

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

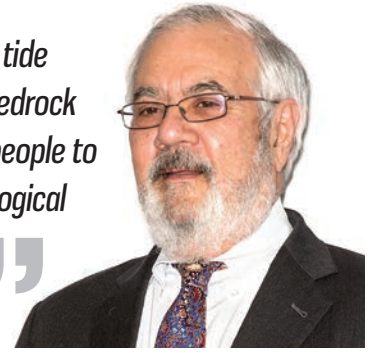


Business Coalition Pushes Update To Elliott-Larsen

Low-Income Residents To Have Coverage For PrEP

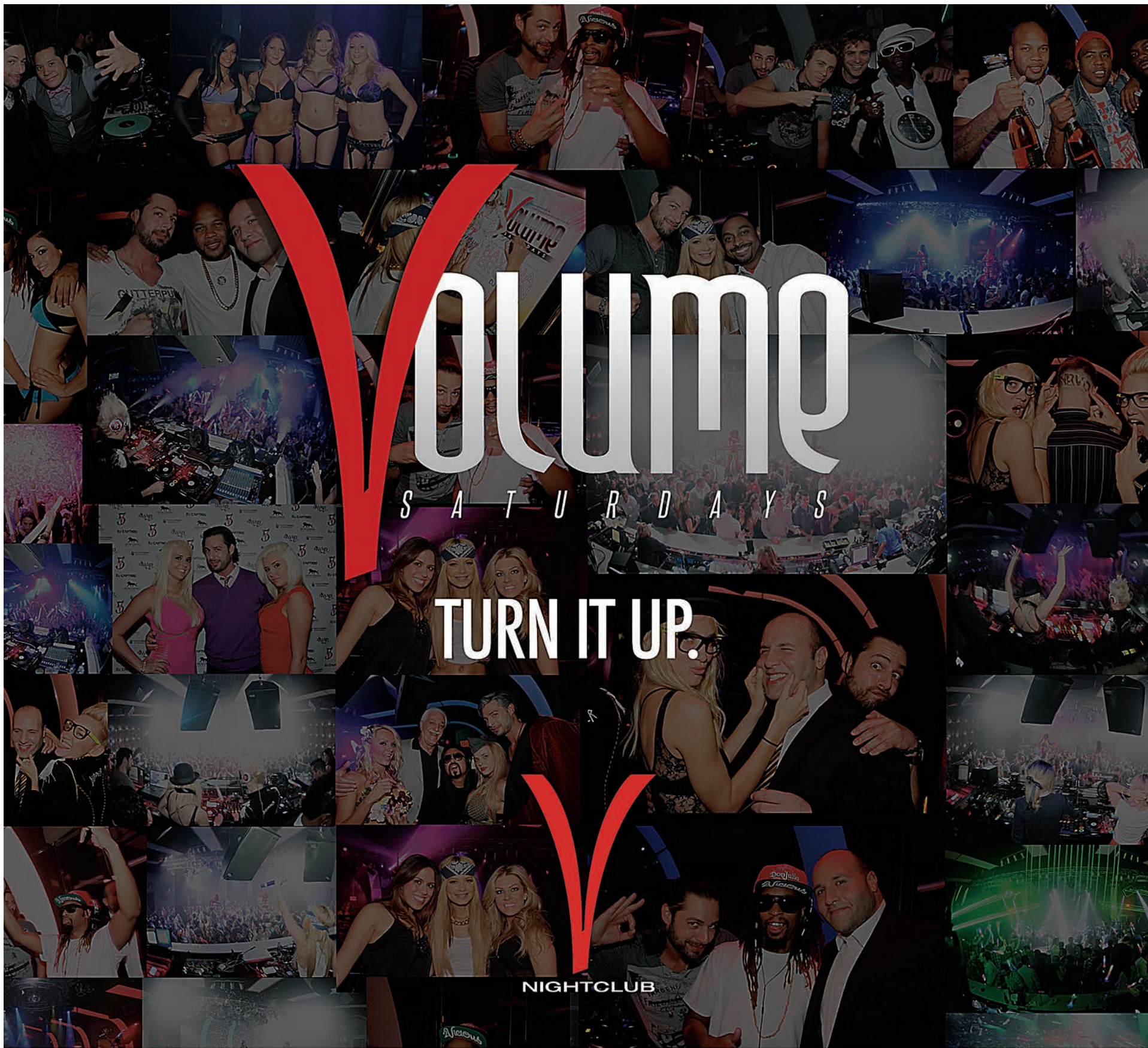
“What turned the tide against prejudice, the bedrock of it, was the ability of people to demonstrate what the logical end of prejudice was.”

— Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, pg 4



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COVER STORY

14 Dolly will always love you
Photo: Dolly Records



“Medical practitioners can recommend off-label use, but they cannot do so with the support of the manufacturer. That is exactly what is happening in Michigan and across the country. Public health officials are continuing to preach the condom gospel because CDC funding for HIV prevention and sexually transmitted infection work require condom messaging.”

– Todd Heywood, pg.9

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Job Opportunities For The Pride Season

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Former Congressman Barney Frank poses after delivering his remarks with Rudy Serra, who is running for state rep, and U.S. Rep Gary Peters. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

Former Congressman Barney Frank Speaks At Holocaust Exhibit Finale

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FARMINGTON HILLS - Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D - Mass.) spoke Sunday at the exhibit finale for "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945" at the Holocaust Memorial Center. Frank was originally slated to speak at the exhibit's opening in January, but an injury left him unable to travel.

Frank credited U. S Rep. Gary Peters (D - Mich.) for convincing him to come speak and it was Peters, who once served on the House Financial Services Committee Frank chaired, that introduced Frank to the crowd.

"Barney Frank has always spoken up for those who are voiceless," Peters said. "With Barney's retirement, the House lost one of its most brilliant and certainly one of its wittiest members."

Frank started his speech by thanking both the Jewish and LGBT communities who were major supporters of his while he served in Congress.

"I'm very pleased to say that it's absolutely the case that both communities understand that hatred spreads," he said. "People who hate one group who is

different from them are likely to hate another."

Regaling the crowd with stories from his early days, Frank said he once believed being gay and Jewish would hinder his chances for a career in public office. Yet Frank overcame both obstacles and spent an incredible 16 terms as a U.S. Congressman. He was a member of the House from 1981-2012, where he became known for his sharp intellect, sense of humor and his willingness to tackle tough issues. He has been a leader in the fight against discrimination and championed civil rights and financial reform.

In 1987, Frank became the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as openly gay. Then in 2012, he married his longtime partner, Jim Ready, and became the nation's first Congressman in a same-sex marriage while in office.

"I'm very proud that the Jewish community has been at the forefront of the fight against anti-LGBT prejudice," Frank told the crowd, before speaking about how moved he was by the exhibit.

"It's very relevant to remind people that the most vicious gang in the history of the world was the Nazis," he said. "No one

came close. And they did not point only at the Jews. The Nazis put most of their effort into trying to wipe out the Jews. But they went after gay men, they went after gypsies and they went after people with disabilities.

"It's important to show the breadth of the hatred," Frank continued. "The Holocaust held up a mirror to people to show what their hatred had caused."

Frank said that the success of other rights movements was spurred by the revelation of the horrors of the Holocaust.

"Every rights movement in America really dates to post-World War II in terms of its effectiveness," he said.

Frank closed by expressing his gratitude to the Holocaust Memorial Center for bringing in the exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

"I am particularly grateful to the Museum for this exhibit that shows the persecution of homosexuals," he said. "What turned the tide against prejudice, the bedrock of it, was the ability of people to demonstrate what the logical end of prejudice was. This museum,

Continued on next page

Michigan Business Coalition Forms To Push For Update of Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act

BTL STAFF REPORT

LANSING - Job providers from across Michigan's economic landscape announced May 1 the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition, a partnership of business leaders and their companies who have come together with the goal of working with public policy makers in Lansing to update Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The coalition also includes chambers of commerce and associations around the state.

"Rebuilding Michigan's economy means building Michigan's reputation as a state known for treating all people fairly, recognizing talent, rewarding hard work and a shared commitment to doing what it takes to strengthen our economy and attract jobs," said Jim Murray, President of AT&T Michigan.

Under ELCRA, it is illegal to subject people to differential treatment based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status or marital status. The ELCRA also prohibits employers from discriminating in hiring, compensation or the terms, conditions or privileges of employment. Currently, sexual orientation and gender identity are not included under the ELCRA.

"Together, our Michigan work ethic and our adherence to ideas of basic fairness and equality have been a cornerstone for our economy, creating jobs, opening opportunities, encouraging investment and supporting families," said Jim Murray, President of AT&T Michigan and Co-chair of the Michigan

Competitive Workforce Coalition. "Updating ELCRA to include the sexual orientation and gender identity of Michigan residents strengthens that cornerstone at the very time Michigan is pushing hardest toward economic recovery."

With the organization continuing to grow, founding members of the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition include AT&T, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Consumers Energy, The Dow Chemical Company, Google, Herman Miller, PADNOS, Steelcase, Strategic Staffing Solutions and Whirlpool Corporation.

Recent research shows an overwhelming majority of Michigan residents support updating ELCRA, and 33 communities across Michigan have already acted to update their civil rights ordinances to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Surveys of small business owners show that a strong majority - 60 percent - support amending ELCRA.

"Michigan's continued economic growth relies on keeping and attracting talented, hard working, determined people," said Brian Walker, CEO of Herman Miller and Co-chair of the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition. "Working alongside our state policy makers, leaders in Michigan's business community know that updating the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act is the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do, and now is the right time to do it."

Recent polling data shows 75 percent of the state's residents support amending ELCRA, including 56 percent of strong Republican voters and 64 percent of independent voters.

► Barney Frank

Continued from previous page

this particular exhibit ... this is an important ongoing part of this. People who want to perpetuate this type of prejudice don't have a stopping point."

