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Our Take On That Controversial Lesbian Drama

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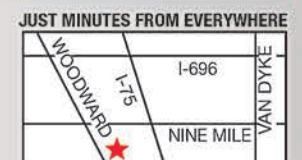
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COVER

14 Funny girl

Photo by Robyn von Swank



I am honored to take on this role and look forward to working on behalf of the millions of youth and adult members who make scouting what it is today – an organization providing life-changing opportunities to today's youth.

– Robert Gates, Former Sec. of Defense and key player in ending the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on becoming Boy Scouts of America's national president, pg. 12



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Find LGBT-Friendly Businesses In Your Area With The Pride Source Yellow Pages

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Learn More About This Week's Cool City: Ferndale

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Enter online to win two tickets to see "Elf The Musical" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Detroit Opera House. Enter at http://www.pridesource.com/tickets_contest.html.

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BRIEFS

DETROIT AREA

New Americorp Team Will Continue Support of HIV/AIDS Work

Michigan AIDS Coalition announced Nov. 8 it has fielded its sixteenth AmeriCorps team in the metro-Detroit area. The new team will help non-profits enhance their services in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the area. The program is operated locally in collaboration with AIDS United, a Washington, D.C. based national non-profit. AIDS United has provided grants, technical assistance, advocacy and policy since 1989, channeled through a network of twenty community partnerships across the U.S. MAC is its community partnership in Michigan.

"We are enormously pleased to be one of only eight AIDS United partnerships fielding teams," says MAC CEO Terry Ryan. "Being part of the AmeriCorps program has made an enormous impact locally. When we began our first team in 1997, we had no idea it would be this successful. We have become somewhat of an internship for new people to be trained to enter the field of HIV/AIDS services," he explained.

More than 26 alumni of this program currently work in non-profits in the metro area. In addition, MAC estimates the 144 members from the previous fifteen teams have completed nearly 250,000 hours of service with an estimated in-kind value of nearly \$5 million contributed locally.

AmeriCorps Host Agencies for team members this year include Alternatives for Girls, ACCESS, Institute for Population Health, Community Health Awareness Group, and Affirmations and Horizons Project/WSU sharing a member. Each member will work approximately four days a week at their Host Agency and the fifth day of the week is reserved for the team to collectively choose a variety of other community projects.

Team recruitment begins in January each year with team selection completed by May 1. For more information, please contact Terry Ryan at www.michiganaidcoalition.org or 248-545-1435, ext. 123.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 21

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) in Ann Arbor will hold the 2013 Wine Cellar event founded by Keith Orr and Martin Contreras of aut Bar. Proceeds benefit care, prevention and outreach programs serving those living with or affected by HIV. Festivities being at 6:30 p.m. at Vineyard Church, 2275 Platt Rd. Reservations are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door. Attendees will be treated to wines, appetizers and sweets along with a chance to win over 100 bottles of wine. Call 734-572-9355 or visit <http://hivaidresource.org/winecellar>.

Nov. 28

The 8th Annual TLGB potluck Thanksgiving Day dinner sponsored by Transgender Detroit, is planned for Nov. 28, from 1:30-4 pm. This year the dinner will be held at Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile in Ferndale. Turkey will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. For more information contact msfjp@sbcglobal.net.

Auto Companies Will Recognize Gay Marriages, Regardless Of State Bans

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

When Bill Huffaker and his husband Darin Severns moved from San Francisco to the Detroit area a year ago, they gave up the legal recognition of their marriage by the state. They'd been married in 2004, and that marriage was ruled invalid. They were married again in 2008, a vow that was recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. But here in Michigan, according to current state law, they are single again.

But now their employer, General Motors, is trying to make up for it. Since the Federal government is now recognizing married couples, GM is following suit and allowing couples who are legally married in any state to enroll as married in their benefits programs, no matter what state they live in.

The big three – GM, Ford and Chrysler are in the process of recognizing same-sex marriages. While they have long had domestic partner benefits in place, the marriage recognition adds significant benefits.

GM's Chief Diversity Officer Ken Barrett explained that the changes include pension plans, savings plans and health care plans. Being able to enroll as a spouse saves the couples in the amount of taxes that are paid on benefits. For some this could mean a savings of up to \$1,000 a year.

Those who are not legally married can still retain their current domestic partner benefits, which have been in place for years.

"Likewise, the modification does not impact other items, such as beneficiary designations under the life insurance programs," Barrett said.

“There's a financial aspect, but there's also a pride aspect to it. It feels good that my company values my relationship.”

- Bill Huffaker, 41, Director of Global Talent for GM

"This decision is in line with GM's efforts to find, keep and grow the world's best talent and to offer our employees policies and benefits that are competitive with many of the largest and best-managed industrial companies in the U.S.," said Barrett.

Same-sex couples are still limited at the state level in Michigan where their benefits will be taxed. A memo released to Chrysler



Bill Huffaker and his husband Darin Severns. left, moved from San Francisco to the Detroit area a year ago. Huffaker said before moving to Detroit to work for GM, he did his research and made sure that GM was inclusive. Photo courtesy of Bill Huffaker

LGBT employees explains the process for taxation on health care plans.

"If you currently cover your domestic partner for health care benefits, you receive and are taxed on imputed income for state and federal

tax purposes with respect to this coverage. As of September 16, 2013, if you are legally married to your domestic partner, or if your domestic

partner is a dependent pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 532 there will be no imputed income for federal tax purposes. State imputed income may continue to apply, depending on your state of residence. Adjustments to the payroll system to discontinue imputed income will occur in the first quarter of 2014. In the meantime, you should consult with your tax advisor regarding

how to receive a credit for taxes paid on imputed income. More information regarding required documentation for proof of marriage will be sent to you once the payroll changes have been implemented." It also states that, "If you are not legally married, there will be no impact to your benefit eligibility."

For Huffaker and Severns it means a small economic savings that brings them almost back to the benefits they enjoyed in California. But it is more a matter of pride and feeling accepted.

"There's a financial aspect, but there's also a pride aspect to it. It feels good that my company values my relationship," Huffaker said. He said before moving to Detroit to work for GM, he did his research and made sure that GM was inclusive.

"To be very honest with you, when I was considering leaving Google, a company that is famous for treating LGBT employees well, it weighed heavily on my mind whether or not to go. You have this feeling that when you're a couple you're welcome in San Francisco. It's accepted and that can impact your relationship if you move somewhere that it's not. The commitment to each other doesn't change,

See Automakers next page

Marriage Equality Equals Some Financial Equality

New IRS Rules Explored At Tax Seminar

BTL JAN STEVENSON

LIVONIA – Marriage is now more equal than ever, thanks to a September ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that says the IRS will consider all marriages legal for the purpose of filing federal taxes, even of the couples live in states that do not recognize their marriages. Professor Gina Torielli explained the new legal and financial landscape emerging for same-sex married couples at a sold out breakfast meeting and seminar sponsored by BTL Nov. 6 at the Detroit Marriott Livonia.

Torielli, chairman of the Graduate Tax Program at Cooley Law School in Ann Arbor, is widely recognized as one of the state's leading experts on tax law. She and her partner of 27 years are not married yet, but they are considering it. So this topic is not only an intellectual challenge, but is also intensely personal for her.

"My partner has said all along that she doesn't want to have to leave her home state to get married," she said. "I don't know though. We might have to reconsider that position given all the changes coming out of the federal government."

Torielli's presentation started with a comprehensive overview of the state of marriage equality internationally, nationally and in Michigan. She then explained the rules and regulations on restating prior years taxes, employment and employee benefit taxation, insurance issues including life insurance, estate planning, pensions and more.

Even though the IRS now recognizes same-sex marriages regardless of where the couple lives, known as "place of celebration," other federal agencies do not - yet. Torielli cited the legislation that created Social Security which

only recognizes marriages of couples that live in states where it is legal, known as "place of domicile." This definitional clash creates a bizarre patchwork of rules and benefits. For example, a same-sex married couple in New York State may file for social security benefits as a married couple, but a same-sex married couple that lives in Michigan cannot.

Torielli said that the state of marriage equality in Michigan is dismal. "When I explain all the barriers to my students, they are shocked. Some say they can't wait to leave Michigan," she said. Michigan has a constitutional amendment and statutes that bar marriage equality. There are no statewide protections against discrimination in the workplace, housing or public accommodations. Couples are generally not permitted to adopt, and non-biological co-parents have no legal standing or responsibilities to the children they raise.

Despite the negative situation in Michigan, Torielli said she is hopeful. "The Obama administration is doing everything it can within the law to recognize our marriages. For example, the military now recognizes all marriages, regardless of where couples live, and extend full benefits to them. They will even grant leave for couples to go get married in a state that has same-sex marriage, if stationed somewhere that doesn't allow it," she said.

Attendees left with a packet of information and copies of the new federal rulings. "This was so helpful and interesting. I'm so glad I came to this presentation," said John Kuderick, a Royal Oak accountant, echoing comments from many of the other participants.

For more information about the implications of the new IRS rulings go to www.pridesource.com.

► Automakers

Continued from p. 4

but we don't want the environment to change us. So we had a lot of talks about that," he said. "I met with the LGBT group here, got to know some people before we moved. And we've felt very welcome. I have a very visible role, where I interact with a lot of employees, supervisors. I always talk about my partner and I've always felt very welcome. It made me proud that my company is like that."

Huffaker, 41, is a director of Gobaal Talent for GM. His husband Severns works in the IT Department. The couple lives in Birmingham

and has been embraced both at work and in their community.

"It feels like any other major city," Huffaker said. "As soon as the moving trucks left, neighbors brought us baked goods. An elderly woman across the street came over and welcomed us to the neighborhood. She invited us to her church and said that it was a very gay-friendly church. ... We've not felt any discrimination."

The lack of discrimination among neighbors and co-workers is still tainted by the denial of marriage recognition by the state, but the men are hopeful that it will come in time, especially when large corporations like GM, Ford and Chrysler push for it.

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Races On Our Radar

Ferndale Re-elects Coulter

Ferndale was facing an interesting Mayoral election, with four candidates running including two gay men who have already served as Mayor and County Commissioner. Current Mayor Dave Coulter has prevailed over former Mayor Craig Covey by a 15 point margin. Having two gay men running against each other brought national attention to the small suburban community, though in reality the issues facing the city have little to do with equality and diversity since it is already a very welcoming place.

"I've tried to be a mayor that brings people together on sensible solutions to keep us moving forward, and I'd like to think that's what voters responded to. I certainly don't do any of this alone, and I'm forever grateful for everyone, supporters of mine or not, that are passionate about our city and willing to work together to make it even greater," said Coulter.

Ferndale also elected openly gay candidate Greg Pawlica to the city council.

Marijuana was also on the ballot and Proposal A won by a 2-1 margin receiving 70% of the vote.

Pontiac City Council And School Board

Mike McGuinness is the controversial former Chair of the Oakland County Democrats lost his bid for a seat on city council. McGuinness was up against incumbent Kermit Williams who was unopposed when he claimed his first term in the 7th District of Pontiac in 2009. His husband, Ronnie Karpinski, was running for the Pontiac Library Board. He came in seventh in a field of nine. The top six vote getters won seats on the board.

Kalamazoo City Commission

Tracy Hall, a candidate for the City Commission in Kalamazoo narrowly missed being elected. She would have been the first lesbian to do so. The top seven vote getters in a field of 15 were elected and Hall came in eighth. From her Facebook Page: "We fell a little short, but there's no shame. I am so proud of the campaign we ran. Even more proud of my amazing campaign team. I am humbled by all of your words of support and dedication to our campaign. We have an amazing city, with so many wonderful leaders, both in elected office and in the community...congratulations to all of the commissioners elected tonight. I know Kalamazoo is good hands with Mayor Bobby Hopewell and the other wonderful people elected tonight. And to my amazing friends, thank you for all of your support, advice, and words of encouragement. I love you and I love where I live!"

