

the closet and into positions wherein they are more likely to engage in riskier activities.

Kallman does not appear to have been involved in any more anti-gay activity since his legal saber rattling in 2000, but Wagner is another story.

In 2009, Wagner was involved in opposing LGBT equality in Europe, where he used substantially similar language related to Delta's proposed law and the E.U. proposal. That argument was made on video and in print. Wagner also co-authored a 2007 paper on pro-life issues with former Assistant Attorney General for Michigan Andrew Shirvell. The brief was published by Americans United for Life. Shirvell came under fire, and was ultimately fired by then Attorney General Mike Cox for his stalking and blogging of openly gay University of Michigan student body president Chris Armstrong. Armstrong filed suit against Shirvell, and won a \$4.5 million ruling. This spring, Wagner was a featured speaker at a conference in Trinidad which also featured Brian Brown, President of the National Organization for Marriage, a Southern Poverty Law Center identified anti-gay group.

But Wagner's animosity towards minorities does not stop with LGBT people. Wagner was a featured speaker in May of 2012 at a conference event sponsored by anti-gay former state lawmaker and current Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema on Sharia law. In this video, Wagner argues recognizing Muslim religious beliefs and creating exceptions for their values violates the U.S Constitution - something his



The Delta Township Board of Trustees heard comments from residents June 3. BTL photo Todd Heywood.

own ministry is arguing should be allowed for Christians in relation to homosexuality. He has also published similar arguments on the Family Research Council's website - another group recognized by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an anti-gay hate group.

“It is particularly ironic when Christian fundamentalists argue that the Constitution must be interpreted through their religious ideology while simultaneously arguing that Muslims are seeking to take over the country so they can do the same thing,” says Brayton. “Given that Muslims make up about one percent of the population and have zero political power, the threat of Christian

theocrats is far greater in America than that of Muslim theocrats.”

There no evidence that Wagner has distanced himself from his association with Family Research Council, Brown or Shirvell. Kallman declined an interview with BTL, while Wagner did not respond to emails seeking an interview.

The next meeting of Delta Township will take place Oct. 21 where the non-discrimination ordinance will be taken up.

Follow developments online
>> www.pridesource.com

NJ Supreme Court To Hear Marriage Case

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) – The state’s highest court on Friday agreed to hear a case on whether gay marriage should be legal and whether same-sex marriage licenses can be issued while it decides.

The issue, battled in New Jersey’s courts and Legislature for more than a decade, has taken on new urgency on both fronts with the opponents the same - Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican who is considered a possible 2016 presidential candidate, and the state’s gay rights advocates.

The Supreme Court’s decision to take up the case was the one thing both sides wanted.

Christie’s administration asked the court to take the case without first going through an appeals court. In a brief filed Friday, it argued that the issue is too important to be decided by just one judge.

And gay rights advocates say the state Supreme Court made the right call in taking up the case.

“It certainly shows that they understand the public importance and that makes all the sense in the world,” said Hayley Gorenberg, a Lambda Legal lawyer representing Garden State Equality and a group of couples who asked a judge in July to order the state to grant same-sex marriages.

The judge, Mary Jacobson, agreed with the advocates in a ruling last month, finding that a U.S. Supreme Court ruling from June makes it necessary for the state to grant same-sex marriages starting Oct. 21. The state wants that delayed until the appeals are fully resolved.

The court is expected to rule before Oct. 21 on the question of issuing licenses and is scheduled to hear the full case on Jan. 6 or 7.

GLAAD Study: Gay Depictions Slip On Network TV

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Fewer gay and bisexual characters are part of the new broadcast TV season following a record-setting year, while cable depictions continued to increase, according to a new study from a media advocacy group.

GLAAD’s 18th annual “Where We Are on TV” report released Oct. 11 says 3.3 percent of 796 regularly appearing characters on prime-time broadcast dramas and comedies are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Last season’s study by GLAAD put LGBT depictions at 4.4 percent.

Numbers are one thing, content is another, said GLAAD spokesman Wilson Cruz.

“Last season was a stellar one when it comes to the sheer number of gay, lesbian and

That’s just before the deadline for lawmakers to override Christie’s 2012 veto of a bill that would have allowed same-sex marriage in the state. Advocates are pushing lawmakers hard for an override.

Currently, 13 states, including most in the Northeast, recognize same-sex marriage. Since 2007, New Jersey has granted gay couples civil unions.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June extended benefits such as Social Security survivor benefits and joint tax filing to gay couples.

The gay rights groups argued the state is standing in the way of New Jersey couples’ ability to get those benefits in violation of a 2006 state Supreme Court ruling that said the state’s gay couples had to receive treatment equal with married couples.

So far, the federal government has not been consistent about whether couples with civil unions will receive the federal benefits. Rules being created in some departments say they will; in others, they won’t.

The state government is arguing that the federal government should grant full marriage benefits to New Jersey couples with civil unions.

Marsha Shapiro and Louise Walpin, who live in South Brunswick, were married in New York last year on the 20th anniversary of their religious wedding.

The couple, who are plaintiffs in the suit against the state, said that if the stay Christie is requesting is not granted, they’ll tie the knot legally in New Jersey immediately.

“Whenever the first day is, we can find someone who can find someone to say we are married,” said Walpin.

bisexual representations on television, though diversity within those storylines showed room for improvement,” Cruz said in a release.

Despite the decline this season, characters such as an interracial lesbian couple raising their children on ABC Family’s “The Fosters” have “not only moved the conversation about LGBT people forward” but are popular with viewers, he said.

There are 46 LGBT regular and recurring characters on broadcast, with half of them women and 28 percent ethnic minorities, GLAAD said. One transgender character, Unique, is on Fox’s “Glee.”

An extended version of this story can be found online at www.PrideSource.com

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A Hug In Time



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I don't recall growing up as a kid and getting or giving hugs. Hugs were not part of my straight-laced family life.

I also don't recall as a teenager getting or giving hugs to other gay teenagers. Back in the late 1950s men -- straight, gay, so-called bi -- didn't demonstrate affection in public. Period.

Not only was hugging a no-no for gays and lesbians, but holding hands was out of the question. Same-sex dancing in a bar was wishful thinking. (You could be arrested for dancing together, even if you were an Arthur Murray's dance instructor; and God knows many a fox-trotting Arthur Murray dance instructor was gay.)

As far as hugging goes, I've come a long, long way. I now hug freely. I now hug happily. I even comfortably hug straight women. (You've got to be kidding, Mary!) And just recently in Chicago for Halstead Market Days I hugged nine people at the Water Tower, greeting each, "Thanks, you've just hugged a gay person."

For today's gay, lesbian and transgendered teens, hugging's no big deal. For these uncloseted kids hugging is a way of bonding and celebrating rainbow personhood, youth, coming out experiences. (Caution is for school settings, especially if bullying is not checked by teachers and administrators.)

Yes, odd as it seems today, more than half of my adult life was hug free. My friends didn't hug; or if they did it was so rare that no one thought about it one way or the other. I came to the act of hugging -- embarrassed, cautiously, shyly -- born out of a desperate need to reach out at a crucial time in my life.

In 1982, following alcohol rehab, I started attending AA meetings, and on Sundays retreating for safety and much-needed sanity to Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, when it was then located in Central Methodist Church near Grand Circus Park.

It was important for survival to stay sober. One day at a time.

For weeks I sat in the last row of the Central Methodist Church sanctuary. I listened inattentively. I observed vacantly. Shaky. Another week ended, but also began with a touchstone to my long-neglected spiritual past. I spoke to no one. I left quickly. Embarrassed. Ashamed.

On Mondays I began another uncertain work week, determined -- muddled though my thinking was from years of martini meddling -- to make things different. One Sunday before I could dart out, an usher stood between me and the side-door exit, introduced himself, invited me to stay for coffee. And touching me gently he added, "Here. I think you need a hug. May I? It doesn't hurt, you know." (Oh, if he only knew.)

Looking back at his act of understanding kindness -- he was in recovery himself I later learned -- I was inwardly touched, outwardly moved. Just then I needed someone to reaffirm my long-lost worth and nearly forgotten dignity. "I'm Jimmy Carroll. In the future, you just might be a little more comfortable if you sat closer to our family of friends. We're here for each other."

Yes, it pleased me recently to find a group of people, young and old, holding inviting signs at Chicago's Water Tower corner. "WE GIVE HUGS!" They embraced me wholeheartedly. I couldn't resist. I came out to them joyfully. Life's too short. Hug someone today!

Charles@pridesource.com

LGBT Outreach In The Bible Belt



Viewpoint

BY JENNIFER MIRACLE

Prepare a thirty-minute presentation about the role of an LGBT Resource Center at a flagship, research institution in the South. Five years ago that is what stood between my dream job, as a director of such a center and me. Although it seemed like a daunting task at the time, in retrospect, it was a question to which even the people asking it did not necessarily have an answer. Apparently, the answer I provided them was sufficient as I was offered the job the next day and within three weeks was headed to the Bible Belt - as everyone kept reminding me - to do LGBT education, programming and advocacy work at one of the most revered universities in the country.

What I would come to learn is that, I'm not sure the answer would have been all that different had the question been about an institution in the Midwest, or Mid-Atlantic, or New England or the Northwest. While there are certainly differences, and some things that are more specific to the South than other regions of the country, we are certainly more alike than we are different. LGBT resource professionals in higher education deal with bureaucracy and politics regardless of the kind of institution they are working for or where they are in the country.

The variety of bureaucracy and politics that I experienced in the South was of polite, well-mannered, highly gendered, highly religious, conservatism. There is a thing called Southern Hospitality, which can be described in a lot of different ways, most of them fabulous. However, it's based on politeness and manners and therefore, one cannot necessarily always count on people to be completely forthcoming. I often found myself, especially when I first started doing this work in the South, feeling like I was not necessarily sure exactly who I could trust. While everyone seemed nice enough...I also could never

be sure if someone was truly supportive of queer people and the work I was doing, or just being nice in that moment for the sake of being polite.