Howard Israel, and his partner Henry Grix, were among the co-sponsors of the exhibit. Israel noted that Frank's remarks were right on point.

"The message about hate spreading is really quite timely," Israel said. "If you went through the exhibition about persecution of homosexuals by the Nazi regime and you read what the Nazis had to say, about gay men in particular, it's striking that anti-gay politicians are using the same exact venom and lies against gay people now that that Nazis did in the 1930s and 40s. So his words were very timely and pertinent to the hate that's going on in today's world."

Israel said the decision to become a co-sponsor of the exhibit was an easy one.

“It's important to show the breadth of the hatred. The Holocaust held up a mirror to people to show what their hatred had caused.”

- Barney Frank

"We thought it was courageous and really significant that the Holocaust Museum chose to run this particular exhibit," he said. "We thought it was a very timely gesture to the general community that anti-gay rhetoric and anti-gay violence are not new. It keeps recurring because hatred and ignorance keep returning."



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BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Local LGBTQ Services Look For Support On Give OUT Day

May 15th is the second annual national Give OUT Day! The national initiative engages hundreds of organizations and people to give in support of the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ groups across the United States are given a chance to “work across the wide range of issues and activities that matter to the LGBTQ community from sports to policy change, families to the arts.”

For the 24 hour period of May 15, LGBTQ and allies can not only come together to support their local and national LGBTQ organizations, but also help their groups get a chance to win additional prizes. Groups receiving donations from the greatest number of unique donors will be in the running.

The event is hosted by Bolder Giving, which makes no profit from the fundraising event. Since 2007, the non-profit has supported all members and groups in the LGBTQ community and has publicly celebrated would-be givers and those who give to charities. Funds are collected through Razoo, an online crowdfunding platform that has partnered with Bolder Giving. Razoo is a tax-exempt organization, and over 95% of contributions through Razoo are regranted to nonprofits.

Last year’s Give Out Day (May 9) resulted in a total of \$602,920 in contributions from over 5,000 different donors. Of these donors, over 700 donated for the first time to an LGBTQ organization, 25% gave more than they planned to and 35% gave to a new organization. The average Give Out Day gift for 2013 was \$102. Further demographics are available in infographic form on at www.giveoutday.org.

Some local nonprofits eligible for Give OUT Day contributions and the possibility to achieve more are: the Ruth Ellis Center, the Kalamazoo Gay-Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC), Elsie Publishing Institute, KICK, AFF and more (some may not appear on Give Out Day’s website).

Minimum donations are \$10. For more information, visit www.giveoutday.org.

BY LISA KEEN

**MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Russian LGBT March Allowed**

Russian authorities took no action May 1 to stop a contingent of 300 people marching behind a rainbow banner that said “Love is Stronger than Hate.” A report in GayStarNews.com said the march took place in St. Petersburg during a May Day parade in which many groups participated. Laws passed by Russia last year prohibit any public expression of support for LGBT people and authorities stopped similar demonstrations previously.

‘Such A Well-Chosen Plaintiff’

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told the Wall Street Journal that Edie Windsor, the plaintiff in last year’s successful case to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was “such a well-chosen plaintiff.” Often, legal groups do carefully choose their plaintiffs in test case litigation. But Windsor self-selected and then sought out attorney Roberta Kaplan to file her lawsuit, seeking repayment of more than \$363,000 in taxes she was ordered to pay on the value of her late spouse’s half of the estate. Ginsburg said, too, that she has never seen a social change as rapid as the one around marriage for same-sex couples and that she thinks it’s “just great that people who for years have been disguising what they were are now free to be what they are.”

Low-Income State Residents Will Have Coverage For PrEP

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Low-income residents of Michigan receiving Medicaid will have prescription coverage for Truvada, an anti-HIV drug proven to prevent HIV infections for those who are HIV-negative. The Michigan Department of Community Health confirms the drug will be covered for Medicaid patients.

“HIV drug therapies are covered, without prior authorization, as a Fee-For-Service pharmacy benefit for both Fee-For-Service and Health Plan enrolled Medicaid beneficiaries,” Angela Minicuci, spokesperson for MDCH, tells BTL in an email. “Coverage is unrestricted and available when a medical practitioner evaluates the Medicaid beneficiary and determines a prescription for HIV drug therapy is medically necessary. Ultimately, HIV drug therapy is covered regardless of whether the particular prescription is to treat a Medicaid beneficiary with HIV diagnosis or for exposure prophylaxis, etc.”

In 2011, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) reported that 17.4 percent of the state’s populations were covered by Medicaid, the state issued low-income insurance program. Another 16.8 percent of the state’s residents were covered by Medicare, the federal low-income insurance program. In that same year, nearly 34 percent of Michigan residents lived below 200 percent of poverty.

Using Truvada as a prevention method was approved by the FDA in July of 2012. It has been shown to be extremely effective when taken daily, but it is also expensive. The average 30 day supply costs a Michigan resident about \$1,200. Taking the drug for prevention is called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP.

Despite its effectiveness in preventing infection with HIV, the drug has been at the center of a national controversy. Michael Weinstein the head of the largest AIDS Service Organization in the country – AIDS Healthcare Foundation – came under withering criticism and calls for his resignation in April when he called the drug a “party drug” and rejected it. Many anti-PrEP advocates worry the new intervention will result in gay men in particular throwing caution to the wind and increasing their risk behaviors. However, studies show there is no risk compensation related to taking

PrEP, and in fact, participants in some studies showed a decreased number of unplanned sexual encounters.

For its part, MDCH officials have not yet endorsed or promoted PrEP as an effective and safe risk reduction intervention. In December, officials

“This is literally a drug that you can take to reduce your risk of contracting HIV. Why isn’t this available to everyone, everywhere?”

- Katelyn Tonge, an Albion College student leader

at MDCH told BTL the science was “promising,” but they were waiting for more information before embracing the intervention. That lack of embrace means the state has not issued formal guidance to the state’s health care providers and that could result in a lack of access to PrEP for many at risk persons.

A similar situation arose in 2010 when it was reported that the state had no official policy or guidance related to non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (n-PEP). In that intervention, a person who believes he or she has been exposed to HIV can obtain a prescription for a 28-day course of anti-HIV drugs. The intervention is time sensitive, however, in that a person must start the drugs within 72 hours of exposure, or they will not work. The later one starts the drugs, the less effective they are. Because the state did not have a comprehensive policy and guidance on n-PEP, a person in need could be denied access to the drugs, and an investigation by Michigan Messenger found that access often relied on where a person was in the state. It took the state 18 months to issue its n-PEP guidance, which mirrored the 2005 CDC guidance.

That refusal by MDCH to issue guidance or endorse PrEP as a prevention option is not sitting well with some Michigan activists.

“This is literally a drug that you can take to reduce your risk of contracting HIV. Why isn’t this available to everyone,

everywhere?” asks Katelyn Tonge, an Albion College student leader. “Attempts to marginalize PrEP, some going so far as to frame it as a ‘party drug,’ go along with the historical narrative that HIV is a punishment for risk behaviors. It is a blatant example of how active the stigma surrounding HIV really is. PrEP is a tool, and it’s an important one. PrEP offers individuals a chance to be active and empowered about their sexual health, a chance that shouldn’t be contingent on socio-economic status or stigma.”

Stevi Atkins, executive director of Wellness AIDS Services in Flint, says the lack of support from the state will continue to be a roadblock to access for the intervention in Genesee County.

“That’s great it will be covered,” Atkins says. “Too bad no one in Genesee County is prescribing it.”

She says the intervention isn’t on “anyone’s radar” without the state guidance.

Equality Michigan Victim Advocate Bryan Victor was hired late last year to specifically assist the organization in addressing HIV-related issues.

“Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an incredibly important tool in our efforts to curb the ongoing epidemic of HIV infections among transgender women, gay men and bisexual men in Michigan,” Victor said. “Equality Michigan is extremely pleased to learn that the Michigan Department of Community Health has confirmed that PrEP will be covered by Medicaid. Access for poor and working class folks, and in particular for young transgender women, gay men and bisexual men, has always been a leading concern when it comes to PrEP. This decision by MDCH moves Michigan a large step forward in removing the many barriers that limit its use by these groups. However, without a significant number of primary care providers who are willing and able to both prescribe PrEP and monitor its use, this coverage decision alone will have little impact. The next important step is for MDCH to issue recommendations and guidance on the use of PrEP to prevent HIV transmission to HIV/AIDS service organizations and primary health care providers, similar to what was released earlier this year by New York State Department of Health. Equality Michigan considers MDCH’s work on this matter to be incomplete until these steps are taken.”

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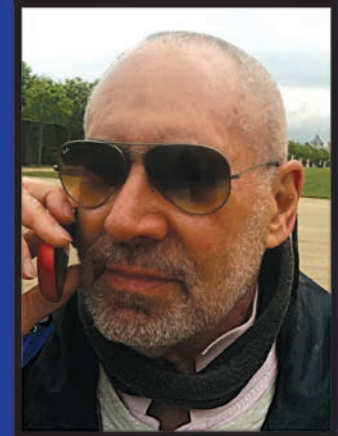
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My 10 Minutes In Heaven (Pt. 1)



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

DISCLAIMER: There are several accounts of afterlife experiences on the New York Times Best Seller list, including one by a three-year-old boy (with a little help from his dad). This is my account. Though tempted, I'm not writing for ready cash.

Just want to keep that IRS-tracking record, er, straight. Cross my heart. So said, I share . . .

It was, according to my cellphone, 12:02 a.m. Preoccupied with voice messages from a busy Sunday -- including, by coincidence, earlier guilt-free attendance at church -- I fall into an extra-large pothole for which tourist-traveled Michigan is noted and so favorably acclaimed nationally.

No sooner have I lost mortal consciousness when I see the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel." Intrigued, I move closer and closer, somewhat startled, pleasantly surprised, that the light is bright rainbow colored.