Holland City Council

City Council Candidate Donald Martin lost his bid as an openly gay man for a seat. From his Facebook Page: "I'm sorry to report that we did not win the election. I am not sorry to report that our campaign caught the attention of people across the city, state, and country (!!!). I am, in fact, thrilled to report that we brought issues of homelessness, income inequality, development, and social justice to Holland residents. 1500 people voted for the message that our campaign carried to every corner of Holland. We can be proud of that. We can be proud of ourselves. We can be proud of Holland."

#30: Royal Oak Human Rights Ordinance Upheld By Voters

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

"I cannot stress too much how important tonight is to the City of Royal Oak," said Mayor Jim Ellison as he addressed the crowd at the victory party for several local campaigns including the proposal for the Human Rights Ordinance. "We put this ordinance up there and people said do it!"

With 54 percent voting in favor of Proposal A, Royal Oak is now the 30th city or township in Michigan to ban discrimination against people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender expression. While many cities are able to enact such ordinances with a commission vote, a small number of residents signed petitions forcing the matter to go to a full public vote in Royal Oak and they lost.

The One Royal Oak Campaign stepped up to support the ordinance, setting up a campaign office and mobilizing scores of volunteers to go door-to-door, make phone calls and share stories to encourage people to get out and vote. The campaign raised over \$100,000 and brought state and national attention to the cause of human rights in the city.

"This election is being watched by so many people in so many different areas," Ellison said. "I know for a fact that the City of Southfield is waiting to see what happened with us before going ahead with theirs. Now I've got a feeling we're going to start seeing more communities that are enacting this type of ordinance because they know that the voters in the City of Royal Oak supported it and said yes."

Echoing that sentiment, Jon Hoadley of Unity Michigan said "this shows there is momentum in Michigan and I think this is a stair step on the way to full equality."

Emily Dievendorf of Equality Michigan is hopeful that the victory will affect change statewide. "The State Legislature should step up to the plate and make sure that we are all equal under the law, because our municipalities and our local leadership are ready to do so and our citizens are ready to defend their decisions if challenged," she said. "I think that our leadership in the Michigan legislature is having a lot of really productive conversations and I am excited to see what comes of that because we haven't seen the kind of productive discussion that we're seeing this legislative session. I think our leaders know this is good for Michigan and good for business."

"Fairness and equality won the day in Royal Oak," said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian



Angelo Berlas and Caitlyn Stephenson working the polls today in Royal Oak. Photo John Hardwick.

Task Force Action Fund. "On the heels of an historic vote in the U.S. Senate that advances the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, residents of Royal Oak stood up for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender neighbors and family members. Voters in Royal Oak demonstrated that discrimination is wrong and everyone should be able to bring their whole selves to work -- no matter who they are or who they love."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund has been a partner of One Royal Oak, the local campaign to ensure passage of Proposal A. The Task Force Action Fund donated a contract organizer to the campaign for the final eight weeks who served as campaign manager. We also provided training, strategic advice, staff on the ground to work side-by-side throughout this summer and a team of eight Task Force staff for get-out-the-vote efforts.

In Royal Oak, the ordinance means prohibits discrimination based upon actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity, in addition to the law's existing protections based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, condition of pregnancy, marital status, physical or mental limitation, source of income, family responsibilities, or HIV status. It goes into effect ten days after the election.

Allison VanKuiken of the One Royal Oak campaign learned first-hand what discrimination really looked like.

"When my partner and I moved to Royal Oak we experienced discrimination on the housing front. We looked at over two dozen places and we were denied on the first 27 or 28 largely based on who I am as a member of the transgender community. And it's very

frustrating because it's interesting being transgender, I've had the opportunity to live my life with male privilege honestly. And I've never experienced that. And after coming out and starting the transition process I began to experience things very differently and that was hard for me. So tonight is a victory in the fact that if that does happen again, I have recourse."

Edgar Rodriguez was among those celebrating the campaign's success. He said that while he had never experienced discrimination personally, his partner had a story that stuck with him. "My partner went to a hotel with a friend a few years ago and they told him, they said, 'you can't go in a room with another man,'" he said. "That should not be their business."

Even among straight allies, Proposal A made sense. Julie Tillotson and her husband Jack joined in the victory party. Julie had gone door to door for the One Royal Oak campaign. When asked why she said, "I'm a human being that's why. I don't believe in discriminating against anybody. Why would you support discrimination?"

Royal Oak City Commission

There are three open seats and four candidates running. The one candidate, Diane Hargan who opposed the Human Rights Ordinance, publically speaking out against it in Commission meetings and online, lost her bid.

Two pro-equality candidates: Jeremy Mahrle and Sharlan Douglas won their bid and so did incumbent David Poulton who had voted against the Human Rights Ordinance because he believed that the public should vote on it.

Duggan Includes LGBTs In Acceptance Speech

Mayor-elect Says He Plans To Include All In His New Administration

BTL JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT - Mayor-elect Michael Duggan gave a shoutout to LGBT Detroiters in his acceptance speech Nov. 5. Towards the end of his speech he said, "The way we are going to rebuild this city is to value every single person in our community. It will no longer matter if you are black, brown or white. It will no longer matter if you are Christian, Jewish or Muslim. It will not matter if you are gay or straight. We



Detroit Mayor-elect Duggan

Duggan said that he supports marriage equality and that his lesbian in-laws are an important part of his extended family.

October interview that LGBT people are major players in his campaign and he will appoint LGBT people to prominent positions in a Duggan administration. In that same interview Duggan said that he supports marriage equality and that his lesbian in-laws are an important part of his extended family. "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... The things you are asking me are the same things that we've talked about at the family table," Duggan said.

ONLINE
See BTL issue 21.42, Oct. 17 "A Conversation With Detroit Mayoral Candidate Mike Duggan"
@ www.pridesource.com

Duggan is not the first Detroit mayor to reach out to the LGBT community. In the 1990s, Mayor Dennis Archer attended LGBT events and welcomed 3,000 LGBT activists to the Renaissance Center at the NGLTF Creating Change Conference in 1995. He held town hall meetings on LGBT issues and maintained regular dialogue with LGBT leaders in Detroit. But his successor, Kwame Kilpatrick gained national notoriety for insulting the LGBT community by announcing on a local religious radio program that he did not want his five-year-old twin boys to even see "that kind of lifestyle." Mayor Bing has been benignly silent on LGBT issues, having been overwhelmed by events that overtook the city's finances.

Detroit residents noticed, and welcomed, Duggan's inclusive remarks. In an editorial published by The Detroit Free Press Nov. 8, Detroit resident and business owner Joe Posch wrote, "Duggan's simple comment is a long-needed statement from Detroit leadership that the city is a welcoming place for LGBT people. And more significantly, it sent an important message to LGBT Detroiters: You matter because of who you are, not in spite of it. No pandering, no being coy. Just a message that you count just as much as everyone else."

"Duggan's simple comment is a long-needed statement from Detroit leadership that the city is a welcoming place for LGBT people."

- Detroit resident and business owner Joe Posch, op-ed Detroit Free Press, Nov. 8

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As Noted ...

Poll: Post-DOMA, Significantly More Lesbian And Gay Adults Wish To Avoid Jobs In States Where Marriage Equality Is Absent

- A new Harris Poll commissioned by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates finds that 49 percent of gay and lesbian adults would consider changing jobs if their employer moved them to a state without marriage equality, which is up from 30 percent last year.

“This decision is in line with GM's efforts to find, keep and grow the world's best talent and to offer our employees policies and benefits that are competitive with many of the largest and best-managed industrial companies in the U.S.”

- GM's Chief Diversity Officer Ken Barrett To Between The Lines, Current Issue

“How many more gay people must God create before we realize he wants them here?”

- Hawaii State Rep. Kaniela Ing during State House hearings Nov. 8

In closing arguments Nov. 5 in Illinois House before marriage equality vote State Rep. Harris displayed a flag sent to him from a soldier in Afghanistan who asked the House to give him the freedom to marry the person he loves

Remembering And Looking Ahead



Transmissions

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Fifteen years ago, in an apartment in Alston, Massachusetts, a transwoman of color named Rita Hester was stabbed to death. It was her death – as well as the death of Chanelle Pickett three years earlier – that led to the Transgender Day of Remembrance. In those 15 years, what was born out of a rainy night in front of the Castro Theater in San Francisco has led to an International event. I'm plenty biased, having founded the Transgender Day of Remembrance, but I think it might be fair to say that TDOR has helped pave the way for modern transgender advocacy around the world.

After so long, you might question the relevance of the event, and wonder why we need to still have such a potentially depressing event as one of the biggest annual transgender-related observances. As Heath Ledger's portrayal of the Joker is known for stating, “why so serious?”

In many cases, TDOR has expanded into a transgender awareness week, or even a month's of trans-related activities. Some have attempted to “lighten” the event, attempting to turn it into an affirmation of life, rather than a memorial for those we've lost and a call for action. Some have even gone so far as to try to turn TDOR events into “beer busts” and similar parties. These are the rare cases, as most know how to treat a memorial like a memorial.

In the early 1970s, in the wake of the Stonewall Uprising and an extended series of gains for gay and lesbian rights, many celebrated, oblivious to a rising backlash. In 1977, success turned to defeat as Anita Bryant and other anti-homosexual crusaders fought back in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dade County, Florida, Eugene, Oregon, and Wichita, Kansas. It was only after the Briggs Initiative – which would have prevented educators from advocating on behalf of gay and lesbians – was defeated in California that the tide started to again turn.

One could argue that the transgender community – which has had a number of successes in rights gains over the last few years – is now facing its own backlash. The passage of AB1266, which has secured rights for transgender students in California, had led to a seemingly successful petition drive to repeal the bill. It will likely be on the ballot in 2014, and there is, in my opinion, a better

than average chance it will succeed. This is exactly what our foes want, given some recent stinging defeats for them around same-sex marriage. They view us as easy prey.

So do those who murder us.

One of the main proponents against AB1266 is the Pacific Justice Institute. They've spent a lot of time and money discussing a transgender youth in Florence, Colorado. They want to claim that she is “harassing” other students in her high school simply by lawfully using the women's restroom. They've helped turn this story into the lightning rod for AB1266 repeal. They have also helped cause the young woman in question to end up suicidal and depressed. I fear we'll see more of this in the next year, as the AB1266 fight goes to the voters.

Meanwhile, in Oakland, California, Sasha Fleishman fell asleep on an AC transit bus. She identified as neutrois, and gender-neutral. As Fleishman slept, a high school student set fire to the skirt Fleishman was wearing. I want to applaud those who have since raised more than \$20,000 to aid in the skin grafts and other care Fleishman will require, as well as those students and teachers who wore skirts in support of their classmate at Maybeck High School. At the same time, I want to note that the 16-year-old who committed this crime – according to their mother – was simply “joking,” and “didn't know it would go that far.” Fleishman could have been killed by this “joke.”

This year, the Transgender Day of Remembrance will once again have far too many names of the list of those to honor in their passing. There will still be many more

we may never hear about. We'll talk about Ashley Sinclair, Kelly Young, Dominique Newburn, Islan Nettles, Cemia “CeCe” Dove, Eyricka Morgan, Evon Young, Artegas Konyale Madden, and all the rest of those listed at transgenderdor.org. How many more will we lose?