In the South, football is like a religion! If you have never been to an SEC game, honey, you ain't seen nothin! I'm talking all the women in sundresses and heels, the men in seersucker suits and loafers, all decked out in the colors

obstacle for LGBT people in general, I think what makes the South different is that religion -- particularly conservative religion -- is so pervasive throughout the region. I have found it to be a general assumption in the South that everyone goes to church and it's not uncommon for "What church do you attend?" to be one of the first 5-8 questions someone asks a perfect stranger when getting to

While religion seems to be a common obstacle for LGBT people in general, I think what makes the South different is that religion -- particularly conservative religion -- is so pervasive throughout the region.

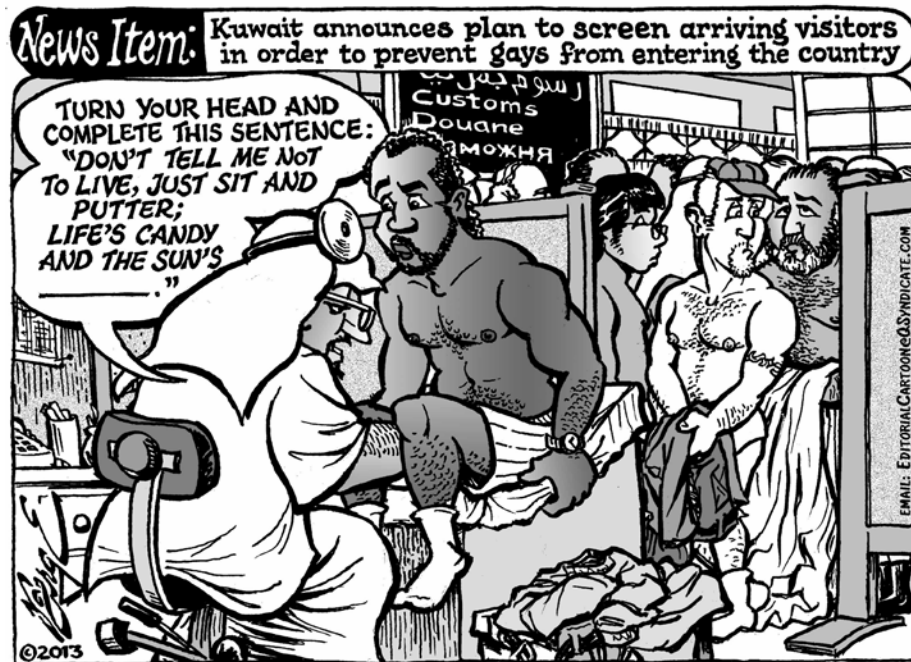
of their respective teams. I've never seen anything like it before or since. Which brings me to the highly gendered aspect of the South. Southerners tend to subscribe to pretty strong, rigid gender roles. Visitors to the South will almost immediately notice that everyone is addressed as ma'am or sir. Likewise, people are often referred to as Ms. or Mr. followed by their first name. In particular, this is taught as a respectful way to address your elders. One can imagine the kind of discomfort this can potentially create for those of us who don't necessarily fit nicely into the gender binary.

Perhaps the highly religious aspect of the South needs no explanation. I mean, it's known as the Bible Belt for a reason. While religion seems to be a common

know them. In fact, most of the large-scale ceremonial events and/or meals that I attended while working in the South, began with a blessing or prayer... at a public institution. Indeed, religion was often the context within which we found ourselves discussing gender and sexuality... whether we wanted to or not.

So, while bureaucracy and politics can vary by region in terms of what LGBT resource professionals deal with, as with most things, our struggles are likely more alike than they are different.

Jennifer Miracle is a speaker, educator and consultant focused on freeing the world from gender currently residing in southeast Michigan. Follow her at www.facebook.com/jenniferleemiracle.



Briefs

Mormons Pushing Church Stance On Homosexuality

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – The Mormon church’s stance on homosexuality has softened considerably since it was one of the leading forces behind California’s Proposition 8.

The Utah-based Church of Latter-day Saints launched a new website this year encouraging more compassion toward gays. It also implores gay members to stay in the faith, and clarifies that Mormon leaders would no longer necessarily counsel gays to marry people of the opposite sex. In May, church leaders backed the Boy Scouts’ policy allowing gays in the ranks.

But church apostle Dallin Oaks reiterated this past weekend during a biannual conference that human laws cannot “make moral what God has declared immoral.”

Paris Wins Bid To Host '18 Gay Games

PARIS (AP) – Paris has won the bid to host the 2018 Gay Games, the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender community’s answer to the Olympics.

The Gay Games, which expects more than 15,000 competitors, is held every four years and is taking place this year in the Ohio cities of Cleveland and Akron.

In recent months, opposition to a gay marriage bill has exposed deep divisions in French society over gay rights, attracting tens of thousands to protests for and against such unions.

Paris’ Deputy Mayor Philippe Ducloux said Tuesday that “for all Parisians, it will be an honor to welcome the 10th Gay Games. All participants will be welcomed.”

France’s Sports Minister Valerie Fourneyron said she hoped the games would make “for a more inclusive and generous society in France.”

Rally In Russia Breaks Up After Scuffles

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) – A gay rights rally in St. Petersburg has ended in scuffles after several dozen protesters were confronted by about 200 conservative and religious activists.

The police standing nearby waited until clashes broke out between the two groups before intervening. According to Russian news agencies, the police detained 67 people from both sides.

The scuffles started after anti-gay protesters tore a rainbow flag out of a woman’s hands.

The St. Petersburg city government had sanctioned the rally despite the Russian government’s June passage of a contentious law outlawing gay “propaganda.” Gays in Russia have faced increasing pressure and threats of violence.

St. Petersburg police could not immediately be reached for comment.

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Gay Couples Must File Utah Taxes Separately

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – State officials are notifying gay couples that Utah’s policy about joint tax returns is unchanged despite recent federal recognition of same-sex couples.

The Utah State Tax Commission announced Oct. 10 that same-sex couples whose marriage may be recognized in another state are still required to file separate Utah tax returns.

Federal officials announced in August that gay couples could file joint federal tax returns even if they reside in states that do not recognize same-sex marriages.

The federal decision came in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision that invalidated a section of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

State Tax Commission spokesman Charlie Roberts says in a statement that because Utah does not recognize same sex marriages, gay couples will have to file separate state returns.

Idaho Rep Questions Legality Of Same-Sex Tax Rules

BOISE, Idaho (AP) – A state lawmaker contends Idaho’s tax collectors risk violating the U.S. Constitution by requiring same-sex couples who are legally married elsewhere to do extra work when filing state income taxes.

Boise Democratic Rep. John Gannon, a lawyer, says litigation in Ohio suggests Idaho’s new rules requiring married gay couples to recalculate state taxes as singles after filing joint federal returns could be vulnerable.

Recently, an Ohio federal judge ordered the state to recognize a gay couple’s marriage in New York despite Ohio’s constitutional ban.

The judge’s rationale was Ohio recognizes opposite-sex marriages contracted elsewhere but otherwise illegal in Ohio.

Idaho follows a similar policy, Gannon says, making it potentially discriminatory now to single out gay couples on their taxes returns.

The Idaho Tax Commission contends its new rules are legal.

No Trial Date Set In Pa. Marriage Case

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – A federal judge said Oct. 9 he would not set a trial date just yet for a lawsuit challenging Pennsylvania’s ban on same-sex marriage.

The lawsuit, the first in a growing number of challenges to the Pennsylvania law, was filed in July on behalf of 10 same-sex couples, one couple’s two teenage daughters and a widow.

Gay marriages are legal in 13 states and the District of Columbia. All the Northeast states allow same-sex marriage except New Jersey, which allows civil unions, and Pennsylvania.

Creep of the Week

Star Parker

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Values Voter Summit that took place Oct. 11-13 was an all-you-can-derp buffet of right-wing lunacy. Needless to say, many



Star Parker

VVS speakers chose “the homosexual menace” as one of the focal points of their mouth breathing. One such speaker was Star Parker, founder of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education, who railed against homosexuality in addition to blaming the government for making black people poor. I do believe she used the term “slaves” in relation to government “dependency.” You see, Parker is black and she was on welfare for seven years at some point and then she went to college and now welfare is evil and no one should have it. The end.

There were many things about her speech that belied a connection with reality, beginning before she even opened her mouth. She walked to the podium to “What Doesn’t Kill You (Stronger)” by Kelly Clarkson. Which made me wonder if speakers were allowed to choose their own intro music and if Parks thought that Clarkson was singing about breaking free from government shackles. Then again, Clarkson did once Tweet her love for Ron Paul, so who knows?

Parker spent most of her speech calling progressives liars.

“[Progressives] say that if you Christians would just get with the program. Rap a little, smoke a little pot, take off your clothes in front of total strangers a little, give up your guns, give up your God and your disapproval of gays and of course if you would just put some really liberal Republican candidates up for statewide and national seats then maybe, just maybe the national comedians will stop mocking you and the national news will just ignore you instead of try to destroy you,” she says. “Oh the lies of the left.”

First of all, ha ha ha ha. Second of all, ha. Sorry, I can’t stop picturing some faceless “progressive” urging good conservatives to “smoke a little pot” and get nekkid. And then, of course, he’d goad them into using food stamps at 7-11 for some Doritos

and ice cream.

She does make a good point, however, about running more liberal (read: less right-wing) Republicans instead of the insufferable Tea Party idiots who currently have our government held hostage. I mean, there is something to be said for that very legitimate criticism on the part of “the left.” Not that Parker sees it that way. Alas.

“[Progressives] declared a war on marriage which weakened women and opened a door to this new culture of meaninglessness,” Parker says. “Homosexuality is now dividing us and bringing hostility into the public square.”