Not quite sure that I am, so to speak, "not in Kansas anymore," I cautiously look about, and while the afterlife streets here are not made of 14K gold, they're not unlike Dorothy's fabled MGM Yellow Brick Road.

Each brick carries a name and a date marked in cursive writing, "Came Out . . ." Some are centuries old, I'm sure.

Out of nowhere, ten thousand Off-Broadway voices begin to sing, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." The familiar anthem is interrupted by my cellphone ringing. (I pray my phone's brilliant pixel capacity does justice to the zillion pictures I'm planning to take.)

"Hey, Big Guy, welcome home. Go to Seventh Heaven Condos, corner Oscar Wilde Boulevard and Alice B. Toklas Avenue. Ask for Bobby Short, concierge. Say Between The Lines sent you. Bobby will love that."

I type in GPS: Gay People's Spiritual directions, kick up my heels -- suddenly realizing my size 13, EEE shoes are red -- and start to float effortlessly above a crowd of well wishers below me waving banners.

"Get you, Mary!" "You look Heavenly!" "Don't look a day over 30-something!" "Hubba Hubba!"

My aerial acrobatics are elating, joyful, free-spirited. "Surely, I'm dreaming," I say to myself as I soar effortlessly. My flight of new-found fancy lands me abruptly, but ever so softly, in front of an imposing temple, Many Mansions One-On-One. Its sign reads, Silence Is Never Golden.

Charles@pridesource.com

Discord And Distraction

In Connecticut, a 16-year-old transwoman of color is being held in an adult prison with no charges filed against her.

A doctor in Urbana, Ill. according to a lawsuit brought forth by Lambda Legal, told a trans woman that she "did not have to treat people like you." Assuming this is true, it is in violation of the Affordable Care Act.

Transgender actor and advocate Laverne Cox, in spite of a vast outpouring of votes for her inclusion, was snubbed by Time magazine and will not appear as one of their 100 most influential people of the year.

Transgender activists protested outside of the Smith College admission office to protest their policies against admitting transgender women. The school does not allow students who are born male if their applications identify them as such, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

Longtime transgender writer and performer Kate Bornstein is struggling for her life in the face of cancer, and once again the community is mobilizing to help cover her rather expensive medical costs.

Transgender people are being murdered, are committing suicide in staggering numbers and are being discriminated against in countless ways every second of the day.

The transgender community, however, is instead tightly focused right now on the divisions between itself and the drag community.

Fighting continues over RuPaul's Drag Race and it's season-opening segment called "Female or Shemale." The issues surrounding this have spread further, encompassing RuPaul's use of both "shemale" and "tranny" on the show. It has spilled out onto other issues, and people on all sides of the debate have taken up virtual arms against each other.

Open letters have been flung against a pair of long-time transgender activists who have opted to side with RuPaul's Drag Race, while the duo has fought back with their own counter offensive. Logo, as well as RuPaul's Drag Race, have finally offered up an apology and struck the words in question from their lexicon, but RuPaul took to Twitter to quietly compare the kerfuffle to George Orwell's book "Animal Farm."

Then Alaska Thunderfuck 5000, a drag artist, released a video called "RuPaul's Drag Race Season 76." In it, a mustachioed and blue haired "Twitter Account Owner" named "Joy Less" complains about the language of the show, initially getting some of it changed. After further complaint, Alaska mimics firing a hairdryer like a pistol, gunshots are heard, and "Joy Less" is seen with a bullet hole between her eyes.

This was unacceptable on all levels.

I tend to be a firm believer in keeping one's eyes on the prize. Infighting only

emboldens those who would seek to tear us down, and does little to move us forward. At the same time, I know that these have been issues simmering for a very long time: in their own ways RuPaul and Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 have simply moved a heated topic from the back burner to the front.

"Season 76" aside, I find it disturbing



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Transmissions

to read about the supposed "policing of language" from the use of "shemale" and "tranny" on RuPaul's Drag Race and others. I'm of the opinion that if someone -- or in this case, several someones -- comes to you to explain why this choice of language is hurtful, then perhaps it is.

As transgender author and GLAAD board member Jennifer Boylan put it on her personal Twitter account, "Do you have the right to use language I find insulting? Why, of course you do. But tell me: Why would you WANT to hurt my feelings?"

While I have used "tranny" in the past to refer to myself in a self-deprecating fashion, I have grown to understand that perhaps it's best to set that term aside. I do not feel "policed" into doing so; I do it out of love for my community.

I acknowledge the use of the terms "shemale" and "tranny" within the drag community, and that these have been used there as a sort of endearment. I also know that those terms are terms used to objectify transgender people at best and are used to

harm at worst. They may be some of the last words some transgender may ever hear.

Perhaps some day we shall reclaim those terms, but today does not seem to be that day.

There are many in the wake of this controversy, particularly after the "Season 76" video, who have opted to demonize drag overall. That is wrong. Is what Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 created horrible, hurtful and unnecessary? You bet it is -- but let's not demonize countless drag performers who may or may not agree with what she posted.

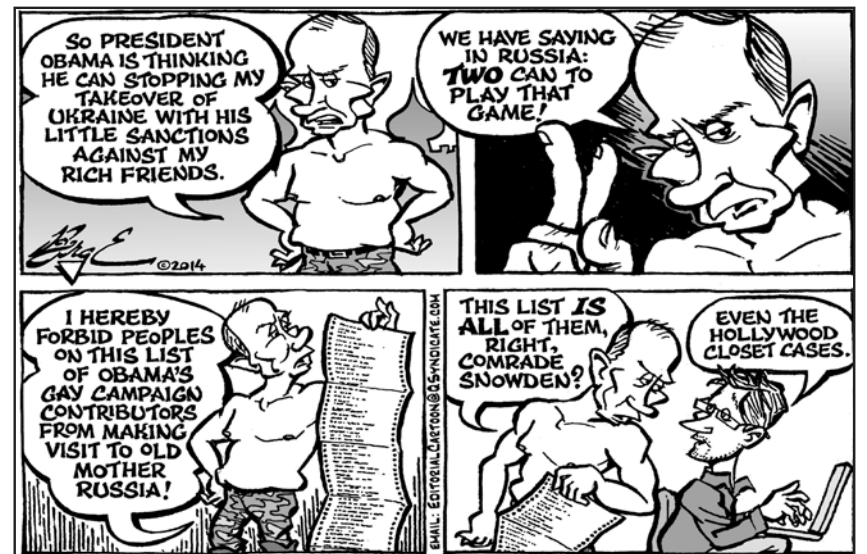
Part of the fallout has been to decouple drag from the transgender umbrella. I don't think this is necessary or even

know how one might do this in the first place. Transgender identity and expression is a huge, broad thing encompassing a lot of gender presentation. If one considers themselves to be transgender, then by all means they are.

Yet I doubt that neither RuPaul nor Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 identify as transgender. I've never heard them use the term to identify themselves. Still, regardless of their identity, let's not forget that some who opt to perform in drag may well identify as transgender. Many other transwomen may have come out of the drag world, including at least a couple former RuPaul's Drag Race contestants.

Meanwhile, I want to see the amount of attention and zeal that is being paid to this sort of infighting get applied to even one of the issues I addressed at the top of this column. I want us to fight the good fights and continue to move forward.

Gwen Smith thinks it's going to be a long, hot summer. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com



Medical practitioners can recommend off-label use, but they cannot do so with the support of the manufacturer. That is exactly what is happening in Michigan and across the country. Public health officials are continuing to preach the condom gospel because CDC funding for HIV prevention and sexually transmitted infection work require condom messaging.



The Marvelous And Unapproved Condom

News Analysis

BY TODD HEYWOOD

It's the HIV prevention gospel. Use a condom, correctly and consistently each and every time you have sex.

But what if that message is myth? New information shows that for anal sex, the gospel may in fact be flawed. Latex or other synthetic male condoms have never been approved by the FDA for use in anal sex. Not once. Not ever.

FDA officials say that's because no condom manufacturer has ever submitted a medical device application for such approval. Submissions require not only the submission, but also the science to support the approval.

And until just last year, there were no studies showing the efficacy of correct and consistent condom use in anal sex. That's when a researcher from the CDC released a review of condom efficacy in anal sex. Her findings? Correct and consistent use of condoms in anal sex every time prevents seven out of ten HIV infections. That reflects the findings of a 1989 study, the only other condoms in anal sex efficacy study. But the researcher also found that not using

condoms 100 percent of the time resulted in an efficacy 4.4 percent better than never using condoms at all.

That study also found one in six men who have sex with men reported using condoms 100 percent of the time. This is much worse than other studies which show about half of men who have sex with men didn't use condoms in their last episode of anal sex.

Obviously, experts say, these findings do not mean throw caution to the wind and stop using condoms. They are an effective tool in preventing HIV infections; however, they are not as effective as the condom gospel would have everyone believe.

This news raises another concern. Recommending medical devices and medicines for a use the FDA has not approved is called "off-label use." As a result, condom manufacturers are prohibited from promoting or advertising the use of their condoms in anal sex.

Medical practitioners can recommend off-label use, but they cannot do so with the support of the manufacturer. That is exactly what is happening in Michigan and across the country. Public health officials are continuing to preach the condom gospel because

CDC funding for HIV prevention and sexually transmitted infection work require condom messaging.

That makes condoms unique in Michigan. Angela Minicuci, spokesperson for MDCH - which oversees all HIV programming, STI programming and the state's Medicaid program - says the department does not recommend any other medical device or medicine for off label uses. Just condoms.

So why is there a dearth of science related to anal sex and HIV transmission prevention over 30 years into the epidemic? Blogger Josh Robbins published the text of a 1987 statement to Congress by former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. The document shows the statement was edited to avoid referring to anal sex, instead focusing only on vaginal sex. The FDA website also cites Koop from 1987 as saying anal sex was "too dangerous."