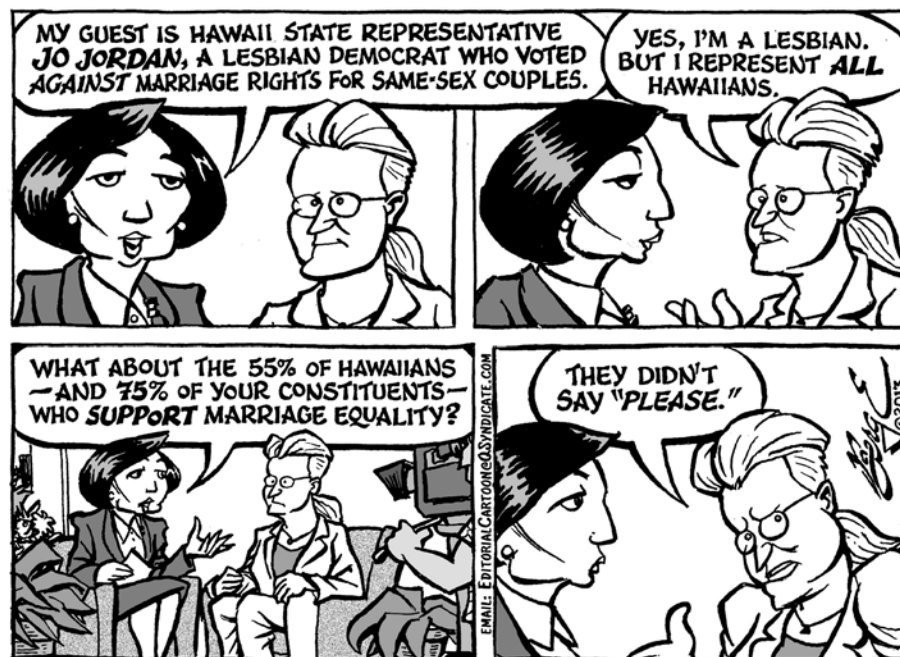
While there are still people trying to beat back our liberties, still so willing to try to tar our needs for public accommodation rights as a gateway for pedophiles and rapists, still eager to cause us harm in the eyes of the general public, then we will continue to be attacked and killed. We will continue to be vulnerable to harm from the homo and transphobic as well as those who think that setting fire to our clothes equates with a “joke.”

This is why it still matters, why it is still relevant: because we are still dying. We are still being killed at a more than alarming rate. Our deaths are reported in the United States alone roughly every two weeks – and far higher around the world.

We should not be hearing of transgender youth moved to suicide because right-wing bullies have opted to use her story as a way to fundraise against other young transgender women like her. We should not be seeing people of any gender identity set on fire as some sort of sick attempt at a laugh. We should not be seeing so many people murdered simply for being perceived as transgender by their killers.

On Transgender Day of Remembrance, we honor those we've lost – and we continue to fight for all.

Gwen Smith hopes you will attend your local TDOR events. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com



Sharing Unsalted Almonds



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

According to specialists in brain neuroanatomy, each of us is anatomically blessed with an amygdala.

If you're gay, your amygdala is similar to that of straight women; if lesbian, to that of straight men. Bisexual? That's a good question. Research awaits on that score.

My amygdala is almond-shaped (Greek for almond) and located at the end of my hippocampus (taking its name from the etymology for sea horse). My hippocampus is located under the hypothalamus, which is part of the cerebellum. You show me yours, I'll show you mine,

The graphic I'm looking at as I type (and Spell Check) about this very private part - which I've never actually measured but more than likely have diddled with - is found in a text called, "The Rough Guide to The Brain" (Penguin Books).

And, no, I'm not into leather. Mentally, physically, or for camouflage. (\$250 for chaps - initialed or not - is outside the parameters of my SS-denuded budget. And just for the AARP record: I've also dropped out of my over-70s ICON Group. Too much sag in all the wrong kinda places. Theirs, not mine, by the way.)

The Rough Guide graphic shows the configuration of almond and sea horse to look not unlike a penis; which I suppose, given what some recent and provocative MRI and PET scans researched at the Stockholm Brain Institute tell us about sexual orientation, is rather apropos. If a little wishful thinking on my part.

What these Swedes in lab coats are saying is that it's now possible to look at a brain scan and tell by amygdala size who's gay or lesbian and who's straight. That plus length of index finger to ring finger, swirl of hair pattern to the right or to the left, and choice of opera clucking over hockey pucking provide strong markers - especially the latter.

"At the end of the ganglia 'horns' (QUEERY: hence our expression 'horny?'), beneath the hypothalamus is the amygdala," says Rough Guide. "The amygdala plays a significant role in generating emotional responses such as fear and desire, and also affects the way we relate to the world and others around us. Emotions and memories are tightly interwoven."

The way things are going with all this snooping around under our collective craniums I wouldn't be a bit surprised if in the near future neuroscientists will be able to tell Republican brains from T-Party brains at a glance. It will take pinpointed PET expertise, because God knows there are so many political loose wires between the two cranial neuron misfirings.

Of course it's nice to know that scientists are finding out what I've all along suspected: my sexual wiring comes with the rest of my complex evolutionary makeup. It's up to me to use this genetic "gift" as plus or minus, as asset or liability, as tool for success or failure, just the same as sensible straights.

After all we're all homo sapiens - er, human beings - aren't we? Very Long Pause. Well, truthfully I'm not so sure. I don't mean to poke fingers at anybody else's amygdalas sight unseen.

But (don't quote me on this to Scientific American): I wouldn't be surprised to learn that the amygdalas ("almonds") of those, as a convenient example, who constantly profess to "love the sinner but hate the sin" compared to, let's say my own, are peanut size. And vacuum roasted. So, I'm a size queen.

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NEW STUDY: Health Risks High For LGBT People

Upcoming Nov. 16 KICK Expo Aims To Provide Help

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

There has long been a sense that LGBT people face greater health risks than their heterosexual counterparts, and studies over the years have pointed to this. But a recent review by the Williams Institute at UCLA shows the big picture for what LGBT people face.

According to the Institute's report, "Minority Stress and Physical Health Among Sexual Minorities" by David J. Lick, Laura E. Durso, Kerri L. Johnson, LGB individuals face increased risk and incidents of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, allergies, chronic gastro-intestinal problems, diabetes and more.

"Our review is the first to bring together social and basic science research to demonstrate the truly negative impact that anti-gay stigma can have on the physical health of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people," co-author Durso said.

The studies also show that the cause of these problems is not simply because someone is gay, but because LGBT people face discrimination, economic barriers, struggles obtaining health insurance and overall stress in general.

The study points to one large factor for the LGBT population. Most health providers do not ask about sexual orientation or gender identity, nor are they trained in the unique health care needs of LGBT people or the health disparities they experience. Many LGBT patients are not "out" to their providers; as a result, they are not screened for issues that may disproportionately affect LGB people.

"The review demonstrates that disparities in LGBT physical health are quite real, and that more research is critical for understanding how to address such negative health outcomes for all Americans," co-author Lick said

KICK Expo

Here is Michigan, LGBT organizations know the importance

The studies also show that the cause of these health problems is not simply because someone is gay, but because LGB people face discrimination, economic barriers, struggles obtaining health insurance and overall stress in general.

of providing good health information to the gay community. KICK, a Detroit-based organization that primarily serves the LGBT African American community, is hosting their Annual

Health and Wellness Expo on Nov. 16 at their headquarters at 41 Burroughs Ste. 109 in Detroit. The Expo runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free. Everyone is welcome, and there will be information on a variety of health topics including HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, mental health, domestic violence and smoking cessation.

The leading causes of African American deaths are heart disease, cancer and stroke," said Curtis Lipscomb, KICK's executive director. "Safe spaces such as the Health & Wellness Expo are essential to address our larger health issues in addition to HIV and mental health within the communities of LGBT people."

For more on the KICK Health and Wellness Expo, go to <http://e-kick.org/the-health-wellness-expo-2>.

Study Highlights

Some of the studies included in the review show the health disparities that sexual minorities face:

- Higher prevalence and earlier onset of disabilities, such as use of a walking assistant (Conron, Mimiaga, & Landers, 2010; Fredriksen-Goldsen, Kim, & Barkan, 2012; Kim & Fredriksen-Goldsen, 2012)
- Higher rates of asthma (Conron, Mimiaga, & Landers, 2010; Landers, Mimiaga, & Conron, 2011)
- Higher rates of allergies (Lock & Steiner, 1999)
- Higher rates of osteoarthritis and chronic gastro-intestinal problems (Sandfort, Bakker, Schellevis, & Vanwesenbeeck, 2006)

Compared to heterosexuals, lesbian and bisexual women exhibit:

- Heightened risk of some cancers, especially breast cancer (Brown & Tracy, 2008; Dibble, Roberts, & Nussey, 2004; Kavanaugh-Lunch, White, Daling, & Bowen, 2002)
- Heightened risk for cardiovascular disease (Case, Austin, Hunter, Manson, Malspeis, Willett, & Spiegelman, 2004; Conron, Mimiaga, & Landers, 2010) and diagnoses of (Diamant & Wold, 2003)

Compared to heterosexuals, gay and bisexual men exhibit:

- Heightened risk for cardiovascular disease (Wang, Hausermann, Counatsou, Aggleton, & Weiss, 2007)
- Greater disability and activity limitations due to debilitating physical conditions (Wang, Hausermann, Counatsou, Aggleton, & Weiss, 2007)
- More migraine headaches and urinary incontinence (Sandfort, Bakker, Schellevis, & Vanwesenbeeck, 2006)

To read the full Williams Institute Report visit <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/health-and-hiv-aids/minority-stress-and-physical-health-among-sexual-minorities>.

Hawaii House Clears Way For Marriage Equality

Week Saw Movement In Illinois Marriage Equality and Senate ENDA Vote

BY LISA KEEN

The Hawaii House gave final approval Nov. 8 to a marriage equality bill, putting Hawaii on track to become the 16th state plus the District of Columbia to allow same-sex couples to marry. The tally was 30 to 19.

The vote in Hawaii caps off a dramatic week for LGBT people, a week that began with Illinois clearing its marriage equality law on Tuesday and the U.S. Senate, for the first time in the bill's 19-year history, approving the Employment Non-Discrimination Act on Nov. 7.

The voting and amendment process in Hawaii was a raucous one, with numerous calls for recess as members wrestled over rules, time limits and disputes over fair play. All the while, the sound of protesters chanting and pounding on things could frequently be heard in the background on the web stream, and grew louder as the moment for the final vote neared.

Local reporters on the scene were posting Twitter notices that suggested the atmosphere outside was sometimes very tense, despite the use of barriers to separate supporters and opponents. The Honolulu StarAdvertiser also noted that Gov. Neil Abercrombie entered the gallery at about 3:40 in the afternoon - to cheers and booing from visitors in the gallery.

The intensity of public interest in the bill has been extraordinary, by the standards of the nine other states where a marriage equality bill has been passed. One openly gay legislator, Rep. Jo Jordan, announced earlier in the week that she was voting against the bill. Speaking on the floor last night, she said she has been "blasted" for saying she is opposed to the bill, but that she does not want to be "the poster child."

"I cannot rise up benefits with the possibility of eroding religious protections and freedom of conscience," she said.

But there was no shortage of straight legislators to stand up for the bill. One, Rep. Mark Takai, said his office received 7,200 messages in favor of the bill and 6,300 opposed. He said he has personally been the target of many "hateful tactics" for supporting the bill. Several of the pro-marriage equality representatives said they had received death threats and one opponent said she was "verbally assaulted" by a prominent gay activist.

A single straight man that lives in Honolulu, Rep. Tom Brower, said, "This bill does not redefine marriage for God or the church. It does not make gay the new straight."

"How many more gay people must God create before we realize he wants them here?" asked Rep. Kaniela Ing.