Yeah! This African-American woman is right. I simply cannot think of anything that has come before this whole homosexuality business that has divided Americans. If only I could think of something or maybe even two things in our nation’s history while this person with dark skin and a vagina is speaking. Hmm... Nope. I’ve got nothing. Parker is right. Everybody was nice and equal and un-hostile before these gays started causing trouble.

Parker continues, “All sexual behavior’s adult behavior in my opinion, so keep it private!” This gets whoops and cheers from the audience. Because if only gays would stop being so public about their gayness then nice conservative folks could just keep oppressing them without so much meddlesome opposition.

Then, after complaining about how government dependency has ruined black people, Parker goes in for the kill: “It is nowhere in our nation’s Declaration of Independence or Constitution that a politician has a right to force free people to pay for the lifestyles and indulgences of other free people. Not their housing, not their healthcare, not their food, not their childcare, not their retirement, not their habits, and certainly not their sex life.”

And the predominantly white crowd goes insane. Finally, a black person saying what they’ve felt all along about black people (with a jab at homos thrown in for good measure) and it feels great. Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty the white conservatives at the Value Voters Summit are free, at last from having to pretend they give a shit.

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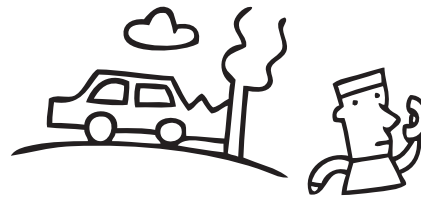


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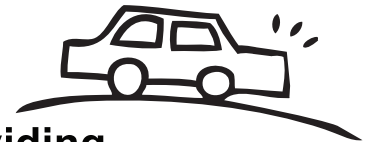
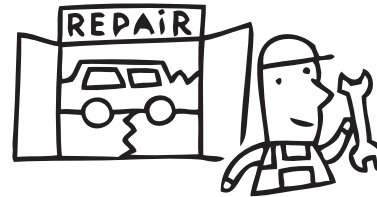
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BTL photo: Andrew Potter

The Car Guy

ADAM BERNARD

From Matchbox Cars To GM, Detroit's Auto Aficionado Tells His Story

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

AUTO GUIDE

When considering character in these socially progressive times, it'd

be impolite to “judge a book by its cover.” According to auto aficionado Adam Bernard – associate director of competitor intelligence at General Motors and president of the Lambda Car Club’s Motor City chapter – it’s much more efficient to judge the

book (and its owner) by the car they’re driving.

“We’ve done market research that gay and lesbian customers are more likely to buy a vehicle that reflects their personality,” he says.

Bernard sits inside a downtown

Royal Oak Starbucks during an unseasonably warm day, talking shop and cruising cars. He veers off subject to admire a passing classic: “There’s a nice Plymouth. I am not sure the two-tone was standard. I think that might have been a custom job.”

Cars are his life – and they’ve been since childhood.

“I am told that my dad would bring home Matchbox cars when I was a kid – and I would spend hours with those,” Bernard says. “So, I had

See Adam Bernard, page 18



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► Adam Bernard

Continued from p. 15

the Matchbox cars. Then I got into slot cars. Then I got into building model cars. I originally wanted to be an automotive designer, so I started drawing cars.”

Now, Bernard, 49, collects classic cars. And his current car of choice is a 1972 Mini Cooper – the “Adamini.”

In his dual roles at GM, Bernard monitors the company’s competition as an analyst of sorts and presents his findings to heads of the company. As chair in GM’s internal resource group, GM PLUS (People Like Us), he works as part of a diverse team of in-house consultants for the LGBT employee and buyer.

“(Consultant) is a good way to phrase (my job),” Bernard says. “We explain, for example, why you shouldn’t use terms like ‘choice,’ ‘lifestyle’ and ‘preference’ – because that’s not what we are. So we do a lot of presentations to leadership teams to let them know who we are and what matters to us. And then we tie that into the business strategy.”

He adds, “We are kind of the one-stop shop in terms of supporting our LGBT employees. Let’s say someone at Buick sees an opportunity for some sort of LGBT event that they don’t know anything about – they come to us. One of us might be able to provide our perspective on whether it resonates with the community or something that we would want to steer clear of.”

The GM Chevrolet brand recently won a GLAAD Amplifier Award for their “I’m Electric” ad that appeared in Between The Lines in June 2012 for Pride month. The ad depicts the Volt hybrid car between a truck and a sedan announcing: “Mom, Dad, I’m Electric” with the signature rainbow strip of colors at the bottom. GM is also recognized as one of the best places to work for LGBT equality by the Human Rights Campaign.

“A lot of what GM does is more on the communications and marketing side in terms of getting the message out in the right venue in the right media and using the right terminology,” Bernard explains. “If you saw the Spark ad that we did for Motor City Pride this year, where we showed the rainbow colors of the Spark, that subtle rainbow image may not resonate with your typical Iowa housewife, but it is something that would resonate with LGBT buyers. So a lot of that is understanding the imagery and the terminology that would make more of an impact to an LGBT person shopping for a car.”

Bernard has been with GM for about 28 years. Shortly after coming out in 2000 at 36, he found the Lambda Car

“I don’t think there is any such thing as a gay car or a gay truck. The purchase motivations are a little different for the LGBT consumer.”

Club, GM Plus and Rich Kwiecien, his partner of 12 years.

“He comes from a Ford family, so it’s kind of a mixed marriage,” says Bernard. “He has a ’63 Lincoln with the suicide doors. A ’79 white Town Car with red velour. And a ’62 Ford Galaxy.”

As for which GM brand has a car that fulfills the “homo-bill” stereotype, Bernard doesn’t pay attention to it – and, he says, cars, like gays, come in all shapes, sizes and ages.

“I don’t think there is any such thing as a gay car or a gay truck. The purchase motivations are a little different for the LGBT consumer,” Bernard explains. “We have tools to help us understand the LGBT buyer. So whenever we tell our story, it’s always a two-prong story. Part

of it is the cultural and human part of it. And part of it is the business, because we are a business.”

He adds, “I think we have a car for everyone.”

One pattern Bernard notices in the Lambda Car Club is a taste for regality.

“You will find a much higher percentage of Cadillacs, Lincolns and Imperials than you will in the real world,” says Bernard. “We do like stuff that’s a little more showy. If you are buying a car for fun, it’s driven by an appreciation of the vehicle or a nostalgic connection. I like the Mini because it’s brilliantly engineered and because my mechanical engineering background. I stumbled across my Mini in the classifieds one Sunday back when people used the newspaper for that.”

Bernard admits that in order to be in his line of work, you’d have to have a pretty good understanding of the LGBT’s personal psyche. Something he says he understands “pretty well.”

“I’ve been involved with GM PLUS since 2001, and at the time I don’t think I knew any transgender individuals,” he says. “That’s probably the biggest part of my own education – understanding the transgender community, the terminology and understanding somewhat what they are going through, and the history of the whole transgender movement. We’ve had a couple of transgender members on our board, so that’s been my biggest eye opener.”

And as times change, companies like GM reflect those times.

“GM was the first and only automaker to support ENDA nationwide. And you know what, you are at work and you shouldn’t be spending time spinning tales about your personal life because you are not comfortable bringing your whole self to work. That’s where we try to come in and create an inclusive environment so people can contribute fully to the business.”



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The Lambda Car Club meets at Westpoint BBQ in Dearborn. Photo: Emell Derra Adolphus

Cars & Camaraderie

They Adore Their Wheels As Much As Eachother

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

AUTO GUIDE

Lambda Car Club Detroit president Adam Bernard discovered his love of automobiles at an early age like most kids do: with Matchbox cars. Decades later, after coming out, he found a group who shared his passion, awarding him a supportive community of new gay friends. But for club member Jim Dixon, his love of automobiles stems from coming out early to an unaccepting household and a need to just get away and cruise.

“I’ve been a fan of cars since I was a wee little nipper,” says Dixon. “Since discovering what cars are good for – getting away from home.”

Dixon, a retired nurse and one of the newest members of the Lambda Car Club, drives an orange-bronze Ford Edge.

“Then, once you get away from home, you discover there are other things cars are good for,” Dixon says with a sly smile.

On this evening, car club members have gathered for a monthly meeting at Westpoint BBQ on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. In a huddle of conversation, the group talks their latest auto purchases and upgrades, as some members break off into other discussions about their latest finds.

“We talk about cars a lot ... and other things,” says Dixon, with another one of those smiles. “I enjoy the other things.”

Marc van Baal, a member who recently arrived from Germany, drives a vintage 1985 Firebird TransAm H.O. engine – a rare find. And with rarity comes great expense.

“It’s expensive to find the parts for it. I am looking to sell it actually,” says van Baal, who confesses he is more in awe of one member’s Mercedes Benz. “This is the best made car.”

The Motor City branch of the Lambda Car Club is the largest chapter in the country, with about 120 members who are all ages and sizes, but interestingly, without any female members.

The club was founded in New York as the Gay Old Car Owners Society in 1981.

The Motor City branch was founded by Randy Mason, who was in attendance in a wheelchair, but says “he would not miss it.”

“We’ve only had three presidents since its founding,” Mason adds. “And I was the first, and now Adam is the third. Not bad, right?”

The Lambda Car Club is a regular presence at the Woodward Dream Cruise and Motor City Pride events and takes regular social road trips as part of club-related traveling. Among the social gatherings and other benefits of belonging to the car club – although you don’t need a car to join – is the opportunity to meet and make lifelong friends with a bunch of guys. And, hopefully soon, some girls, notes Bernard.

“If you like talking about cars, meeting interesting people and going interesting places, this is the club for you,” he says. “It’s a bunch of folks getting together who happen to be LGBT, and happen to love talking about cars.”

For more information on the Lambda Car Club, visit lccdetroit.org.