There was once an attempt to get condoms approved for anal sex. Reality condom manufacturers - the company that created the "female" condom, an internal condom - submitted information to get a similar internal pouch condom for anal sex approved in the early 1990s. It was rejected. But in reality, the "female" condom was approved.

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New Playbook Emerges As US Gay Athletes Come Out

BY DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) – A new type of playbook is fast evolving in the world of U.S. sports: An informal, commonsense protocol for how prominent gay and lesbian athletes can come out with maximum acclaim and minimum turmoil.

Key decisions include how to reveal one's story, whom to tell it to and - crucially - when to tell it.

"The earlier in the offseason, the better," said Cyd Zeigler, a co-founder of the website Outsports, the platform of choice for many athletes to share their coming-out story.

"Minimizing the distraction to your teammates is super important," Zeigler said. "I recommend to everyone, 'Don't do it in the middle in the season.'"

Jason Collins used an April 2013 column in Sports Illustrated to become the first openly gay player in the National Basketball Association. He's now a reserve with the Brooklyn Nets.

In February, Missouri football defensive end Michael Sam came out via coordinated coverage by ESPN, The New York Times and Outsports. Sam is projected as a middle-round prospect in the National Football League draft this week, which would put him on track to be the league's first openly gay player.

On April 9, University of Massachusetts guard Derrick Gordon became the first openly gay player in Division I men's basketball, making the announcement on ESPN and Outsports two days after the NCAA championship game.

The logistics of Sam coming out were coordinated by Howard Bragman, a public relations expert who is vice chairman of Reputation.com, which helps clients manage their online images.

Bragman has been ushering celebrities out of the closet since 1991, when he helped actor Dick Sargent of the TV series "Bewitched." The first gay athlete he worked with was Esera Tuaolo, who came out in 2002 after nine years as a defensive tackle in the NFL. Other clients included golfer Rosie Jones in 2004 and pro basketball star Sheryl Swoopes in 2005.

One of the biggest changes during his career, Bragman said, is the attitude of young Americans.

"This younger generation - the 'Will and Grace' generation - is comfortable

about having gay friends," he said. "Kids are coming out in junior high, high school."

Bragman offers advice for athletes considering coming out:

Break the news before anyone else does, and don't feel obligated to repeat your story. Choose wisely how you tell it and whom you tell it to, because the first stories will define the narrative.

Anticipate tough questions and answer them in a truthful yet consistent, controlled way.

Define yourself in well-rounded terms, to make clear that being gay is only one facet of who you are.

Get back to work.

In a column on his LinkedIn page, Bragman said it was crucial that Sam chose to come out before the NFL draft.

"Had he come out after, he would have faced criticism for not telling the truth," Bragman wrote. "He not only owned his truth, he put it in perspective and got great respect for his integrity along the way."

One of the people enlisted to help advise Sam before his disclosure was Wade Davis, a former NFL Europe player who came out in 2012 - nine years after retiring. Davis is now executive director of the You Can Play Project, which seeks to increase acceptance of gay athletes in sports.

His paramount advice to Sam was to stay focused on football.

"The NFL doesn't want any player who's looking to get famous off of something other than being an athlete," Davis said.

Davis played a major role in Gordon's coming out.

"In my first talk with Derrick, coming out didn't even come up," Davis recalled. "When we eventually started to have that conversation, Derrick was the one who initiated it."

One fundamental decision was to put the team first - informing his coach, teammates and staff.

"You're putting everyone in the best position so no one's blindsided," Davis said.

Despite the recent high-profile

coming outs, many gay athletes aren't ready to take that step. Davis said he's in contact with several players who are out to their coaches and teammates, but not to the wider world.

"A lot of them don't come out to protect their teammates, who will have to answer questions they've never been asked before," he said.

Some other gay athletes "are dealing with so much shame that they're nowhere near ready to come out," Davis said.

Since its launch in 1999, Outsports has chronicled the stories of more than 200 athletes who made the decision to come out, including 77 in 2013 and dozens more this year, according to Zeigler. The vast majority have been athletes who did not gain national attention.

Zeigler said one milestone came in 2007 when John Amaechi, four years after ending his NBA career, came out as gay. Amaechi won support from former teammates and coaches, while retired NBA player Tim Hardaway Sr. was disinvited from the 2007 All-Star Game after responding to Amaechi's news by saying, "I hate gay people."

"That moment showed us where things were headed," Zeigler said. "Gay athletes were going to be accepted, and homophobes were going to be rejected."

Speculation persists about when the first openly gay players will surface in Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League.

While some MLB veterans have come out as gay after retirement, the NHL has never had an active or former player come out - a fact that puzzles NHL director of player safety Patrick Burke.

Burke, the son of longtime NHL executive Brian Burke, helped launch the You Can Play Project in 2012 in honor of his younger brother, Brendan, who revealed he was gay to his family in 2007 and died in a car accident in 2010.

The NHL, said Patrick Burke, has done more than any of the other major leagues to prepare the way for openly gay players.

"We know there are active gay NHL players and retired gay players," he said. "When they're ready to speak up, the league is fully ready to help them."

BRIEFS

BY LISA KEEN

WASHINGTON, US

Lesbian To Washington Supreme Court

Washington State's Democratic Governor Jay Inslee appointed openly lesbian Judge Mary Yu to the state supreme court May 1. In making the announcement, Inslee noted that Yu, 56, a native of Chicago, becomes the first openly gay, the first Asian-American and the first Latina on the state supreme court. She will be sworn in next month and must run for election this fall in order to serve out the two years remaining in the six-year term of the retiring justice she is replacing. Yu has been reelected four times for her current seat on the King County Superior Court.

INDIANA, US

Indiana Decision Coming 'Soon'

A federal judge in Indiana heard oral arguments for two hours on May 2 in *Baskin v. Bogan*, a case brought by Lambda Legal on behalf of three lesbian couples in Evansville. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Richard Young (a Clinton appointee) said he would rule soon on a motion for summary judgment in the case, reports the Indianapolis Star, but both sides intend to appeal if they lose at this level. Such an appeal will be the first marriage ban lawsuit to reach the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which covers Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The *Baskin* case is one of five currently pending in federal court in Indiana.

WISCONSIN, US

On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin

Last week, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb (a Carter appointee) denied Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's request to dismiss an ACLU-led lawsuit challenging the state's ban on marriage licenses. The lawsuit, *Wolf v. Walker*, also challenges the state's ban on civil unions and its prohibition against same-sex couples obtaining marriage licenses from other states.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Comment On Housing Search

The Federal Register today announces the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is extending by another 30 days its public comment period on housing discrimination against LGBT people. The notice, originally published in January, says HUD is preparing to do focus group studies and is "interested in the manner in which people identify themselves as lesbian, gay, or transgender when searching for rental housing."

TOKYO, JAPAN

Japan's First Lady Joins Pride Event

First Lady Akie Abe, wife of conservative Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, participated in the annual Tokyo Rainbow Pride parade April 27, according to Japan Daily Press. At a speech before the UNAIDS-Lancet Commission in London last February, the First Lady said, "I have made up my mind that throughout the rest of my life, I should work as a self-appointed, public amplifier, amplifying the voice of the voiceless, and the cause that in our life time we must work to end AIDS."

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

Creep of the Week

Robert R. Reilly

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When the author of the book “Making Gay Okay: How Rationalizing Homosexual Behavior Is Changing Everything” writes in his introduction, “It should be emphasized that this critique of the homosexual cause is not an attack upon homosexuals, nor is it generated by any animus against them,” we should take him at his word, right?



After all, homosexuals are so damn sensitive. So if Robert R. Reilly wants to make a buck arguing that homosexuals are perverted, immoral and ruining the world, who are we to judge if he assures us he's not hating?

And when Reilly goes on right-wing radio to say that, hey, when it comes down to it, homos are worse than murderers, what can we do except open our hearts to his animus-free message?

Just kidding. Fuck this guy.

On May 1, Reilly said the following into a live microphone (meaning he did not mumble this shit in a fever dream): “After the person murders someone or looks at pornography, they come to see that what they did was actually wrong, they can't excuse it and moral order is restored and they're contrite for having done so.”

In other words, at least a murderer can look at a dead body and go, “Whoops. My bad.” How the person looking at porn fits in here isn't clear, but it does show that being gay, looking at nudie pics and taking the life of another human being are all morally equivalent in Reilly's version of reality. So, yeah, he should totally be taken seriously.

According to Reilly, in order to be gay and in order to accept that gay people are human beings, homos and homo allies have created and live in this kind of pro-homo Bizarro World.

“This is exactly the case with active homosexuals,” he says, “where they have to say that wrong is right and not only is it right but it's normative, morally normative, so we need to teach it, we need to bless it in marriages, we need to ordain it in churches and we need to enforce it in our laws. And that is what is happening.”

Ah, yes. Because homosexuals are so, um, “active,” we're seizing control of every last corner of civilization. Because we have all the power. Rarr!

Would it surprise you if I said Reilly seems pretty obsessed with the “S” word?

From his book's introduction in what he calls a “Note on usage,” he writes, “In different legal and cultural settings, the word sodomy has included different things at different times. But, in every variation, it has always encompassed anal intercourse and is meant to here as well.”

Huh, you don't say? So in his book when he writes “sodomy,” what he means is “anal sex.” He has at least five chapters in his book devoted to it: “Sodomy and Science,” “Sodomy and Education,” “Sodomy and the Boy Scouts,” “Sodomy and the Military” and “Sodomy and US Foreign Policy.” That's a lot of anal.

In his May 1 radio interview he talked about butt sex, too. A lot.

“The sexual act in homosexuality in males is sodomy, and how could an unchaste act be a source of fidelity?” he asked. “That's a contradiction in terms.”

Which is what leads him to his declaration about marriage equality: “It's a fraud.”