The bill now goes back to the senate for



Pro-equality supporters await vote in Hawaii legislature Nov. 8.

concurrency, a vote that many expect to go through without debate on Nov. 12. Even though Abercrombie has promised to sign the legislation, due to go into effect Dec. 2, there may be additional battles ahead.

In response to a legal challenge from an opponent of the bill, a state circuit court judge in Hawaii said that, if the legislature passes and the governor signs the marriage equality bill, he would entertain the challenge to the new law. According to the StarAdvertiser, Judge Karl Sakamoto indicated he thinks the bill may be in conflict with a constitutional amendment voters passed in 1998. That amendment read: "Shall the Constitution of the state of Hawaii be amended to specify that the legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples?"

The opponent who filed the legal challenge was Rep. Bob McDermott, who led the opposition on the floor. He has attempted numerous tactics to delay consideration of the bill throughout the House proceedings. He offered an amendment to create a task force to study the impact of allowing same-sex marriage before voting on the bill, characterizing it as a "way out" of the divisions that have erupted among the people of Hawaii. But Rep. Tom Brower said the measure would perpetuate the division already evident over the issue.

Opponent Rep. Richard Fale said that the bill has caused more divisions than it is worth, saying reports estimated the state would gain \$270 million from allowing same-sex couples to marry there.

Opponent Rep. Sharon Har added that it would likely hurt the economy because Asian tourists would be less likely to come.

"This is not about money, this is about equal rights," replied bill supporter Rep. Cynthia Thielen.

The task force amendment was defeated by voice vote.

Rep. Gene Ward then introduced an amendment to give an "opt out" for teachers and parents of children for any school curriculum acknowledging same-sex marriage.

"We don't have to go to Massachusetts to see their curriculum," said Ward. "The momma bears are demanding, 'Protect our kids,'" said Ward. He continued, talking about a

curriculum that he found troublesome that used explicit terms to discuss sex, such as "penile sex, penis entering vagina."

McDermott said Ward's amendment was necessary to prevent gay couples from filing a lawsuit when curricula examples of families don't include same-sex families.

"It's coming. If we don't institute protections, parents will lose their rights," said McDermott.

But bill supporter Rep. Roy Takumi said regulations are already in place that enables parents to opt out of curricula they are uncomfortable with.

Ward's amendment, and more than a dozen others hostile to the underlying bill, all failed by voice vote, with marriage equality supporters pointing out that most of them were duplicating previously failed amendments.

From the live web stream of the proceedings, it was apparent that the large House gallery was filled with onlookers at 10:20 a.m. Hawaii time. The final vote took place more than ten hours later.

The Honolulu StarAdvertiser reported that the opponents and supporters of the bill were divided inside the House gallery so neither would have a numerical advantage. The paper said police had also erected more substantial barricades outside "to prevent demonstrators from banging on or poking flagpoles on the windows to the chambers." Demonstrators banging on the windows to the chamber created so much noise earlier in the week, it was difficult for legislators to be heard, even by those in the gallery.

Illinois Marriage Bill Passes House, Awaits Gov. Signature

Emotional Testimony By Legislators Citing Bible

BY LISA KEEN

The Illinois House of Representatives passed a marriage equality bill Nov. 6, by a vote of 61 to 54, 2 present, following a prolonged debate that centered frequently on religion and race.

The state senate, which passed the bill in February, voted within the hour to concur in the House version. Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn has promised to sign it though a date has not yet been announced.

Passage of the Illinois bill makes Illinois the

15th state to implement marriage equality - the sixth to do so this year, the ninth to do so in the past 12 months.

The marriage equality bill passed the state senate in February and came close to a vote in the house in May. But Rep. Greg Harris of Chicago, the openly gay sponsor of the legislation indicated in May that he did not have the votes needed to pass it, but had commitments from potential supporters to consider voting for the measure if given more time. Harris agreed to wait until

See Illinois next page

the legislature's special "veto session" in November to bring the bill to the floor.

But pushing back the vote on Harris' original bill, which would have gone into effect immediately after the governor's signature, would require 71 votes in November, a goal supporters indicated they did not think they could reach. So Harris submitted an amendment to his bill to have enactment begin next June - thus reducing the winning margin back to 60 votes, a simple majority. Rep. Thomas Morrison, a Republican, requested roll call Tuesday on the amendment, and the amendment passed 59 to 52, with 1 present.

Morrison of Palatine, Illinois, also led off the opposition, urging a no vote as a way to "preserve the current social order." He referred to male-female marriage as "natural marriage" and "real marriage."

"A no vote today does not mean that you are a bigot," said Morrison.

In urging support for his bill, Harris noted that the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled in June that the federal government must recognize marriages licensed by states which issue them to same-sex couples.

"What same-sex couples want for their families is what you want for your families," said Harris.

Rep. Ed Sullivan, a Republican from Mundelein who said his mother-in-law and an uncle were gay, said it was a difficult vote but he would support the bill because "I must be inclusive of all faiths, not just my own."

But many Republicans said the bill would jeopardize their free exercise of religion.

Rep. David Reis, a Republican from Olney, said he was concerned that the bill does not protect the religious beliefs of individuals, such as judges, who may be called on to officiate for same-sex weddings when clergy refuse.

Opponent Rep. Jeanne Ives, a Republican from Wheaton, quoted lesbian Equal Employment Opportunity Commission member Chai Feldblum as saying marriage equality means conservative people of faith would lose their religious rights. (Feldblum said the statement is false and that it has been incorrectly attributed to her.)

"This bill is the worst in the U.S. for protecting religious liberty," said Ives.

Rep. Dwight Kay, a Republican from Edwardsville, said the nation was built on the scriptures "and then the constitution."

But many Democratic supporters argued back.

Rep. Jack Franks, a Democrat from Woodstock, quoted the Bible. Deuteronomy 16:20, he noted, says "Justice, justice, shalt thou pursue."

Rep. Christian Mitchell, a Democrat from Chicago, also quoted from the Bible, adding, "We are not a theocracy."

Rep. Michael Zalewski, a Democrat from Riverside, said there is nothing in the bill to

prevent people from exercising their religious beliefs.

Majority Leader Barbara Currie of Chicago recalled the story of the Lovings of Virginia who had to travel from Virginia to D.C. in order to marry in the 1960s. She urged a yes vote on the marriage equality bill.

Rep. Kenneth Dunkin, an African American Democrat from Chicago, said "not long ago," blacks in this country were barred from many things by law.

"In 2013," said Dunkin, "we're having a similar conversation."

But later, another African American member, Rep. Mary Flowers, a Democrat from Chicago, expressed hostility for those who had "injected race" into the discussion. She said she saw no comparison between the color of one's skin and what some people do in their bedrooms. She called the bill a "joke," and said it was up to the federal government, not Illinois, to provide the benefits same-sex couples sought.

Rep. Emanuel Welch, another African American Democrat from Westchester, stood up after Flowers and invoked the memory of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., to urge support for the bill.

Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia, a Democrat from Aurora who described herself as a strong Catholic, noted that her own marriage certificate was printed on paper paid for by taxpayers, "and yet not all taxpayers are able to obtain these documents." She also noted that while her marriage certificate indicated it was solemnized in a "religious ceremony," a friend's certificate indicated her ceremony was solemnized by a county clerk.

Rep. David Harris, a Republican from Mount Prospect, quoted from Fiddler on the Roof, to urge a no vote because marriage is one "tradition" on which he could not budge.

In one of the most emotional moments of the debate, Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, a Democrat from Chicago, read a touching letter a 10-year-old girl gave to her while lobbying for the marriage equality bill. The letter described how the girl had felt alone and mistreated in foster care homes until a gay male couple took her in. Now, the girl expressed eloquently, she felt safe and secure and happy as a family with her two dads. At the bottom of the letter, the girl asked Rep. Feigenholtz to check off yes or no to the question of whether Feigenholtz would let her two dads to marry.

Feigenholtz, choking back emotion, said she would be voting yes.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a lesbian Democrat from Chicago, described concerns about the protections she needs with her partner in emergencies.

Rep. Lou Lang, the deputy majority leader, lauded Harris for his perseverance and defended Harris for not calling the bill for a vote in May.

In closing arguments at about 5 p.m. EDT, Rep. Harris displayed a flag sent to him from a soldier in Afghanistan who asked the House to give him the freedom to marry the person he loves.

Gates Poised To Lead Boy Scouts In 2014

Key Player In Ending Don't Ask Don't Tell

BY CHUCK COLBERT

National gay-rights leaders are responding positively to reports that former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates will lead the Boy Scouts of America.

The Scouts' national executive board selected Gates late last month; and if approved by a BSA oversight council, he will serve a two-year term.



Robert Gates

Gates, 70, was a key player in ending the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" stricture, a highly discriminatory policy and federal law that

banned openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual military service.

National volunteer and professional leaders, including the BSA national nominating committee, recommended Gates' selection by the Scouts' national executive board. The move means that upon approval of voting members of the national council, Gates would begin his term as BSA national president in May 2014 and lead the National Executive Board, which guides the Dallas, Texas-based BSA in serving approximately 2.6 million youth members, according to a BSA news release.

Indeed Gates has had an impressive career, having served eight U.S. presidents of both political parties. In addition to his position as defense secretary, he was director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Gates also served as president of Texas A&M University. He is currently chancellor of the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

A Kansas native, he earned a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, a master's degree from Indiana University, and a doctorate from Georgetown University.

Earlier this year, the Scouts announced a policy whereby gay boys could be members, but gay adults could not be troop leaders.

"We are glad to hear that the Boy Scouts of America intends to elect former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as president of the BSA's executive board," Zach Wahls, a straight Eagle Scout and the son of a lesbian

couple, said in email correspondence.

"Mr. Gates has led a distinguished career of service to our nation - including the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' - and we hope he will continue that legacy by leading the Boy Scouts into a future that protects all its youth and parents, regardless of their sexual orientation," said Wahls, who is executive director of Scouts for Equality.

A spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign also voiced praise for the new BSA president-elect.

"Secretary Gates was instrumental in the repeal of the discriminatory 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and it is our hope he'll be just as instrumental in transforming the Boy Scouts of America into a more inclusive institution," Paul Guequierre said in an email.

Similarly upbeat was reaction from GLAAD, formerly the Gay and Lesbian

Just as religious-right spokespersons were displeased with Gates' role in overturning "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," so they are unhappy with his selection and potential leadership role in dismantling anti-gay bias in scouting.

Alliance Against Defamation. "Former Defense Secretary Gates has previously confronted discrimination head on, ushering in a new era of equality in our nation's armed forces," GLAAD spokesman Wilson Cruz said in a statement.

"Millions of people and national corporations have called on the Boy Scouts to put an end to discrimination once and for all. We urge Dr. Gates to continue his work to ensure all people are treated equally, no matter who they are and no matter what uniform they wear," said Cruz.

For his part Gates said, "There is no finer program for preparing American boys for citizenship and leadership than the Boy Scouts of America. As an Eagle Scout, I know firsthand how impactful this program can be and I believe its mission is more important today than ever before."

He added in a statement, "I am honored to take on this role and look forward to working

Laurie Higgins

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hooray for Illinois, the latest state to allow gays and lesbians to get legally married. As People for the American Way points out, that brings the grand total of U.S. states with marriage equality up to a whopping 30 percent. Which is still an F on any sane grading scale. Still, it's a start. And 30 percent is certainly better than zero, but we still have a long way to go.

Of course, if you're Laurie Higgins from the Illinois Family Institute, you think we've gone too far already. IFI opposes marriage equality and they are none too pleased with the news that same-sex couples will soon start marrying in the Land of Lincoln (so far June is the earliest projected gay wedding day).

In a Nov. 6 blog post, Higgins berated the cowardly and/or ignorant Illinois lawmakers who voted in favor of marriage equality "in defiance of truth, history, logic, compassion, and in some cases, their own religious traditions."