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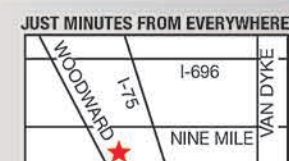


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Out Of The Closet, Into The Boardroom

Employee Groups Drove Big Three Toward Equality For LGBT Workers

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

AUTO GUIDE

Times were different for the LGBT community in the 1990s, especially for those who worked the line in manufacturing jobs.

“There were incidents, people having ‘fag’ or ‘dyke’ keyed on (their) car. One man was intimidated a lot. Another was being harassed,” said Alice McKeage, who co-founded Ford Globe back in the mid 1990s.

The fear of being outed permeated the workplace, and it was much more than a social fear or worry over job loss. One incident that resonated through the ranks of autoworkers at the time was an attack on two men from the Livonia Transmission Plant. The men were off duty having a drink at a local bar when they met another pair of men that they brought home. The visitors severely beat one of the workers and murdered the other.

When McKeage joined forces with Rob Matris to start an affinity group at Ford, it was revolutionary. They submitted a letter to their supervisors in the human resources department and were told that there had been suggestions for LGBT recognition, but that they were the first to sign their names.

The movement for workplace acceptance was gaining nationwide momentum. McKeage had gone to the March on Washington in 1993 and it was pivotal in influencing her to create change at Ford. “Because of the experience, I understood I was a member of the LGBT population, but I was not a member of my community.”

After the march in '93, McKeage did not remain in the closet long. “I worked with a woman, and she and her husband were adopting a baby. We had a little shower for her at work, just a group of us women. She said she had to be careful what color clothes to buy for him since he was a boy and her husband



LGBT employees from Ford Globe, Chrysler Gala and GM Plus joined forces in one display at Motor City Pride 2012 in Detroit's Hart Plaza. Each car company brought information on their groups and cars from their showrooms. BTL file photo: Benjamin Jenkins

didn't want him to be a fag.

“I cried the whole way home,” she said.

The next day she came into work and talked with her co-worker. “I knew that if I didn't come out, people would feel free to make those comments. I came in the next day and came out to her. She was upset and said that she and her husband didn't know any gay people. But then she said, ‘Well, we probably know some but they are afraid to say so.’”

The '90s bring change

As McKeage was coming to terms with the need to come

makers were making similar choices. GM Plus started in 1992 and Chrysler People Diversity (now GALA) started in 1996.

When another of the early builders of Ford Globe met one of the founders of Chrysler's People of Diversity at an employee resource event in 1998, the wheels started turning on a relationship based on mutual love for each other and for activism. And then those two strong worlds combined.

Suzanne Wait, an engineer in Powertrain Controls for Ford, and Michelle Walters, who was a manager in Chrysler's Procurement and Supply department before retiring in 2008, make a great team.

out at work, employees at

They fell in love and became life partners, and went on to become co-activists in the movement to secure workplace rights for LGBT people within the auto companies.

The most obvious thing Wait and Walters have in common is their passion for workplace equality. In 1994, Wait was among the first to attend organizational meetings for Ford Globe, the employee LGBT affinity group.

“Workplace issues have always been important to me. People need to be able to be their true selves at work,” Wait said. She stayed with Ford Globe all these years, often serving on the board for years at a time.

Meanwhile, in 1996 over at Chrysler, Walters had just come out of the closet and was working

hard to co-found People of Diversity (POD). Thanks to efforts by Walters and the other employees who were bold enough to stand up first and create change, Chrysler included sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies in 1997, and after that grew to offer partner benefits and include transgender individuals in their protective practices.

In 1998, each of the women in this romantic tale were already on top of their respective worlds. The multi-national auto manufacturing corporations were changing because of them. In a society that largely discriminated against gays and lesbians, each had a job where they could feel secure both economically and personally. They were out, and it was OK.

“We were dealing with the same issues,” Wait said. “Not just in fighting for domestic partner benefits, but just being part of the corporate world. There are a lot of commonalities between the environments.” The couple went on to a life of incredible activism, forming women's groups and supporting Affirmations LGBT community center.

Bernadette Bennett joined the Chrysler group just a few years after it was formed, and the experience made a world of difference to her. It was 1997 and Bennett had been living in Huntsville, Ala. Though she was in a long-term relationship, Bennett was unable to talk about her sweetheart while she was at work, and she had to be careful that no one found out she was a lesbian.

She was working on a project with Chrysler, and when they offered her a chance to move to Michigan she thought it was a great opportunity. “I didn't really think about it in terms of being gay; I didn't think I would ever come out at work. I knew it would be different in Michigan because it was where the corporate

See Big Three, page 24

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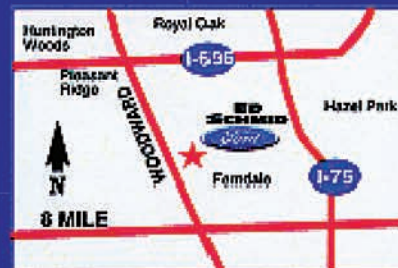
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► Big Three

Continued from p. 20

headquarters was, but mainly I moved because I wanted to stay with Chrysler and work on that project.

“When I finally felt it was OK, it came by chance. I was working on a special project and a guy working with me had a rainbow flag on his binder. He was on the board of People of Diversity and he told me all about it.

“I didn’t have a big connection so I joined right away. I felt absolutely better. It was at the beginning of when we were getting domestic partnership benefits and I felt like I should be involved with that.”

The POD groups grew into GALA, Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Chrysler. Bennett and the corporation’s 57,000 employees worldwide now enjoy protections and equality that only a few major corporations can compete with.

It’s a non-issue now

In recent years being “out” at work is not even an issue, and affinity groups are less about activism and more about networking and development opportunities. Gregory Hawkins, 38, is a MOPAR process manager and the chair of Chrysler Gala. “For many years I was there as a contract worker. Being more involved was something I wanted, but I didn’t see the value. My partner was more of an advocate and he encouraged me to join.

“My ability to manage my career improved and I valued the mentorship. Our points are career, community, culture, communication and commerce. For example, one of the activities that relates to commerce is helping the business understand that we have value as an organization. When we get together to go to Motor City Pride it has many effects.

“We get proud about the vehicles, we learn about the vehicles, we go to Hart Plaza and promote those vehicles, but really it’s a teambuilding activity. Once we create these activities that have purpose, we interact with 1,000 potential customers. This year there were 119 people that were interested in buying cars with Chrysler because they interacted with us at Pride.”

Hawkins said there are about 70 active members of GALA, but that many more employees benefit from knowing they

are there. Outreach beyond the offices and plants helps too.

“Because the nature of the LGBT culture, you may not be comfortable coming to Pride if your company is there and there are only one or two people at a booth. But now we have so many people involved. People who are employees but not out at work see us and want to get engaged.”

For more information about Ford Globe, visit <http://fordglobe.org>; for Chrysler GALA, email gala@chrysler.com; for GM Plus, visit http://www.gm.com/company/aboutGM/diversity/gm_plus.html.

“I didn’t have a big connection so I joined right away. I felt absolutely better. It was at the beginning of when we were getting domestic partnership benefits and I felt like I should be involved with that.”

– Bernadette Bennett



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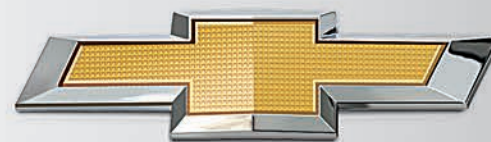
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Baby, I Can Drive Your Car



Mombian

OPINION BY DANA RUDOLPH

“**B**aseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet” goes the old ad jingle. I therefore felt rather all-American on a recent trip to the Pacific Northwest to test drive the Chevy Volt as part of the iconic brand’s outreach to the LGBT community.

Chevy’s parent company, General Motors, has been marketing to the LGBT community for nearly 20 years. GM’s Saturn brand ran its first ad in a national LGBT magazine in 1995, and since then, most of its brands have sponsored events or advertised in LGBT media, said Joe LaMuraglia, GM’s LGBT communications manager, in an e-mail to me.

Many large corporations have mostly targeted

young gay men in their LGBT marketing efforts, but LaMuraglia said, “We want to reach all facets of the LGBT community. Lesbians and parents (and lesbian parents!) are very important to our outreach and we are striving to find new and unique ways to communicate to these segments of the community.”

Chevy therefore invited myself, my spouse, and our son to be among the gay and lesbian journalists and their guests to join them on a media drive from Seattle, Washington to Vancouver, British Columbia. They flew us to Seattle, fed us, housed us and gave each a day to drive at our leisure to Vancouver in a 2013 Volt. Driving straight through (or rather, “gaily through”) from city to city would have taken about two-and-a-half hours, but my family and I chose to take a scenic route and see the sites along the coastal Chuckanut Drive.

We wound our way past misty islands, stopping for freshly caught oysters that our 10-year-old son gamely tried and decided, “Never again.” We explored tide pools and discovered purple starfish, tiny crabs and green bottle glass worn smooth by the sea.

After all that natural beauty, it felt strange to get back into the high-tech Volt, until I



reminded myself that the key selling point of electric cars is that they just might help preserve our environment (although I see them as but one component in what must be a much larger program of action).

The Volt is a compact car, but felt sufficiently roomy for two women, a tall-ish boy, and our luggage, even on a long trip. It handled nimbly, especially in Sport mode, merging briskly onto the highway portions of our trip and taking the Chuckanut Drive’s many tight twists and turns with ease. It did not have that tinny, carnival-ride feel that some small cars do – and it has a 5-Star Overall safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Our son’s appraisal from the back seat was that he had plenty of room, lots of light from the glass hatch behind him, and sufficient entertainment from the audiobook I’d downloaded onto my phone and played via Bluetooth over the car’s speakers. He was a little bummed the fancy infotainment display couldn’t run Minecraft, his favorite computer game, but we told him life is full of disappointments.