Remember, this is coming from a guy who compares one man taking another man's hand in marriage to one man taking another man's life and sides with the murderer, all the while claiming the moral high ground. Seems legit.

And when Reilly goes on right-wing radio to say that, hey, when it comes down to it, homos are worse than murderers, what can we do except open our hearts to his animus-free message? Just kidding. Fuck this guy.

First Openly Gay Episcopal Bishop To Divorce Husband

BY RACHEL ZOLL

NEW YORK (AP) - The first openly gay Episcopal bishop, who became a symbol for gay rights far beyond the church while deeply dividing the world's Anglicans, plans to divorce his husband.

Bishop Gene Robinson announced the end of his marriage to Mark Andrew in an email sent to the Diocese of New Hampshire, where he served for nine years before retiring in 2012.

Robinson would not disclose details about the end of their 25-year relationship, but wrote Sunday in The Daily Beast that he owed a debt to Andrew “for standing by me through the challenges of the last decade.”

“It is at least a small comfort to me, as a gay rights and marriage equality advocate, to know that like any marriage, gay and lesbian couples are subject to the same complications and hardships that afflict marriages between heterosexual couples,” Robinson wrote. “All of us sincerely intend, when we take our wedding vows, to live up to the ideal of ‘til death do us part. But not all of us are able to see this through until death indeed parts us.”

Robinson did not respond Sunday to email and phone requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Robinson has never been fully accepted within the more than 70 million-member Anglican Communion, which is rooted in the Church of England and represented in the United States by the Episcopal Church.

The bishop endured death threats during his 2003 consecration and intense scrutiny of his personal life, and in 2006, he sought treatment for alcoholism. His election prompted some Episcopal dioceses and parishes to break away and establish the Anglican Church in North America with other theological conservatives overseas. Robinson was barred in 2008 by then-Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams from the Lambeth Conference, the once-a-decade global meeting of all Anglican bishops, as Williams struggled to



Bishop Robinson and Mark Andrew were joined in a 2008 civil union in New Hampshire, which became a legal marriage when the state recognized gay marriage two years later.

find a way to keep Anglicans united.

But Robinson was also widely celebrated as a pioneer for gay rights, became an advocate for gay marriage and was the subject of several books and a documentary about Christianity, the Bible and same-sex relationships. He delivered the benediction at the opening 2009 inaugural event for President Barack Obama and, after retirement, became a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Democratic think tank with close ties to the White House.

Robinson, 66, had been married to a woman and had two children before he and his wife divorced. He and Andrew had been partners for more than a decade when Robinson was elected to lead the New Hampshire Diocese. The two men were joined in a 2008 civil union in New Hampshire, which became a legal marriage when the state recognized gay marriage two years later.

“My belief in marriage is undiminished by the reality of divorcing someone I have loved for a very long time, and will continue to love even as we separate,” Robinson wrote. “Love can endure, even if a marriage cannot.”

A spokeswoman for Episcopal Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori referred requests for comment to the Diocese of New

Hampshire. A spokeswoman for current New Hampshire Bishop Rob Hirschfeld cited an email he sent to local clergy and wardens urging prayer for Robinson and Andrew.

Robert Lundy, a spokesman for the American Anglican Council, a fellowship for theological conservatives, said the argument against gay marriage is based on the Bible and will not be helped or hurt by the dissolution of any one marriage.

“The teaching of the Bible and the Anglican Communion is very clear that marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life,” Lundy said in a phone interview.

The Rev. Susan Russell, an Episcopal gay rights leader in the Diocese of Los Angeles who preached at Robinson and Andrew's union, said the end of the men's marriage was tragic, but Robinson would remain an “icon of a faithful Christian man living out his vocation, not by his choice, but by his placement in history.”

“Of course, he'll get some slings and arrows,” Russell said in a phone interview. “But the paradigm has shifted so dramatically that people more and more get that our marriages are no different than anyone else's marriages, and that includes the reality that some of them fail, no matter our dreams and hopes.”

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Dolly

Will Always Love You

Country Legend Talks Boob Advice, Christianity & Her 'P. Titty' Drag Name

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When Dolly Parton calls you, greeting you by name with her unmistakable Tennessee twang, it's a good idea to immediately establish that the lady on the line is the actual legend herself.

"Am I talking to the real Dolly or is this an impersonator?" I ask, just to be sure.

Proving she's as sharp as the icon she's become over the last six decades – easily the most honored female country music artist of all time, inspiring drag queens galore – Parton is quick with her comeback: "Oh, there's no such thing as a real Dolly. I'm as real as you're gonna get!"

Very real, as it turns out. Currently promoting her 42nd studio album, "Blue Smoke," Parton talked about the country music community evolving beyond labeling gay people "perverse," addressed rumors of her recent lesbian wedding and dished tit tips to drag queens (more stuffing, girls).

Outside of the rhinestones and big platinum hair, why do gay people identify and empathize with you?

Did you say empathize or sympathize? (Laughs) I think there's some of both! Actually, I've been around so long people just kind of feel like they know me. They've seen me enough. I'm more like a favorite aunt or an older sister or somethin', so I just think people know so much about me they just feel like I'm part of them. I hope that's what they think. That's what it seems like!

I see you as our fairy godmother.

(Laughs) Yeah, I do look like the fairy godmother!

You've acknowledged that you felt like an outsider since you were a kid. "Coat of Many Colors" really is about feeling different. What role has that feeling of being an outsider played in the relationship that you have with the gay community?

Well, I do believe that I have a lot of gay fans because I think they do accept me as I am – the differences in me – and I think they know that I see that and love that in everybody else. I am not a judgmental person. I'm a very loving and accepting person. I try to see the good in everybody, and I don't care who people are as long as they're themselves, whatever that is. That old saying "to thine own self be true" – no truer words were ever spoken, and I'm just honored and proud to be accepted.

It's more than just you being non-judgmental. You said growing up you felt different, something many gay people can empathize with. Do you sense that relationship?

Yes, I do. I've always felt that. I've always felt that's one of the things that's drawn my gay fans to me. They do know that I do feel different, and all of my life I *will* be different. I always have been. But I enjoy and appreciate and respect that difference in myself just like I do in other people. God made me the way that I am and it's my business to be true to that.

If everyone was free of judgment like you are, what might the world be like?

It'd be a lot better, I can tell you that. But people love to hate, and it's just unfortunate but that's the way it is. People like to judge, they like to condemn, they won't accept anything they don't understand – that's just too bad. We have to work at those things anyway, but most people are not willing to. A lot of people are just blind and they're not seeing through the spiritual eye, and we need to look that way and then we would be more forgiving, more loving and more accepting.

Photo: Dolly Records

You were one of the first major country artists to advocate for gay rights. Why did you decide to take that step and stand up for LGBT equality?

Why wouldn't I stand up for everybody, for all people? In the country field, we're brought up in spiritual homes, we're taught to "judge not lest you be judged," and it's always been a mystery to me how people jump all over things just to criticize, condemn and judge other people when that is so un-Christian – and they claim to be good Christians! We're supposed to love one another. We're supposed to accept and love one another. Whether we do or not, that's a different story. But that's what we're supposed to do.

What are your thoughts on the progress the country music community has been making as a whole when it comes to embracing its gay listeners?

In defense of a lot of people, they didn't have as true of an understanding as they do now. Now people really see that this is real, these are real people with real feelings, that this is who they really are. I think a lot of people, anytime you talked about gay people, thought "perverse."

Now, they're being more educated that this is who people really are. There's just been so much made of (gay rights) in the last two or three years, and it's been brought to the front so people can really see it and be like, "Yeah, I guess there are a lot more gay people than we ever knew! I have a better understanding of it now. I know that these people are for real." I think they're getting that now.

I think it was just a lack of knowledge. And when you're with someone, of course you should have your rights. You're gonna be with who you're gonna be with even if you starve to death and have no privileges and no rights. I think people understand that more now.

You've been such a wonderful ally to us ... so much so that people have actually mistaken you as a lesbian yourself.

(Laughs) Well, you know what, it's true. In fact, there was some story recently (in the National Enquirer) where I was supposedly marrying my longtime friend Judy (Ogle) and that my husband was OK with it! I thought, "Where did they come up with all this?" I am not gay, but if I were I would be the first one running out of the closet.

And right into Judy's arms?

Yeah, who knows! I might've said, "Judy, you wanna get something going with me?" (Laughs) But our friendship is just a precious friendship.

What do you say to "From Here to the Moon and Back," your love duet with Willie Nelson on "Blue Smoke," being used for the first dance at a gay wedding?

I would be honored. That would be a beautiful wedding song, "From Here to the Moon and Back" – wow! People often use "I Will Always Love You" – I wrote "I Will Always Love You" as a wedding song too – and it really kind of speaks to that, but yeah, "From Here to the Moon and Back" would be a beautiful wedding song. If you get married, you can play it!

What is something about your life that people would be most surprised by?

I can't imagine a thing that people don't already know about me. I think people would be surprised at how really at-home I am. I look like a party doll but I'm very home-lovin'. I'm a homebody, and I'm family-oriented. I don't get out much unless it's a special occasion. So I guess people might be surprised at just how calm I really am.