And the children! Who will think of the children? Why, Higgins will, of course.

"[Lawmakers] have given their stamp of approval on the practice of denying children's inherent right to have both a mother and father," she writes.

First of all, children actually don't have an "inherent right" to a mom and dad. Sure, ideally all children would be loved and

When Higgins says that this girl should have gone to straight parents instead, she is really saying that having no parents is better than having gay parents.

well cared for by two parents starting from the moment of their birth and continuing unconditionally throughout their lives. But research has shown that those two parents do not have to be a mom and a dad. Two moms or two dads will do just fine, thank you very much.

Higgins disagrees, of course. In her post she blasts a "manipulative ... letter from a ten-year-old girl" that was read during the floor debates over the marriage law. According to Higgins, "[P]rior to being adopted by two homosexual men [the girl] had been in foster care." Higgins then writes that "adoption by a similarly compassionate mother and father would have been a better option."

Actually, an even better option for this girl would have been never having to end up in foster care in the first place. Granted, I don't know this particular girl's story, but children end up in foster care for a variety of reasons, and none of these reasons are happy. There are thousands of kids in foster care and the number who will be left lingering there, never to be adopted or reunited with the families they were separated from, is staggering.

When Higgins says that this girl should have gone to straight parents instead, she is really saying that having no parents is better than having gay parents. Because if she thinks that there is a line of mom-dad pairs outside the door of child welfare agencies and that gays are snatching available children away from them, she's having some kind of fever dream.

If children have an "inherent right" to anything, it's to a secure attachment to a loving adult who is willing and able to take care of them. Unfortunately, you don't have to look very hard to find that this right is often denied. So forgive me if I find Higgins' claim that she's fighting for kids by fighting against gay and lesbian families to be completely ludicrous and deeply offensive.

► Boy Scouts

Continued from p. 11

on behalf of the millions of youth and adult members who make scouting what it is today – an organization providing life-changing opportunities to today's youth."

In May, the Scouts approved a resolution removing any ban on members based on sexual orientation alone, with more than 60 percent of the BSA's National Council –1,400 delegates – voting to end a 100-year ban on openly gay scouts.

End The Ban Efforts

However, the policy change, which takes effect on January 1, 2014 does not include adult Scout leaders.

It was back in April 2012 when GLAAD urged the Boy Scouts to end its ban on gay Scouts and gay leaders after Jennifer Tyrrell, a mom and den leader from Bridgeport, Ohio, was removed from her 7-year-old's Cub Scout pack for being gay. Tyrrell's Change.org petition garnered hundreds of thousands of signatures in support of ending the ban.

Similarly, in August 2012, the Lincoln Heritage Council and Boy Scouts of America forced Greg Bourke, who acknowledged being gay, to resign a scoutmaster position in Louisville, Kentucky after five years of service.

Bourke who has two children with his partner of 31 years, was an associate scoutmaster, but was forced to limit his involvement with his son's troop.

Reached by phone, Bourke, who still remains active in his son's troop albeit unofficially, voiced hope that Gates' selection will continue the Boy Scouts march toward full equality.

"Oh my gosh, I am encouraged," Bourke said, going on to add that with Gates' history of "working toward full inclusion in the military, I think he has the experience and is the right person" to bring about change "in an organization like the Boy Scouts, which closely resembles the military."

Out magazine recently named Bourke to its OUT100 annual list of influential LGBTs.

More than 4,500 signatories on a Change.org petition have called specifically for Bourke's re-instatement.

In all, more than 1.9 million people have joined Change.org petition campaigns seeking a complete end to BSA discrimination based on sexual orientation. To date such advocacy efforts have succeeded in getting two Boy Scout board members – AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson and Ernst and

Young CEO James Turley – to speak out against BSA's anti-gay bias.

Additionally, Change.org petitions, along with efforts by GLAAD and Scouts for Equality, have pressured donors like the Intel Foundation and the UPS Foundation to pull funding until the Boy Scouts ends the ban on Scout leaders.

Last fall, a Bay Area mother, Karen Andresen of Moraga, petitioned her local Boy Scout council to honor her

“His credentials as a conservative and somebody with a military background, combined with the actual hands-on experience of undoing discrimination, hopefully signals [the BSA's] commitment to finish the job it started, getting the Boy Scouts back on track by removing entirely the discrimination, not just part or it.”

- Freedom to Marry's Executive Director, Evan Wolfson

son Ryan with an Eagle Award that was denied to him when Ryan came out as gay. An official Eagle Board of Review unanimously approved Ryan's application for Eagle, but a Boy Scout executive ultimately rejected his application.

Andresen's online Change.org petition has garnered more than 450,000 signatures. The petition asks leadership from Troop 212 and the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council "to reject the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory anti-gay policy and to give Ryan Andresen the Eagle Award he's earned."

New Youth Group

News of Gates' selection to head the Boy Scouts comes shortly after former BSA members and officials launched a Christian-based alternative organization called Trail Life USA.

More than 1,200 people gathered in Nashville, Tennessee for two days in early September to jump-start the new group. Co-founder John Stemberger told NBC News in July that Trail Life would allow gay boys to join, but they would not be permitted to "flaunt" their sexual orientation.

"We're going to focus on sexual purity, not sexual orientation," he said.

Stemberger of Orlando, Florida, is also a founder of OnMyHonor.net, an online coalition opposed to the BSA's vote in late May to change its membership policy to permit gay Scouts.

United Way chapters in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York have cut funds to the BSA – all in reaction to the ban on gay Scout leaders, according to the Associated Press.

AP also reported that nearly 90 percent of the 1,200 local United Way chapters nationwide provide BSA funding, totaling \$81.9 million.

Just as religious-right spokespersons were displeased with Gates' role in overturning "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," so they are unhappy with his selection and potential leadership role in dismantling anti-gay bias in scouting. For example, a columnist for the fundamentalist Christian website worldmag.com, Warren Cole Smith, termed Gates' selection a "fruit-basket-turnover," and groused about BSA spokesman Deron Smith's refusal to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, as the struggle for scouting equality continues, Freedom to Marry's executive director, Evan Wolfson, offered an assessment of the battle's overall significance for the larger LGBT movement.

"It's always been important because the Boy Scouts is an important opportunity for young people," he said.

The ban, Wolfson added, was a "terrible message of discriminatory stigma that was not good for our nation's youth."

The Boy Scouts is "an iconic institution that signifies something," he went on to explain over the telephone. "So our beginning to undo this discrimination signifies something about the larger movement both within society and with scouting, as younger parents and Scouts themselves that didn't want this policy to remain.

"There is also something to be said about how our success in undoing military discrimination is now being used to undo scouting discrimination, which at an earlier stage was modeled on military discrimination," added Wolfson. "There is something satisfactory about the way in which our victory is building on itself."

Like other gay rights leaders, Wolfson praised Gates' selection as president-elect.

"His credentials as a conservative and somebody with a military background, combined with the actual hands-on experience of undoing discrimination, hopefully signals [the BSA's] commitment to finish the job it started, getting the Boy Scouts back on track by removing entirely the discrimination, not just part or it."

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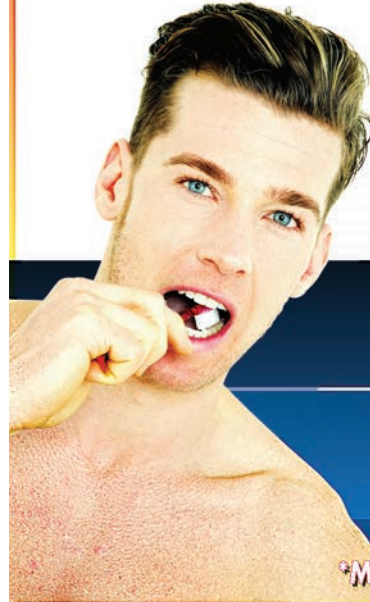
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Funny Girl

Comedian Sarah Silverman Talks Poop, Miley & Gay Jokes

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

There's nothing too taboo for Sarah Silverman. Not AIDS, not poop.

And in her 20-year career – which began in 1993 with a spot on “Saturday Night Live,” and then led to a hit comedy special, “Jesus is Magic,” and her own sitcom, “The Sarah Silverman Program” – the comedian has established

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herself as one of the ballsiest voices of our time.

With an all-new HBO special,

“We Are Miracles,” on Nov. 23 – and her gig before that, on Nov. 16, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre – Silverman caught up with us to talk about crushing on Patti LuPone, her pre-show jam and being “older and wiser and dumber.”

I saw a children's book the other day called “Why Dogs Eat Poop.” Guess who it reminded me of?

Aww, was it me?

Of course it was you.

I knew it was either gonna be me or Helen Mirren.

How gay can we expect this Detroit show to be?

I'd give it a 6.

A 6 on the Kinsey Scale? That's the gayest. But you attract all sorts, really.

It's so weird that I have such a random and eclectic demographic,

like the old, the young, the gay, the gayer.

And the 6s?

(Laughs) The 6s!

Your style of satirical comedy, where you make fun of just about every group of people, seems to have the ability to unite people. When you look out at your audiences, do you feel that way too?

See Sarah Silverman, page 16

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► Sarah Silverman

Continued from p. 14

Aww, yeah. Half of it is the energy in the room. It's like sometimes you listen to Howard Stern and you might think he sounds like he's being really mean, but if you're in the studio and you saw the mischievous smile on his face, it's a totally different thing going on.

What's your special ritual before you hit the stage?

I write out a set list and yell at myself for waiting until the last minute. And I have a sugar-free Red Bull.

No sugar?

No. There are drugs they put in it. Whatever it is. It's the "limitless" pill. Oh god, I want the limitless pill so bad.

Have you ever felt badly or regretted a joke you made?

Yeah, I never wanna make anyone feel bad, but I also know that's not possible. Everyone who watches comedy, they're watching in the context of their own life experience, so you don't know what's gonna catch someone.

Just recently the tables were turned and you were hurt by some age jokes during "The Roast of James Franco" on Comedy Central.

I wanna be so protective of the rules of the roast, which is that there are none and that anything goes – and I protect that. I would never want to change anything that was said. It just was separate from the roast, and I said brutal things – that's just how it is. But it's separate from that. It just illuminated things for me in my life, and you're right – it is just like that. In the context of my life, that stuck. It's like, I had feelings! But I still loved it. And I feel like I'm better for it because it forced me to deal with stuff. You know, Jonah (Hill) said the same thing. He said, "Everything that is my biggest fear in life was said tonight and I lived through it," so there's something cathartic about it as well.

Did it make you rethink your approach to comedy and how something you say could offend someone, as well?

No, no, no. First of all, I don't talk about specific people in general. I mean, not as a rule, but I don't tend to in my stand-up. Roast is a very specific thing.

You push buttons, though. When does a gay joke become offensive?

Well, what is a gay joke? Where, like, homosexuality is the joke? Is the punchline? I don't see that a lot right now. That's in an ugly past. Hopefully perceptions are finally changing with

“Not that it's autobiographical at all – it's still lies – but it's just what I'm into now. Like, I'm older and wiser and dumber.”

these fucking idiots.

How much thought goes into what you wear onstage?

Very little. I find an outfit I feel comfortable in – or that I did well in (laughs) – and I just wear it until I have to wash it. I'm just kidding. I do laundry.

You do your own laundry?

I do, actually. I'm in a building, so I don't even have my own washer and dryer. There's just one for every floor. It's like me ... and people's maids.

Your comedy special, "We Are Miracles," sounds very inspiring. Will we be inspired?

Yeah, I hope that you'll leave that show completely changed. Just kidding. I mean, maybe a little bit. But probably not.

What can you say about the special?