The Volt has an all-electric engine, but uses a gasoline-powered generator to recharge the batteries if they run out while the car is on the road. Because of this, Chevy differentiates it from a hybrid, since other cars labeled “hybrids” have two engines, an electric and a conventional-fuel one. One of the benefits of an electric engine, as opposed to a conventional one, is that it has full torque at start-up, making it quick to accelerate from a full stop. That means the Volt combines the zippiness of an always-electric engine with the security of a gasoline backup if the battery drains. It has an initial electric range of 38 miles, at which point the gas generator seamlessly kicks in to provide

electricity for up to 380 total miles without plugging in or refueling.

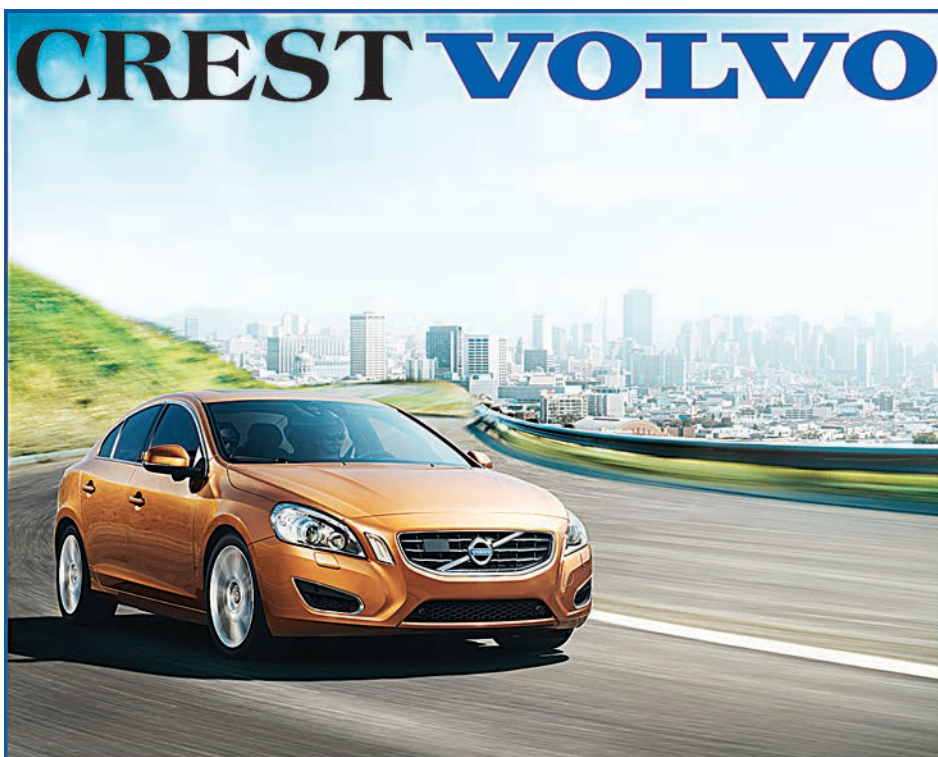
At the push of the start button, the engine comes to life with a startling silence. The most noticeable signs that it is on are the two full-color displays on the dash, which provide a wealth of information, including details on battery charge, energy recapture from braking, and how energy efficient one’s driving is. It felt a little like being thrust into a video game, but after a bit of driving, and (while my spouse drove) reading through the manual to learn what the various icons meant, I got more used to it.

Parents hoping to convey an environmental sensitivity to their children may even welcome the fact that kids in the back seat can view the car’s energy stats from the display in the middle of the front dash. (And they can probably learn a great deal of science and math if you hand them the manual and have them figure it all out for you – then ask them to give you a monthly breakdown of your savings and how many pizzas that translates into.)

Right-wing organizations sometimes imply that supporting LGBT equality is un-American. If an all-American brand like Chevy is marketing to the LGBT community, however, that’s one more piece of evidence that those groups have lost the argument.

The market for electric cars and hybrids is still young, but the Volt is a strong contender for anyone considering one. And there’s plenty of room – and reason – for a rainbow sticker on its bumper. Just don’t get crumbs from your apple pie on the seats.

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



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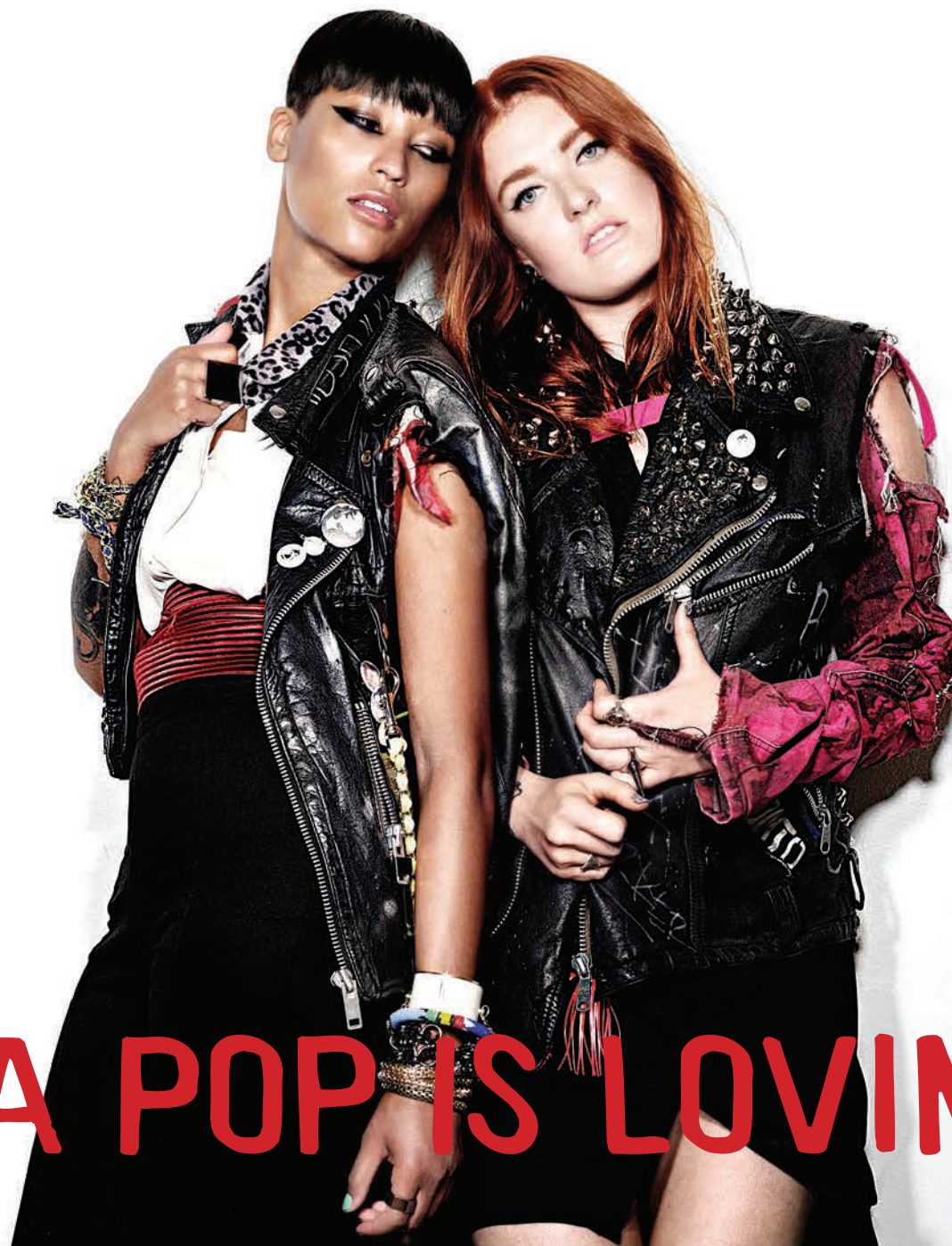


Photo: Fredrik Etoall

ICONA POP IS LOVIN' IT

Duo Talks Gay Trendsetters, The Best Revenge & Being 'The Perfect Couple'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Girls just wanna have fun. And crash cars. And throw their ex-boyfriends' crap down the stairs.

That's what one of Sweden's latest imports, Icona Pop, did with "I Love It," an inescapable kiss-off that turned indie darlings Aino Jawo and Caroline Hjelt into a legit pop act, scoring them a double-platinum top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100.

With their debut album "This Is ... Icona Pop" just out, we caught up with the girls to chat about their "big family" of gays, capturing LGBT subculture in "All Night" and why they'd make the perfect lesbian couple.

When was the moment you knew how much the gays loved you?

Aino Jawo: The gays are the first ones to pick up the trends when it comes to music, so it feels like they've been with us from the beginning.

Caroline Hjelt: Yeah. From the beginning, they picked up our music and put it on blogs and stuff, and we've been playing little clubs in London and DJing when we didn't basically have anything – and that was at the gay bars.

You've performed at the White Party in Palm Springs and also at several Prides. What's the best part of performing for a room full of gay men?

Jawo: That everybody dances! And that there's so much love. It's so much love, it's crazy. We feel very home in those kinds of environments, so it's like we're a big family just singing along.

During "I Love It," you bag up your ex's stuff and throw it down the stairs. In real life, what's the

best revenge you've gotten on an ex?

Jawo: The whole "I Love It" song! (Laughs) We didn't crash any cars, but just for them to actually hear a song that's about them that became a huge worldwide hit, I would say that's pretty good revenge. Also, to see the look in their eye when, even though they don't say anything, they know we're singing about them, that's very good revenge.

Hjelt: That *is* very good revenge!

Was any of the album written or created with your gay fans in mind?

Hjelt: I don't think we think about anything or anyone except what we're feeling in that exact moment. Our main goal is to make pop music that makes people feel, so in the studio we don't have any rules – it's just pure emotions and pure feelings. So I don't think we had

anyone specific in mind when we wrote it. But performing – and doing White Party and Pride – and seeing the gays adopting our music and understanding it, it makes us feel so appreciated and very home. It's so amazing.