See Dolly Parton, page 17

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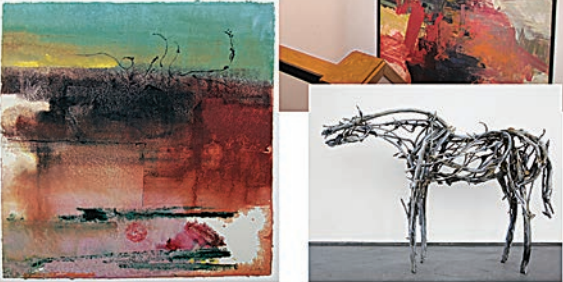
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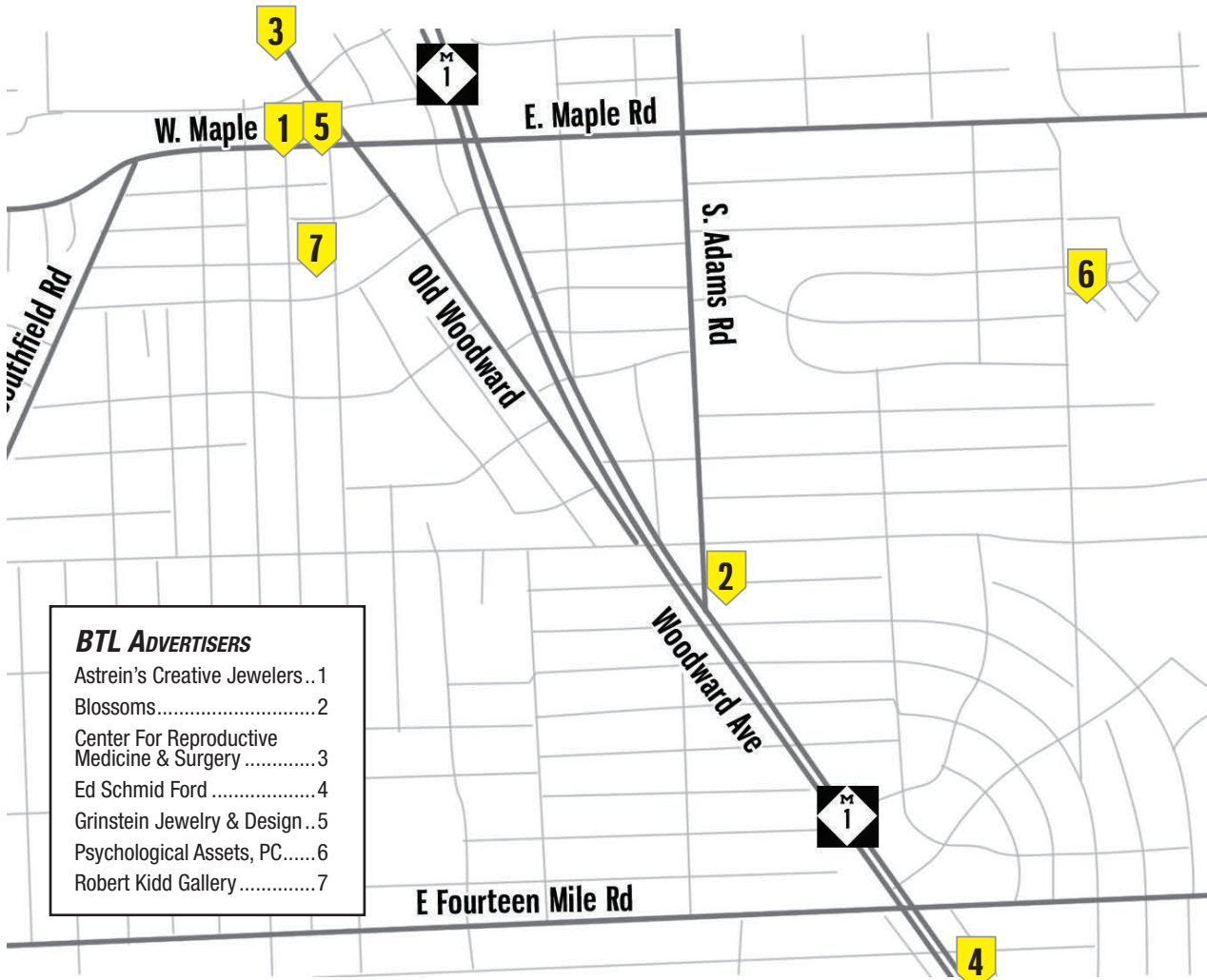


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Photo: Dolly Records

► Dolly Parton

Continued from p. 15

When you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see?

I see ways to improve myself. I've never been a true beauty and I'm always thinking, "I need to do this, or I could look better than that," but I guess we all have that.

You've said that drag queens do you better than you. Have you learned anything about yourself from watching people impersonate you?

Most of the drag queens are about six feet tall already ... and then they put on those high heels! I ain't big as a minute, so I always think, what I've learned about myself is, I'm not tall. I'm definitely even shorter than I knew I was!

But actually, I am very honored when the drag queens all do their thing because I think it's a big compliment. I get a big kick out of some of them. Some of them are really good! Some of them are ... comical.

Some of them are so good you once lost a look-alike contest that you were in.

(Laughs) I entered one of the Dolly look-alike contests down on Santa Monica at one of the gay clubs down there – I lived right up the street – so I just kind of over exaggerated myself and went and joined the party and walked across the stage. I got less applause than anybody. It's pretty bad when I lose a Dolly Parton look-alike contest!

If you were a drag queen, what would be your drag name?

P. Titty ... like P. Diddy!

What tips do you have for the drag queens who want to get your bust size just right?

Oh heavens ... I'm so little is why my boobs look so big. But (drag queens) are already big! They're gonna

need to really do some paddin'! I'm larger than life, so just get them boobs the way that they fit into proportion to your body. Put it out there, whatever your imagination is of me.

“In the country field, we're brought up in spiritual homes, we're taught to 'judge not lest you be judged,' and it's always been a mystery to me how people jump all over things just to criticize, condemn and judge other people when that is so un-Christian – and they claim to be good Christians! We're supposed to love one another.”

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Photo: Alex Petkus.

Royal Oak Raises Its Glass For Good Causes

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Royal Oak continued its dedication to parties for a cause with the Spring Beer Fest on April 26 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market.

Sponsored by the Spring Fever Beer club, the festival aimed to “promote craft beers and the brewers that create them.” Like other Royal Oak Beer Fests at the city’s farmers market, a portion of the proceeds went to local charities including AIDS Walk Detroit, Handy Hearts and Vista Maria.

The largest grassroots HIV/AIDS fundraiser in Michigan, AIDS Walk Detroit has worked in Royal Oak since 1991 to tirelessly raise money for AIDS awareness, support and research. Handy Hearts is a non-profit devoted to helping cover costs and services not covered by insurance for those battling cancer. Vista Maria bases its charitable mission on the goal of “delivering innovative care, support, treatment and education to vulnerable youth so that they heal, believe in their worth, and build the skills needed to succeed.”

Unlike other Royal Oak Beer Fests,

the charities being supported had little presence at the festival, though another nonprofit was referenced by some breweries: Lions Bear Lake Camp. The organization works to provide summer programs, recreational activities and more for youth with special needs.

The ever-increasing love for craft beer in Michigan, particularly local offerings, was even more noticeable at Royal Oak’s Spring Beer Fest than its winter offering. There were empty pockets around the macrobreweries on site, including a consistently small presence around a corner hosting Blue Moon and Peroni – very conspicuous in a sold-out festival. Though Anheuser-Busch’s Shock Top brand had a packed booth, primarily for its novelty “Pretzel Wheat,” the longest, steadiest lines were for Bell’s Brewing, Great Lakes Brewing and Birmingham’s Griffin Claw Brewing Company.

Even breweries with more unique qualities had neverending lines, such as Jolly Pumpkin of Dexter, which brought two sour offerings: Saison Y and Biere de Mars. Saison Y sold out early in the night. Leelanau Brewing Company’s

“Good Harbor Golden Ale” continued the sour trend to the delight of many “sour” converts. Maryland brewery “collective,” Stillwater Artisanal Ales, rounded out the sour/unique corner with its collection of saisons and farmhouse ales. Saisons and farmhouse ales are old styles making a comeback in the United States; traditionally brewed in the open, the mildly tart styles are made to be consumed in the spring and summer.

Like with other events, ciders, wines and even spirits were at the festival for those wanting to vary their palates. Sailor Jerry’s Rum was the oft-asked about liquor throughout the night, while many went for Barefoot Wines, a respected sponsor of other LGBT events, including BTL’s Same-Sex Wedding Expo in early April.

The night was rounded out with food, live entertainment, a DJ and the very popular “Giant Jenga” in the middle of the festival.

Royal Oak Summer Beer Fest will be June 20-21 at Campus Martius Park in Detroit. For more details on this and future beer fests, check out www.royaloakbeerfest.com.

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Editor's Pick



Andrea Ramsey

Sistrum, Lansing's all women's chorus, presents their spring concert: *Anyone Can Sing*. The performance includes a sing-a-long, as well as the premiere of a new commissioned piece by Andrea Ramsey. The piece is based on a poem by William Ayot.

Sistrum works to create music that inspires, empowers and entertains. The group's name originates from a musical instrument, an Ancient Egyptian rattle. Since 1986, the chorus has evolved and grown to grace the greater Lansing area with music.