All I can say is that the special is mind-blowing and life-changing for the viewer. It's just a really honest reflection – either literally or figuratively – of where I'm at right now, just in my life. Not that it's autobiographical at all – it's still lies – but it's just what I'm into now. Like, I'm older and wiser and dumber. It's different than my first special. It doesn't digress into other videos or things. There's a scene at the beginning and at the end, but besides that, it's just the live performance. It's just the standup special with a teeny-tiny audience – just 39 people.

Tell me there will be poop jokes.

Why of course, baby! There's at least one.

If comedy didn't exist, what would you be doing with your life?

I'd work with chimps and apes and monkeys – be a Dian Fossey type. I mean, I'd want to, like, always be by a really nice bathroom. So, close to Dian Fossey but with a nice place to stay.

You'll soon star alongside Patti LuPone on HBO's "People in New Jersey," which is being produced by Lorne Michaels.

Oh my god! I don't even know

what to say about Patti LuPone. She's everything you could dream of and so much more. I knew I was a huge fan. I knew I was excited. But she is the most awesome. She is so cool, she's so funny and her improv skills are crazy. I mean, I couldn't keep it together. She's the coolest. I think I have a crush on her.

And she's gonna be your mother. How does it feel living the dream of every gay man on earth?

It feels so right.

What's coming up for you?

What do I wanna tell you? Well, I'll be in Detroit. Can't wait to get there. You'll see most of the special before it airs, plus the special I'm working on after this. Then I'll have nothing. Once the special airs, I'm at zero.

OK, the lightning round.

Holy shit.

Lady Gaga or Katy Perry?

Katy Perry. I just like "Firework." I love that song. So good. And "Roar" – I like "Roar," too! I love any kind of anthemic music.

Is "Roar" your pre-show pump up song?

(Laughs) Honestly, for a while, it was.

Miley Cyrus or Hannah Montana?

Miley Cyrus. I mean, I love "The Climb" and "Party in the U.S.A." but I'm interested in what she's doing now. She's expressing herself. She's got the right to express herself. She's 20 or something. It'll be interesting to see where it leads.

Eminem or Coolio?

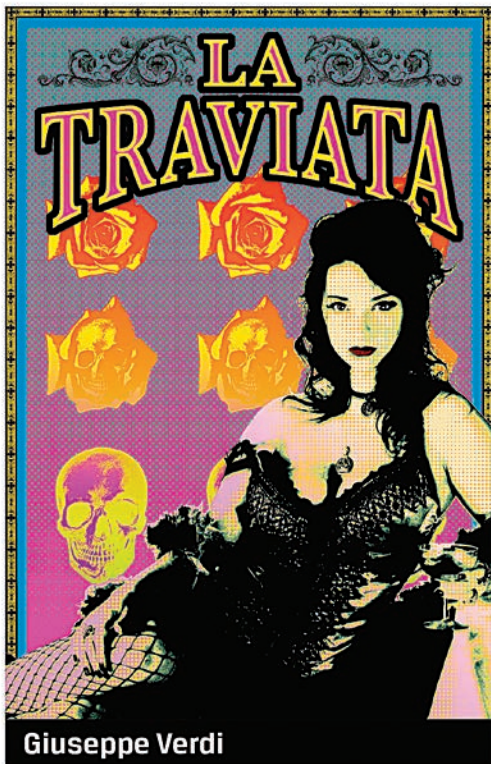
No Doubt.

What's the meaning of life?

I don't know, but it involves Nerds Rope.

Any last words?

No.



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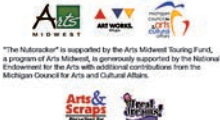


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Sex, Lies & Lesbians

'Blue Is The Warmest Color' Is A Must-See

BY GARY M. KRAMER

The extraordinary Cannes Palme d'Or-winning French film "Blue is the Warmest Color," about a teenage lesbian's coming of age, has become famous for its lengthy and explicit sex scenes, but this powerful film should be celebrated more for Adèle Exarchopoulos' phenomenal performance in the lead role. The actress gives an incredibly nuanced portrait of a young woman finding her way in the world, and herself in the process.

Adèle is a high school student who is studying literature in the film's early scenes. The pupils talk about "something missing" for the character they are reading about, and the same can be said of Adèle. Although she flirts with – and eventually has sex with – Thomas (Jérémy Laheurte), a handsome student in her class, she feels like she is faking things with him.

Adèle secretly knows this to be true because when she spies Emma (Léa Seydoux), a blue-haired beauty on the street, she is intrigued and distracted. She later fantasizes about this stranger while masturbating.

"Blue is the Warmest Color" gets into Adèle's head throughout the film, and director and co-writer Abdellatif Kechiche shoots his protagonist often in close-up to emphasize this. Shots of Adèle sleeping, eating, watching a movie, smoking a cigarette and crying (which she does easily) reveal much about her character. Exarchopoulos does a remarkable job conveying expressions that belie Adèle's

complex emotions.

Her angst is palpable. When a fellow student kisses her, it has the impact of legitimizing Adèle's same-sex desires. However, the relationship quickly goes nowhere, although it awakens Adèle's desires to go off to a gay club with her friend Valentin (Sandor Funtek). It is in a lesbian bar that Adèle meets Emma, and the pair hit it off over drinks. They bond further upon their next few meetings, suddenly developing an intense relationship as Emma, an artist, sketches her new girlfriend. An intimate picnic the girls share leads to one of the aforementioned sex scenes.

A three-hour romantic drama, "Blue is the Warmest Color" hits its stride in its second hour, when Adèle's relationship with Emma takes over the narrative. While Adèle's high school friends grill her about her mysterious new friend Emma, the film avoids a coming-out scene and instead portrays the responses Adèle's peers have to her lies and reactions to being called a lesbian. Likewise, as the young lovers each meet the other's parents, Adèle never quite reveals the extent of her relationship with Emma to her own folks, who think the blue-haired girl is helping their daughter study philosophy. There is no drama about the girls being "caught" in bed, or any other obvious moments that would unbalance this delicate romance.


In fact, that some of the typically big dramatic moments happen off screen (or not at all) is critical to the success of the film. "Blue is the Warmest Color" is

absorbing because viewers are keyed into Adèle's world and how she navigates it. When she lies, makes mistakes or reaches under her bed for her stash of candy to comfort her following an emotional scene, the audience can sympathize with her – or choose not to.

Part of what makes Exarchopoulos' performance so enthralling is that the actress is not afraid to show Adèle at her most vulnerable. The sex and nude scenes certainly illustrate the actress's bravery, but her crying scenes are long, messy sequences, and her heated exchanges with her high school friends, or Emma, when the lovers fight, are painful and hyper-realistic.


As viewers get a glimpse into the emotional rollercoaster of Adèle's life, they become absorbed in it. The film is quite long; it could be slightly edited. A series of extended scenes in the last third depict Adèle realizing her dream to be a teacher, but some of these episodes go on too long. It makes sense why they are included (to show the maturation of the character), but watching her teaching children in a classroom does not do much to advance the plot.

That said, these moments lead to a scene in a restaurant between Adèle and Emma that is one of the most astonishing sequences in any film this year. It's best not to explain more about it or the way the lovers' relationship unfolds as that provides much of the magic of this film – but their romance does emphasize the old adage that whoever has the least interest in the relationship controls it.



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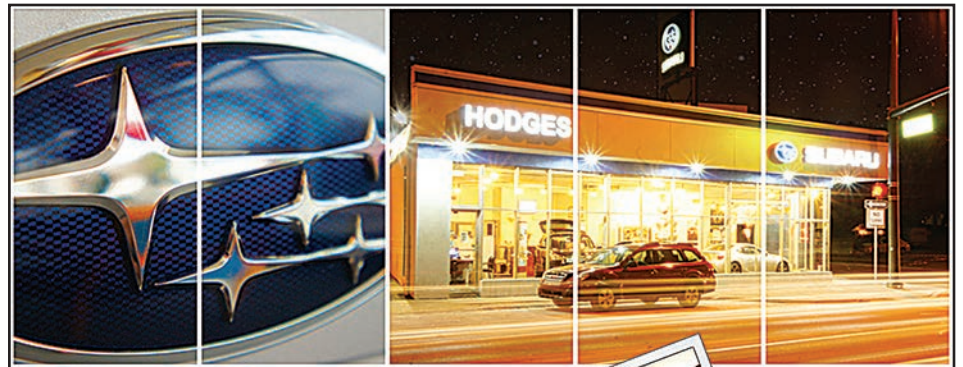


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EXPIRES 10/31/2013

Womyn's Film Night Screens LGBT Movies In Ferndale

BY SHELBY CLARK

The holiday season is coming, and with jingle bells and huge displays of red and green comes movie season. However, until December rolls around, metro Detroiters might find themselves pining for quality film.

Luckily, Ferndale's own Affirmations has been hosting a weekly movie meet-up, Womyn's Film Night, for quite some time. The group hosts various films, generally independent, each week involving women's issues, LGBT issues, etc. The social group hosts discussion on each movie.

The next meet up will screen "Circumstance." The winner of a Sundance Audience Award for Best Drama, the film centers around Iranian teen girls Atafeh and Shireen (played by Nikohl Boosheri and Sarah Kazemy, respectively) as they explore their "forbidden attraction" to one another in modern-day Tehran.

Other focuses in the movie include Mehran (Reza Sizo Safai), Atafeh's brother, who returns home after drug rehab and faces dismay at his sister's actions. Instead of following his dream to become



"Circumstance" will screen at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at Affirmations.

a classical musician, Mehran becomes a member of Iran's "morality police."

Maryam Keshavarz, the writer and director, is an Iranian woman who left her country for America. An open bisexual, Keshavarz received her MA in Near Eastern studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Previous films shown during Womyn's Film Night include "The Iron Lady" and "This is How We Do It." Future movies to

be shown in November include a lesbian vampire film, "She Likes Girls," and "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Womyn's Film Night takes place at 7 p.m. every Friday, unless otherwise specified in BTL's calendar or at www.goaffirmations.org. "Circumstances" will be screened on Nov. 15.

For more information on the weekly event, call Affirmations at 248-398-7105 or e-mail jjenkins@goaffirmations.org



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 14

62nd Annual Jewish Book Fair
Will feature leading figures from the arts, entertainment, politics, business, journalism and much more, including an opening night appearance by Jeffrey Toobin, author, staff writer at The New Yorker and senior legal analyst with CNN. The event will end with an intimate conversation with entertainer and author, Michael Feinstein, of The Gershwins and Me: A Personal History in Twelve Songs. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. info@theberman.org Jccdet.org/bookfair

Trending with Scott's 11 a.m. New monthly design class hosted by Interior Designer Tom Verwest. Free. Scott Shuptrine Interiors, **Royal Oak**. 248-549-9105. Scottshuptrine.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

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

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, Nov. 15

Ninth Annual Ann Arbor Wine Cellar 6:30 p.m. An evening of live jazz and a tasting of the season's best holiday wine, delicious appetizers and rich European style chocolates. At the heart of the event

is a raffle of over 100 bottles of wine donated by celebrities, wine collectors, bon vivants, sports figures and chefs. Over 50 bottles of wine go to one lucky winner an instant wine cellar! HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 2275 Platt Road, **Ann Arbor**. Hivaidresource.org

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

Saturday, Nov. 16

Health & Wellness Expo 8:30 a.m. Community-wide expo will focus specifically on issues of importance to the black community, including HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, mental health, domestic violence and smoking cessation. Topics will include HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, addition, mental, domestic violence and smoking cessation. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Ameriprise Financial National Day of Service with Feeding America 10 a.m. Volunteer to end hunger. Must be 12 or older to participate. Ameriprise Financial, 21800 Greenfield Road, **Oak Park**. 248-827-1230. jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

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

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

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

Clinical Issues & Sexual Orientation: A Training for Therapists 8:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Nov. 17

Joel Dertner 3 p.m. Author of Lawfully Wedded Husband. Tickets: \$18. Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5467. Jgnmi.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. A new topic is discussed each week. GOAL, 714 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Nov. 18

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

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

Tuesday, Nov. 19

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

Trans/Genderqueer Peer Group 4 p.m. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. www.emich.edu/igbtrc

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.