For the "All Night" video, which celebrates drag-ball culture, you obviously had the gays in mind. How did the video evolve and why did you decide to represent this gay subculture so prominently?

Jawo: "All Night" is basically about expressing yourself. And with vogueists, it's all about expressing themselves. We asked (House of Ninja, a N.Y.-based voguing troupe) if they wanted to be in our video and they said yes, and then, actually, (we had) the vogueists that taught Madonna to vogue.

See Icona Pop, page 32

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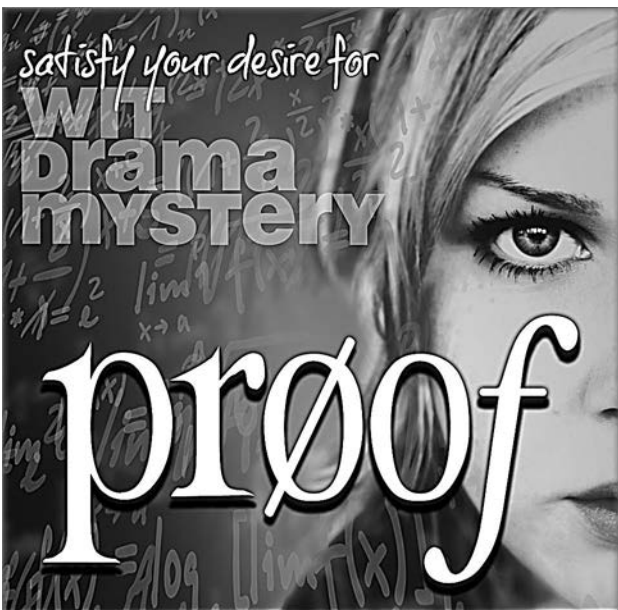
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 17

Detroit Elders Project 5 p.m. Please contact Cornelius A. Wilson, Program Coordinator for more information. KICK, 4750 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. (313) 876-4536. EmailAddress E-kick.org

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

Happy Hour & Dinner 6 p.m. LGBT Meetup for dinner at Hamlin Corner, featuring locally inspired menu. 386 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

A Venomous Cocktail Wine and Cheese Party 7 p.m. A wine and cheese celebration of author Jody Valley's novel with a short talk. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., **Lansing**.

Dustin Lance Black 7 p.m. University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. 313-436-9142. Sao. umd.umich.edu/dustinlanceblack

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

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

Friday, Oct. 18

2013 Hilton Honors Skate America
The first of six stops on the International Skating Union (ISU) Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. Tickets: \$10-93. Olympia Entertainment, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., **Detroit**. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

OutGirls 7 p.m. It promises to be a fun-filled evening in the Arts District and a great time for LGBTQ women and their allies to get together. **OutCenter, Benton Harbor**. 269-982-1702. Outcenter.org

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

Saturday, Oct. 19

Annual Campaign Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

First Container Collision Works Story Box 12 p.m. Sandra Novacek discusses her book, *Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance*. First Container Collision Works Story Box, **Detroit**.

Bikes and Beers Tours 1:15 p.m. Bike tour of Windsor, sampling beers at local restaurants. Helmets are mandatory. Part of Windsor-Essex Pride Fest. Tickets: \$60. WindsorEats, **Windsor**. windsoreats.com/shop/#!~/product/category=5296477&id=17925278

Gay Straight Alliance in Berrien County 2 p.m. LGBTQ youth, friends and allies, ages 14-18. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Pumpkin Carving 2 p.m. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Lift Off 2013 AIDS Partnership

Michigans 30th Anniversary Celebration 6 p.m. Lift Off 2013 will feature a strolling dinner, musical entertainment by DJ Kiley and Mother Cyborg, a fashion show by Matthew Richmonds Paper Dress Code, a live and silent auction and much more. Tickets: \$100-130. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 313-446-9808. Aidspartnership.org

Affirmations' Vineyard 7 p.m. Entertainment, cash bar, and wine from all over the world. Tickets: \$35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Bingo 8 p.m. Reservations required. 18+. Drag Queen Bentley James. Ticket: \$20. Leaf & Berry, 6385 Orchard Lake Road, **West Bloomfield Township**. 248-671-6011. info@leafnberry.com Leafnberry.com

Sunday, Oct. 20

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

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church 10 a.m. We are a welcoming congregation. Please join us for services every Sunday at 10am. Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, **Southfield**. 248-354-4488. office@northwestuu.org Northwestuu.org

Dog Hikes with Pro K-9 2 p.m. Pro K-9, **Canton**. Prok9training.com

Monday, Oct. 21

Charles T. Fisher Mansion Tour 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$29. Feet on the Street Tours, **Detroit**. Enjoythed.com

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

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

Paris is Burning 7 p.m. Film screening with Larry La Fountain. EMU LGBTRC and Queer Studies Minor, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/LGBTRC

Tuesday, Oct. 22

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

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

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

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

Positive Support Organization (PSO) 6 p.m. A support group for people living with HIV. Free parking in the back. Meals provided. Self-Run, 2727 Second Ave., Suite 101, **Detroit**. 313-341-5989.

See Happenings, page 34

► Icona Pop

Continued from p. 30

That song is about just finding your element. It's all about being who you are, and that means if you're gay or straight or whatever. With that video, the people who are in it represent everything about what that song is about, because they are doing it 1,000 percent.

How did the 1990 documentary "Paris is Burning," which also focused on ball culture, inspire the video?

Jawo: It's so great when you watch them and they're talking about why they're doing what they're doing. I think that's so beautiful. It was a big inspiration for us and also for the director.

What can people expect from your debut?

Jawo: It's definitely an album that's very honest. It's what we've been basically going through, so it's not gonna be all songs that sound like "I Love It" or "All Night." Some are more down-tempo, more heartbreaking

songs, and some are party tunes.

Hjelt: People are gonna hear some new sides of Icona Pop and get to know us even more, because on this album we let people in. Like Aino said, it's a very honest album and we're not hiding anything. It's just what we've been through the last five years.

Is there pressure to live up to "I Love It"?

Jawo: I wouldn't say so. The most important part is that we're proud of what we do. I know I am very proud, and I know that Caroline is as well.

"I Love It" opened so many doors for us. Before "I Love It" there weren't that many people listening to what we were doing because they didn't know who we were, but now if we release something people actually do listen.

"I Love It" has been played just about everywhere. Where were you when you first heard the song outside the studio?

Hjelt: The first time we heard it was on the radio, which was quite an experience. We were in Las Vegas for the first time and one of the promoters wanted to show us the city, so we were

in his car driving down the street for the first time and "I Love It" comes on. We were screaming.

You had a freak-out moment?

Jawo: Oh yeah. A big one.

In the spirit of "I Love It," what's one thing you love about the other?

Jawo: There are a lot of things that I love about Caroline, but Caroline's got one of the best senses of humor ever. She's hilarious. And a good storyteller.

Hjelt: Aww! And Aino is such a special character and she gives me so much inspiration. She's a true artist.

How often are you two mistaken for a lesbian couple?

Jawo: Well, not *that* often. (Laughs) I mean, we don't really care what people think. We're not together, but if people wanna think that, that's fine.

Hjelt: We wish we were. I mean, I wish I were into girls so I could be with Aino. We would have the perfect relationship.

Jawo: Yeah. Like an old couple. Like an old, happy couple. No drama. I would say we're like the perfect couple.



Communication Rifts A La Ringwald

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Verbal communication is supposed to set the human race apart from lesser species, but in practice, it can cause as many problems as it solves. Words said and unsaid diverge into messages sent and different messages received, and somewhere in the space between lies playwright Neil LaBute's "reasons to be pretty." In the Southeast Michigan premiere production at The Ringwald Theatre, director Joe Bailey lays bare the consequences of being heard and the separate conundrum of wanting to be understood.

The play's opening beats find Greg (Joel Mitchell) in mid-row with girlfriend Steph (Dyan Bailey), in the apartment they share. Their circuitous and theoretical shouting match was triggered by a he-said, she-overheard-and-tattled scenario: Essentially, one offhand comment between bros is threatening to dismantle the entire relationship. Hanging in the balance is the difference between Greg's arguments about context and Steph's insistence that the words themselves are more important than he will concede. It's this pitfall of communication, our impetus to seize on one thing said and saddle it with tremendous meaning, that informs the central theme of the show. Once the words are spoken, how important is the interpretation compared with the intent — and whose place is it to judge?

That Greg is adrift in a fixed, narrow world of acceptable actions and gestures carries through to his interactions with confident alpha Kent (Bryan Lark), his longtime friend and work mate, and grudge champion Carly (Christa Coulter), who is both Kent's wife and Steph's best friend.

PREVIEW

reasons to be pretty

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday, and 3 p.m. Sunday through Nov. 4. 2 hours. \$10-20. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Under the guise of friendship and support, the two delight in schooling Greg about the nature of things and mocking him when he fails to abide by some arbitrary code.

Bailey's direction wisely capitalizes on this otherness, cementing the characters in Greg's orbit as being artificial and complicit in societal cues and hidden meanings, instead of expressing themselves honestly and directly, as he does. The approach works in concert with a script this florid with detail, yet obsessed with its own semantics, keeping meaningful connections intentionally at bay while dissecting every verbal and behavioral action. On the other side of the divide, Mitchell's Greg excels in earnest frustration, pleading for emotional validation, but instead setting off trip wires as he crosses lines he can't even see coming.

The production design similarly reinforces the human tendency to read into things, combining symbols and vanishing-point shapes (by scenic designers Dan Morrison and Alexander Trice) with ambient background noise (by sound designer Dyan Bailey) and allowing the viewer to connect the dots of various indoor and outdoor locales. This makes way for staging that plays largely fluid across the abstract space, but occasionally suffers when certain setups require actors to break the planes of the partitioned lighting scheme (by Brandy Joe Plambeck).