Anyone Can Sing begins at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10. A silent auction begins before the shows at 7 p.m. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. Tickets are \$12-25. For more information, visit www.sistrum.org.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "The Foreign Exchange" All ages. Tickets: \$20-25. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 9. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Scarab Club "Pianists, Playel and Party" Tickets: \$25-40. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 9-May 9. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

Film & Video

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Real to Reel: Inequality For All" Tickets: \$5-7. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. May 8. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Shows

822 Gallery "Poetry Reading Series" Call gallery for exact times. 822 Gallery, 822 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Feb. 14-July 11. 248-202-6073. Sooaklandart.com

The Acorn Theater "Funkadesi" World Music meets Reggae meets Funk meets Dance. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. May 11. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "The Ragbirds present Ebird & Friends Kids Show!" Tickets: \$10. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. May 10. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

Ugly Mug Cafe & Roastery "The Cross St. Chronicles Variety Show & Open Mic" Signup for the Open Mic will be limited to no more than six (6) slots of five (5) minutes each and should present the performer's original work. Ugly Mug Cafe & Roastery, 317 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Jan. 14-Sep. 9. 734-484-4684. Uglymugypsi.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Annie Get Your Gun \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through May 18. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

Fairytale Family Vacation \$5 kids, \$8 adults. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Washtenaw Community College Theatre, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. May 15-18. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Lady Grey \$10. Horn Rim Productions

at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. May 9-11. emergentarts.com

Moll A dinner theatre production. \$25 dinner & theater (advanced only); \$13 show only. LowellArts! Players at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. Through May 10. 616-897-8545. lowellartsmi.org

Noises Off \$11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. May 8-11. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Nonsense The Mega-Musical Version \$13-36. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. May 9-17. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

POEZ and Rollie Tussing \$20. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. May 13. 734-985-0875. emergentarts.com

Rumors \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through May 17. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Storybook Theatre with The Brothers Grimm \$5. Warren Civic Theatre's Theatre for Young Audiences at Warren Community Center Auditorium, 5460 Arden, Warren. Through May 10. 586-268-8400. warrencivic.org

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street \$13-15. Southgate Community Players at Davidson Middle School, 15800 Trenton Road, Southgate. May 2-May 10. 734-282-4727. scponstage.com

Telling Lives \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. May 9-18. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

The Importance of Being Earnest \$10-15. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Richmond. Through May 11. 586-727-9518. richmondtheatre.com

The Magical Adventures of Merlin \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 9-17. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

Thom Pain \$10. Horn Rim Productions at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. May 9-11. Emergentarts.com

College/University Theater

18th Annual Young Playwrights Festival Free. MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. May 10-12. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Women versus Men-Parents versus Children-Dog versus Bear?! Free. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. May 9-10. 517-483-1488. Lcc.edu/showinfo

Professional

A Steady Rain \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through May 24. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

August: Osage County \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through May 10. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Barefoot in the Park \$20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. Through May 18. 810-278-1749. thesnugtheatre.com

Breaking Legs \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 10. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

Brother of All \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 18. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Aug. 30. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Country Roads: A Musical Journey \$35-41. The Dio-Dining & Entertainment, 177 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 11. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

Crossing 8 Mile \$16-24. Mosaic Youth Theatre at Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 9-18. 313-833-7900. mosaicdetroit.org

Defending the Caveman \$38. City Theatre, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 15-25. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Emma \$10. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. May 16-18. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

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

Into the Woods \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 2. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Mario Manzini: A Tribute to Houdini \$10-20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 7 p.m. May 14. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Mike Super: Magic & Illusion \$19-34.

See Happenings, page 26

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Tori Amos, Neon Trees



Tori Amos, 'Unrepentant Geraldines'

It took Christmas carols, 400-year-old classical music themes and a lovestruck "light princess" for Tori Amos to recapture her burned-out muse. The fire, though, is back with "Unrepentant Geraldines," the piano banshee's first contemporary release since 2009. It was clear then, with the middling "Abnormally Attracted to Sin," that Amos was wringing out a dry towel; the peculiarities abided, but the music was some of the most uninspired babble of Amos' career. Apparently, if you wanna jumpstart your career, you study Schubert. Amos is reinvigorated on "Unrepentant Geraldines," a compelling return to the back-to-basics sound of her '90s zenith. Though "16 Shades of Blue," which tackles ageism, is a wonky tech-flecked, laser-beaming ballad delivered on a synth bed, and the gorgeous guitar earthiness of "America" could have been an outtake from "Scarlet's Walk," Amos lets the Bösendorfer take center stage. She's weak in love on "Wild Way," a starry-eyed beauty, and "Invisible Boy," also piano-led, is tender, endearing and nostalgic. "Boy" is an obvious standout, a song that wouldn't have sounded out of place on any of Tori's earliest works. Then there's "Promise," an inspiring

conversation with Amos' daughter that sweetly embodies the lifelong bond between mother and child. If classical music and holiday carols inspire this kind of work, Tori, get that Christmas playlist going right now. *Grade: B+*



Neon Trees, 'Pop Psychology'

Musicians can be funny about their sexuality defining their music, but on Neon Trees' latest, the gayness of frontman Tyler Glenn – now out, now proud – is embedded into every technicolor beat of the band's cool synth-pop. Coming of age and shamelessly sex-focused, "Pop Psychology," the Mormon band's third release, is practically a rite of passage. Because though it's a nonstop rush of New Wave, the first album since Glenn's coming out goes deeper than its superficial shell – a shell that's radio accessible but also just a monotonous drone of instantly gratifying beats muddled into one big blur. Uniform to a fault, the disc is front-loaded with a tiring parade of disposable bubblegum party pop: "Love in the 21st

Century," a sly observation on modern-day yearning; the first single, "Sleeping with a Friend"; and "I Love You (But I Hate Your Friends)," where Glenn celebrates "your blatant sexuality." As a reflection of contemporary relationships and sexual exploration, and writing-wise, "Pop Psychology" is an engrossing project, making the album all the more frustrating. During the back half, there's promise in a duet with his bandmate, Elaine Bradley, on "Unavoidable," and with a synth loop reminiscent of Alphaville's "Forever Young" on "Voices in the Hall." The rest should be as solid, but it's just not. Instead, Neon Trees' latest leaves you with a bunch of could-beens. *Grade: C*

Also Out



Augustana, 'Life Imitating Life'

Augustana has come a long way from "Boston," the song that put the San Diego band on the map and is easily their most well-known. Since its release in 2005, though, those romanticized rhythms have more in common with Bruce Springsteen than Coldplay ... and the band members? Except for bearded frontman Dan Layus, they've all bailed. Still, committing to the soulful heartland sound of its underappreciated predecessor, "Life Imitating Life" is another earnest outing, and "Remember Me," a sincerely moving coda, is its swan song.



Neneh Cherry, 'Blank Project'

Had time been at a stand-still, Neneh Cherry could've slipped this one by without anyone questioning the 18 years that have passed in the interim. It's been that long since Cherry released "Man," but you'd never know it by the ingenuity and tangibility of her experimental comeback "Blank Project." And it's more than that, even: The greatest asset here is Cherry's disarming honesty, a quality that makes liberating fodder out of "Weightless" and "Out of the Black," featuring someone who knows a little something about dancing on your own: fellow Swede Robyn.



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Editor's Pick



Starlight Dinner Theatre presents Dan Googin's "Nunsense The Mega-Musical Version" May 9, 10, 16 and 17 at the Waverly East Intermediate School cafeteria. The second-longest-running off-Broadway show in history has been "supersized" with seven additional characters, a new musical number and enhanced dance numbers.

Dinner before the show is catered by Creative Catering and includes roast beef, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable medley, rolls, tossed salad, and strawberry or pecan pie. Vegetarian entrées are available and must be requested when making your reservation. For

more information or reservations call 517-243-6040. Waverly East is located at 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Happenings

Continued from p. 24

The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. May 17. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

Old Love \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. May 15-June 15. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.org

Old Wicked Songs \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through May 18. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Other Desert Cities \$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 May 18. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Rhinoceros By donation. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. May 9-31. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

Richard III \$27-46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 1. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music \$18-48. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. May 14. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com/events/detail/sesame-street

Sundays at Go Comedy! Pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

The Andrews Brothers \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through May 18. 248-370-2030. mbtheatre.com

The Midtown Men \$29-49. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. May 10. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

The PRTC Spring Comedy Festival: Lovers, Liars & Lunatics \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 24. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

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

To Kill a Mockingbird \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through May 17. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

Turandot \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526

Broadway St., Detroit. May 10-18. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Turtle Island \$5 children, \$10 adults. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. May 3-May 18. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

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

West Side Story \$36-76. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. May 13-18. 313-872-1000. Ticketmaster.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Ephemera: Fragments from Cranbrook's Social Life" A rich and varied look at the ephemera that illustrates Cranbrook's social life during the 20th century. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1-Sep. 28. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "The 2014 Graduate Degree Exhibition". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 22-May 11. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) and CCS "Biannual All Media Exhibition 2014". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 18-May 23. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Samurai: Beyond the Sword" The exhibition looks at how Japan's legendary warrior class sought balance between military and cultural pursuits. Tickets: \$8-16. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9-June 1. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Watercolor Class" Facilitated by Shirley Ciungan. Drop-In. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. List available at first class or in DCA office. Admission: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 7-June 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Kathleen Gilje: Portraits of Paintings" Meticulously rendered new incarnations of old masterpieces. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 2-July 20. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History "scope: 2014 Wayne State University Undergraduate Exhibition" Features a wide range of approaches from which students derive

their inspiration, ideas, and creations. Art Department Gallery, 150 Art Building, 5400 Gullen Mall, Detroit. April 18-May 16. 313-577-2423.

Liberal Arts Gallery "Roberto Valentin" Guest artists: Jack Kenny and Charlene Uresy. Liberal Arts Gallery, 3361 Gratiot, Detroit. May 2-May 17. 734-395-1265.

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office" The exhibition features 50 framed images and a text panel with brief biographical information on each photographer. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 7400 Bay Road, University Center. Feb. 3-May 24. 989-964-7125. Marshallfredericks.org/presidents

MOCAD "Mobile Homestead" A permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1-June 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Dominance Lost". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. March 21-May 11. 313-626-2000.

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Material Girls: Fiber Exhibition" Quilts by Judith Jarzembowski. Rugs by Judy Bowman Anthrop. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. April 11-June 6. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Do The Yale Thing: An Exhibition of Exceptional Artwork by Recent Yale MFA Graduates". The N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. Jan. 24-May 21. 313-831-8700. Nnamdicenter.org

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA) "An Eye on the Empire: Photographs of Colonial India and Egypt" The zenith of the British Empire in the later nineteenth century coincided with a unique convergence of cultural, technological, and economic forces. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-June 29. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA) "Three Michigan Architects: Part 2-Robert Metcalf" Robert Metcalf's domestic and commercial buildings represent some of the most important and recognizable modern architecture in Michigan. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-July 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Big Risk Offers Big Reward For Latest Ringwald Show

BY DANA CASADEI

The Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine 1987 musical "Into The Woods" has been done numerous times all over the world, from local theaters to grander stages. Productions vary, but The Ringwald is bringing a fresh perspective to its stripped-down version of the very complex, sometimes overdone musical, and knocks it out of the park. Or in this case, woods.