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

Interweave 6:15 p.m. A spiritual home to LGBTQ and all family and allies. Potluck begins every meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-665-6158. Uuaa.org

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

See Happenings, page 24



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Editor's Pick

Timothy Pachirat, PhD, will be in Ferndale this week to discuss his book, "Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight." Focusing on discussing the routine of killing for human consumption, the talk focuses on the American slaughter industry. The event is being sponsored by the Michigan Humane society.

Pachirat is an assistant professor in politics at the New School for Social Research. The writer went undercover for more than five months in a slaughterhouse in the Great Plains and decided to document the "violent labor" he witnessed. His book will also be on sale at the event, with proceeds going to the Michigan Humane Society and Animals & Society Institute.

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21 at the Gerry M. Kulick Community Center, 1201 Livernoise St., Ferndale. Tickets for the event are \$20, \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call 248-283-5671 or e-mail jswaney@michiganhumane.org.

To Grandmother's House We Go

BY JOHN QUINN

There are rough spots on the long road to healing. One man's journey is the subject of Amy Herzog's dramatic comedy, "4000 Miles," a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company and director Christopher Bremer present this affecting story, one which proves that while the distance between generations is long, the trip is worth the trouble.

The 21-year-old non-conformist, Leo Joseph-Connell (Joseph Seibert), sets off with his best – and probably his only – friend to bicycle cross country, Seattle to NYC. The fact that they live in Minnesota is only a minor inconvenience; they bike to the West Coast. The distance from the Twin Cities to New York via Seattle is a little over 4,000 miles – thus the title of the play.

The trip turns bizarrely tragic, but Leo, already alienated from his family and girlfriend, is determined to continue so he can "dip his front tire in the Atlantic Ocean." He turns up at three in the morning on the West Village doorstep of his maternal grandmother, Vera (Henrietta Hermelin), 91 years old and still an inveterate non-conformist herself. "I'm here because I don't know where else to be," he says. Though the reunion is as frosty and brittle as an icicle, the odd couple settles down for a month-long visit, during which Leo finally takes the time to come to terms with himself.

"4000 Miles" escapes some really stilted dialogue in its first act to become a very real, funny/sad script in the second. Act II, Scene 1 finds free spirit Vera sharing a pipe of righteous weed with her grandson. The drug-addled conversation that results from loosened



Joseph Seibert and Henrietta Hermelin in "4000 Miles." Photo: JET

REVIEW

4000 Miles

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 1, plus Wednesday, Nov. 20 & 27. 2 hours, 10 minutes. \$41-48. 248-788-2900.

www.jettheatre.org

tongues is so vivid it touched off a round of light applause opening night. This second act is also when Lydia Hiller so well interprets the emotional turmoil troubling "Bec," Leo's erstwhile girlfriend. It even has a little comic relief in the person of Leo's one night stand, outrageously over-the-top Amanda, played in dead-on Valley Girl style by Arianne Villareal.

Ultimately, though, the drama hinges on the evolving relationship between Leo and Vera. Youthful Joseph Seibert and ever-youthful Henrietta Hermelin enjoy the chemistry necessary to enliven the gradual understanding that grows between the pair. Understanding leads to truth. Although two generations separate the pair, they find that they're not too different.

Amy Herzog fashioned the character of Vera Joseph from the "words, habits and history" of her own grandmother. I recognize how real the character is, as her plaintive cry about how "disgusting" it is "not being able to find my words" could have been uttered by my 90-year-old mother. Novelist Jack Kerouac wrote, "Someday I'll find the right words and they'll be simple." Both Vera and Mother know that. In a time of crisis, it's the simple words that matter most.

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SHOP LGBT

► Happenings

Continued from p. 22

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 20

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

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

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

A Night of Dysfunctional Comedy 7:30 p.m. Part of the "Coming Together 2013" conference. Mark Lundholm uses comedy

to break down the walls, shame and denial surrounding substance abuse. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, Kalamazoo. Comingtogetherkalamazoo.org

Book Talk & Signing 7:30 p.m. Sandra Novacek for Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance. Border Crossings, 15175 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park.

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, Nov. 21

Coming Together 2013: A Conference on Addiction and Recovery 8 a.m. Tickets: \$95. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, Kalamazoo. www.comingtogetherkalamazoo.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.

Trans 201: Exploring Gender and Identity 11:30 a.m. Workshop. Light lunch provided. College for Creative Studies, Detroit. Rebeckakling.com

An Evening with Timothy Pachirat, PhD 7 p.m. "Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight" presented by Dr. Timothy Pachirat, Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics at The New School for Social Research. Tickets: \$20. Animals & Society Institute and Michigan Humane Society, 1202 Livernois Street, Ferndale. 248-283-5671. JSwaney@michiganhumane.org Michiganhumane.org



Jay Kaplan

Editor's Pick

Ferndale's Affirmations hosts "Clinical Issues & Sexual Orientation - A Training for Therapists" this weekend. The event, open to both professionals and students, will give an overview of working with LGBT people. Affirmations is hoping to see social workers, licensed counselors, psychologists, physicians and more at the event.

Various clinical educators, including metro-Detroit's Jay Kaplan, JD, will be on hand to discuss various topics. Some points of discussion include clinical concerns over stigma, the stages of coming out, and more. Lunch, refreshments

and training materials will be provided.

The event is held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15 and 16. Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. Admission into the seminar ranges from \$95-185. For more information, visit www.goaffirmations.org.

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Michigan Philharmonic "Highland Pipes" Nancy Tunnicliffe, highland bagpipes. Peter Elyakim Taussig, composer. Side-by-side performance with MPYO Sinfonia. First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Michiganphil.org

The Cathedral Music Society "Arabesque in Memoriam" Tickets: \$5-10. The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3 p.m. Nov. 17. 313-831-5000.

CONCERTS

Jazz Cafe "Mike Stern" Tickets: \$30-40. 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Nov. 19 - Nov. 19. 313-887-8500. Jazzcafe.detroit.com

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts "Gino Vennelli" Tickets: \$30-50. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. MusicHall.org

Olympia Entertainment "Jaheim" Tickets: \$39.50-79.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "India Arie" A Songversation with India Arie. Tickets: \$43-53. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 17. 800-745-3000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Toad the Wet Sprocket" Tickets: \$25-45. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Nov. 14. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Vincent York's Jazzistry's Tribute to Stan Getz & Gerry Mulligan" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "JC Brooks & The Uptown Sound and Escort" Tickets: \$15+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Nov. 15. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Mazzy Star". Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 15. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Film Theatre "Detroit Unleaded." Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 13 - Nov. 19. 313-833-

7900. Dia.org/DFT

Michigan Theater "Monday Funnies Film Series" Classic comedies every Monday evening. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 9 - Dec. 9. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Real to Reel: Blood Brother" Tickets: \$5-7. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. Nov. 14. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

THEATER

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Bloodhounds! \$15. Get A Clue Mystery Theatre at Farmington Masonic Lodge, 23715 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Nov. 15 - 16. 248-536-2447.

Gulliver's Travels \$5-8. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at WCC College Theater, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor. Nov. 14 - 17. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

Hollywood and Hyde \$12-15. Emergent Arts, Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Nov. 22. 734-961-8704. emergentarts.com

Songs From the Silver Screen \$7-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 16. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Treasure Island \$5-7. The All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Through Nov. 16. 517-333-2580, ext.0. Cityofeastlansing.com/allous

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

See Happenings, page 27

Gross Indecency:

The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

by Moisés Kaufman

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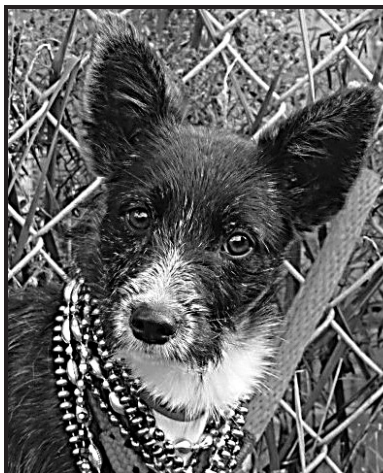
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01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
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A Couple of guys*
by Dave Brusseman
 "And Baby Makes Four"

Panel 1: "I CAN'T GET OVER IT. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY!"

Panel 2: "HE IS BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T HE?"

Panel 3: "WHEN MARIA TOLD US SHE WAS PREGNANT, AND WOULD BE RAISING THE BABY WITH TIM AND ANDY, WE WEREN'T HAPPY."

Panel 4: "BUT I HAVE TO SAY, BOTH OF THEM HAVE CERTAINLY STEPPED UP TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY."

Panel 5: "AT LEAST WE KNOW THAT OUR GRANDSON WILL GROW UP SURROUNDED BY LOVING PARENTS... THREE OF THEM!"

Panel 6: "RIGHT. BUT THEY SENT THOSE PICTURES AN HOUR AGO! WHAT ARE THEY DOING? WHY CAN'T WE GO BACK THERE?"

Panel 7: "WANNA HOLD MY SON?"

Panel 8: "YOUR SON?"

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

S	A	M	E	L	A	B	S	S	N	A	G		
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Editor's Pick

With sold out audiences in Chicago and New York screaming for more, "50 Shades! The Musical" is returning to Detroit at the Fisher Theatre Nov. 15-16 for three performances.

"50 Shades! The Musical" opens with a ladies book club deciding to read "Fifty Shades of Grey." Through their interpretation of the novel, the audience is led on a

hilarious roller coaster ride of this unlikely bestseller. The show is full of dance numbers, 11 original songs and a live band backing the performance. Original songs include "They Get Nasty," "I Don't Make Love" and "There's a Hole Inside of Me."