By no stretch of the imagination is "reasons" intended to be an empathetic watching experience, nor should it be. The theoretical bent to the work may confound viewers with its cruelty, but it simultaneously shields them from outright emotional battery and gives the characters further to develop.

Coulter and Lark, at first blush a picture-perfect couple of phonics, work hard for their second-act breakthroughs, each a devastating blend of vulnerability and defense tactics. Later scenes between Coulter and Mitchell in particular contain volumes, full of tiny modulations that drive the actors to uncharted depths.

Yet the play ultimately hinges on the broken relationship that instigates it, and Bailey and Mitchell together form the touchstone of the production. The play would deflate without the knowledge that these people had a stake in each other and were good together, and it's no small achievement that this pair conveys that from moment one, with scant material evidence from the text. Their shared history, intimacy and affection is vitally apparent, even in the rearview, throughout her rarefied pops of acidly comic indictment and his stubborn inability to accede.

In "reasons," director Bailey and company have created a heightened world in which attractiveness is cultivated, like a personal brand, and candor is perceived as unacceptably ugly. Yet however off-kilter and rancorous the foundation, this production confidently explores the cracks therein, raising fascinating questions about what we tell each other, how we say it, and what we take away in turn. True to form, how far removed we really are from this synthetic social fabric is left for the viewer to conclude.



"Helping People Help Animals"



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Editor's Pick



Continuing LGBT History Month, Eastern Michigan University's LGBT Resource Center will host a variety of events for students, alumni and more. A highlight of the activities includes the "Rainbow Variety Show." EMU LGBT students and allies will showcase their talents in song, dance, drag, poetry and more.

Between the Lines rated EMU 4.5 stars in terms of LGBTQ services, policies, and more. Known for their active LGBTQ Resource Center and supportive student body, the college has quickly become a face of inclusion in Michigan universities.

A Queer Studies minor is offered in addition to varying LGBT classes through the Women's & Gender Studies department.

The Rainbow Variety Show will begin at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the Student Center Auditorium at EMU, 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti. The event is free and open to the public. For more information on performing or viewing, visit www.emich.edu/LGBTRC or e-mail jricha36@emich.edu.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 32

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

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

Art of Mexican Cooking 6:30 p.m. Fall cooking class celebrating the rich flavors of Mexico. Tickets: \$40. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. Women's discussion group. Plans a monthly group activity such as dinner, movies, games. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/calendar/

Chemical Dependency and the Family 7:30 p.m. This program will describe the roles and behaviors that family members often acquire when living with addiction, ways in which each family member is affected by addiction in the family, and options for family members to obtain help to cope with addiction in the family. Free. The Dawn Farm Education Series, 5305 Elliot Dr., **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. Dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

Tea & Talk 8 p.m. Open discussion with free tea and treats. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan

Ave., **Lansing**. 517-347-2112. triplegoddessbookstore.net

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

Wednesday, Oct. 23

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

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

A Taste in Ferndale 6 p.m. A night of casual elegance. Tickets: \$25. Ferndale Community Foundation, 22634 Woodward, **Ferndale**. 248-677-5373. Ferndalecommunityfoundation.org

Paint Party Royal Oak 6:30 p.m. Proceeds go to HAVEN, Oakland County's center for the treatment and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. Tickets: \$40. Paint Party Royal Oak, 2514 W. 14 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-259-6405. kathy@paintpartyroyaloak.com Paintpartyroyaloak.com

Newly Single Support Group 7 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk-or listen-to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Open Arms Support Group 7 p.m. Southeast Michigan's lonest running peer-run HIV/AIDS support group for those infected or affected by HIV or AIDS. Michigan Aids Coalition, 429 Livernois, **Ferndale**. 248-545-1435. openarms@michiganaidcoalition.org Michiganaidcoalition.org

Significant Other Support 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

The End of DOMA 7 p.m. Join us for a brief presentation by three local attorneys for an opportunity to "ask the experts" on the Supreme Court's ruling, United States v. Windsor. Free. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.com

Young@Heart 7 p.m. Socializing and conversation for those 45 and older. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road,

Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Rainbow Variety Show 8 p.m. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

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

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

Thursday, Oct. 24

Pronoun Visibility Day 1 a.m. Campus Wide. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

Voter Engagement Forum VI 8 a.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Moms in Motion 11 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for parents living with HIV. DMC/AIDS Partnership Michigan, 471 St. Antoine, **Detroit**. 313-993-3444.

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

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.

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

Nerd Nite Ann Arbor 6:30 p.m. Monthly event including discussions and more. Tickets: \$5. Nerd Nite Ann Arbor, 102 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. annarbor.nerdnite.com

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

20 Somethings 7 p.m. Social group for young adults. Followed by an evening out. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Anthony Jeselnik" 18+. Tickets: \$25-30. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Oct. 23-Oct. 24. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Comedy Castle "Kevin Lepine" Hypnotist and comedian. Detroit-native. Tickets: \$15. The Comedy Castle, Royal Oak. Oct. 21. Vegashypnosisshow.com

CONCERTS

Bach Festival Society of Kalamazoo "The Many Facets of Love" Rhea Olivacce, soprano with Gunta Laukmane, piano. Tickets: \$5-18. Dalton Theatre, Kalamazoo College, 1200 Academy St., Kalamazoo. 4 p.m. Oct. 20. 269-337-7407. Kalamazoobachfestival.org

Blind Pig "Valerie" 18+. Tickets: \$12. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 21. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Andrew Belle" 18+. Tickets: \$10-12. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 22. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Shigeto" 18+. Tickets: \$12-14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. Oct. 18. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Kevin Devine and the goddamn band" 18+. Tickets: \$12-14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 19. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "The Music of John Williams" Be there as the DSO performs all your favorite John Williams favorites: "Superman," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Harry Potter," "E.T.," and of course, "Star Wars." Tickets: \$16+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 18-Oct. 20. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Dave Bennett" Clarinet. Tickets: \$35. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Oct. 18. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Parker & Thomas Duo" Pre-Edgefest Fringe Event. Encore Records, 417 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 22. 734-662-6776. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Winds & Piano Potpourri" MALCOLM ARNOLD-Three Shanties for Wind Quintet. LUDWIG THUILLE-Sextet for Wind Quintet and Piano, Op. 6. GORDON JACOB-Sextet for Wind Quintet and Piano. JEAN FRANCAIX-Quintet for Winds. Molly Grove Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, Lansing. 3 p.m. Oct. 20. LansingSymphony.org

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "Patrizio Buanne" International superstar. Tickets: \$43-58. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Oct. 20. 586-286-2222. Macombcenter.com

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

MSU College of Music "Concert Band and Campus Bands" . Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 22. Music.msu.edu/event-listing

MSU College of Music "Jazz Orchestra I, II, III" Antonio Hart, saxophone. MSU Union Ballroom, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 18. Music.msu.edu/event-listing

MSU College of Music "University Chorale and State Singers" . Plymouth Congregational Church, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Oct. 20. Music.msu.edu/event-listing

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Zappa Plays Zappa" All ages. Tickets: \$32-75. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "An Evening of Bluegrass" With Noam Pikelny, Bryan Sutton, Jesse Cobb, Barry Bales and Luke Bulla. Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 23. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "David Cook" Tickets: \$30-75. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 20. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Mason Jennings" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 24. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Paula Cole" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 19. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Jesse Palter Quarter CD Preview" Dynamic composer and vocalist Palter wants to take jazz in a new direction. Tickets: \$27. 00-22. 00 . The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. Oct. 19. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Magic Bag "Going for the One & Minstrels in the Gallery" Tickets: \$12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Oct. 18. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Ballyhoo! & Passafire"

See Happenings, page 36

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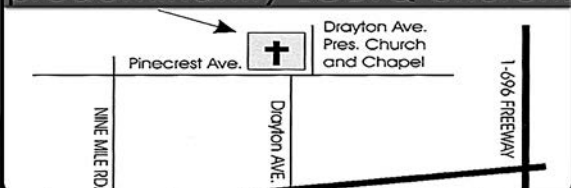
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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 34

Tickets: \$15. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Oct. 20. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Big D and the Kid's Table" With Red City Radio, 1592, and Survey Says. Tickets: \$12. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Oct. 20. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Majestic "Little Green Cars" Tickets: \$10+. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 18. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "Josh Groban-In The Round Tour" Tickets: \$60. 60-114. 15. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

University Musical Society "Chris Thile". Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 18. 734-763-3333. ums.org

Vinology "Nessa" Duo from Cairn to Cairn. Jazz. Vinology, 110 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 10-Oct. 29. 734-222-9841. Vinologya2.com

Vinology "Carl Michel Trio" Modern mainstream jazz. Vinology, 110 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 24. 734-222-9841. Vinologya2.com

Woodside Church "Monthly Jazz Vespers" Alternative worship service featuring local musicians from Flint and surrounding area. Presented in coffee house setting; refreshments will be served. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint. Sep. 20-Oct. 18. 810-767-4911. woodsidechurch.net

Woodside Church "The Agape Ringers"



wine bought at the event. Expect to find fine wine priced for \$10 or less.