Before the show began, all of the characters entered the set looking slightly terrified and were dressed in modern clothes. Slowly they introduced themselves to each other, and while this happened they gradually transformed into their character. The Baker's Wife (Eva Rosenwald) put Little Red Riding Hood's (Molly McMahon) hair into pigtails. Then Cinderella's (Kryssy Becker) fur vest was taken off, as was Mysterious Man's (Dan Morrison) suit coat, and the modern technology, such as cell phones and an iPad, disappeared. Once the clock hit eight, the narrator (Jeff Bobick, who is also the show's music director and plays the piano) started, and the Joe Bailey-directed show truly began.

A vital element about the show's unique start is Phill Harmer's set, which in no way resembles the woods. It looks like a tornado shelter, with shades of grey covering its multiple levels, while still having a tower for Rapunzel and a place for the piano on an upper tier. Before the actual musical began, there was also a tornado siren playing on occasion, instantly making the characters on stage panic. At first the tornado siren felt random and out of place, but once the show continued, everything came together.

This beginning leads to a very inventive ending to a story that follows some favorite fairy tale characters before and after they receive their happily-ever-afters.

While it's common for actors in the show to play dual roles, The Ringwald's production only has 10 actors portraying the multitude of characters. To put this in perspective, the original 1987 Broadway production had nearly double the amount of actors, and a much fuller orchestra compared to this production's lone piano. But this isn't the first time it's been done this way.

In 2013, the McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey did a similar production, with 10 actors and few instruments, to rave reviews from The New York Times critic Ben Brantley. As Brantley said in his review's opening paragraph, "Sometimes you can't perceive the true beauty of something until you've seen it naked...[But] it certainly holds true for a certain venerated, usually overdressed musical..." This rings extremely true here, and large credit must be given to Bailey.

INFO

Into the Woods

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Monday, and 3 p.m. Sunday through June 2. 2 hours, 45 minutes. \$10-25. 248-545-5545.

www.theringwald.com

Bailey's direction in this stripped-down version allows viewers to focus more on the stories and lyrics. This has the ability to make us more invested in the character's choices, because there's nothing for them to hide behind. Bailey's opener serves as an excellent introduction into the rest of the show, since the entire cast is almost always on stage reacting to other characters' stories. Since they got introduced to each other before it began, they seem just as interested to see what happens next as the audience is.

Bailey has also created a production with a cast that gets to play up the musical's comedy and show off their comedic skills. Even during some of the more somber moments of the musical, there is still a laugh or two.

Even though some of the vocalists weren't great – a few areas were rather pitchy – that's not the most important element to the show. Since there is very little flash to this production, it makes the actors' portrayals all the more essential to be spot-on; there's nothing to distract the audience. Thankfully the actors all dive into their characters and make each as memorable as the last, even those that are playing more than one.

As far as the songs go, "Agony," both the full song and the reprise, and "Witch's Lament," are the show's standout numbers for very different reasons. "Agony" brings the best out of David Moan and Richard Payton, who harmonize and play off each other with ease. Suzan Jacokes' "Witch's Lament" is sung a cappella, which adds another level to the song and makes it all the more heartbreaking to hear, but beautiful to listen to.

Going back to the show's simplistic elements would be the costumes, created by Tracy Murrell. They are simple yet tell you all you need to know about who the character is. The Baker's (Jamie Richards) apron and the Wolf's (Moan) fur hat are just a few examples. Properties master Alexander H. Trice works wonders with the overall theme, turning a feather duster into a chicken. And just wait until you see Rapunzel's (Drew Arnold) hair.

The Ringwald is a theater where traditional isn't a word often thrown around when describing its productions. Thankfully, even a more "traditional" musical like "Into The Woods" isn't safe from being transformed into something completely unique and wonderful.

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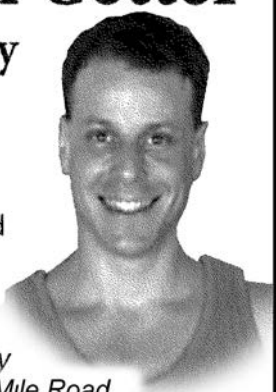
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 7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

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-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

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Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group
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 Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
 Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
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A Couple of guys
 by Dave Grossman
 "Super Friends"
 IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU GUYS BACK IN COSTUME, RYAN.
 IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK.
 WE FIGURED YOU'D COME TO THE PARTIES AGAIN, ONCE THE POLICE QUIT LOOKING FOR THE COSPLAYERS WHO BEAT UP THOSE GAY-BASHERS LAST FALL.
 RYAN, YOU TOLD THEM IT WAS US?! WE AGREED NOT TO TELL ANYONE!
 IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT, MIGUEL.
 BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER - YOUR SECRET IS SAFE. THIS COSPLAY GROUP IS A FAMILY ... A COMMUNITY ...
 A "JUST-US" LEAGUE.

Solution to puzzle from page 30

I	A	G	O	A	S	T	I	A	L	P	S
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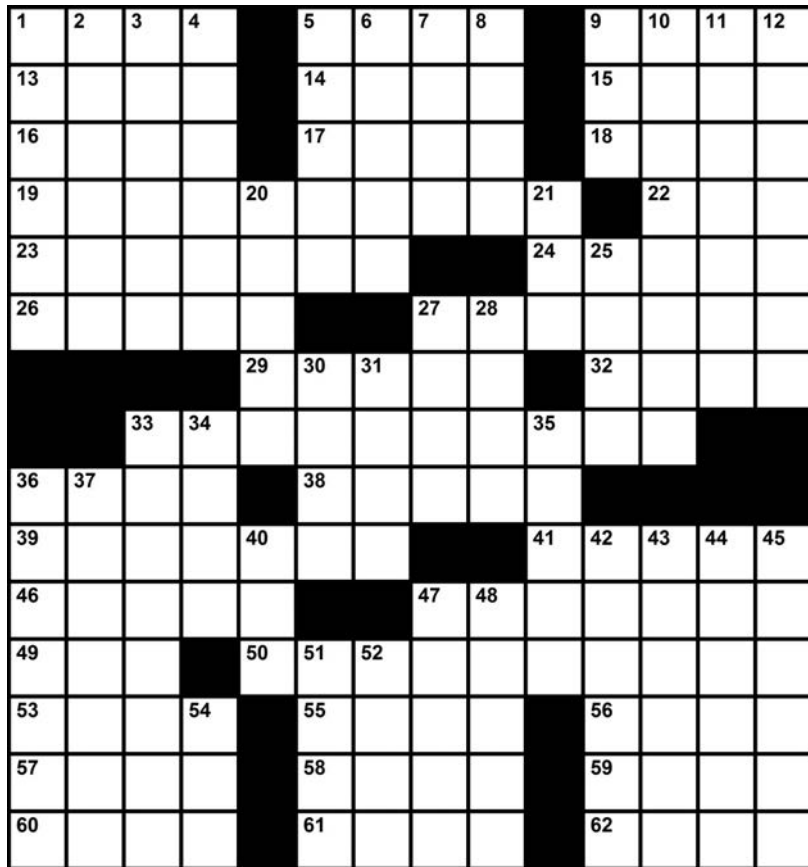
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Gay Morning America



Across

- 1 "Otello" villain
 5 Italian wine city
 9 "Sound of Music" escape route
 13 Sling mud at
 14 In those days
 15 Neeson of "Kinsey"
 16 Etcher's fluid
 17 Vidal's "Rocking the ____"
 18 Peru native
 19 Type of transplant received by Robin Roberts
 22 Lang. of Hedwig
 23 Rupert of _Stage Beauty_
 24 Ready for action, for guys
 26 Rock-bottom
 27 Toward the side
 29 "American Idol" judge Paula
 32 Open to the breeze
 33 In 2012 Robin Roberts received this Womens Basketball honor
 36 TV listings
 38 Place to become wife and wife
 39 Canal concern?
 41 Writer Saikaku
 46 Water threesome
 47 Janitor's tool
 49 Good da. in Lent

- 50 Partner of Robin Roberts
 53 Sty cry
 55 "____ Hai"
 56 Use a beeper
 57 From the top
 58 Cathedral of Hope collection
 59 Stats from "A League of Their Own"
 60 Sitcom with a cross-dressing corporal
 61 Bed support piece
 62 Prepares Easter eggs

Down

- 1 Novelist Miller
 2 Room recess
 3 20-shilling piece for Oscar Wilde
 4 Info for waiters
 5 Opportunity for Billy Bean
 6 Martin of "Father of the Bride"
 7 Shed item
 8 Bernadette Peters' "____ the Woods"
 9 Will Smith title role
 10 Drag queen's intimate wear
 11 Robin Roberts drove this for the 2010 Indianapolis 500
 12 With style

- 20 It may be picked up in a bar
 21 Freshly painted
 25 Get juice from a fruit
 27 Judy's daughter Lorna
 28 Italian sports car, briefly
 30 Not so exciting
 31 Distribute sparingly
 33 Joan of Arc, and others
 34 Second fruit eater
 35 Plath poetry collection
 36 Bubbles seen at the beach
 37 Robin Roberts anchored a series of reports on this hurricane
 40 R. E. Lee's nation
 42 In a mound
 43 Queen bee's locale
 44 Some Jamaican music
 45 James, who shot off in "Gunsmoke"
 47 Aunt of Bart Simpson
 48 Limp body part, allegedly
 51 New corp. hires
 52 Bouncer for Amelie Mauresmo
 54 Meas. of electricity

Solution on pg. 26

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