Like the book series, "50 Shades! The Musical" is surely not for those under the age of 18, but does not cross boundaries that would make general audiences squirm. Tickets (all seats \$49) are on sale now at the Fisher Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster locations, and by phone at 1-800-982-2787.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 24

THEATER

American Soldiers \$10-12. WSU Studio Theatre at lower level of the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. Nov. 14 - 23. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

Blithe Spirit \$8-14. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Nov. 14 - 24. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/mtd

Ragtime \$5-20. The University Theatre at Shaw Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex at Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Nov. 14 - 24. 269-387-6222. wmutheatre.com

Snow White \$8-15. Henry Ford Community College Theatre Arts, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Nov. 15 - 24. 313-845-9817. theatre.hfcc.edu

PROFESSIONAL

4000 Miles \$41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 1. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

50 Shades! The Musical \$49. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 15 - 16. 800-982-2787. ticketmaster.com

A Christmas Carol \$18-41. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Nov. 15 - Dec. 22. 248-377-3300. mtheatre.com

A Facility for Living \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 29. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Buddy's Big Adventure \$17.50-32.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 22. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Collected Stories \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 17. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

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

Defending the Caveman \$38. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 14 - 24. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Dragons \$14-82. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Nov. 13 - 17. 800-745-3000. ticketmaster.com

Godspell \$60-65. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Nov. 22 - 23. 586-286-

2222. macombcenter.com

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

Irving Berlin's White Christmas \$15-28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Nov. 21 - Dec. 22. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Jerry's Girls \$27-46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 14 - Jan. 5. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Jigsaw Jones: The Case of the Class Clown \$10. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Nov. 22. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

La Traviata \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 16 - 24. 313-237-SING. motopera.org

Snow Girls \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 22 - Dec. 16. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

Spunk! The Fifty Shades Parody \$42. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

The Firebird \$10-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium at Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Nov. 21 - 24. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

The Shape of a Girl \$5-10. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Nov. 21. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

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

This is How it Goes \$5-20. Marygrove Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. Nov. 15 - 24. 313-993-3270. theatre.udmercy.edu

Two Guys and a Christmas Tree \$40 with turkey dinner; \$35 show-only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Dec. 21. 269-781-4293. turkeyville.com

Visiting Mr. Green \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Nov. 24. 313-967-0599. matrixtheatre.org

ART'N'AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Waylande Gregory: Art Deco Ceramics and the Atomic Impulse" Waylande Gregory (1905-1971) redefined American ceramics in the 1930s and 1940s, creating monumental ceramic

sculptures and helping to shape Art Deco design in the United States. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - March 23. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy" Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 13. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Krasl Art Center "In the Artlab: Andrews University Place Making Studio" Place making is a multi-faceted approach to planning, designing and utilizing spaces. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. Nov. 8 - Jan. 12. 269-983-0271. Krasl.org

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

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

Pewabic Pottery "Made by Hand: Detroit's Ceramic Legacy". Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 19 - Jan. 12. 313-833-1805. Pewabic.org

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

robert kidd gallery "Kevin Tolman: Recent Works" These paintings invite viewers to peer through tonal, multi-layered spaces to glimpse more frenetic underlying fields. robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Nov. 9 - Dec. 19. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.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 "Art a Loan" Juried student exhibition. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Nov. 13 - Dec. 8. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Annual Photography Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Oct. 16 - Nov. 16. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "2013 History of Art Freer Symposium: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings". Rackham Amphitheatre, Ann Arbor. 9 a.m. Nov. 15. Umma.umich.edu

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

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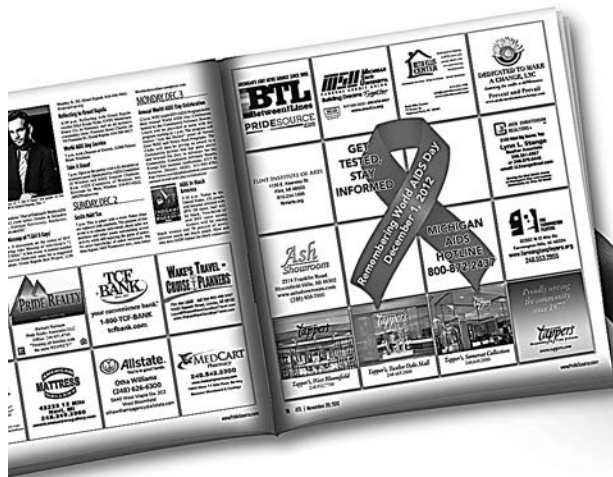
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The OutField

Sochi Olympics: Kick Butt And Take Names

BY DAN WOOG

In 1936 it was the Nazis. In 1980, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. 1984 brought retaliation for 1980. This year, it's treatment of gay people.

Another year, another threatened Olympic boycott.

As Russia criminalizes LGBT people – a new law threatens jail for anyone even acknowledging gay people on the Internet or in a classroom – a broad swath of people has called for a boycott of the Winter Games in Sochi. The Olympics begin on Feb. 7, 2014.

The list of boycott advocates includes current and former athletes, human rights organizations and Russian activists. Tony Award-winning Broadway star Harvey Fierstein's fiery op-ed piece in the New York Times helped fan the flames.

But support for a boycott is hardly universal. And many of those opposed to such a step are gay themselves.

Openly gay American figure skater Johnny Weir calls Russia's anti-gay laws "heartbreaking and a travesty of international proportions." However, he says, "there isn't a police officer or a government that, should I qualify, could keep me from competing at the Olympics."

Weir has a special dog in this fight. He is married to a Russian man.

John Carlos agrees. He too has an intriguing perspective. In 1968 – after placing third in the 200-meter race at Mexico City – Carlos and gold medal winner Tommie Smith raised black-gloved fists during the American national anthem. Smith described the act as a "human rights salute," not the "Black Power" gesture it was assumed to be. But the overtly political act has resonated since then.

Carlos says, "If you stay home, your message stays home with you. If you stand for justice and equality, you have an obligation to find the biggest possible megaphone to let your feelings be known. Don't let your message be buried and don't bury yourself. To be heard is to be greater than a boycott. Had we stayed home, we'd never have been heard from again."

Also on the anti-boycott bandwagon: Cyd Zeigler. The co-founder of Outsports – the Internet's premier LGBT sports website – is less concerned with politics than with the Olympics ideal.

"No athlete good enough to compete in the Olympics should ever be told by her country that she cannot fulfill her lifelong dream," he writes.

"The Olympics aren't about politics; they're about putting politics aside and competing in friendship. The LGBT community needs to go after politicians and government officials to affect change in Russia and leave the future

of Olympic athletes alone."

Zeigler says that most athletes get only one shot to compete in the Games. He cites openly gay gymnast Josh Dixon, who has worked for over a decade to attain his dream.

Dixon told the Washington Blade that having that work go for naught would be "gut-wrenching."

Hockey plays a huge role in the Winter Games – and it's a hugely popular sport in Russia. The National Hockey League has been in the forefront of supporting LGBT issues – it has partnered with the You Can Play project – and some of its public service announcements could be considered criminal offenses in Russia.

Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews told the Chicago Tribune, "A lot of athletes have expressed their thoughts (about the laws), and they're pretty much all the same...in that there's a disrespect for those attitudes and that narrow-mindedness. As athletes, we can express our feelings, and we don't have to stand for that train of thought at all. By no means are we standing up for those laws by competing at the Olympics."

Other straight allies are equally vocal. "I think it's absolutely embarrassing that there are countries and people who are that intolerant and that ignorant," five-time Olympic medal skier Bode Miller told the Washington Post. "But it's not the first time; we've been dealing with human rights issues probably since there were humans."

Zeigler has a solution. "Instead of walking away, LGBT athletes and their nations should march into Sochi holding their heads high." Harking back to 1936, when the U.S. resisted pressure to boycott the Berlin Olympics, Zeigler recalls Jesse Owens, the black athlete "who beat Hitler's 'master race' at his own game on his own track."

"We can do the same thing in Sochi," Zeigler urges. "Want to make the Olympics a gay spectacle? Beat the Russians on their own track. Help out LGBT athletes get onto the podium. The power of the community isn't to force governments to play politics but to lift up our brightest stars and help them, like Owens, deliver our message for us. You don't win in sports by walking away. You win by competing."

Gold medal-winning bobsledder Steven Holcomb agrees. "I think we should show up – pardon my French – and kick their (butt) and take names and go from there. That'd be such a bigger statement, in my mind."

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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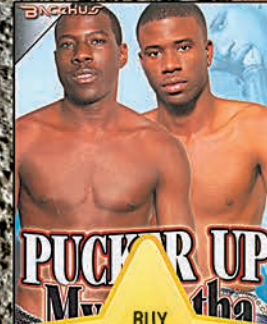
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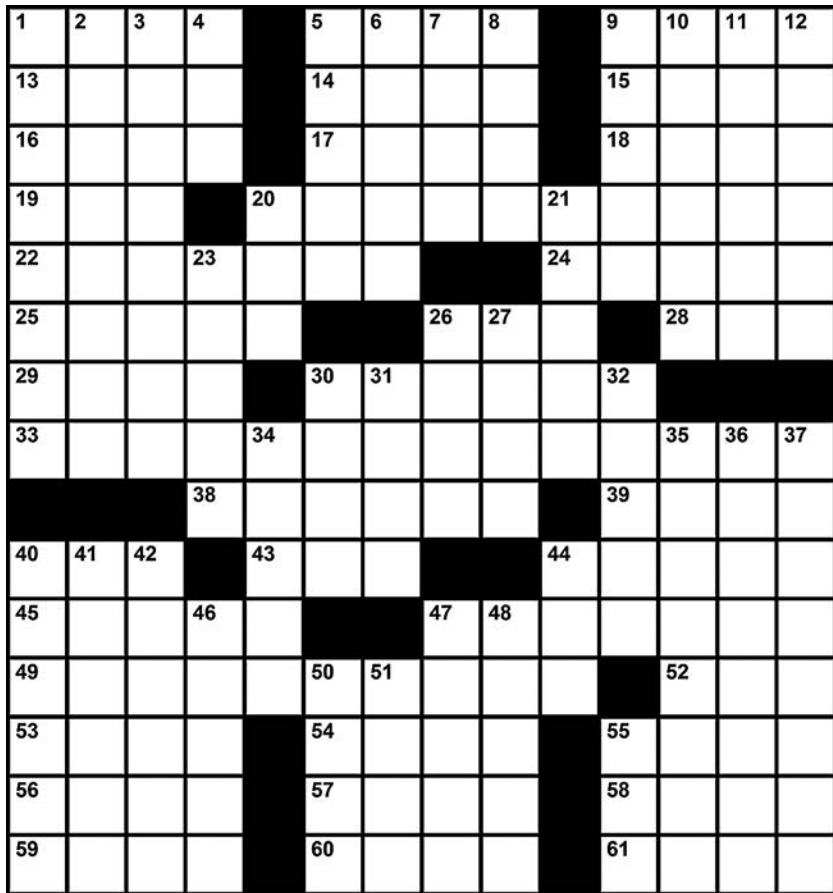
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Across

- 1 It comes before sex and marriage
 5 Techie workplaces, often
 9 Zipper problem
 13 Rainbow, to some
 14 Buck heroine
 15 Hair of a stallion
 16 Sunday service
 17 Caesar's last question
 18 Coffee containers
 19 Stalling sounds
 20 Start of a Judy Garland quote
 22 Ranch house
 24 Dossier about Uranus?
 25 Wolf's warning
 26 "Chicago" director Marshall
 28 It may be kissed
 29 Novel conclusion
 30 Don, as a nightie
 33 More of the quote
 38 Bartenders' servings
 39 Two queens, e.g.
 40 Pierce's rank on "M*A*S*H"
 43 Giant Mel
 44 He gives gifts in stockings
 45 Veronica of "Sotto, Sotto"
 47 Fuel used in heating
 49 End of the quote
 52 Texas sch.

- 53 Seasoning for Rick Rodgers
 54 Star of "There's Something About Mary"
 55 Begin to wake up
 56 Arab head
 57 Harold's problem in "The Boys in the Band"
 58 Fine-tune
 59 Grace, or will to be diplomatic
 60 Uses the mouth casually
 61 They may be split

Down

- 1 "Of Human Bondage" author Maugham
 2 Plant cultivated for food or flowers
 3 Sailor's dinner companion
 4 Tennessee Williams twosome
 5 "My Fair Lady" composer
 6 Place for vows
 7 Bean and Burke waved theirs around
 8 Give the cold shoulder
 9 Shirtless guy in hot pants
 10 Realm of C.S. Lewis
 11 Records of anal historians?
 12 Beaux ____ (noble deeds)
 20 Not in the pink

- 21 U-shaped river bend
 23 Communion offering at Metropolitan Community Church
 26 Diplomacy breakdown
 27 Makes a selection
 30 A gentleman might pull one out for his date
 31 Hit high, like Billie Jean's balls
 32 Mt. Everest locale
 34 One who handles your horse
 35 "The Weary Blues" poet Hughes
 36 Milk fortifier
 37 Evidence of rubber usage
 40 Many are out of it
 41 Colón locale
 42 Like Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"
 44 Was in session
 46 Not potent
 47 Sound of metal on metal
 48 Comes out slowly
 50 Aussie greeting
 51 Flaky mineral
 55 Brown's "Murder, ____ Meowed"

Solution on pg. 26

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