The Affirmations' Vineyard event will start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. Tickets are \$35 and include one bottle of wine. For more information, call 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

Tickets: \$10. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint. 4 p.m. Oct. 19. 810-767-4911. Woodsidechurch.net

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Crazy Little Thing Called Love \$10-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Through Oct. 19. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

Dracula \$2-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through Nov. 2. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

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

Hansel and Gretel \$15. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Oct. 17 - 20. 734-394-5300. canton-mi.org/villagetheater

King Lear \$10-12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 18 - 20. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

Les Miserables Magnificent in scope, this heartrending story of love and redemption has moved and inspired audiences around the world. \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 27. 269-343-1313. kazooicivc.com

Nancy Drew: Girl Detective \$7-24. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Oct. 18 - Oct. 26. 269-343-1313. kazooicivc.com

Over the River and Through the Woods \$13-25. Thebes Players at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. Oct. 18 - Nov. 2. 616-897-8545. Lowellartsmi.org

Proof \$16-18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Oct. 18 - 27. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Sleepy Hollow \$5-7. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Oct. 18 - 27. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Sonnets Onstage \$10-12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 25 - 27. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

The Little Mermaid, Jr. \$12. Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion, Marshall. Oct. 17 - 20. 269-781-0001. frankecenterforthearts.org

Thom Pain (Based on Nothing) \$10. Emergent Arts at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Oct. 17 - 19. 734-428-5669. peterdknox.com/painmix

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Carrie the Musical \$10-18. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Oct. 20. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/theatreseason

Dead Man's Cell Phone \$10-12. Theatre & Dance at Wayne at Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Oct. 17 - 26. 313-577-2972. Wsushows.com

Our Town \$15-20. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 20. 313-577-2960. bonstelle.com

Pride and Prejudice \$5-20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Oct. 24 - Nov. 3. 269-387-6222. wmutheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

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

Big Love \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Oct. 25 - Dec. 7. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

ComedySportz 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. Through Oct. 20. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic \$20-57. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Oct. 16 - 20. 800-745-3000. ticketmaster.com

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

Firebird \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 27. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

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

Hello, Dolly! \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 18 - 19. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

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

Little Women \$5-20. What a Do Theatre, 4701 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through Oct. 26. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

Momtourage \$19-\$45. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Oct. 19. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com

Nunsensations \$40; \$35 show-only tickets. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Oct. 26. 269-781-4315. turkeyville.com

reasons to be pretty \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Nov. 4. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

Saint Joan \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Oct. 18 - Nov. 9. 313-408-7269. magentagiraffe.org

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

See Happenings, page 40

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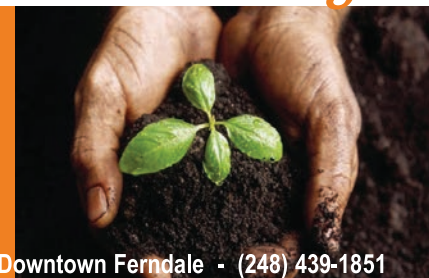
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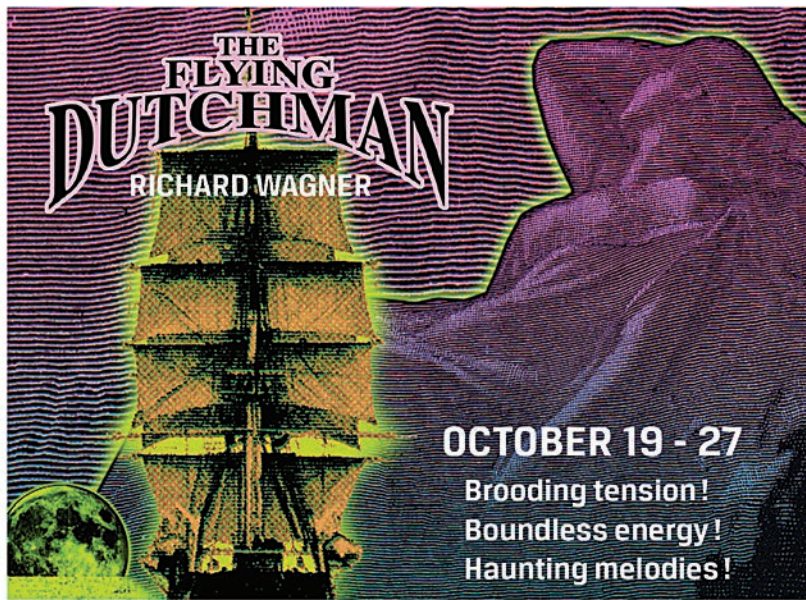
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► Happenings

Continued from p. 36

Talley's Folly \$20. Puzzle Piece Theatre at The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Through Oct. 27. 313-303-8019. puzzlestage.org

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

The Addams Family \$45-58. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Oct. 22 - 23. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

The Flying Dutchman \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Oct. 19 - 27. 313-237-SING. motopera.org

The Game's Afoot \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Oct. 27. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

The Hound of the Baskervilles \$15 opening night, \$18 all others. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Oct. 25 - Nov. 23. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

The Miracle Worker \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 18 - Nov. 3. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

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. Through Oct. 20. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

The Turn of the Screw \$10. The AKT Theatre Project at The Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 25 - Nov. 2. 734-258-8370. akttheatre.com

The Ugly Duckling \$8-12. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium at Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Oct. 17 - 19. 734-995-0530. wildswantheatre.org

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

The Woman in Black \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Nov. 3. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

These Go To 11 \$7-10. Crawlspace Eviction at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Oct. 18 - 19. 269-599-7390. crawlspace theatre.com

Thursdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy!

Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

Tomas and the Library Lady \$5-10. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Oct. 24. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

Tomas and the Library Lady \$10-20. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. Oct. 19. 313-887-8501. musichall.org

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

ART'N'AROUND

4731 Gallery "The 2013 Painting Invitational". 4731 Gallery, 4731 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Oct. 19-Oct. 26. 313-355-3273.

Border Crossings "Charles Novacek Paintings". Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Road, Saline. Oct. 1-Oct. 31.

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "What to Paint and Why: Modern Painters at Cranbrook, 1936-1974". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. July 4-Feb. 28. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market "The Chosen" The Chosen artists are: Jennifer Belair, James Collins, Jim Hittinger, Rosemarie Hughes, Steven Kuypers, and Jeremy Thacker-Mann. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 13-Oct. 19. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Foto Europa, 1850 to the Present" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 25-March 30. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "3+3=6 Degrees of Separation". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 1-Oct. 24. 734-720-0671. downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Free Saturdays" FirstMerit bank has issued a grant that funds free admission to the museum's galleries and exhibitions every Saturday for the next three years. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Sep. 14-Feb. 22. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Saturday All Day with The Arts" Drop-in family activities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. July 6-Dec. 28. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.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 "American Painting Today: Physical & Visceral" Styles, forms, boundaries and mediums resist limitation, making the practice full and exciting. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. Sep. 1-Oct. 20. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Our Mothers' Worlds: The Works of Suzanne Allen and Maureen Cassidy Keast" Will feature the multimedia works of two artists who explore the many influences of--and on--their mothers.. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Oct. 2-Oct. 31. 248-544-0394. lawrencestreetgallery.com

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

MOCAD "Autumn Tarot Design Workshop with Dina Peace" Family day. Free. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. Oct. 20. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

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

MOCAD "Vdrome" An ongoing schedule of rotating film and video screenings directed by visual artists and filmmakers whose production lies in-between contemporary art and cinema. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 6-Nov. 30. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

River Gallery "Finding True" Graceann Warn. Paintings and Assemblages. River Gallery, 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. Oct. 12-Dec. 1. 734-433-0826. chelsearivergallery.com

Robert Kidd Gallery "Icons: A Retrospective" Jef Bourgeois. robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Oct. 12-Nov. 16. 248-642-3909. robertkiddgallery.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Point Counterpoint" Cyril Lixenberg screen prints. Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Sep. 1-Nov. 9. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

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

NOTICE

The Forum Foundation's dinner, dance and silent auction scheduled for this Friday, Oct. 18, has been cancelled due to poor ticket sales. The event was to be held at Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren.

Last week's Editor's Pick "A Venomous Cocktail Wine and Cheese Party" has been rescheduled for Jan. 20.

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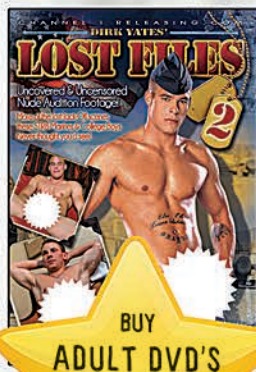
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Across

- 1 Like an erect nipple
- 5 Boston ball handlers, briefly
- 10 Move the ball between your legs
- 14 Toward shelter
- 15 Hawaiian howdy
- 16 Boat bottom
- 17 Knock around
- 18 Stick it to
- 19 Prefix that means "queer"
- 20 Former partner of Julie
- 22 Start of a quote by 20-Across
- 24 Editor Roshan
- 25 David Fisher does it on "Six Feet Under"
- 26 Fish formation
- 29 Satisfy fully
- 31 Breakfast spread
- 32 Mary had a little one
- 34 Rocket guy Wernher von ____
- 39 More of the quote
- 42 Rear follower
- 43 Jack of old oaters
- 44 Rowing team
- 45 Avoid premature ejaculation
- 47 Asks on bended knee
- 49 Showy cock's partner
- 53 Colorado neighbor
- 54 More of the quote
- 57 End of the quote

Down

- 1 Do damage to
- 2 It's for skin
- 3 Not fantastic
- 4 Whoopi's "Ghost" dance partner
- 5 "Because I Said So" comic Maggie
- 6 Dana of "MacGyver"
- 7 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
- 8 The folks over there
- 9 Deemed appropriate
- 10 Top choice
- 11 Give a gentle push
- 12 "Are you calling me ____?"
- 13 Stratagems
- 21 Saint, in Rio
- 23 Year in the reign of Gaius Caesar
- 26 "____ Like It Hot"
- 27 Family group

- 28 Bunch of stallions
- 29 Refine ore
- 30 "Mamma Mia!" band
- 33 Processes wine or cheese
- 35 A real stud
- 36 Star quality
- 37 Brought into play
- 38 Randy Shilt's area
- 40 Couch potato
- 41 Least meaningful
- 46 Kushner's "____ in America"
- 48 Restroom, for short
- 49 Local at a leaning erection site
- 50 Act badly
- 51 Black key for Elton John
- 52 They may be clitoral
- 53 Dairy outlet?
- 55 Touched down
- 56 Nick Adams' Johnny
- 58 "The Lion King" sound
- 59 Request for permission
- 60 Rosie O'Donnell's "Exit to ____"

Solution on pg. 38

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